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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Book Awards Online General Nonfiction, History, Pictorial Finalist Reading

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO (April 21, 2020) Finalists in the General Nonfiction, History, and Pictorial categories will read and answer questions at a Zoom and Facebook Live event hosted by Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book on Friday, May 8, 2020 at 7 p.m. Adrian Miller, a food writer, attorney, and 2018 Colorado Book Award finalist, will MC. Zoom participants (details at [coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org)) may converse live with the authors. [Facebook Live](#) attendees can send in questions and comments. Books can be ordered online at [BookBar](#).

**Diana Kouris** will read from her history book, ***Nighthawk Rising: A Biography of Accused Cattle Rustler Queen Ann Bassett of Brown's Park***. An award-winning author of nonfiction articles and books, Diana grew up a Brown's Park cowgirl in the famed region where Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah converge. Decades of research and writing have rendered Kouris an authority on the spellbinding history of the area.

**Daniel C. Guiet** will read from his history book, ***Scholars of Mayhem: My Father's Secret War in Nazi-Occupied France***. He is the son of Jean Claude Guiet, who began his clandestine career as an embedded agent in occupied France during WWII. A graduate of Manual High School, Guiet attended the University of Colorado and was the Associate Director of Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood. He now splits his time between Durango, Colorado and Nevy-sur-Seille, Jura, France.

**Timothy K. Smith** is the co-author of ***Scholars of Mayhem: My Father's Secret War in Nazi-Occupied France***. A recipient of the Gerald Loeb career achievement award for editors, he was senior features editor at *Fortune* magazine, and before that a reporter and editor for *The Wall Street Journal*. Educated at Brown University and the Sorbonne, he lives in Connecticut with his wife and three children.

**Mark Obmascik** will read from his history book, ***The Storm on Our Shores: One Island, Two Soldiers, and the Forgotten Battle of World War II***. A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author of *The Big Year* and *Halfway to Heaven*, Obmascik won the 2009 National Outdoor Book Award for outdoor literature, the 2003 National Press Club Award for environmental journalism, and was the lead writer for the *Denver Post* team that won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize.

**Christie Aschwanden** will read from her general nonfiction book, ***Good to Go: What the Athlete in All of Us Can Learn from the Strange Science of Recovery***. A National Magazine Award finalist and a *New York Times* bestseller, she is the co-host of Emerging Form, a podcast about creativity. She has written for dozens of publications, including *the Washington Post*, *NPR.org*, *Smithsonian* and *O*.

**Connie Shoemaker** will read from her general nonfiction book, ***Taste the Sweetness Later: Two Muslim Women in America***. Connie's interest in Muslim women began while spending four years in Cairo, Egypt, with her husband and children, teaching English and writing for several news organizations. The co-founder and director emerita of Spring International Language Center, she is a board member of Immigrant Pathways Colorado.

**Michael Bennet** will read from his general nonfiction book ***The Land of Flickering Lights***. A Senator from Colorado since 2009, Michael is recognized as a pragmatic and independent thinker, and has built a reputation for taking on Washington dysfunction to address our greatest challenges, including education, climate change, immigration, health care, and national security. When not in Washington he lives in Denver with his wife and three daughters.

**Patrick Loehr** will read from his pictorial book ***Bird Parade***. A Denver based creative professional, Patrick pursues interests related to storytelling, visual art, and media production. He has published several books, including two children's books written and illustrated for HarperCollins Publishers. A Colorado native, he earned his MFA in Visual Art from Lesley College of Art and Design (Boston, MA).

**Teague von Bohlen** will read from his pictorial book ***Flatland***. An associate professor of fiction at the University of Colorado Denver, he serves as Fiction Editor for *Copper Nickel* and advises the student newspaper *The Sentry*. He was nominated for a Pushcart in 2020, and his first novel, *The Pull of the Earth*, won the Colorado Book Award in 2007. The stories in *Flatland* are drawn from his life and family in central Illinois, where his corn-fed heart still beats.

**Britten Leigh Traugher** is the illustrator of ***Flatland***. A graduate of Bennington College (BA Visual Arts) and Illinois State University (MFA Photography), she has taught at Millikin University, Illinois State University, and the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Her work is in a few great collections, many homes, and fine publications. She currently lives in rural Vermont.

**Jill Tietjen** will read from her pictorial book, ***Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies***. An author, speaker, and electrical engineer, Tietjen is the co-author of *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*, which received the Daughters of the American Revolution History Award

Medal. She has conducted research into historical women around the world for the past 30 years and speaks around the country about women's contributions to history.

**Barbara Bridges** is the co-author of *Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies*. Barbara has spent much of her life as a businesswoman. In 2006, she founded Women+Film, a program in partnership with Denver Film, bringing audiences together with movies that ignite discussions around global issues facing women today.

## **Colorado Book Awards Online Finalist Readings**

### **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](http://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 Traugher (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 in the Spring.

**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](http://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](mailto:goff@coloradohumanities.org) or 303.882-4910 cell