



The 53rd Annual Georgia Author of the Year Guidelines

Please review and follow these guidelines before you submit a nomination. You may download the nomination form at www.authoroftheyear.org.

Nomination Fee: \$60 for each book-length nomination, whether print or online

Deadline for Nomination: 31 January 2017

Book Nominations: Only books that are published within the 2016 calendar year (January 1 to December 31) are eligible. Traditionally published or self-published books are eligible, as are electronically published books on a major platform (Kindle, Nook, or iPad), for a fee of \$60. For electronic books, a URL and ISBN must be provided as well as one print copy of the text for judges to review. Books will not be considered nominated if any of these guidelines are not met and materials and payment have not been sent (postmarked) by 31 January 2017. First- and second-place winners will be announced at the Georgia Author of the Year (GAYA) ceremony on June 3, 2017.

Required Materials: Please go to www.authoroftheyear.org to download the nomination form. The \$60.00 nomination fee must be received on or before Saturday, January 31, 2017. Two hard-copies of the nominated book, the completed nomination form, and the \$60 fee must be mailed to:

**Georgia Writers Association
Georgia Author of the Year Awards
440 Bartow Avenue #2701
Kennesaw, GA 30144**

Definition of a Georgia Author for the 53rd GAYA: To be considered a Georgia author and thus eligible for nomination for GAYA, an author must meet one of the following criteria: the author must have been a resident of Georgia when the nominated book was written, though she or he may have since moved out of state; or the author must be currently living in Georgia when the book is nominated.



Definitions of GAYA Categories for the 53rd GAYA: Judges use the following definitions to select winners and finalists. In addition, grammar, spelling, and punctuation are considered by our judges. Each book whose author(s) receives the Georgia Author of the Year Award, in either 1st or 2nd place, will be a book that has been professionally edited so that it is free of errors. Please follow the guidelines carefully. A book may be nominated in **ONLY one category**. *The same work may NOT be nominated in multiple categories.* A book or work will be placed in the category selected by the nominator.

Fiction:

- **First Novel**—First published novel by a single author
- **Literary Fiction**—A novel by a single author
- **Detective/Mystery**—A novel by a single author featuring a crime
- **Humor**—A work of fiction by a single author featuring amusing and entertaining drama
- **Romance**—A novel by a single author involving some combination of the following: high adventure, thwarted love, mysterious circumstances, arduous quests, and improbable triumphs
- **Sci-Fi/Fantasy**—A novel by a single author that is grounded in scientific or pseudoscientific concepts and that, whether set on Earth or in an alternate or parallel world, employs both realistic and fantastic elements
- **Short Story Collection**—By a single author

Poetry: A book of poetry by a single author (includes chapbooks)

Nonfiction: Books by a single author (or a maximum of two authors)

- **Biography**—A life history that is a fact-based, referenced life story of a person (e.g., McCullough's *John Adams*), a group of people (McGrayne's *Nobel Prize Women in Science: Their Lives, Struggles, and Momentous Discoveries*), or a family (Hahn's *The Soong Sisters*). This category does not include autobiography, which should be nominated under memoir.
- **Essay**—A collection of essays informed by an overarching theme or topic (may NOT be an anthology of essays by multiple authors). The essay is a short form of

creative nonfiction that attempts a sustained discussion of a single topic. In *Tracing the Essay*, Douglas Atkins argues that its form and function both lie somewhere between short philosophy and short fiction, reflecting on narrative and experience to draw large truths from small nuggets of life. While it may be written from the "I," it is never completely about the self, but, rather, about how the self knows the world. Examples of essay collections include Atwood's *In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination*; Smith's *Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays*; and Gopnik's *Paris to the Moon*.

- **History**—A work dealing with facts and events rather than imaginative narration. History books deal with past events. Books may be themed in a continuous and/or systematic narrative of past events relating to a particular period, culture, person, or a people or country. It is the aggregate of past events connected with the human race. Examples of histories include: McCullough's *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*; Scott's *Cobb County, Georgia, and the Origins of the Suburban South: A Twentieth-Century History*; and Current's *Lincoln and the First Shot*.
- **Inspirational-Religious**—This category includes works of inspiration, devotionals, spiritual, new-age, and other books that are religious in nature. An example of this category of book would be Sarah Young's *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*.
- **Inspirational-Secular**—This category includes works of how-to, self-help, life improvement, and motivational books that are NOT religious in nature. An example of this category of book would be Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.
- **Memoir/Autobiography**—According to Virginia Woolf, "A memoir is not what happens, but the person to whom things happen." A memoir does not present a person's entire life but a "slice of life." An autobiography usually presents a person's entire life in chronological order.
- **Specialty Book**—This category often has a visual element and may include illustrations. Examples include cookbooks, coffee-table books, photography books, and art books. Books in this category will be judged on both visual presentation and quality of writing.



Children's:

- **Children's Book**—Books written for ages 9 and younger by a single author (and/or illustrator). A children's book includes picture books and can be fiction or nonfiction.
- **Young Adult Book**—Books written for ages 10 and older by a single author (and/or illustrator), and are either fiction or nonfiction.

In the Event a Category Has Fewer than Four Nominees: If a category has fewer than four nominees, the authors will have the opportunity to move their books to the next best category. For example, if there are only two books in the Romance category, the authors will be notified and may choose to place the book in the Literary Fiction category. If the author decides that no other category is suitable, the nomination fee will be refunded.

In the Event an Award Is Not Made in a Category: The Georgia Writers Association reserves the right to not award a winner in a category if it is determined that none of the nominations should win. If no winner is selected due to a lack of sufficient nominations in a category, the nomination fee will be refunded. However, if the category judge determines that a category has no first- or second-place winner, the nomination fee will NOT be refunded.