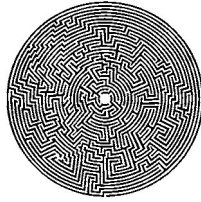


# BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

The Raymond House • 655 -13th Street • Suite 302 • Oakland, California 94612 • (510) 268-9775



September 9, 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The Before Columbus Foundation announces the  
Winners of the Thirtieth Annual  
AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS  
Ceremonies, Sunday, October 11, 2009, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

Oakland, CA—The Before Columbus Foundation announces the Winners of the Thirtieth Annual AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS. The 2009 American Book Award winners will be formally recognized on Sunday, October 11th at the Nuyorican Poets Café, 236 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St., New York, NY. The awards will take place from 7:30 P.M. – 9:0 P.M. Authors attending will read selections from their works and a reception will take place following the ceremony. This event is open to the public. For more information, call (510) 642-7321.

The American Book Awards were created to provide recognition for outstanding literary achievement from the entire spectrum of America's diverse literary community. The purpose of the awards is to recognize literary excellence without limitations or restrictions. There are no categories, no nominees, and therefore no losers. The award winners range from well-known and established writers to under-recognized authors and first works. There are no quotas for diversity, the winners list simply reflects it as a natural process. The Before Columbus Foundation views American culture as inclusive and has always considered the term “multicultural” to be not a description of various categories, groups, or “special interests,” but rather as the definition of all of American literature. The Awards are not bestowed by an industry organization, but rather are a writers’ award given by other writers.

**The 2009 American Book Award Winners are:**

Houston A. Baker, Jr., *Betrayal: How Black Intellectuals Have Abandoned the Ideals of the Civil Right Era* (Columbia University Press)

Danit Brown, *Ask for a Convertible* (Pantheon)

Jericho Brown, *Please* (New Issues Poetry & Prose)

José Antonio Burciaga, *The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes: Selected Works of José Antonio Burciaga*, edited by Mimi R. Gladstein and Daniel Chacón (University of Arizona Press)

Claire Hope Cummings, *Uncertain Peril: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Seeds* (Beacon Press)

Stella Pope Duarte, *If I Die in Juarez* (The University of Arizona Press)

Linda Gregg, *All of It Singing: New and Selected Poems* (Graywolf Press)

Suheir Hammad, *Breaking Poems* (Cypher Books)

Richard Holmes, *The Age of Wonder* (Pantheon Books)

George E. Lewis, *A Power Stronger than Itself: The A.A.C.M. and American Experimental Music* (University of Chicago Press)

Patricia Santana, *Ghosts of El Grullo* (University of New Mexico Press)

Jack Spicer, *My Vocabulary Did This to Me: The Collected Poetry of Jack Spicer*, edited by Peter Gizzi and Kevin Killian (Wesleyan University Press)

*Lifetime Achievement Award*: Miguel Algarin

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**Calendar Editors:**

What: The Before Columbus Foundation presents the American Book Awards

When: Sunday, October 11, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Where: Nuyorican Poets Café, 236 East 3rd St., New York, NY