



Recognizing Books That Explore Issues of Social Justice

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Goddard Riverside Launches Stephan Russo Book Prize for Social Justice

Named for Outgoing Executive Director Stephan Russo, Prize Celebrates the Power Of Books to Create Change

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New York, NY (February 6, 2017)— The Goddard Riverside Book Prize is a new literary award that will celebrate the power of the written word to create change in the name of justice for all people—a value shared by the publishing community and Goddard Riverside Community Center. The prize will recognize books that focus on housing, early childhood and secondary education, older adult life, city arts, social policy and other important aspects of community life that support and promote Goddard Riverside’s mission. It will be given each year at Goddard Riverside’s Book Fair Gala in the fall.

The prize is named for Goddard Riverside’s longtime Executive Director Stephan Russo, a visionary leader and champion of the underserved in our communities. Josh Marwell, President of Sales at Harper Collins and Goddard Riverside Book Prize spokesperson, explains: “The inspiration for the prize was, quite appropriately, a conversation about a book, a great book Stephan was reading that he found so extraordinary he wanted us to read it, too; it is “Evicted” written by Matthew Desmond, published by Penguin Random House. Like many others, Stephan was inspired by Mr. Desmond’s work on the impact of poverty on human life in our country. This wonderful book exemplifies the kind of title we will honor with the prize in the coming years.”

Each year, Goddard Riverside Community Center invites prominent scholars, writers and journalists to judge the Goddard Riverside Stephan Russo Book Prize for Social Justice. The 2017 judges include Paul Krugman, New York Times Op Ed columnist and Nobel Prize winner; Jeffrey Toobin, New Yorker staff writer and CNN legal analyst; Barbara Simon, associate professor at the Columbia School of Social Work; Douglas Bauer, executive director of The Clark Foundation; and Michael Zisser, recently retired CEO of University Settlement and The Door. After a preliminary vetting to determine eligibility, judges will read and evaluate submissions to select the winner, collaborating as necessary. The panel convenes in the fall in New York City to decide the winner. The winner is announced at the Goddard Riverside Book Fair Gala, which takes place this fall in New York City.



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To be eligible for the 2017 Book Prize, nominated books must have been published in the United States between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Eligible entries will focus on issues of social justice: housing, early childhood and secondary education, older adult life, city arts, social policy and other important themes that support and promote Goddard Riverside's mission. For submission purposes, published books and bound galleys or bound manuscripts for books not yet printed will be accepted. Page proofs are not acceptable. For additional entry information and forms, please visit bookprize.goddard.org or contact Jenny Pfister at jpfiester@goddard.org; (212) 873-6600, ext. 354.

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[Goddard Riverside Community Center](#) is one of New York City's leading human service organizations, assisting more than 17,000 people yearly with services including early childhood and youth programs, college counseling, supportive housing, employment readiness, older adult services and outreach to homeless people.