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HOLOCAUST STORY WINS CONNECTICUT PRESS CLUB AWARD

Debut book THE CRATE takes top prize in adult non-fiction category

SOUTHPORT, CT., June 18, 2019 – A book weaving together a Holocaust narrative with a present-day true crime story has won acclaim from the Connecticut Press Club.

At its annual awards night in Southport, The Connecticut Press Club announced, among other winners, that **THE CRATE: A Story of War, a Murder, and Justice** took First Place adult non-fiction in the organization’s annual literary contest.

“The Connecticut Press Club’s annual awards night honors some of our state’s most accomplished journalists, writers, editors and other communications professionals,” said Connecticut Press Club President Michele Turk. “It’s a wonderful celebration of media professionals at a time when journalists and the mainstream media are under siege.”

“I’m honored by this recognition from the Connecticut Press Club,” said debut author Deborah Levison, of Trumbull. “This story is very close to my heart, and to have it resonate with this group of professional communicators is hugely meaningful to me.”

With its first-place award in Connecticut, **THE CRATE** went on to compete in the national competition of the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW), which includes both male and female members from across the country. In the national competition, **THE CRATE** won Second Place non-fiction.

Published by WildBlue Press (2018), the book tells the true story of a grisly murder and its aftermath. In 2010, Levison’s family found a wooden crate, nailed tightly shut and hidden underneath their cherished lake house in Canada. They weren’t prepared for the contents; the crate contained a woman’s butchered body. The discovery devastated Levison’s fragile parents: it dredged up their memories of past violence, of surviving the Holocaust. The two timelines, past and present, converge in the story.

Reviewers have called **THE CRATE** “heart-wrenching,” “gorgeous and poetic,” and “a brilliant story.” It has earned seven literary awards to date.

Bestselling author and former journalist Jane Green emceed the awards gala in which winners of the Connecticut Press Club’s Communications Contest were feted. Green, the author of 19 novels, including 17 New York Times bestsellers, presided over the ceremony at the Delemer Hotel in Southport to give awards in a variety of categories, including poetry, anthology, photo essays, and more.

The Connecticut Press Club is an affiliate of the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW), and includes both male and female members. Though inactive in recent years, the club has been relaunched under the leadership of Michele Turk, a Greenwich-based writer/editor and owner of A Bloc of Writers, Inc. The club's base was once comprised solely of print and broadcast journalists, but now welcomes all types of communicators: writers, editors, bloggers, authors, educators, public relations professionals, media photographers, students, and others. Plans for the coming year include lectures by sought-after speakers, professional development workshops, networking, and social outings.

For more information regarding the Connecticut Press Club, their awards night, or membership, email Michele at ctpressclub@gmail.com.

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