



Association of Writers  
& Writing Programs

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Juanita Lester: [awppr@awpwriter.org](mailto:awppr@awpwriter.org)



October 23, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2023 AWP Award Series Winners Announced

**Norfolk, VA** —The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) is proud to announce the winners of the 2023 AWP Award Series, an annual competition for the publication of excellent new book-length works. The prizes are supported by the AWP Award Series Endowments. The competition is open to all authors writing in English regardless of nationality or residence and is available to published and unpublished authors alike.

The AWP Award Series includes four categories: poetry, creative nonfiction, novel, and short fiction. The winners of each category receive prize money and publication of their manuscript by a participating press. The 2023 winners are as follows:

**The Sue William Silverman Prize for Creative Nonfiction:** Jay Baron Nicorvo, *Best Copy Available: A Memoir*, University of Georgia Press, selected by Geoff Dyer

**The James Alan McPherson Prize for the Novel:** Benjamin Grossberg, *The Spring Before Obergefell*, University of Nebraska Press, selected by Percival Everett

**The Donald Hall Prize for Poetry:** Bret Shepard, *Absent Here*, University of Pittsburgh Press, selected by Heid E. Erdrich

**The Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction:** Molly Olguín, *The Sea Gives Up the Dead*, Red Hen Press, selected by Carmen Maria Machado

2023 marks the first year of the James Alan McPherson Prize for the Novel, formerly known as the AWP Prize for the Novel. The 2023 winners will be featured at #AWP25 for a reading and celebration. AWP congratulates this year's winners and thanks the judges and screeners who contributed their time. We look forward to celebrating them at #AWP25. Interested in supporting the AWP Award Series? Donations can be made to support the AWP Award Series Endowment on our [website](https://awpwriter.org).

### About AWP

AWP is a professional association of creative writers and writing programs. AWP provides support, advocacy, resources, and community to individual writers, academic creative writing programs, and organizations. The AWP Conference & Bookfair is the annual destination for writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers of contemporary creative writing. It includes thousands of attendees, hundreds of events and bookfair exhibitors, and four days of essential literary conversation and celebration.