

## Contact

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## **Creative Nonfiction and General Nonfiction Finalist Reading in Colorado Springs**

May 20 – 4 p.m. at East Library, 5550 N Union Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80918

The Colorado Book Awards annually celebrates Colorado's outstanding literary achievement by commending the accomplishments of its authors, editors, illustrators, and photographers. Volunteer judges from across the state review submissions to select finalists and winners through a rigorous selection process.

Prior to the June 10 awards celebration in Colorado Springs, finalists will present a series of free public readings through June 3. The readings will be held at different Pikes Peak Library District locations throughout the Colorado Springs area. Finalists will read from their work and attendees can pose questions. Select finalist books will be available for purchase at the readings and through Poor Richard's Books & Gifts at <https://poorrichardsdowntown.com/#books>. Registration for this free event is available at <https://coloradohumanities.org/programs/colorado-book-awards/>.

### **Creative Nonfiction Finalists**

#### *A Pros and Cons List for Strong Feelings*

Will Betke-Brunswick

During Will Betke-Brunswick's sophomore year of college, their beloved mother, Elizabeth, is diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. They only have ten more months together, which is documented in evocative two-color illustrations with their family portrayed as penguins and their friends as a menagerie of birds. In between therapy and bedside chats, they navigate uniquely human challenges, as Betke-Brunswick prepares for math exams, comes out as genderqueer, and negotiates familial tension. Will Betke-Brunswick is a cartoonist and a recent graduate of the California College of the Arts MFA in Comics program. Will's work has appeared in the new print edition of *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves*, *How to Wait: An Anthology of Transition* and the websites INTO and Autostraddle. A former high school math teacher, Will lives in Boulder.

#### *Finding Querencia: Essays from In Between*

Harrison Candelaria Fletcher

With its roots in the Spanish verb *querer*— “to want, to love”—the term *querencia* has been called untranslatable but has come to mean a place of safety and belonging, that which we yearn for when we yearn for home. In this striking essay collection, Harrison Candelaria Fletcher shows that *querencia* is also a state of being: the peace that arises when we reconcile who we are. A New Mexican of mixed Latinx and white ethnicity, Harrison Candelaria Fletcher is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, Autumn House Press Nonfiction Prize, Colorado Book Award, New Mexico-Arizona Book Award, Independent Publisher Book Awards Bronze Medal, Kirkus Reviews Best Indie Memoir pick, Best American Essays Notable selection, and Pushcart Prize Special Mention. He also has been a finalist for the International Latino Book Award, National Magazine Award and Bakeless Literary Prize. He lives in Fort Collins.

*Tell Me Everything: The Story of a Private Investigator*

Erika Krouse

In fall 2002, Erika Krouse accepts a new contract job investigating lawsuits as a private investigator, and a lawyer named Grayson assigns her to investigate a sexual assault—a college student who was attacked by football players and recruits at a party a year earlier. Erika knows she should turn the assignment down. Her own history with sexual violence makes it all too personal, but she takes the job anyway, inspired by Grayson’s conviction that he could help change things forever. Erika Krouse is the author of *Come Up and See Me Sometime*, a *New York Times* Notable Book, and *Contenders*. Erika’s fiction has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Ploughshares*, *One Story*, and more. Her debut memoir, *Tell Me Everything*, has been optioned for TV adaptation by Playground Entertainment. She lives in Boulder.

*Western Journeys*

Teow Lim Goh

Teow Lim Goh charts her journeys immigrating from Singapore and spending the last fifteen years living in and exploring the American West. Goh chronicles her lived experiences while building on the longer history of immigrants from Asia during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, bringing new insights to places, the historical record, and memory. These vital essays consider how we access truth in the face of erasure. In exploring history, nature, politics, and art, Goh asks, “What does it mean for an immigrant to be at home?” Teow Lim Goh is the author of two previous books, *Islanders* and *Faraway Places*. Her essays, poetry, and criticism have appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *PBS NewsHour*, and *The New Yorker*. She lives in Lakewood.

**General Nonfiction Finalists**

*Ecosystems as Models for Restoring Our Economies*

John Giordanengo

Using thirty years of work and research in ecology, economics, and business, John Giordanengo explores the elusive structure of our global market economy and presents fresh clues to the resilience and productivity of our national economies. Informed by his depth of

experience in ecological restoration, the book outlines a path for restoring our economies to a sustainable state. John Giordanengo began building his career in ecological restoration throughout the Western U.S. in 1996, and while studying business in the eighties, he became intrigued by a universal challenge: preserving earth's ecosystems while meeting humanity's economic needs. He offers lecture series at universities and public venues across the U.S. and works to create sustainable solutions for industry. He lives in Fort Collins.

*Tracing Time: Seasons of Rock Art on the Colorado Plateau*

Craig Childs

Craig Childs bears witness to rock art of the Colorado Plateau—bighorn sheep pecked behind boulders, tiny spirals in stone, human figures with raised arms shifting with the desert light, each one a portal to the open mouth of time. With a spirit of generosity, humility, and love of the arid and intricate landscapes of the desert Southwest, Childs sets these ancient communications in context, inviting readers to look and listen deeply. Craig Childs has published more than a dozen critically acclaimed books, including *The Secret Knowledge of Water*, *Atlas of a Lost World*, and his most recent *Virga & Bone*. He is a contributing editor at *Adventure Journal Quarterly* and his work has appeared in the *Atlantic*, *New York Times*, and *Los Angeles Times*. He lives in southwest Colorado.

*Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions*

Temple Grandin

With her genius for demystifying science, Temple Grandin draws on cutting-edge research to take us inside visual thinking and argues that visual thinkers constitute a far greater proportion of the population than previously believed, from the purest “object visualizers” to the abstract and mathematically inclined “visual spatial” thinkers who excel in pattern recognition and systemic thinking. Grandin proposes new approaches to educating, parenting, employing, and collaborating with visual thinkers. Temple Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Animals in Translation*, *Animals Make Us Human*, *The Autistic Brain*, and *Thinking in Pictures*, which became an HBO movie. She lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**Finalist Reading Schedule**

May 27 – Anthology, Literary Fiction, and Poetry at Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

June 3 – Science Fiction/Fantasy and Thriller at Rockrimmon Library, 832 Village Center Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

**2023 Finalist Celebration and Winners Announcement**

Saturday, June 10 at 4 p.m.

Penrose House Garden Pavilion

1661 Mesa Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

\$30 event tickets on sale at <https://coloradohumanities.org/product/2023-colorado-book-awards-celebration/>

### **About Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book**

Colorado Humanities is the only Colorado organization exclusively dedicated to supporting humanities education for adults and children statewide. Celebrating its 49th year and its 19th year as host for the Colorado Center for the Book, Colorado Humanities, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, partners with hundreds of community partners across the state, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress Center for the Book, the Smithsonian Institution, and the national award-winning educational nonprofit Helps Education Fund.

### **About Pikes Peak Library District**

Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) provides everyone with access to resources and opportunities so people can thrive and connect. The Library cultivates spaces for belonging, personal growth, and strong communities via 16 facilities, mobile library services, and a large online hub of resources. It is an internationally recognized system of public libraries serving a population of nearly 700,000 across 2,070 square miles in El Paso County, Colorado. Learn more at [ppld.org](http://ppld.org).

### **About Poor Richard's Books and Gifts**

Poor Richard's Books and Gifts is a full-service new and used bookstore that was founded in 1975 as Poor Richard's Used Paperbacks. It was the first in the Poor Richard's family of businesses and remains an anchor and draw for both our loyal regulars and new customers who are always delighted to make the discovery of our home-grown, Indie bookstore.

For more information, images, recording clips, and interviews, please contact Mary Hickey at [mary@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:mary@coloradohumanities.org) or 303.894.7951 x19.

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