



The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College Awards the 2012 Paterson Fiction Prize

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Photo of Steve Almond by Sharona Jacobs

Steve Almond of Arlington Massachusetts has won the 2012 Paterson Fiction Prize for his short story collection *God Bless America: Stories*, published by Lookout Books/University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

Almond receives a \$1,000 cash prize for First Place among 101 entries this year.

The Paterson Fiction Prize has been awarded annually since 1996 for a novel or collection of short stories published in the previous year.

“ I couldn't be more honored, especially given the finalists,” said Almond. “*God Bless America* is a little book of stories from a tiny press. My hope is that the Paterson Fiction Prize will help readers find it, and enlarge the discussion about the beautiful and sorrowful nation we live in.”

(more)

New Jersey writer Laura Boss, one of the contest judges, commented that Almond's "amazing versatility, inner psychological landscapes, and sardonic humor prove he is one of the outstanding short story writers of his generation."

A graduate of Wesleyan University and former professor at Boston University, Almond is the author of 10 books, including the 2005 *Candyfreak*, a New York Times bestseller that also won the American Library Association's Alex Award.

Finalists for this year's Paterson Fiction Prize are: ***Mending: New and Selected Stories*** by **Sallie Bingham** of Sante Fe, NM (Sarabande Books, Louisville, KY); ***Sweet Hope*** by **Mary Bucci Bush** of Pasadena, CA (Guernica Editions, Toronto, ON, Canada); ***Boundaries*** by **Elizabeth Nunez** of Amityville and Brooklyn, NY (Akashic Books, New York, NY); ***My New American Life*** by **Francine Prose** of New York, NY (Harper Collins Publishers, New York, NY); ***The Uncoupling*** by **Meg Wolitzer** of New York, NY (Riverhead Books, New York, NY).

[Steve Almond's Website](#)

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The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College has been awarded a Citation of Excellence and named a Distinguished Arts Project and is funded, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

