

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# Christopher Awards



"It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

- Christopher motto -

## Dear Friend,

Though the pandemic prevented us from gathering in person, we hope this program book serves as a small reminder of the stellar work done by you and your fellow Christopher Award winners. During a year when people were experiencing darkness and isolation, our winning books, films, and TV programs provided readers and viewers with stories that celebrate hope, faith, sacrifice, community, and our common humanity. Thank you for creating those stories, and may you continue using your gifts to add light to our world!

**Tony Rossi**, Director of Communications & Christopher Awards Program Manager



## The Christophers

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## Testimonials

### from Past Christopher Award Winners

“Winning a Christopher Award is one of the greatest honors for any filmmaker who hopes their work will have a lasting, positive impact on the world. Movies that entertain are the norm, but films that enlighten, educate and inspire are so rare, yet so important and the Christopher Award shines light on these films, further illuminating their footprint on the planet. As one candle has the ability to cast out darkness, such is the power of one film to impact hearts and minds for the better. It’s truly an honor to be considered for a Christopher Award...and an incredible blessing to be awarded one.”

—*Ted Melfi*, writer/director of 2017 winner “Hidden Figures” and 2015 winner “St. Vincent”

“I love the Christopher Award slogan, *Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness*. I personally believe that with all my heart...I am very proud at how God works through me to shine a light, and to help heal a lot of hurt in a lot of people, and I am very proud of this award.”

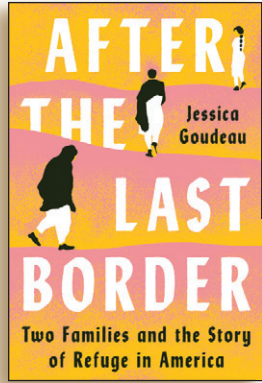
—*Four-time Christopher Award winner Dolly Parton*

“Receiving the Christopher Award for our first ‘Here’s Hank’ book, ‘Bookmarks Are People Too,’ was such a meaningful acknowledgment of our commitment to getting reluctant readers to pick up a book and laugh their way through it. We believe laughter is the perfect light switch to illuminate a child’s path into literature. We were honored and grateful to have been chosen and will continue to support the belief that reading and education can lead us all from darkness to light.”

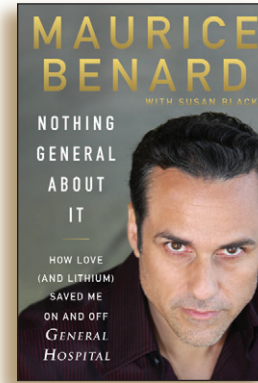
—*2015 winning authors Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver*

“I was so honored and thrilled to win a Christopher Award for my film ‘Swim Team.’ The Christophers’ motto sums up why I made this film: ‘It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.’ Making ‘Swim Team’ was a labor of love, made to inspire families with children who have autism or special needs to be hopeful and work together in the face of overwhelming challenges. I am grateful to be recognized with such an award for telling stories about the power of love and the triumph of the human spirit, which bring us all closer to one another. I cannot think of a better job to have.”

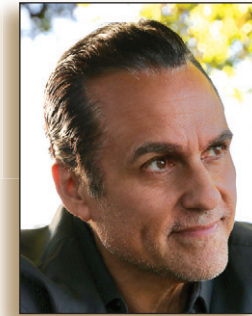
—*Lara Stolman*, director/producer of 2018 TV/Cable winner “POV: Swim Team”



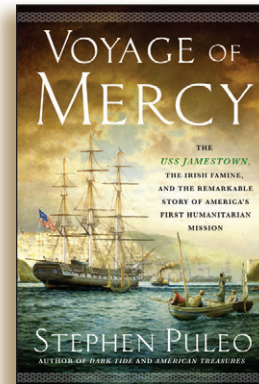
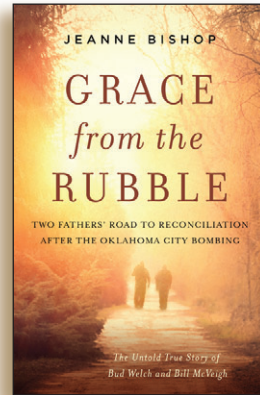
*After the Last Border:*  
**Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America**  
(Viking/Penguin Random House)  
by **Jessica Goudeau**



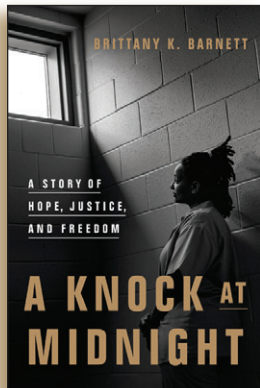
*Nothing General About It:*  
**How Love (and Lithium) Saved Me On and Off 'General Hospital'**  
(William Morrow/Harper Collins)  
by **Maurice Benard with Susan Black**



*Grace from the Rubble:*  
**Two Fathers' Road to Reconciliation After the Oklahoma City Bombing**  
(Zondervan/Harper Collins)  
by **Jeanne Bishop**

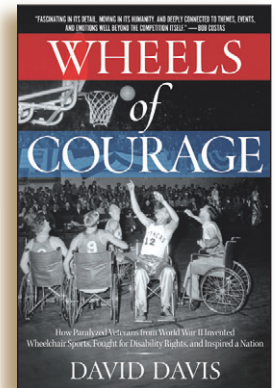


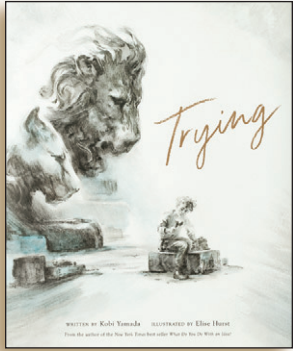
*Voyage of Mercy:*  
**The USS Jamestown, the Irish Famine, and the Remarkable Story of America's First Humanitarian Mission**  
(St. Martin's Press)  
by **Stephen Puleo**



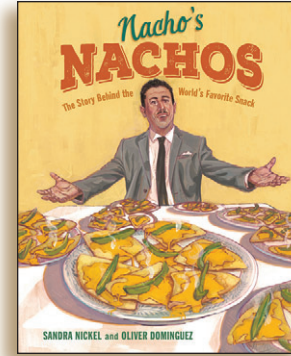
*A Knock at Midnight:*  
**A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom**  
(Crown Publishing/Penguin Random House)  
by **Brittany K. Barnett**

*Wheels of Courage:*  
**How Paralyzed Veterans from World War II Invented Wheelchair Sports, Fought for Disability Rights, and Inspired a Nation**  
(Center Street/Hachette Book Group)  
by **David Davis**





**Preschool and up**  
*Trying*  
 (Compendium)  
 by Kobi Yamada,  
 illustrated by Elise Hurst



**Ages 8 and up**  
*Nacho's Nachos*  
 (Lee and Low Books)  
 by Sandra Nickel,  
 illustrated by  
 Oliver Dominguez



**Kindergarten and up**  
*Tiara's Hat Parade*  
 (Albert Whitman & Company)  
 by Kelly Starling Lyons,  
 illustrated by Nicole Tadgell



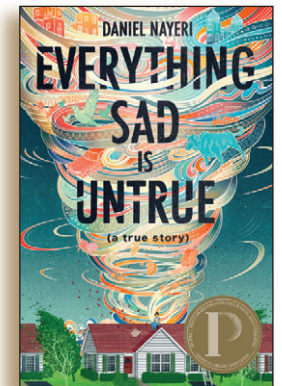
**Ages 10 and up**  
*Five Things About  
 Ava Andrews*  
 (Balzer + Bray/Harper Collins)  
 by Margaret Dilloway



**Ages 6 and up**  
*Fauja Singh Keeps Going*  
 (Kokila/Penguin Random House)  
 by Simran Jeet Singh,  
 illustrated by Baljinder Kaur



**Young Adult**  
*Everything Sad is Untrue:  
 (a true story)*  
 (Levine Querido)  
 by Daniel Nayeri





*Clouds*

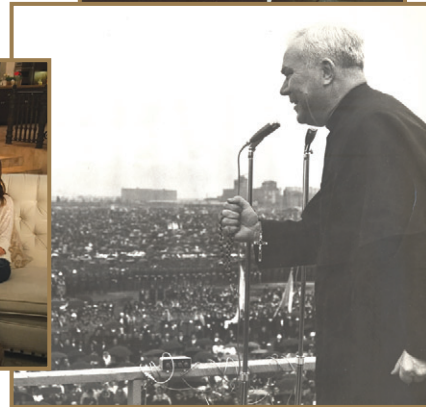
(Disney Plus)

Director: Justin Baldoni  
 Screenwriter: Kara Holden  
 Story by: Casey La Scala & Patrick Kopka and Kara Holden  
 Based on the Book by: Laura Sobiech  
 Producers: Andrew Lazar, Casey La Scala, Justin Baldoni

*Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton*

(Family Theater Productions)

Director: Jonathan Cipiti  
 Writers: Matthew Donlan, Megan Harrington  
 Producer: Megan Harrington  
 Executive Producers: Father David Guffey, C.S.C.,  
 Father Wilfred Raymond, C.S.C.,  
 John Priddy, Ed Priddy, Brandon Clark,  
 Tai Truesdell



*Sky Blossom: Diaries of the Next Greatest Generation*

(Sky Blossom Films)

Director: Richard Lui  
 Producers: Hailey Lee, Alex Lo, Richard Lui, Donald Young  
 Executive Producers: Jean Tsien, Montel Williams, David Hyde Pierce, Linda Hope, Col. Jack Jacobs, Bing Chen, Daphne Kwok, Val Nicholas, Thomas Riley, Steve Schwab, Robert Stephen, Sue Van, Susie Van, Brian Yang



*The Way Back*

(Warner Bros. Pictures)

Director: Gavin O'Connor  
 Screenwriter: Brad Ingelsby  
 Producers: Gordon Gray, Jennifer Todd, Gavin O'Connor, Ravi Mehta



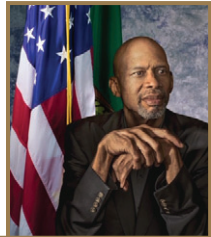
**ABC News World News Tonight with David Muir and Nightline: *The Children of Auschwitz***

(ABC News)

Correspondent: David Muir

Producers: Clark Bentson, Esther Castillejo, Bob Henault, Eric Noll, Edward Wiese

Executive Producers: Almin Karamehmedovic, Steven Baker



***Black Patriots: Heroes of the American Revolution***

(History/A&E Networks)

Director: Jyllian Gunther

Supervising Producer: Allie Breslin

Executive Producers: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Deborah Morales, Steve Ascher, Jessica Conway, Jyllian Gunther, Stephen Mintz, Kristy Sabat, Matt Pearl, Jennifer Wagman



***Bravery and Hope: 7 Days on the Front Line***

(CBS News)

Director: Matthew DeVoe

Producers: Josh Gaynor, Magalie Laguerre-Wilkinson, Sasha Reuther, Marcelena Spencer, Pat Milton

Producers (Hospital Unit): Andrew Bast, T. Sean Herbert, Gilad Thaler

Producers-Editors: Michael McHugh, Michael Vele, Seth Fox, Diana DeCilio

Field Producer: Dani Levy

Senior Producer: Josh Gelman

Executive Producers: Guy Campanile, Mitch Weitzner

Senior Executive Producer: Susan Zirinsky



***Broken Places***

(PBS/WNET)

Writer/Producer/Director: Roger Weisberg



***Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square***

(Netflix)

Director: Debbie Allen

Teleplay: Maria S. Schlatter

Music and Lyrics: Dolly Parton

Consulting Producers: Mary Page Keller, Thomas Ian Griffith

Co-Executive Producers: Hudson Hickman, Joe Lazarov

Executive Producers: Dolly Parton, Maria S. Schlatter, Debbie Allen, Sam Haskell



***extraORDINARY: The Bill Atkinson Story***

(PBS)

Director: Brandon Gulish

Producers: Tom Farrell, Brandon Gulish, Jonathan Mantovani, Tommy Caamano

Executive Producers: Tom Farrell, Fred Hagen



## *The Christopher Prayer*

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**Where there is injury, pardon;**

**Where there is doubt, faith;**

**Where there is despair, hope;**

**Where there is darkness, light;**

**And where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,**

**Grant that I may not so much seek**

**To be consoled as to console;**

**To be understood as to understand;**

**To be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**—attributed to St. Francis of Assisi**



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