



# MASSBOOKS OF THE YEAR/NONFICTION

*Recommended Reading from the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts Book Awards*

## The Award Books

*Leviathan* by Eric Jay Dolin (W.W. Norton & Company). In *Leviathan* Dolin brings passion, imagination and knowledge to his engrossing book on the American “iron men in wooden boats” who hunted whales for three centuries.

*Salem Witch Judge* by Eve LaPlante (Harper One, An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers). Eve LaPlante, Samuel Sewall's descendent, writes this original character study of Sewall, the one judge at the Salem Witch Trials of 1690 who repented.

*Eden's Outcasts* by John Matteson (W.W. Norton & Company). *Eden's Outcast* provides a fresh perspective on one of America's most important families, the Alcotts, particularly upon visionary Bronson and his brilliant daughter, Louisa May.

## Highly Recommended

*The Cigarette Century* by Allan Brandt (Basic Books). Historian Allan Brandt explores how cigarettes have become embedded in American culture and science and how, in light of falling sales in America, Big Tobacco has expanded heavily to global markets.

*Land of Stone* by Karen Chase (Wayne State University Press). Chase relates her personal experience teaching poetry to severely disabled psychiatric patients, particularly a young man named Ben who causes Chase to examine her own life and struggles in light of his own.

*The Children in Room E4* by Susan Eaton (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill). Eaton takes us inside the classroom of an urban, all-minority elementary school to pose questions about the state of education in America's cities.

*How Doctors Think* by Jerome Groopman (Houghton Mifflin). Groopman gives insight to the practice of medicine including how doctors make critical judgments, assign diagnoses, and increasingly rely on technology, sometimes to the detriment of the patient.

*Hungry Hill* by Carole O'Malley Gaunt (U Mass Press). As the only girl of the O'Malley family, Gaunt must assume the role of mother and caretaker to her seven brothers and alcoholic father after her mother's death, all while attempting to hold the family together.

*Monique and the Mango Rains* by Kris Holloway (Waveland Press, Inc.). A cross-cultural friendship develops between the author, a Peace Corp volunteer, and a Monique, a Malian midwife, in a story of life, death, and the connections women make.

*Portrait: The Life of Thomas Eakins* by S. William McFeeley (W.W. Norton & Company). McFeeley looks at the life of artist Thomas Eakins and how depression, love, and sexual confusion colored his work.

*Senior Year* by Dan Shaughnessy (Houghton Mifflin). Shaughnessy writes about his son Sam's senior year of high school as a star baseball player as well as Shaughnessy's own baseball-obsessed childhood, recognizing how baseball connects generations.

*Not by A Long Shot* by T.D. Thornton (Public Affairs Books). Thornton gives an insider's perspective on horseracing at Suffolk Downs, creating a mosaic of personalities from hopeful jockeys to quirky trainers to the horses on which their dreams rely.

*Judges for the 8<sup>th</sup> MassBooks in Nonfiction were Lisa Gagnon (Harvard Public Library), Michael Kenney (Boston Globe) & Shaun O'Connell (English Department, UMass Boston).*

**A Program of the Massachusetts Center for the Book**

**[www.massbook.org](http://www.massbook.org)**