

Award Committee Report to the PNBA Board
March, 2015
Submitted by Billie Bloebaum, Chair

As I move into my third and final year on the Awards Committee--my second as Chair--I don't really know what to write in this report. We said good-bye to two committee members this year: Janis Segress, who had come to the end of her three-year commitment and Adam Jones, who opted out after two years. I will miss their contributions, but look forward to the new energy that will come with new committee members.

Last year, we chose to extend the deadline for entries until after the Fall Show in order to better accommodate smaller publishers who may not have had books available until later. This also allowed us a larger candidate pool and, if I recall correctly, at least two of our shortlisted titles were submitted after the original late August deadline and one of our winners was also a late submission. (I understand the Board has chosen to further refine and formalize the submission deadline/guidelines, beginning with this year's award.)

We had a very diverse list of winning titles this year, a list that contained a cookbook and two Young Adult titles. (The list was not, however, diverse in color--five of the six books had blue covers.)

I've really enjoyed my time with the Awards Committee and can't wait to get started on my reading for the 2016 Award. I look forward to working with returning Committee members and getting to know our two new additions. I hope that when we present our shortlist in November that you all find it as exciting as we do and that our winners list is as varied and interesting as this year's, if maybe a bit less monochromatic.

Billie Bloebaum,
2015 PNBA Book Awards Committee Chair
March 15, 2015