



Past Winners and Finalists

2010 Winners

National: Scott Russell Sanders

Regional: Ray Boomhower

Emerging: Gregg Schwipps

2010 Finalists

N/A

Colleen Coble
Andrew Levy

Douglas Light
Micah Ling

2009 Winners

National: James Alexander Thom

Regional: Susan Neville

Emerging: Christine Montross

2009 Finalists

Margaret McMullan
Scott Russell Sanders

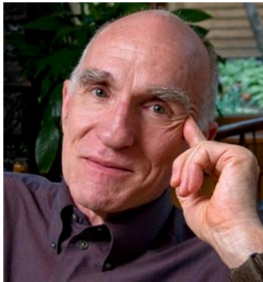
Jared Carter
James H. Madison

Kathleen Hughes
Greg Schwipps

2010 Winners and Finalists

National Winner

Scott Russell Sanders



Scott Sanders was born in Tennessee and grew up in Ohio. He studied at Brown University before going on, as a Marshall Scholar, to complete a Ph.D. in English literature at Cambridge University. In 1971 he joined the faculty of Indiana University, where he taught until 2009, retiring as Distinguished Professor of English.

He has published twenty books, including novels, collections of stories and essays, and personal narratives. He has also published seven storybooks for children. His work has appeared in such magazines as *Harper's*, *Audubon*, *Orion*, and *The Georgia Review*, and it has been reprinted in *The Art of the Essay*, *American Nature Writing*, *The Norton Reader*, and other anthologies. His collection of essays, *The Paradise of Bombs*, won the Associated Writing Programs Award in Creative Nonfiction in 1987. *Staying Put*, a celebration of the commitment to place, won the Ohioana Book Award in 1994. *Writing from the Center*, an account of the quest for a meaningful and moral life, won the 1996 Great Lakes Book Award. His more recent books include *Hunting for Hope* (1998), an exploration of sources for healing and renewal; *The Country of Language* (1999), an account of experiences that have shaped his work as a writer; *The Force of Spirit* (2000), meditations on the sacred in everyday life; and *A Private History of Awe* (2006), a coming-of-age memoir, love story, and spiritual testament, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. His latest book is *A Conservationist Manifesto* (2009), which lays out the ecological, ethical, and practical grounds for shifting from a culture based on consumption to a culture based on stewardship.

Sanders has received fellowships for writing from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Indiana Arts Commission, the Lilly Endowment, and the Guggenheim Foundation. His work has been selected for *The Best American Essays*, *The Kenyon Review Award for Literary Excellence*, the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award, the John Burroughs Essay Award, the Indiana Humanities Award, and the Mark Twain Award. For his collected work in nonfiction, he was honored in 1995 with a Lannan Literary Award.

In his books he is concerned with our place in nature, the practice of community, the relationship between culture and geography, and the search for a spiritual path. He and his wife, Ruth, a biochemist, have reared two children in their home town of Bloomington, in the hardwood hill country of the White River Valley in southern Indiana.

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

Regional Winner

Ray E. Boomhower



Ray E. Boomhower is senior editor of the Indiana Historical Society's quarterly popular history magazine *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. Boomhower has been with the Society since 1987, beginning work for the statewide, nonprofit organization as its public relations coordinator.

A native of Mishawaka, Indiana, Boomhower graduated from Indiana University in 1982 with degrees in journalism and political science. He received his master's degree in U.S. history from Indiana University, Indianapolis, in 1995. Before joining the Society staff, he worked in public relations for the Indiana State Museum and as a reporter for two Indiana daily newspapers, the *Rensselaer Republican* and the *Anderson Herald*. In 1999 he received the Hoosier Historian award from the Indiana Historical Society. His books have also been finalists in the annual Best Books of Indiana competition sponsored by the Indiana Center for the Book, as well as finalists in the annual Benjamin Franklin Awards from the Independent Book Publishers Association.

Along with numerous articles for *Traces*, the *Indiana Magazine of History*, *Outdoor Indiana*, and other history periodicals, Boomhower is the author of the books *Jacob Piatt Dunn, Jr.: A Life in History and Politics, 1855-1924* (Indiana Historical Society, 1997); *The Country Contributor: The Life and Times of Juliet V. Strauss* (Guild Press of Indiana, 1998); *Destination Indiana: Travels through Hoosier History* (IHS, 2000); *"But I Do Clamor": May Wright Sewall, A Life, 1844-1920* (Guild Press, 2001); *"One Shot": The World War II Photography of John A. Bushemi* (IHS Press, 2004); *Gus Grissom: The Lost Astronaut* (IHS Press, 2004); *The Sword and the Pen: A Life of Lew Wallace* (IHS Press, 2005); *The Soldier's Friend: A Life of Ernie Pyle* (IHS Press, 2006); *Fighting for Equality: A Life of May Wright Sewall* (IHS Press, 2007); *Robert F. Kennedy and the 1968 Indiana Primary* (Indiana University Press, 2008); and *Fighter Pilot: The World War II Career of Alex Vraciu* (IHS Press, 2010).

Emerging Winner

Greg Schwipps



Greg Schwipps was raised on a working farm in Milan, Indiana. He graduated from Milan Jr. /Sr. High School in 1991 and attended DePauw University, where he majored in English Writing. Following his graduation from DePauw, he attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for his MFA in creative writing. After receiving his MFA, Greg returned to DePauw, where he is currently an Associate Professor, teaching primarily creative writing classes.

His creative nonfiction articles and essays appeared in outdoor magazines like *Outdoor Indiana*, *Indiana Game & Fish* and *In-Fisherman*. His first novel, *What This River Keeps*, was published by Ghost Road Press.

A lifelong fascination with fishing and rural living has deeply influenced his life and work. He and his wife Alissa live with their two dogs on ten acres of woods near Morgan County's town of Wilbur. He spends much of his free time cat fishing in the nearby West Fork of the White River.

2010 Finalists

Regional Finalists

Colleen Coble



Best-selling author Colleen Coble has written thirty novels and eight novellas. She has nearly 2 million books in print and writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail. She is a lifelong Hoosier and graduated from Southwood High School in her hometown of Wabash before going on to Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion. She and her husband of nearly forty years still live in Wabash.

Anathema, an Amish mystery set in Parke County, Indiana, won the 2009 Best Books of Indiana Award for fiction. Her books have won or finaled in awards ranging from the Best Books of Indiana, American Christian Fiction Writers Book of the Year, Romance Writers of America's RITA, the Holt Medallion, the Daphne du Maurier, National Readers' Choice, and the Booksellers Best. Her Lonestar series (*Lonestar Sanctuary*, *Lonestar Secrets* and *Lonestar Homecoming*) first launched as exclusive books for the Doubleday Book Group and were reader favorites before being released in the general market. Her Rock Harbor mystery series (*Without a Trace*, *Beyond a Doubt*, *Into the Deep*) was in such demand with readers that she continued the series with *Abomination*, and *Cry in the Night* and plans more books in that perennially popular series. She had had two Women of Faith titles (*Alaska Twilight* and *Midnight Sea*.)

Colleen is CEO of American Christian Fiction Writers and is a member of Romance Writers of America. She has won the American Christian Fiction Writers Mentor of the Year award twice. When she's not spoiling her new granddaughter, she is teaching at a writer's conference or researching a new book. Visit her website at www.colleencoble.com.

Andrew Levy



Andrew Levy was born and raised in suburban New Jersey. After graduating Brown University in 1984 with degrees in Mathematics and English, he worked on Wall Street for a brief period, before receiving an M.A. in Creative Writing from Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, and joining the faculty of Butler University in

1992. He lives in Indianapolis with his wife and son, and is currently Cooper Chair in English at Butler, where he also directs the Writer's Studio and the MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Levy has published *The Culture And Commerce of the American Short Story* (Cambridge UP, 1992), co-authored *Creating Fiction: A Writer's Companion* (Harcourt Brace, 1995), and co-edited *Postmodern American Fiction* (Norton, 1997), an innovative anthology that was the focus of reviews and feature articles in *The New York Times*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and elsewhere. Levy has also published a series of articles on American culture that attracted substantial readerships and media attention. "The Big Nap," for instance, a meditation on Robert Kennedy, Jr., Martin Luther King, and the Midwest has been anthologized and utilized as a freshman orientation text at Midwestern colleges. "Play Will Make you Free," an investigation into the corporate image of Nike, was the subject of columns in *Sports Illustrated* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*, radio talk show debate, and a segment on National Public Radio's *This American Life*.

With the publication of "The Anti-Jefferson," an essay celebrating the forgotten emancipator Robert Carter III, in early 2001, Levy's work began to receive broader readerships. The Anti-Jefferson" was included in *Best American Essays 2002*, and was featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*; David Levering Lewis, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner in biography, described the essay as "pure pleasure," and "a model of the *tour de force*." Levy's *The First Emancipator*, published with Random House, was cited as one of the best books of 2005 by the *Chicago Tribune*, Amazon.com, and *Booklist*, won the Slatten biography prize from the Virginia Historical Society, and was reviewed prominently nationwide.

In 2009, Levy published *A Brain Wider Than The Sky*, a memoir and cultural history of migraine headaches, from ancient Mesopotamia to the present day. Described as "a most remarkable book" by Oliver Sacks, *Brain Wider* was reviewed favorably in *Time* ("[Levy] collects headaches like rare butterflies, and he has a rare, possibly singular gift for fitting words to them"), *Newsweek*, *Washington Post* ("Andrew Levy's beautiful memoir...is welcome relief"), among other venues, and was named as one of the best books of 2009 by the *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal*.

Levy has also written for the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and has won awards for his teaching. He is currently working on a book on Mark Twain and *Huckleberry Finn* for publication with Simon and Schuster in 2012.

Emerging Finalists

Douglas Light



Douglas Light was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University with a BA in economics and earned an MA in creative writing from City College of New York. His first novel, *East Fifth Bliss*, won the 2007 Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Fiction. The screen adaptation, which he co-wrote, was filmed in 2010. It stars Golden Globe winner Michael C. Hall, Lucy Liu, Peter Fonda, and Brie Larson.

Light received a 2010 NoMAA writers grant, was selected as a finalist for the 2002 James Jones First Novel Fellowship, and has been published in *Narrative*, *Guernica*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Failbetter*, and other publications. His fiction was selected for inclusion in *O. Henry Prize Stories 2003* and *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2003* anthologies. He lives in New York City. More information is available at www.douglaslight.com

Micah Ling



When Micah Ling decided that she wanted a small-campus college experience, she found DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. After graduating from DePauw as an English major, she moved just down the road to Bloomington, Indiana. Ling earned her MA in 20th Century American Literature and her MFA in poetry at Indiana University. Ling has taught in the English departments at Indiana University, Butler University, DePauw University, and Franklin College. She is currently teaching part-time at both DePauw University and Franklin College. She just recently taught for the 2010 Indiana University Writer's Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.

Ling's first full-length collection, *Three Islands*, was published in September, 2009 by Sunnyoutside Press. The collection deals with three figures: Amelia Earhart, Robert Stroud (the Birdman of Alcatraz), and Fletcher Christian. The poems examine the solitude and madness that comprises their slight degrees of separation. Ling's second collection, *Sweetgrass*, is due out in November. Ling also writes for and manages a book review website:

www.bookpunchreviews.com

2009 Winners and Finalists

National Winner

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 lives 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

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

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.

2009 Finalists

National Finalists

Margaret McMullan

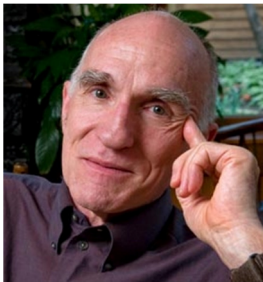


Margaret McMullan writes mostly fiction for both adults and young adults, and she is especially interested in how historical events affect ordinary people. She is the author of six novels including *In My Mother's House*, *Cashay*, a Chicago Public Library 2009 Teen Book Selection, and *When I Crossed No-Bob*, a 2008 Parents' Choice Silver Honor, a 2007 School Library Journal Best Book, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults, a Booklist 2009 Best Book For Young Adults, a 2008 finalist for the Willie Morris Prize for Southern Fiction, and a 2008 Horace Mann Upstander Honor book. Both *When I Crossed No-Bob* and *How I Found the Strong* won the Mississippi Arts and Letters Award for Best Fiction (in 2004 and 2008) and the Indiana Best Young Adult Book (in 2005 and 2008). *How I Found the Strong* also won the 2006 Award for

Fiction from the Mississippi Library Association, was named an ALA 2005 Notable Social Studies Book, and a Booklist's Top Ten First Novel for Youth.

McMullan's essays and short stories have appeared in *Glamour*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *National Geographic for Kids*, *Southern Accents*, *The Indianapolis Star*, *TriQuarterly*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Greensboro Review*, *The Southern California Anthology*, *Mississippi Magazine*, *Other Voices*, *Boulevard*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Sun*. She received a Special Mention in the 2005 Pushcart Prize collection and twice she received the Individual Artist Fellowship from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. She was the 2007 Eudora Welty Visiting Writer at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, and she continues to teach writing workshops in local and inner city libraries and schools. She is currently a board member of the New Harmony Project and a professor of English at the University of Evansville, in Evansville, Indiana, where she's working on a collection of stories. Her new young adult novel called *Sources of Light* is due out in the fall of 2010 from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She lives in Evansville, Indiana with her husband, Patrick O'Connor and their son, James. More information available at <http://www.margaretmcmullan.com>

Scott Russell Sanders



Scott Sanders was born in Tennessee and grew up in Ohio. He studied at Brown University before going on, as a Marshall Scholar, to complete a Ph.D. in English literature at Cambridge University. In 1971 he joined the faculty of Indiana University, where he taught until 2009, retiring as Distinguished Professor of English.

He has published twenty books, including novels, collections of stories and essays, and personal narratives. He has also published seven storybooks for children. His work has appeared in such magazines as *Harper's*, *Audubon*, *Orion*, and *The Georgia Review*, and it has been reprinted in *The Art of the Essay*, *American Nature Writing*, *The Norton Reader*, and other anthologies. His collection of essays, *The Paradise of Bombs*, won the Associated Writing Programs Award in Creative Nonfiction in 1987. *Staying Put*, a celebration of the commitment to place, won the Ohioana Book Award in 1994. *Writing from the Center*, an account of the quest for a meaningful and moral life, won the 1996 Great Lakes Book Award. His more recent books include *Hunting for Hope* (1998), an exploration of sources for healing and renewal; *The Country of Language* (1999), an account of experiences that have shaped his work as a writer; *The Force of Spirit* (2000), meditations on the sacred in everyday life; and *A Private History of Awe* (2006), a coming-of-age memoir, love story, and spiritual testament, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. His latest book is *A Conservationist Manifesto* (2009), which lays out the

ecological, ethical, and practical grounds for shifting from a culture based on consumption to a culture based on stewardship.

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Regional Finalists

Jared Carter



Jared Carter has published four collections of poems. His first, *Work, for the Night Is Coming*, received the Walt Whitman Award for 1980. His second, *After the Rain*, won the Poets' Prize for 1994. He has received a Guggenheim fellowship, two creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Indiana Governor's Arts Award. He has served as a literature panelist with the National Endowment for the Arts. More information available at <http://www.jaredcarter.com>

James H. Madison



James H. Madison is the Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor of History and former chair of the Department of History at Indiana University, Bloomington. More than thirty-five years ago he began the quest to understand Indiana and its people. He's still on that journey in his teaching, research, and writing.

Jim's books include a general overview history of the state (*The Indiana Way*); a biography of one of the state's leading businessmen and philanthropists (*Eli Lilly*); a case study of Indiana's struggles with race (*A Lynching in the Heartland*); and the story of a young Indiana woman in World War II (*Slinging Doughnuts for the Boys*). He's written dozens of essays on Indiana subjects ranging from Wendell Willkie to Civil War memory and commemoration. And he has spoken to audiences across the state, from fourth graders to seniors, conducted seminars and workshops for teachers, and worked with museums, historical societies, and public libraries in the pursuit of learning about Indiana.

Professor Madison's teaching on the Bloomington campus has ranged from the freshman introductory US history class to courses on World War II and Indiana history. Jim's work to help students learn about the challenges of the 21st century includes his role as Director of IU's Liberal Arts and Management Program. Jim's teaching honors include the Sylvia E. Bowman Distinguished Teaching Award, the James P. Holland Award for Exemplary Teaching, and the IU Student Alumni Association "Student Choice" Award. He has also taught, as a Fulbright Professor, at Hiroshima University, Japan, and at the University of Kent, Canterbury, England. From 1976 to 1993 he served as editor of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. He is the recipient of the Indiana Historical Society's Hoosier Historian Award.

More information available at <http://www.indiana.edu/~histweb/faculty/madison.shtml>

Emerging Finalists

Kathleen Hughes



Kathleen Hughes was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. She graduated from Yale University with a BA in English and earned an MFA from the Iowa Writer's Workshop. She currently lives with her husband and two young children in Providence, Rhode Island and teaches high school English at an independent school. *Dear Mrs. Lindbergh*, published by WW Norton, is her first novel. Ms. Hughes has also published stories and essays in *Altared* (Vintage Books), *Pieces* (MTV/Pocket Books), and *The Land Grant College Review*. As a staff writer for the *Providence Phoenix* newspaper, Hughes published work in the *Boston Phoenix* and on *AlterNet* and won awards from the Rhode Island and New England Press Associations. She has won fellowships from the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, the Vermont Studio Center, Sewanee Writer's Conference, and Portsmouth Abbey School. More information available at www.kathleenhughes.com

Gregg Schwipps



Greg Schwipps was raised on a working farm in Milan, Indiana. He graduated from Milan Jr. /Sr. High School in 1991 and attended DePauw University, where he majored in English Writing. Following his graduation from DePauw, he attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for his MFA in creative writing. After receiving his MFA, Greg returned to DePauw, where he is currently an Associate Professor, teaching primarily creative writing classes.

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A lifelong fascination with fishing and rural living has deeply influenced his life and work. He and his wife Alissa live with their two dogs on ten acres of woods near Morgan County's town of Wilbur. He spends much of his free time cat fishing in the nearby West Fork of the White River.

