STOWE PRIZE FOR LITERARY ACTIVISM





Princess Joy L. Perry

2026 Winner

A note from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

We are so grateful to gather here tonight to honor the legacy of Harriet Beecher Stowe and celebrate the enduring power of literary activism today, as represented by Princess Joy L. Perry, our 2026 Stowe Prize winner.

Funds raised for the Stowe Prize help sustain the mission of the Stowe Center to encourage social justice and literary activism, preserve the unique collections and grounds, and support our innovative programming.

Thank you for your support and the impact ***you*** make possible.

Sincerely,

Karen

2026 Stowe Prize Winner



Princess Joy L. Perry is the recipient of a Virginia Commission for the Arts Fellowship and a winner of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation Award. Her short stories have appeared in *All About Skin*, *African American Review*, and *Kweli Journal*. Her debut novel, *This Here Is Love* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2025), was named one of the *New York Times* 10 Best Historical Novels of 2025, longlisted for the 2026 Aspen Words Literary Prize, selected as a Library Journal Best Book of the Year, and recognized as a BookBrowse Best Book of the Year.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Spoken Word
Me by Versatile Poetiq, Inaugural Poet Laureate of Windsor, CT & Stowe Center Visitor Experience Guide

Welcome
Karen Fisk, Executive Director of the Stowe Center for Literary Activism
Dr. Michael Mallery, Jr., Chair, Stowe Prize Selection Committee

Remarks from our Legacy Sponsor, The Hartford
Anna Dumais, Vice Chair of the Stowe Center Board of Trustees

Presentation of the 2026 Stowe Prize for Literary Activism
Dr. Michael Mallery, Jr. & Kamora Herrington
Members of the 2026 Stowe Prize Selection Committee

Selected Reading from *This Here Is Love* by Princess Joy L. Perry

Princess Joy L. Perry in Conversation with Remica Bingham-Risher

Closing
Karen Fisk & Dr. Michael Mallery, Jr.

Special Guest Moderator

Remica Bingham-Risher, Cave Canem fellow and faculty member, Affrilachian Poet, and member of the Wintergreen Women Writers Collective, is the author of several poetry collections: *Conversion* (Lotus, 2006), *What We Ask of Flesh* (Etruscan, 2013) and *Starlight & Error* (Diode, 2017) as well as a memoir, *Soul Culture: Black Poets, Books and Questions That Grew Me Up* (Beacon, 2022). Her most recent book, *Room Swept Home*, poems and photographs (Wesleyan, 2024), won the L.A. Times Book Prize. Her book of essays, *Devotion: Toni Morrison's Black Dreaming and Our Infinite Love*, is forthcoming. She is the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence and Engagement at Old Dominion University.



STOWE PRIZE WINNERS

2026



Princess Joy L. Perry

This Here Is Love

2025



Percival Everett

James: A Novel

2024



Dr. Bettina L. Love

Punished for Dreaming: How School Reform Harms Black Children and How We Heal

2023



Dr. Ruha Benjamin

Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want

2022



Dr. Clint Smith

How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America

2021



Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own

2020



Albert Woodfox

Solitary: A Biography

2018



Matthew Desmond

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

2017



Bryan Stevenson

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

2015



Ta-Nehisi Coates

"The Case for Reparations"

2013



Michelle Alexander

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

2011



Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn

Half the Sky

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Podcast of Connecticut History Grating the Nutmeg

Thank you to our 2026 Stowe Prize Committees!

Selection Committee

Dr. Michael Mallery, *Chair*
Antoinette Brim-Bell
Dr. Bettina L. Love
Kamora Herrington
Dr. Lucinda Canty
Jennyfer A. Holmes
Arianna Baret Peralta

Steering Committee

Anna Dumais
Dr. Michael Mallery
Kamora Herrington
Karen Fisk

Grab your copy of *This Here Is Love* from River Bend Bookshop tonight or online!

Join us for Reading for Change!

Reading for Change is our free virtual book club series that explores selections from the Stowe Prize short list in conversation with their authors.

October 14, 2026 @ 6:00-7:15 PM
Holy Ground: On Activism, Environmental Justice, and Finding Hope by Catherine Coleman Flowers

Guest Moderator: Jennyfer Holmes

November 11, 2026 @ 6:00-7:15 PM
Erased: What American Patriarchy Has Hidden From Us by Anna Malaika Tubbs

Guest Moderator: Arianna Baret Peralta

December 9, 2026 @ 6:00-7:15 PM
Queen Mother: Black Nationalism, Reparations, and the Untold Story of Audley Moore by Ashley D. Farmer

Guest Moderator: Kamora Herrington

January 13, 2026 @ 6:00-7:15 PM
We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance by Kellie Carter Jackson

Guest Moderator: Kamora Herrington

Check out more of our upcoming public programs and tours at StoweCenter.org!





Want to join the dedicated people who care about social justice and positive change?

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Doing right by our community takes all of us every day.

At The Hartford, helping people and supporting our communities is at the heart of what we do. It's why we're proud to support the Stowe Prize for Literary Activism.

TheHartford.com

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The Hartford

Mission

The Stowe Center for Literary Activism encourages social justice and literary activism by exploring the legacy of Harriet Beecher Stowe and all who advocate hope and freedom then and now.

STOWE CENTER FOR LITERARY ACTIVISM

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Connect with us

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