

Congratulations, Condolences, and Gratitude

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

All together, we count twenty-five separate books reviewed in this issue, most in this section, as they are by writers we've published previously or they reflect past issues' subjects. Congratulations to all the authors. And huge thanks to Book Review Editor Kristi Southern, who manages the many moving parts of making sure we can release a new book review every week [on our website](#) and via social media. On behalf of Kristi, I remind you all to please use our [online form](#) to submit your new title for review consideration, and if you're interested in possibly reviewing for *NCLR*, read more [here](#) about our review expectations and how to volunteer to review.

2024 was the first year *NCLR* managed the North Carolina Book Awards for the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and the first year I served as chair of the selection committee for the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, and I want to thank everyone who stepped up to help honor the award winners and inductees – book judges and members of the selection committee, in particular. Read about these honors throughout this section of the issue. Congratulations to the award winners and new inductees.

Congratulations, too, to *NCLR*'s own honorees, two poets who received Honorable Mention in our James Applewhite Poetry Prize contest, whose poetry appears in this section.

The summer 2024 *NCLR* Editorial Assistants, Shelby Hans, Amber Knox, and Wendy Tilley, unanimously recommended for publication Alex McWalters's "beautiful story of father-son relationships" as Shelby described it. The author may

be new to our pages, but his essay hearkens back to our 2017 issue theme, North Carolina Literature and the other Arts. McWalters is another of North Carolina's many writer/musicians. Amber noted that his essay will be "relatable to readers who have also had the experience of struggling to find work or decide what to do after college, or who have had their plans and expectations change suddenly." Among other elements she praised, Wendy admired the "relationship between the salesman father (who is also a bit of an artist) and his artist son."

And, as too often happens, we close this issue with a remembrance of a special person lost from our writing community, Dannye Romine Powell, whose smile could light up a room and warm everyone in it. I thank Joseph Bathanti and Kim Church for sharing their tributes to Dannye just a few years ago when the North Carolina Writers Conference honored her. Condolences to all who miss her.

Back in October, as *NCLR*'s first crowdfunding campaign went into its last week far from our goal, I reached out to many, many people from our past issues – that is, I sent an email to every back issue's contributors list since the 1998 print issue (my first as editor). A lot of those emails bounced, but more seem to have gotten through because within hours (minutes even), so many of you answered my call for donations that would serve to help our mission to preserve and promote the state's rich literary history. I was so incredibly touched by how quickly our gift total started rising after those emails went out. Thank you. I felt the love. And I send it right back to you. ■

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