



FOR 4-29-10 RELEASE

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Massachusetts Book Awards Announced

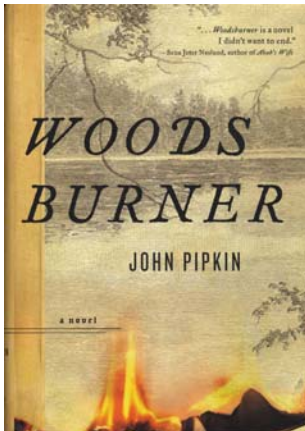
The 10th Annual Awards Celebrated

Hyannis, MA/Wednesday, April 28th, 2010.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book announced this year's award winners in fiction, nonfiction, poetry and children's/young adult literature during an evening reception on opening night of the Massachusetts Library Association annual conference, held this year at the Resort & Conference Center in Hyannis.

The awards recognize significant books by Massachusetts writers or about Massachusetts subjects that were published in the preceding year. Established in 2000, when the Massachusetts Center for the Book was formally affiliated in the Commonwealth, the awards trace the vitality of 21st-century Massachusetts literary life.

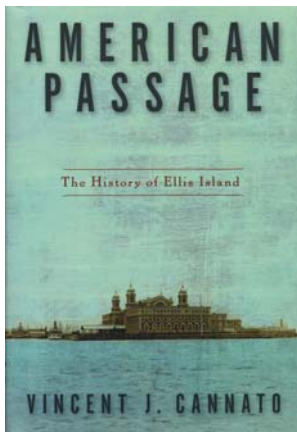
This year's award winners are



Fiction Award

Woodsburner by John Pipkin (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday).

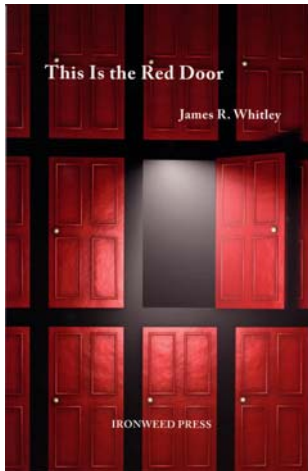
This debut novel takes an actual incident in the life of Henry David Thoreau — when he and a companion accidentally set a fire that consumed three hundred acres of the Concord woods — and weaves it into a richly satisfying tale. Pipkin realizes fully the Boston and Concord of 1844, introducing a wonderfully diverse set of characters affected by the fire, and suggests that an inadvertent act of destruction was the spark that ignited the literary career of the future author of *Walden*. A former writing instructor at Boston University, Pipkin now lives in Austin, Texas.



Nonfiction Award

American Passage: A History of Ellis Island by Vincent J. Cannato (Harper).

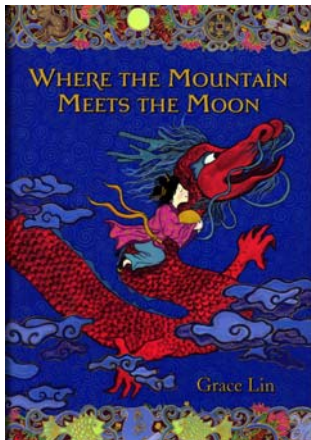
In his clarifying and enlightening account of Ellis Island, a port of disembarkation which has become, in the American mythos, symbolically akin to Plymouth Rock, Cannato marshals impressive research to demonstrate the conflicting priorities that were played out during a significant chapter of our immigration history, dispelling a great many of the myths surrounding the entry process for prospective Americans and helping us to understand the continual challenge to open borders that a nation of immigrants must confront. *American Passage* invites us to consider the history of the Ellis Island experience as well as the ongoing story of our national identity. Vincent Cannato is a professor at U Mass Boston.



Poetry Award

This Is the Red Door by James R. Whitley (Ironweed Press)

This remarkable collection of lyrical poems about love, loss, and moving on, with sections aptly titled In, Under, Through, Over, and Out, brings the reader along the arc of a relationship, from breathless beginning to inevitable end. Whitley's first lines draw one immediately into his experience, while the remainder of the poems invite further exploration. The poems, read aloud, roll off the tongue with an intelligence that avoids cleverness for its own sake. There is much to ponder and even more to discuss in this exceptional volume. James R. Whitley lives in Springfield, Massachusetts.



Children's / Young Adult Literature Award

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin (Little, Brown)

In this richly textured novel about a young girl on a magical journey, Grace Lin weaves characters and stories from Chinese folklore with universal themes of independence and attachment. The heroine finds her strengths in cleverness, friendship, and daring as she discovers essential truths for herself. The delicately detailed illustrations complement and augment the narrative experience. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* is as beautiful to hold and view as it is to read. Grace Lin lives and writes in the Boston area.

The Massachusetts Book Awards are a program of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, the Commonwealth affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. It works with and through libraries to promote books, reading, and literacy while highlighting the literary culture of Massachusetts. Partners in the Center are Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Boston Athenaeum, Boston Public Library, Simmons College GSLIS. The Center also receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Mass Humanities, and the Library of Congress.

To see all of the "Must-Read Books" from this year's Massachusetts Book Awards and to read about past years' award winners, visit the Massachusetts Center for the Book website:

www.massbook.org.