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## Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) Announces Gold Winners in the 29th Annual IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards™ for Excellence in Book Publishing

(Manhattan Beach, CA – April 12, 2017) — The Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) – [www.ibpa-online.org](http://www.ibpa-online.org) – announced over the weekend the gold winners in their prestigious IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards™, now in its twenty-ninth year.

This year's esteemed indie book award program recognized excellence in books published during calendar year 2016. From close to 1,400 entries, one gold winner was named in each of fifty-five categories. Silver winners were also named in each category, for a total of 169 overall winners.

**[See the full list of winners in all 55 categories here.](#)**

The gold winners were announced on Friday, April 7, 2017 during a gala dinner ceremony programmed at the end of the first day of IBPA's [Publishing University](#), a two-day conference with over 30 educational and networking sessions developed to foster collaboration within the independent publishing community. Both the dinner ceremony and the conference took place at the Historic Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

"Becoming a Benjamin Franklin Award finalist showcases a publisher's commitment to professional standards and high-quality book content and production," said Angela Bole, IBPA's Chief Executive Officer. "Winning can expand a book's marketability and solidify a publisher's credibility – two very powerful things in today's crowded book market."

For nearly 30 years, the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards™ have been regarded as one of the highest national honors for small and independent publishers. This year's gold winners include a variety of books from independent publishers large and small, hybrid presses, self-published authors, and major national groups like the American Cancer Society and The White House Historical Association.

According to Jim Milliot at *Publishers Weekly* in an article published April 10, 2017, among the many heartfelt acceptance speeches during the dinner ceremony was that of Joseph Jenkins, author and publisher of [\*The Slate Roof Bible, Third Edition: Everything You Need to Know about the World's Finest Roof\*](#). The book took gold in the reference category. "I am pretty sure I am the only roofer here tonight," said Jenkins, who has been writing and publishing for more than two decades. He said that winning the award was one of the highlights of his career.

Over 150 librarians, booksellers, and design and editorial experts – most of whom have decades of book industry experience – judge the books submitted to the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards™. The judging process takes close to six months, beginning in September and continuing into March each year. At the end of the process, every entrant receives written critiques from the three individual judges who reviewed their book. The critiques include constructive feedback to help each publisher understand how their book is being perceived by industry professionals, upholding part of IBPA's mission to serve the independent publishing community through education.

The call for entries into the 30th annual IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards™ program is open now. Visit [ibpabenjaminfranklinawards.com](http://ibpabenjaminfranklinawards.com) for more information.

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## About the Independent Book Publishers Association

Founded in 1983 to support independent publishers nationwide, the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) leads and serves the independent publishing community by providing advocacy, education, and tools for success. With over 3,000 members, IBPA is the largest independent publishing association in the U.S. Its vision is a world where every independent publisher has the tools and knowledge needed to professionally engage all aspects of the publishing industry. For more information, visit [ibpa-online.org](http://ibpa-online.org).

## About the Benjamin Franklin Book Awards™

The Benjamin Franklin Book Awards are administered by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) with help from over 150 publishing professionals, including librarians, bookstore owners, reviewers, designers and editors. All entrants receive direct feedback from the judges which is sure to help guide future publications. For more information, visit [ibpabenjaminfranklinawards.com](http://ibpabenjaminfranklinawards.com).