



April 7, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO (April 7, 2020) On Friday, April 17, 2020 at 7 p.m., finalists in the General Fiction, Literary Fiction, and Poetry categories will read and answer questions at a Zoom and Facebook Live event hosted by Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book.

Join the Zoom meeting (details at coloradohumanities.org) to converse live with the authors. Nicky Beer, the 2016 CBA winner in Poetry, will MC. [Facebook Live](#) attendees can send in questions and comments. Books can be ordered online at [BookBar](#).

Aimie Runyan will read from her general fiction novel ***Girls on the Line***. The author of four historical novels, including one international bestseller. Runyan writes to celebrate history's unsung heroines. Her latest novel is a Historical Novel Society Editor's Choice for February 2019. An active educator and speaker, she lives in Colorado with her two (usually) adorable children.

Linda Lafferty will read from her general fiction novel ***Light in the Shadows***. A two-time Colorado Book Award winner, her books have been translated into ten languages. She holds a doctorate in bilingual special education and taught in Spain for three years. Lafferty is also an avid equestrian and horse lover.

Andy Stone is the co-author of ***Light in the Shadows***. He began his career as a reporter for *The Aspen Times* and then worked his way up to publisher, winning numerous awards for his columns along the way. He retired from the newspaper in 2016. Stone has two other published novels.

Bruce Holsinger will read from his general fiction novel ***The Gifted School***. The author of three novels, one currently in development with NBC/Universal Television, his essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Washington Post*, and *Slate*. The recipient of several major awards, he is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Brandi Homan will read from her literary fiction novel ***Burn Fortune***. Homan is the author of two books of poetry, *Hard Reds* (2008) and *Bobcat Country* (2010), from Shearsman Books, and she holds a PhD from the University of Denver in English, Creative Writing (Fiction).

Wendy J. Fox will read from her literary fiction novel ***If the Ice Had Held***. The author of the collection *The Seven Stages of Anger and Other Stories* and the novel *The Pull of It*, her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Rumpus*, *Buzzfeed*, and *Self*, as well as in literary magazines including *Washington Square*, *Euphony*, and *Painted Bride Quarterly*.

Erika T. Wurth will read from her literary fiction novel ***You Who Enter Here***. A professor of Creative Writing at Western Illinois University, Wurth is the author of one previous novel, two collections of poetry, and a collection of short stories. She is Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee and was raised outside of Denver.

Abigail Chabitnoy will read from her poetry novel *How to Dress a Fish*. A poet of Unangan and Sugpiag descent and a member of the Tangirnaq Native Village in Kodiack, Alaska, Chabitnoy writes for magazines, and is a research associate for Bubar & Hall consulting firm for the indigenous population in Colorado. She works daily to improve tribal self-determination and engagement in the community.

David J. Rothman will read from his poetry novel *My Brother's Keeper*. Now the Jackson Hole Center for the Arts Executive Director, Rothman has written several volumes of poetry and published poems in scores of other journals and books. He is the co-founder of the Crested Butte Music Festival and the Gunnison Valley Poetry Festival and Reading Series, and the founding publisher and editor of Conundrum Press (now an imprint of Bower House Books of Denver).

Dan Beachy-Quick will read from his poetry novel *Variations on Dawn and Dusk*. A poet and essayist, Beachy-Quick is the assistant chair of the English Department of Colorado State University. He has published six books of poetry and is a Guggenheim Fellow.

Online Colorado Book Awards Finalist Readings and conversations with the authors

General Fiction, Literary Fiction, Poetry

Friday, April 17
7 p.m.

Mystery, Thriller

Friday, April 24
7 p.m.

Romance, Science Fiction/Fantasy

Friday, May 1
7 p.m.

General Nonfiction, History, Pictorial

Friday, May 8
7 p.m.

Anthology, Creative Nonfiction, Short Story

Friday, May 15
7 p.m.

Please visit coloradohumanities.org and [@cohumanities](https://www.facebook.com/cohumanities) on Facebook and Twitter for updated invitations and details about how to join the readings and conversations and follow us on Instagram.

2020 Colorado Book Award Finalists

Anthology/Collection

All the Lives We Ever Lived: A Lighthouse Writers Workshop Community Anthology Vol. 1 edited by Dan Manzanares and Suzi Q. Smith (Lighthouse Writers Workshop)

Rise: An Anthology of Change edited by Northern Colorado Writers (Northern Colorado Writers, LLC)

Straight Outta Deadwood edited by David Boop (Baen Publishing Enterprises)

Children's Literature

Pup 681: A Sea Otter Rescue Story by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Ashley Crowley (Henry Holt and Company)

The Fisherman and the Whale by Jessica Lanan (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Truman by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster)

Creative Nonfiction

Chronicles of the Forbidden: Essays of Shadow and Light by John Nizalowski (Irie Books)
Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country by Pam Houston (W.W. Norton & Company)
Soft Hearted Stories: Seeking Saviors, Cowboy Stylists, and Other Fallacies of Authoritarianism by Jenny Forrester (Lit Kit Collective)
The Lampblack Blue of Memory: My Mother Echoes by Sarah Adleman (Tolsun Books)

General Fiction

Girls on the Line by Aimie K. Runyan (Lake Union Publishing)
Light in the Shadows by Linda Lafferty and Andy Stone (Lake Union Publishing)
The Gifted School by Bruce Holsinger (Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House)

General Nonfiction

Good to Go: What the Athlete in All of Us Can Learn from the Strange Science of Recovery by Christie Aschwanden (W. W. Norton & Company)
Taste the Sweetness Later: Two Muslim Women in America by Connie Shoemaker (Amity Bridge Books)
The Land of Flickering Lights by Michael Bennet (Atlantic Monthly Press/Grove Atlantic)

History

Nighthawk Rising: A Biography of Accused Cattle Rustler Queen Ann Bassett of Brown's Park by Diana Allen Kouris (High Plains Press)
Scholars of Mayhem: My Father's Secret War in Nazi-Occupied France by Daniel C. Guiet and Timothy K. Smith (Penguin Press)
The Storm on Our Shores: One Island, Two Soldiers, and the Forgotten Battle of World War II by Mark Obmascik (Atria Books)

Juvenile Literature

Spotted Tail by David Heska Wanbli Weiden, illustrated by Jim Yellowhawk and Pat Kinsella (Reycraft Books)
Tree of Dreams by Laura Resau (Scholastic Press)
The Cryptid Keeper by Lija Fisher (Farrar Straus & Giroux)

Literary Fiction

Burn Fortune by Brandi Homan (CLASH Books)
If the Ice Had Held by Wendy J. Fox (Santa Fe Writers Project)
You Who Enter Here by Erika T. Wurth (Ecelsior Editions, State University of New York Press, Albany)

Mystery

Celtic Empire by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler (G.P. Putnam's Sons)
Lost Lake by Emily Littlejohn (Minotaur Books)
Tracking Game by Margaret Mizushima (Crooked Lane Books)

Pictorial

Bird Parade by Patrick Loehr (Centipede Press)
Flatland by Teague von Bohlen, photographer Britten Leigh Traughber (Bronze Man Books)
Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies by Jill S. Tietjen and Barbara Bridges (Lyons Press)

Poetry

How To Dress a Fish by Abigail Chabitnoy (Wesleyan University Press)
My Brother's Keeper by David J. Rothman (Lithic Press)
Variations on Dawn and Dusk by Dan Beachy-Quick (Omnidawn Publishing)

Romance

Remembering a Witch by Lauren Connolly (Lauren Connolly)
Stolen Heart, Book 2: North Fork Series by K.L. McKee (Cameo Mountain Press)
Zapata, Book 1: The Border Series by Harper McDavid (Soul Mate Publishing)

Science Fiction/Fantasy

An Illusion of Thieves by Cate Glass (Tor Books)
Denver Moon, Book II: The Saint of Mars by Warren Hammond and Joshua Viola (Hex Publishers)
The Blood of Seven by Claire L. Fishback (Dark Doorways Press, LLC)
The Legend of Carl Draco by Gary Reilly (Running Meter Press)

Short Story Collection

April Warnings by Mark Pleiss (Veliz Books)
Not a Thing to Comfort You by Emily Wortman-Wunder (University of Iowa Press)
This. This. This. Is. Love. Love. Love. by Jennifer Wortman (Split Lip Press)

Thriller

Black Pearl, A Cold Case Suspense by Donnell Ann Bell (Bell Bridge Books, Belle Books)
The Extinction Agenda by Michael Laurence (St. Martin's Press)
The Dead Girl in 2A by Carter Wilson (Sourcebooks)

Young Adult Literature

Fake by Donna Cooner (Point, Scholastic, Inc.)
Merged by Jim Kroepfl and Stephanie Kroepfl (Month9Books)
There's Something About Sweetie by Sandhya Menon (Simon Pulse, Simon & Schuster Children's Division)

Winners will be announced and read briefly Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 4 p.m. at the historic Evans School, 1115 Acoma Street, Denver 80204. \$25 includes a finalist book signing and reception followed by the awards ceremony and dessert. Tickets can be purchased on our website. Outskirts Press, a longtime sponsor, will present at the ceremony. We also thank The Colorado Sun for their sponsorship of the 2020 Colorado Book Awards. For more information contact Chris Goff at goff@coloradohumanities.org or 303.894.7951 x19.

Colorado Humanities is the only Colorado organization exclusively dedicated to supporting humanities education for adults and children statewide. Celebrating its 46th year and its **16th year as host for the Colorado Center for the Book**, Colorado Humanities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Library of Congress Center for the Book, the Smithsonian Institution, and the national award-winning educational nonprofit Motherhead, Inc. With offices in the Denver Technological Center in Greenwood Village, Colorado Humanities works with 100 program partners throughout the state to design and implement programs that best meet each community's needs. Colorado Humanities' goals are to improve education, strengthen cultural institutions, and enrich community life by inspiring the people of Colorado to explore ideas and appreciate our diverse heritage. To learn more, visit coloradohumanities.org or call 303.894.7951.

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For more information, author headshots, book covers, and interviews, please contact Colorado Book Awards Program Coordinator Chris Goff at goff@coloradohumanities.org or 303.882-4910 cell