



THOM CHAMBLISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JAMIE PASSARO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
BRIAN JUENEMANN
MARKETING DIRECTOR
317 W. BROADWAY, STE 214
EUGENE, OR 97401-2890
TEL (541) 683-4363
FAX (541) 683-3910
email: info@pnba.org
web: pnba.org

Press Release • For Immediate Publication

January 6, 2006

Contact: Thom Chambliss, Executive Director

Phone: 541-683-4363

Fax: 541-683-3910

Email: info@pnba.org

Web: www.pnba.org

The Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association is proud to announce the winners of its 2006 Book Awards, which were selected by a committee of independent booksellers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. The Committee chose the following six authors of titles published in 2005 to receive recognition for their excellence:

Diana Abu-Jaber for *The Language of Baklava*

Pantheon/Anchor, hc: 0375423044, pb: 1400077761

Children's Book Award

Kurt Cyrus for *Hotel Deep: Light Verse from Dark Water*

Harcourt, Inc., hc: 0152167714

John Daniel for *Rogue River Journal: A Winter Alone*

Shoemaker & Hoard, an imprint of Avalon Publishing Group, hc: 1593760515

Jim Lynch for *The Highest Tide: A Novel*

Bloomsbury, hc: 1582346054, pb: 1582346291

William Stafford Memorial Poetry Award

Floyd Skloot for *Approximately Paradise*

Tupelo Press, dist. by Consortium, pb: 1932195254

Garth Stein for *How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets: A Novel*

Soho Press, dist. by Consortium, hc: 1569473900, pb: 1569474230

Each year since 1965, the Pacific Northwest Book Awards have celebrated exceptional books written by Northwest authors. See opposite side for booksellers' comments about these books and publicity information for each author. This year, the PNBA Book Awards will be presented March 17 at the PNBA's spring tradeshow at the Seattle Airport Hilton. Media interested in attending the 40th PNBA Awards Banquet should contact the PNBA office.

The PNBA is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of literacy, free speech and independent bookselling in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. The Pacific Northwest Independent Bestseller List, a weekly list of the bestselling books in the independent bookstores in our five states, is free to any publication. For information about publishing the list, contact PNBA. See this week's list at <www.pnba.org/bestsellershome.htm>.

2006 PNBA Book Award Winners
Publicity Information and Bookseller Comments

***The Language of Baklava*, by Diana Abu-Jaber of Portland, OR/Miami, FL**

Contact: Martin Wilson, publicist, Anchor Books

T: 212-940-7546/E: rmwilson@randomhouse.com

“Diana Abu-Jaber’s sensual memoir will make you hungry for a life filled with food, family and travel. Packed with her memories of growing up in a Jordanian-American family that loves to cook, it is very much like a picnic basket: funny stories, tart recipes, nostalgia for places left behind, all nestled neatly inside. *The Language of Baklava* will make you long for just one more bite.” —The PNBA Awards Committee

***Hotel Deep: Light Verse from Dark Water*, written and illustrated by Kurt Cyrus of Eugene, OR**

Contact: Kia Neri, Author Promotions Manager, Harcourt Children’s Books

T: 619-699-6534/E: kneri@harcourt.com

“Do you wonder where sea creatures sleep? Do you know all of the secrets that they keep? Then check into *Hotel Deep: Light Verse from Dark Water* and follow Kurt Cyrus’ poetic plunge into the hidden world of the ocean. Lavish, colorful illustrations surround twenty-one twisting, playful poems that chronicle a lone sardine’s search for its lost school.” —The PNBA Awards Committee

***Rogue River Journal: A Winter Alone*, by John Daniel of Elmira, OR**

Contact: Michelle Gray, Associate Publicist, Avalon Publishing Group, Inc.

T: 510-595-3664 ext. 303 /E: michelle.gray@avalonpub.com

“John Daniel has poured his heart—and the soul of his father—into a powerful memoir he wrote during a winter alone in the Oregon wilderness. His experiment in solitude resulted in a thoughtful, moving study of himself, his family and the natural world. As beautifully wrought as it is truthful, *Rogue River Journal: A Winter Alone* is a *Walden* for our time.” —The PNBA Awards Committee

***The Highest Tide*, by Jim Lynch of Olympia, WA**

Contact: Marian Brown, Director of Publicity, Bloomsbury

T: 646-307-5055/E: marian.brown@bloomsburyusa.com

“Meet Miles O’Malley, a 13-year old insomniac and Rachel Carson fanatic who roams the tidal flats of Olympia, WA, turning up rare sea life. When he discovers a giant squid, the press, to his horror, deems him an unlikely ‘messiah of the deep.’ Jim Lynch’s debut novel, *The Highest Tide*, has captured the turbulence of teen angst amidst the wonder of the natural world.” —The PNBA Awards Committee

***Approximately Paradise*, by Floyd Skloot of Amity, OR**

Contact: Susan R. Williamson, Associate Publisher, Tupelo Press

T: 434-924-8922/E: srw@tupelopressva.org

“The poems collected in Floyd Skloot’s *Approximately Paradise* create a graceful narrative that will be compelling to anyone—poetry lover or not—who cares about love, loss, truth, baseball, or the beauty of living in the moment. You’ll want to read these poems out loud with someone you love.” —The PNBA Awards Committee

***How Even Broke His Head and Other Secrets*, by Garth Stein of Seattle, WA**

Contact: Ailen Lujó, Marketing Director, Soho Press

T: 212-260-1900/ E: alujo@sohopress.com

“Garth Stein has exposed a sadness and a strength in Evan, a self-appointed screw-up who endeavors to raise a 14-year-old son he’s just met. A raw but sympathetic portrayal of family flaws and individual shortcomings, *How Even Broke His Head and Other Secrets* is a beautifully un-shiny novel of passion, forgiveness, and the life force that is fatherhood.” —The PNBA Awards Committee