

2009 WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award!

National Author Category: James Alexander Thom

Regional Author Category: Susan Neville

Emerging Author Category: Christine Montross

National Winner: Recipient of a \$10,000 cash prize as well as a \$2,500 grant in support of the author's hometown Indiana public library.



James Alexander Thom

Born May 28, 1933 to Owen County doctors Jay W. and Julia S. Thom, James Alexander Thom gained his education in Indianapolis at Arsenal Technical High School and Butler University, which later awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Thom enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps for the Korean War and served in the 1st Marine Division there, attaining sergeant rank.

His journalistic career included employment at *The Indianapolis Times* and *The Indianapolis Star*, where he was Business and Finance columnist. He taught at the Indiana University School of Journalism on the Bloomington campus in the late 1970s. His freelance writing career has included articles for *National Geographic*, *Reader's Digest* and regional magazines. He also reviewed books for the *Washington Post*, and wrote a magazine of essays and humor for The Saturday Evening Post Company for 25 years.

His first published novel, *Spectator Sport*, appeared in 1978, followed the next year by *Long Knife*, the first of the meticulously-researched historical novels for which he is best known. This has been followed by *Follow the River*, *From Sea to Shining Sea*, *Panther in the Sky*, *The Children of First Man*, *The Red Heart*, *Sign Talker*, and *Saint Patrick's Battalion*. Thom's novels have sold more than 2 ½ million copies, and most are still in print. Several are used as supplemental reading in History classes. Two were produced as television movies: *Follow the River* by Hallmark, and *Panther in the Sky* by Ted Turner (under the title *Techumseh: The Last Warrior*). *Panther in the Sky* won the Western Writers of America SPUR award in 1989 as Best Novel of the West.

Thom wrote text for two books of Indiana photography by Darryl Jones, and has written essays and forewords for several books from Indiana University Press. His nonfiction

book *The Art and Craft of Writing Historical Fiction* is a 2010 release from Writer's Digest Books.

Thom co-authored the novel *Warrior Woman* with his wife Dark Rain, and illustrated her Shawnee history book *Kohkumthena's Granchildren*. The husband and wife maintain a busy lecture schedule at schools and libraries. Both are longtime council members of the East of the River Shawnee Band. The couple live in an 1840-era log house that Thom disassembled in another part of Owen County and rebuilt on his acreage on a scenic ridge. He has been an environmental and anti-war activist, and is a sculptor and illustrator. He is now at work on a Civil War novel, and children's books.

More information available at <http://www.jamesalexanderthom.com>

Regional Winner: Recipient of a \$7,500 cash prize as well as a \$2,500 grant in support of the author's hometown Indiana public library.



Susan Neville

Susan Neville is the author of five works of creative nonfiction: *Indiana Winter*; *Fabrication: Essays on Making Things and Making meaning*; *Twilight in Arcadia*; *Iconography: A Writer's Meditation*; and *Sailing the Inland Sea*. Her prize-winning collections of short fiction include *In the House of Blue Lights*, winner of the Richard Sullivan prize and listed as a 'Notable Book' by the Chicago Tribune, and *Invention of Flight*, winner of the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. The recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships in fiction, her stories have appeared in the *Pushcart Prize Anthology* and in anthologies including *Extreme Fiction* (Longman) and *The Story Behind the Story* (Norton.) She lives in Indianapolis with her husband and two children and teaches writing at Butler University and in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers.

More information available at <http://www.susan-neville.com>

Emerging Winner: Recipient of a \$5,000 cash prize as well as a \$2,500 grant in support of the author's hometown Indiana public library.



Christine Montross

Dr. Christine Montross is a senior resident in psychiatry at Brown University, where she also attended medical school and received the Isaac Ray Award in Psychiatry. She was born and raised in Indianapolis, and spent summer weekends in the blueberry bushes and soybean fields of her grandparents' Mooresville, Indiana home. Dr. Montross received her undergraduate degrees and a Master of Fine Arts in poetry from the University of Michigan, where she also taught writing classes as a lecturer following graduation. She has had several poems published in literary journals, and her manuscript "Embouchure" was a finalist for the National Poetry Series. She has also recently written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post Book World*, *O, the Oprah Magazine* and *Good Housekeeping*.

Body of Work: Meditations on Mortality from the Human Anatomy Lab is Dr. Montross's first book. It was named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and one of *The Washington Post's* best nonfiction books of 2007. While writing *Body of Work*, Montross traveled to anatomical theaters, sought out holy relics, and dissected three arms, a leg, and an entire human body. She lives in Providence, Rhode Island with her partner, the playwright Deborah Salem Smith, and their two young children. They live six blocks from fellow finalist and Skiles Test little league shortstop extraordinaire, Kathleen Hughes.