



CELEBRATE  
STORY





# CELEBRATE STORY



The Colorado Center for the Book, the state affiliate of the Library of Congress and a program department of Colorado Humanities, exists to encourage a love of reading and books in people of all ages through diverse cultural activities. Our programs are designed to inspire a passion for books, writing, and reading at all levels of literacy: Motherread/Fatheread Colorado, Veterans Writing, the Colorado Book Awards, and the Colorado Poet Laureate.

## Library of Congress Center for the Book

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the Colorado Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. During that time, the Colorado center has touched every part of the state, helping to fulfill the Center for the Book mission of promoting books, reading, libraries, and literacy. With the continued support of Colorado Humanities, we look forward to another three decades of collaboration and advocacy for Colorado's rich literary heritage.

- Guy Lamolinara,  
Director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress



## Thank You



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



Volunteers who contribute time and talent as selectors and judges, thank you for your support and attendance.



## CELEBRATE STORY

# 2021 COLORADO BOOK AWARDS ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK 5 P.M.

---

### Welcome & Toast to the Finalists

Maggie Coval, Colorado Humanities Executive Director

### Presentation & Brief Readings by Winners

Taffy Lee, Colorado Humanities Board Chair,  
& Thor Nelson, former Board Chair

The Colorado Book Awards selection process involves over 70 volunteer selectors and judges. This year, Colorado writers, publishers, editors, illustrators, and photographers submitted 190 books for consideration in 17 categories of the Colorado Book Awards competition. We celebrate and recognize all our finalists for their literary contributions and excellence.

### Table of Contents

Anthology . . . . .	.4
Pictorial . . . . .	.5
Children's Literature . . . . .	.7
Juvenile Literature . . . . .	.9
Young Adult Literature . . . . .	.10
Creative Nonfiction . . . . .	.12
General Nonfiction . . . . .	.14
Biography . . . . .	.15
History . . . . .	.17
Lifetime Achievement . . . . .	.18
Romance . . . . .	.19
Historical Fiction . . . . .	.20
Mystery . . . . .	.22
Thriller . . . . .	.23
Science Fiction/Fantasy . . . . .	.25
General Fiction . . . . .	.26
Literary Fiction . . . . .	.28
Poetry . . . . .	.29



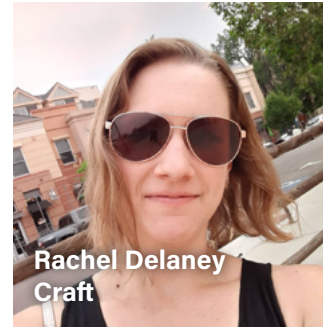
### *Monsters, Movies & Mayhem*

**Edited by Kevin J. Anderson**

WordFire Press

Sometimes you go to the movies. And sometimes, the movies—and their monsters—come to you. Join award-winning authors Jonathan Maberry, Fran Wilde, David Gerrold, Rick Wilber, and others for 23 all-new tales of haunted theaters, video gods, formidable demons, alien pizza, and delirious actors. Each story takes you to the silver screen with monstrous results.

Kevin J. Anderson is the author of the Saga of Seven Suns series, the Terra Incognita trilogy, the Saga of Shadows trilogy, and the humorous horror series Zombie PI, in addition to many others. He has published and edited numerous books and anthologies and has written comics, games, and the lyrics to two rock CDs. His most recent novels are *Stake*, *Kill Zone*, and *Spine of the Dragon*.



**Rachel Delaney  
Craft**



**Natasha Watts**

### *Wild: Uncivilized Tales from Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers*

**Edited by Rachel Delaney Craft and Natasha Watts**

RMFW Press

Fearless or feral? Liberating or life-threatening? The wild side of life seeps through the cracks of our world in the form of stray cats, tenacious weeds, oppressive relationships, and haunting memories. These 14 stories by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers explore the wildness that lives inside all of us—and what happens when we let it out.

Engineer by day and writer by night, Rachel Delaney Craft writes middle grade, young adult, and speculative fiction. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in the children's publications Cricket, Ask, and Young Explorer's Adventure Guide, as well as RMFW's award-winning anthology Found.

Natasha Watts is a writer, audio producer, and teacher. Motherhood keeps her curious and attentive to detail, traits that have served her well as a writer of science fiction.





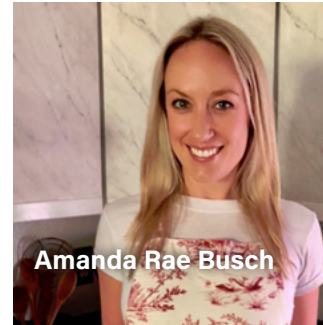
*Stories That Need to Be Told 2020: A Tulip Tree Anthology*

**Edited by Jennifer Top**

TulipTree Publishing, LLC

The 30 stories in this 6th annual collection of TulipTree's contest winners include a range of voices and experiences that aim to give readers new and different perspectives on their fellow humans. This year's winners include grand prize recipient Michael Pearce and merit winners Ron L. Dowell, Jim Gish, Doug Marrin, Mario René Padilla, and Alan N. Whelan.

Jennifer Top, a freelance editor, founded TulipTree Publishing in 2015. Her publishing mantra is Stories That Need to Be Told and that is why every year she publishes this collection of stories, always in search of diverse voices and viewpoints.



**Amanda Rae Busch**



**Julia Bridgforth**

*The Aspen Cookbook: 100+ favorite recipes from local chefs and restaurants*

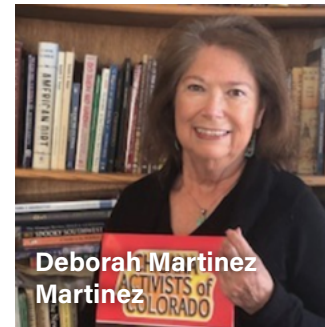
**Edited by Amanda Rae Busch and Illustrated by Julia Bridgforth**

Aspen Board of Realtors

Presenting more than 100 recipes from 69 chefs, restaurants, and producers in Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley, *The Aspen Cookbook* shares the stories behind beloved dishes created and tested for cooking at altitude. Featuring illustrations by Julia Bridgforth and a foreword by Food & Wine editor-in-chief Hunter Lewis, *The Aspen Cookbook* was produced as a community fundraiser for restaurants strained by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

Julia Bridgforth learned the importance of food in community creation and empowerment while studying food systems in Tanzania, Guatemala, and the U.S. during her master's program at Vanderbilt University. An illustrator and designer for play and a public relations professional for work, Julia strives to use the power of story and the industry of food to enact good.

Award-winning Aspen Times Weekly food columnist and magazine journalist Amanda Rae Busch was trained as a recipe editor/tester while interning at BBC Good Food in London. She's served as senior editor of Berkshire Living magazine, copy editor of culture: the word on cheese, and contributing editor to Aspen Sojourner. *The Aspen Cookbook* is her first cookbook.



## *The American West in Art*

**Edited by Jennifer "J.R." Henneman and Thomas Brent Smith**

5 Continents Edition

*The American West in Art:* Selections from the Denver Art Museum showcases the collection of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art. A prologue by Dan Flores and an epilogue by Erika Doss frame 22 essays, leading readers through the history of western American Art from the 1800s to the 1940s, with historical and contemporary perspectives.

Jennifer "J.R." Henneman, Ph.D., is the Associate Curator of Western American Art at the Denver Art Museum. She co-curated *Backstory: Western American Art in Context* in collaboration with History Colorado as well as *Natural Forces: Winslow Homer and Frederic Remington* (2020).

Thomas Brent Smith is the director of the Petrie Institute of Western American Art and Curator of Western American Art at the Denver Art Museum. His many curated shows include the groundbreaking *The American West in Bronze* (2013) with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and *The Western: An Epic in Art and Film* (2017) with the Montreal Museum of Fine Art.

## *Chicana Activists of Colorado: Powerful Women Paper Dolls and Their Stories*

**Written by Deborah Martinez Martinez  
and illustrated by Robert W. Pacheco**

Vanishing Horizons

This cleverly designed portfolio of stacked pages features the stories of 29 Colorado Chicana women as paper dolls. They were women who fought for their place in the American system and laid the pathway for others. According to Martinez Martinez, "This book is a way to honor these women, their families and their communities."

Deborah Martinez Martinez earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership in 2001 while serving the community. After 18 years at Colorado State University at Pueblo, she was an historical interpreter at El Pueblo History Museum, conducting natural dye workshops throughout Colorado and New Mexico. She and her partner, Robert Pacheco, have published 11 books including *Trade on the Taos Mountain Trail*, a Colorado Book Awards finalist.

Robert W. Pacheco, illustrator, has 14 years of experience as a graphic designer for Estes Rockets, an international toy company. He taught commercial art and drawing classes at the university level. Robert does graphic design, illustration, and painting from his studio in Pueblo, Colorado, capturing his New Mexico roots.



### *Cow Boy Is NOT a Cowboy*

**Written and illustrated by Gregory Barrington**  
HarperCollins

Goat Girl lives on Humdrum Farm, where everything is ordinary, and she's looking for some excitement. When she meets Merle—a cow and a boy—she mistakes him for a cowboy and can't wait to introduce herself. An annoyed Merle insists he's not a cowboy. But will this not-a-cowboy change his mind when his rootin'-tootin' dream has a chance to come true?

Gregory Barrington lives at the foot of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Prior to writing and illustrating his first book, he owned his own boutique design and advertising agency, was a publisher of regional magazines, and taught graphic design and art history as a college adjunct professor.



### *I Will Dance*

**Written by Nancy Bo Flood and illustrated by Julianna Swaney**  
Simon & Schuster

Like many young girls, Eva longs to dance. Unlike many would-be dancers, Eva has cerebral palsy. She doesn't know what dance looks like for someone who uses a wheelchair. Then Eva learns of a class for dancers of all abilities. With the encouragement of her instructor and classmates, Eva's dream of dancing comes true.

Nancy Bo Flood has a Ph.D. in experimental psychology and child development and is the author of several books, including *Warriors in the Crossfire* and *Soldier Sister, Fly Home*.

Julianna Swaney is the illustrator of #1 New York Times bestselling *We Are the Gardeners* by Joanna Gaines and several other picture books. She lives in Portland, Oregon.



## *Snoozapalooza*

**Written by Kimberlee Gard and illustrated by Vivian Mineker**

Families

Count to 10 with Mouse and the pile of cuddly forest creatures that invite themselves to join the slumber party as they hibernate for winter together in one furry heap to endure the snowy season. With adorable illustrations and rhyming verse, Snoozapalooza will warm even the deepest chill.

Kimberlee Gard is an award-winning and bestselling children's author who spent her childhood running from books instead of reading them. Her passion for inspiring an early love of reading grew out of her own experience with learning disorders. Kimberlee lives on a small farm in Colorado.

Vivian Mineker is a Taiwanese American illustrator from Taipei and Portland, Oregon, currently working out of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She captures inspirations from her surroundings in watercolor and colored pencils, then digitally polishes them to blend traditional texture with a modern look and feel.



## *Flibbertigibbety Words: Young Shakespeare Chases Inspiration*

**Written by Donna Guthrie and illustrated by Åsa Gilland**

Page Street Publishing

It all starts one morning when words fly into young Shakespeare's window. He wants to catch them, but they are quick and slip through his fingers. Soon whole lines of verse lead him on a wild goose chase as they skip all through town, past a host of colorful characters the observant reader may find as familiar as the quotes.

Donna Guthrie is the author of 23 books, 60 educational videos for children, 3 award-winning documentaries, and 1 animated film. She holds a BA in Journalism from Rider University and an MFA in Children and Young Adult Literature from University of Vermont. Donna is also the co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival, the longest running women's film festival in North America.

Swedish artist Asa Gilland is the illustrator of the Welcome To series of children's books about the US states. Her art has also appeared on stationery, textiles, and home decor. Her father was a mapmaker, and he and Åsa would always make time to search out interesting sites to explore.





*Born Curious: 20 Girls Who Grew Up  
to Be Awesome Scientists*

**Written by Martha Freeman and illustrated by Katy Wu**  
Simon & Schuster

This book explores groundbreaking female scientists and mathematicians, including Rosalind Franklin, Marie Tharp, Shirley Anne Jackson, and more. They had all kinds of backgrounds and life experiences, but they were all born curious.

Martha Freeman worked as a reporter and teacher before becoming a full-time writer of books for young readers. In addition to her many award-nominated books, she also collaborated with NASA astronaut Mark Kelly on the Astrotwins books. Martha lives in Colorado.

Katy Wu has worked in the animated feature film industry as well as in the tech industry as a “Doodler” for Google, where she created the Google “Doodles” for Nellie Bly and Nelson Mandela. Katy currently works as a freelance art director and designer on various animation projects. She has illustrated many nonfiction books for young readers, including *Dumpling Dreams* by Carrie Clickard.



*When You Know What I Know*

**Sonja K. Solter**  
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

One day after school Tori's uncle did something bad. While telling her mom was a brave thing to do, she doesn't believe her at first. Her grandma still takes his side. And Tori doesn't want anyone else—even her best friend—to know what happened. A sensitive, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful novel in verse about one girl's journey in the aftermath of abuse.

Sonja K. Solter is currently a creative writing mentor to youth with the Society of Young Inklings and enjoys writing poetry and prose for children of all ages. *When You Know What I Know* is her debut novel. She lives in Louisville, Colorado.



Fleur Bradley

### *Midnight at the Barclay Hotel*

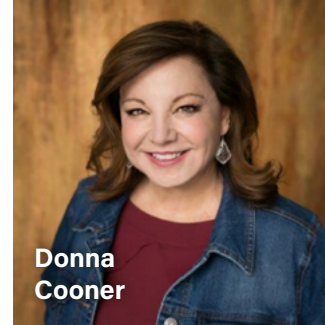
**Written by Fleur Bradley and illustrated by Xavier Bonet**

Viking/Penguin Random House

When JJ Jacobson convinced his mom to accept a surprise weekend getaway at the illustrious—and haunted—Barclay Hotel, he never imagined he'd find himself involved in a murder mystery. But when his mother is blamed for the hotel owner's death, he realizes his weekend is going to be anything but ordinary.

Fleur Bradley is the author of the Double Vision trilogy. She's passionate about two things: mysteries and getting kids to read. Fleur regularly does school visits and speaks at librarian and educator conferences on reaching reluctant readers. Originally from the Netherlands, Fleur now lives in Colorado Springs.

Xavier Bonet is a self-taught illustrator and comic book artist. He has worked with such companies as Penguin Random House, SkyHorse publishing or Capstone. Xavier lives in Barcelona.



Donna Cooner

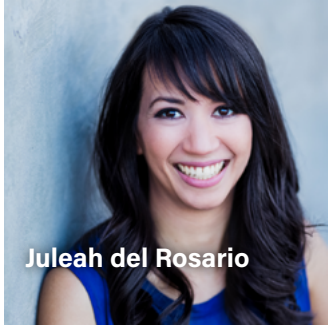
### *Offline*

**Donna Cooner**

Point (Scholastic)

Annie Webb is constantly online. She loves following influencer accounts, DM'ing with her best friends, and posting selfies with her boyfriend—until he breaks up with her, online. To help Annie cope with the humiliation, she and her friends plan to stay off social media for a month. But unplugging is much harder than they thought.

Donna Cooner is currently a professor of education at Colorado State University. She is the author of the award-winning novels *Skinny*, *Screenshot*, and *Fake*, as well as over 20 picture books. Her books have been translated into Norwegian, Swedish, Russian, French, Spanish, and Finnish. Donna has also written children's television shows for PBS. She currently lives in Fort Collins.



**Juleah del Rosario**

### *Turtle under Ice*

**Juleah del Rosario**

Simon & Schuster

A few years after the death of their mother, a teen navigates questions of grief, identity, and guilt in the wake of her sister's mysterious disappearance. This breathtaking novel-in-verse told from dual perspectives is haunting and evocative.

Juleah del Rosario is Chamorro and Filipina, and lives in Colorado where she works as a librarian. She is the author of *500 Words or Less*. Her favorite animal is and always has been a turtle.



**Sandhya Menon**

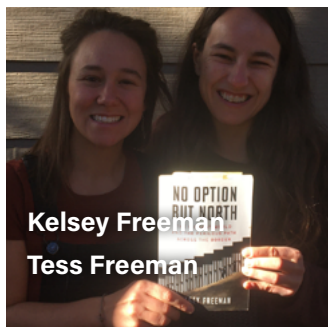
### *10 Things I Hate about Pinky*

**Sandhya Menon**

Simon & Schuster

This delightful follow-up to *When Dimple Met Rishi* and *There's Something about Sweetie*, follows Ashish's friends Pinky and Samir as they pretend to date in order to achieve their individual goals, to disastrous and hilarious results.

Sandhya Menon is the New York Times bestselling author of *When Dimple Met Rishi*, *Of Curses and Kisses*, and many other novels that also feature lots of kissing, girl power, and swoony boys. Her books have been included in the Today show, Teen Vogue, NPR, BuzzFeed, and Seventeen. She lives in the mountains of Colorado.



*No Option But North: The Migrant World and the Perilous Path Across the Border*

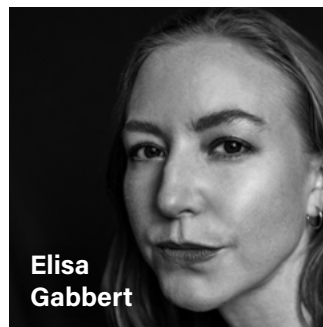
**Written by Kelsey Freeman with photography by Tess Freeman**

IG Publishing

Journalist Kelsey Freeman interweaves Central American and Mexican migrants' stories with research and anecdotes collected over nine months to reveal the fundamental moral quandaries of contemporary migration—from expanding gang violence to the dearth of legal options on both sides of the border, and more. In the process, Freeman takes us on a harrowing journey that strikes at the heart of the human ability to endure.

As a writer and educator, Kelsey Freeman focuses on immigration policy, Indigenous rights, social justice, and public policy. After graduating from Bowdoin College, she received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English and study migration in central Mexico. She currently runs a college-readiness program for Native American high school students through Central Oregon Community College.

Tess Freeman is a freelance documentary photographer and videographer based in Bend, Oregon. She has worked as a multimedia journalist for newspapers in Oregon, Texas, and Idaho. Her passion for human interest stories led her to join her sister, Kelsey, in Mexico to photograph for *No Option but North*.



*The Unreality of Memory and Other Essays*

**Elisa Gabbert**

Farrar Straus and Giroux

A literary guide to life in the pre-apocalypse, *The Unreality of Memory* collects profound and prophetic essays on the Internet age's media-saturated disaster coverage and our addiction to viewing and discussing the world's ills.

Elisa Gabbert is the author of the poetry collections, *L'Heure Bleue*, *The French Exit*, and *The Self Unstable* (a New Yorker's Best Books of 2013) as well as the essay collection, *The Word Pretty*. Gabbert's work has appeared in the New Yorker, Boston Review, The Paris Review Daily, Pacific Standard, Guernica, The Awl, Electric Literature, The Harvard Review, and many other venues. She lives in Denver.



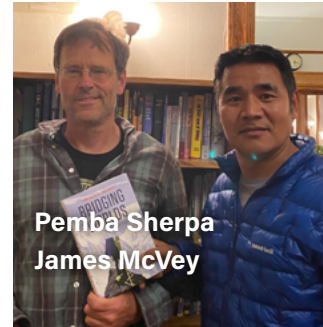


## *Edge of the Map: The Mountain Life of Christine Boskoff*

**Johanna Garton**  
Mountaineers Books

How did a girl from a small Midwestern town become one of the world's top female alpinists? A role model to many, Christine Boskoff avoided media and fame, preferring to find adventure in the most remote regions. But when she and partner Charlie Fowler disappeared while climbing in China, the world was riveted by the dramatic search.

A graduate of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, Johanna Garton also has a law degree from DePaul University College of Law. Several years of living and working in Asia inspired her to write her first book, *Awakening East*. She lives in Denver.



## *Bridging Worlds: A Sherpa's Story*

**Pemba Sherpa and James McVey**  
Sherpa Publishing

Pemba Sherpa and co-author James McVey take readers on Pemba's life journey from a poor, remote Nepalese village in the Khumbu, to accomplished mountaineer, expedition leader, and successful US businessman, and back to Khumbu to build a bridge and hydroelectric power plant, and bring hundreds of thousands of dollars in earthquake relief to his native people.

Born in the remote Khumbu region of Nepal, Pemba Sherpa distinguished himself as a mountain guide before migrating to Boulder at 19. He founded Ascent International and is the owner of Sherpa Chai Tea Company and Sherpa's Adventurer Restaurant in Boulder. As a result of his success in business, Pemba has helped Nepalese build a bridge and a hydroelectric plant, and is planning a medical clinic. He has led more than 20 trips to Nepal for the Colorado Mountain Club.

James McVey is a professor emeritus of the University of Colorado and the author of four books, including *The Way Home: Essays on the Outside West* and *The Wild Upriver and Other Stories*.



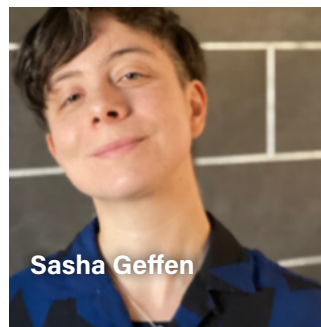
*Lean & Strong: Eating Skills, Psychology, and Workouts*

**Josh Hillis**

On Target Publications

This book covers the most up-to-date research in eating behavior change, motivation psychology, and workout programming. Effective, kinder, evidence-based tools provide step-by-step ways to check in with and trust our bodies in the pursuit of excellence, flexibility, and personal expression.

Josh Hillis is the author of *Fat Loss Happens on Monday: Habit Based Diet and Workout Hacks*. He has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Men's Health, and The Denver Post.



*Glitter Up the Dark: How Pop Music Broke the Binary*

**Sasha Geffen**

The University of Texas Press

From the blues to Frank Ocean, Geffen explores how artists have used music, fashion, language, and technology to break from mandated gender confines and establish the voice as the primary expression of gender transgression. From glam rock and punk to disco, techno, and hip-hop, music helped set the stage for today's conversations about trans rights and recognition of nonbinary and third-gender identities.

Sasha Geffen is a journalist and critic based in Denver. Their work focuses on music and gender and has appeared in Pitchfork, Real Life Magazine, The Chicago Reader, Vulture, The New Inquiry, and The Fader. They have also been a staff writer at MTV News.



*Caregiving Done Differently: A Commonsense Approach for Families, Caregivers, and Seniors*

**Loretta Gilbert and Nancy Walker**

The Common Sense Approach, LLC

This commonsense resource for families, caregivers, and seniors looks at challenges and elements that affect the aging process and offers practical ways to care for loved ones differently. This guide includes practical tips and encourages the key principles of being informed, talking with honesty, taking positive action, and always coming from a place of compassion and hope.

Loretta Gilbert was on the Colorado Department of Health Assisted Living Advisory Committee and served as president of the Colorado Assisted Living Association. Her commonsense approach to caregiving and helping seniors and families emerged from her unique life experiences.

Nancy Walker learned to be flexible while managing change through working for various small businesses and global corporations. She found this flexibility and the commonsense approach to caregiving both essential as she cared for her mother in her last ten years.



*Chasing Excellence: The Remarkable Life and Inspiring Vigilosophy of Coach Joe I. Vigil*

**Pat Melgares**

Soulstice Publishing

Dr. Joe I. "Coach" Vigil rose from poverty in Alamosa, Colorado, to win 19 national championships and coach 425 All-Americans, 22 Olympians, and numerous "Vigilantes" to emulate his blend of compassion, competition, and commitment. In this biography, Pat Melgares shares Vigil's tale through his own words as well as those of more than 50 family members, friends, former runners, and foes.

Pat Melgares, born in Alamosa, Colorado, was a four-time NAIA All-American in cross country and track and field. Pat studied journalism at Adams State College and was editor of the Alamosa Valley Courier and public information officer at Adams State. Since 1998, he has been a communications specialist and public information officer at Kansas State University.



**Cary Unkelbach**

### *Heartbreak Kennel: The True Story of Max and His Breeder*

**Cary Unkelbach**

Walden Resources Press

Nearly 100 Labrador retrievers are discovered one hot summer day in a rural Colorado field, abandoned by Dodie Carias, a college-educated woman from an upper middle-class Midwestern family. What drove this tragedy? Former journalist and prosecutor Cary Unkelbach unfolds a riveting account of how Dodie's early success as a potter devolves into unimaginable neglect.

Cary Unkelbach grew up in a family that bred, raised, trained, and showed their Walden Labrador retrievers for more than forty years. She has worked as a newspaper reporter, prosecutor, and civil litigator, and has written articles for various publications. Cary lives in the central Colorado mountains.



**David A. Varel**

### *The Scholar and the Struggle: Lawrence Reddick's Crusade for Black History and Black Power*

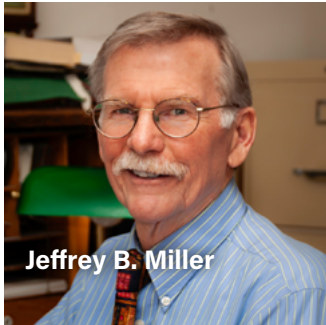
**David A. Varel**

University of North Carolina Press

Lawrence Reddick, among the most notable intellectuals and activists of his generation, forcefully confronted institutional racism within academia during the Black Power era. Varel's biography reveals the many essential but underappreciated roles played by intellectuals in the black freedom struggle and connects the past to the present in powerful, unforgettable ways.

David A. Varel is an adjunct professor of history at the Metropolitan State University of Denver. He earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and he is also the author of *The Lost Black Scholar: Resurrecting Allison Davis in American Social Thought* (University of Chicago Press, 2018).





*Yanks Behind the Lines: How the Commission for Relief in Belgium Saved Millions from Starvation during World War I*

**Jeffrey B. Miller**

Rowman & Littlefield

During World War I, the nongovernmental US-led Commission for Relief in Belgium saved nearly ten million civilians from starvation, becoming the largest food relief program ever seen. Miller interweaves history with personal stories of volunteers, diplomats, a Belgian woman who started a dairy farm to feed Antwerp's children, the autocratic head of the Belgian relief organization, and the founder of the American organization, Herbert Hoover.

Over the course of his long career as a writer, magazine editor, and historian, Jeffrey B. Miller has started six magazines. He is the author of *Stapleton International Airport: The First Fifty Years* and the co-author of *Facing Your Fifties: Every Man's Reference to Mid-life Health*. His books *Behind the Lines* (2014) and *WWI Crusaders* (2018) were named Kirkus Best Books of the Year.



*Colorado's Highest: The History of Naming the 14,000-Foot Peaks*

**Written by Jeri L. Norgren with photographs by John Fielder**

John Fielder Publishing

Through extensive research of the early Colorado mining days, Norgren's essays pair with John Fielder's photographs of the fourteeners (many never before published), Robert L. Wogrin's sublime oil paintings and sketches, and historical sketches from the 1870s by artists of the Hayden Survey to make a classic Colorado history book.

Jeri L. Norgren has spent most of her life exploring Colorado's mountains. As a member of the Denver Fortnightly Club, she has authored numerous papers on various topics, including the one that grew into this book.

Three-time winner of a Colorado Book Award, John Fielder is an American landscape photographer, nature writer, publisher, and conservationist. He is known for his landscape photography, scenic calendars, and numerous coffee table books and travel guides.



## *The Bad Old Days of Colorado: Untold Stories of the Wild West*

### **Randi Samuelson-Brown**

Two Dot (Rowman & Littlefield)

Coloradans relish just how “bad” things used to be: the terrain, the inhabitants, and especially the quality of whiskey. While fearless lawmen, industrious entrepreneurs and resilient miners and ranchers were the backbone of society, its underbelly teemed with gambling “hells,” seedy brothels, and shady characters who rarely did an honest day’s work.

Randi Samuelson-Brown is the author of *The Beaten Territory*, an historical fiction novel. Originally from Golden, she now lives in Denver.

This year we are delighted to honor Charles F. Wilkinson with the Colorado Book Awards Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the Colorado and national literary, history, and legal communities. Writer, advocate, and distinguished university professor emeritus, Wilkinson is the author of numerous articles, chapters, and books, including *Messages from Frank’s Landing and Blood Struggle—the Rise of Modern Indian Nations*, winners of the 2000 and 2006 Colorado Book Awards respectively for History.

Charles earned his law degree from Stanford University in 1966. He moved to Colorado in 1971 to help found and serve as a Staff Attorney for the Native America Rights Fund and began teaching at University of Colorado in 1984, becoming the Moses Lasky Professor of Law in 1989. In 1997, he was named by the Regents of the University of Colorado a Distinguished Professor. In his over 32 continuous years at Colorado Law, Charles has become one of the most widely celebrated names in not only American Indian law, but also in the history of the American West, public land law, water law, and environmental law—even being labeled by *Outside Magazine* as “the West’s leading authority on natural resource law.”



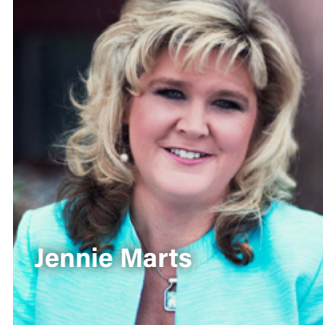
*Custodian of the Spirits*

**Bronwyn Long Borne**

The Wild Rose Press

*Custodian of the Spirits* tells the story of a single mother traveling west with her children in 1857. Like many in search of a new beginning, she has left a life of heartache and betrayal, determined to make a better future for her children. She finds strength through her unexpected friendship with a plainsman who believes himself beyond redemption.

Bronwyn Long Borne is a nurse by day and writer by night. She is the author of the Shalemar Trilogy, written under the pen name Rohret Buchner.



*A Cowboy State of Mind: A Creedence Horse Rescue Novel*

**Jennie Marts**

Sourcebooks Casablanca, an imprint of Sourcebooks

In a brilliant extension of her hockey-playing cowboy stories, bestselling author Jennie Marts has created a horse rescue ranch in fictional Creedence, Colorado. Compassionate but practical cowboys, feisty determined women, and the gentle, beautiful horses that need their help make up the backbone of this exciting new series.

Jennie Marts is the USA Today bestselling author of award-winning books filled with love, laughter, and always a happily-ever-after.



### *Shall We Dance?*

**Shelley Shepard Gray**  
Blackstone Publishing

Shannon Murphy is eager to grow her business and relationship with two sisters she never knew she had. Her newest client has the right muscles, perfect smile, and plenty of attitude. Dylan Lange is preoccupied protecting his town and his baby sister when he loses a bet that lands him in Shannon's dance studio. Each is the last person the other expected to find.

Shelley Shepard Gray is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of numerous mystery novels and romantic fiction series, including the *Seasons of Sugarcreek*, *Sisters of the Heart*, and *Families of Honor*. She is a recipient of a RT Book Reviews Reviewers' Choice Award.



### *Fierce Dreamer*

**Linda Lafferty**  
Linda Lafferty

Born in the bustling artist quarter of Rome, Artemisia Gentileschi, daughter of renowned painter Orazio Gentileschi, is unavoidably drawn into a profession unheard of for—and unwelcoming to—women. *Fierce Dreamer* explores the fearless determination that would fuel Artemisia's most courageous works of art and make her a resounding voice in the 21st century.

Linda Lafferty is the author of *The Bloodletter's Daughter*, *House of Bathory*, *Light in the Shadows*, *The Girl Who Fought Napoleon*, and the Colorado Book Award Winners *The Drowning Guard* and *The Shepherdess of Siena*. Her books have been translated into 11 languages. She holds a doctorate in Bilingual Special Education and taught in Spain for three years.





## *Across the Winding River*

**Aimie K. Runyan**

Lake Union

In 1944, Max was drawn into the underground resistance by the fearless wife of a Nazi officer. She and Max were willing to risk everything for what they believed was right. Ahead of them lay a dangerous romance, a dream of escape, and a destiny over which neither had control.

Aimie K. Runyan writes to celebrate history's unsung heroines. She has been honored as a Historical Novel Society Editors' Choice selection, a two-time finalist for the Colorado Book Awards, and a nominee for the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writer of the Year.



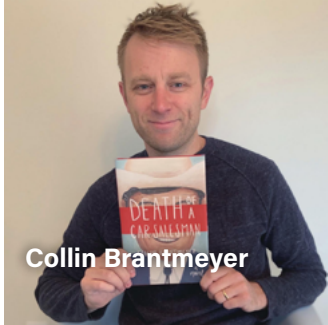
## *Creatures of Charm and Hunger*

**Molly Tanzer**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

In the waning days of World War II, Nazis search for a superweapon to turn the tide. Across the English Channel lies the repository of occult knowledge for an international organization of diabolists, where Miriam and Jane prepare for the Test to determine their future. As their friendship buckles under too many secrets, each will question everything they know about the war, the world, and themselves.

Molly Tanzer is the British Fantasy and Locus Award-nominated author of The Diabolist's Library series and the weird western *Vermilion*, as well as many critically acclaimed short stories. She lives in Boulder.



### *Death of a Car Salesman*

**Collin Brantmeyer**

Ready Demolition Books

One hot summer morning, Big Al Washington, local car sales legend, dies under mysterious circumstances. As the vultures line up for his fortune, Al's trusted attorney informs his kin the estate will be frozen until the case is solved. When everyone has a motive, narrowing down suspects is a challenge. And as autonomous cars overtake the market, is Big Al's legacy already doomed?

Collin Brantmeyer lives in Longmont with his wife and son. *Death of a Car Salesman* is his first novel.



### *Shadow Ridge: A Jo Wyatt Mystery*

**M.E. Browning**

Crooked Lane Books (The Quick Brown Fox & Company)

In Echo Valley, Colorado, natural beauty meets budding hipster urbanity. But when an internet stalker is revealed to be a cold-blooded killer, the peaceful community is rocked to its core. As detective Jo Wyatt's investigation progresses, a more sinister pattern driven by desperation, shame, and a single-minded drive for revenge emerges.

M.E. Browning served 22 years in law enforcement and retired as a captain before turning to a life of crime fiction. Writing as Micki Browning, she penned the Agatha-nominated and award-winning Mer Cavallo mysteries, and her short stories and nonfiction have appeared in anthologies, magazines, and textbooks. Writing as M.E. Browning, *Shadow Ridge* begins a new series of Jo Wyatt mysteries.

**Barbara Nickless***Gone to Darkness***Barbara Nickless**

Thomas &amp; Mercer

Iraqi war vet and former railway cop Sydney Parnell is the youngest homicide detective in Denver's Major Crimes Unit. Along with her K9 partner and former nemesis-turned-mentor, she investigates a shocking series of crimes and a horrifying conspiracy that threatens the detectives' lives and promises to bring their beloved city to its knees.

Barbara Nickless is the Wall Street Journal and #1 Amazon Charts bestselling author of the Sydney Rose Parnell series, which includes the award-winning *Blood on the Tracks* and *Dead Stop*. Her essays and short stories have appeared in *Writer's Digest*, *Criminal Element*, and elsewhere. She lives in Colorado.

**David Heska  
Wanbli Weiden***Winter Counts***David Heska Wanbli Weiden**

Ecco/HarperCollins

Virgil Wounded Horse is the local enforcer on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. When justice is denied by the American legal system or the tribal council, Virgil is hired to deliver his own punishment, the kind that's hard to forget. But when heroin makes its way into the reservation and finds Virgil's nephew, his vigilantism suddenly becomes personal.

David Heska Wanbli Weiden is an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Nation and received his MFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts. He is an alumnus of Voices of Our Nations Art and the Tin House Summer Workshop, and he was a 2018 MacDowell Colony Fellow. He was also a PEN/America Writing for Justice Fellow. David lives in Denver.



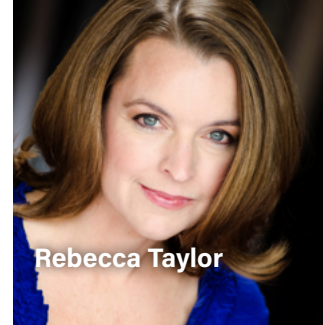
### *The Burn Patient: A Vega and Middleton Novel*

**Sue Hinkin**

Literary Wanderlust

Lucy thought she'd seen her uncle's murderer, Gary Mercer, Hollywood bad boy and black tar heroin czar, die in Guerrero. She didn't know officials never found his body. Back from the dead with a new face, his perverted sights are set on Bea's beautiful, naïve teenage daughter, Alyssa. Trafficking her into the porn industry would be the perfect instrument of revenge.

Sue Hinkin is a former college administrator, TV news photographer, and NBC-TV art department manager. She was a Cinematography Fellow at the American Film Institute. Her debut novel, *Deadly Focus* was a 2018 International Book Award finalist. The second book in the series, *Low Country Blood*, was a Reader's Choice award winner and Silver Falchion finalist. Sue lives in Littleton, Colorado.



### *Her Perfect Life*

**Rebecca Taylor**

Sourcebooks Landmark, an imprint of Sourcebooks

Clare Collins crafts her novels like she crafts her life: perfectly. So the world is stunned when the author is found dead on the beach from suicide, the morning after her latest book hits shelves. While reading her last novel, estranged sister Eileen discovers that the life she had envied doesn't seem so sparkling.

Rebecca Taylor is the author of *Ascendant*, *Midheaven* winner of a 2014 Colorado Book Award and a Library Journal National Self-e Select title), *Descendant*, *The Exquisite* and *Immaculate Grace* of Carmen Espinoza, and Romance Writers of America RITA Finalist *Affective Needs*. She received degrees in psychology and sociology from the University of Colorado in Denver and her graduate degree in school psychology from the University of Northern Colorado. In addition to writing she works as a school psychologist.





### *Tower of the Four: The Champions Academy Episodes 1-3*

**Todd Fahnestock**

F4 Publishing

The Collector knocked upon Brom's door, told him he was chosen. Was this the chance of a lifetime or a death sentence? When bonding with three violent classmates is the one path to magic—and survival—can Brom bridge a decades-old feud between two mortal enemies, tame a vicious little urchin, and make them into a Quad before they are expelled?

Todd Fahnestock is a writer of fantasy for all ages and winner of the New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age Award. *Tower of the Four*, *Threadweavers*, and *The Whisper Prince* trilogy are three of his bestselling epic fantasy series. He was a finalist in the Colorado Authors League Writing Awards for the past two years for *Charlie Fiction* and *The Undying Man*.



### *White Trash Warlock*

**David R. Slayton**

Blackstone Publishing

Adam Binder has the Sight. For much of his life, it's been a curse. After his brother committed him to a psych ward, Adam is ready to live life on his own terms. Following a trail of cursed artifacts to Denver in search of his father, he learns a terrible spirit has taken possession of his brother's wife. To survive and save his family, Adam will have to bargain with very dangerous beings—including his first love.

David R. Slayton lives in Denver with his partner, Brian, and writes the books he always wanted to read. *White Trash Warlock* is his first novel. In 2015, David founded Trick or Read, an annual initiative to give out books along with candy to children on Halloween as well as uplift lesser-known authors or those from marginalized backgrounds.



## *Once Again*

**Catherine Wallace Hope**

Alcove Press, an Imprint of Crooked Lane Books

This emotional speculative novel questions memory, time, and fate. In this contemporary retelling of the ancient Greek myth of Hades' abduction of Persephone, a grieving mother must brave a confounding journey into the underworld of the past after she recognizes that she's been presented the gift of a lifetime: the chance to save her daughter.

Catherine Wallace Hope earned her degree in creative writing at the University of Colorado and also delved into dance in New York and art and psychology in California. When she returned to Colorado, she became an instructor at the Lighthouse Writers Workshop, offering creativity workshops for writers.



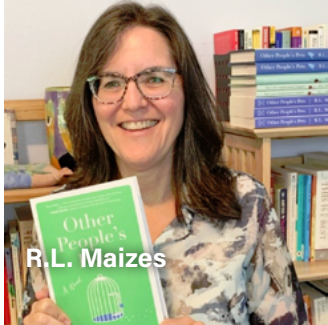
## *Wesley Yorstead Goes Outside*

**Stephanie Harper**

Propertius Press

Wesley Yorstead, a 33-year-old graphic novelist who suffers from severe agoraphobia, has shut himself inside for over 5 years. When he meets a vivacious grocery delivery woman, he can't resist getting to know this woman who invades his physical and mental space. When her past comes back to haunt her, Wesley must decide if he can finally leave his apartment to help.

Stephanie Harper is the author of the poetry collection *Sermon Series* as well as personal essays and articles for numerous publications. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from Fairfield University and currently lives in Littleton, Colorado.



## *Other People's Pets*

**R.L. Maizes**

Celadon Books

This book examines the gap between the families we're born into and those we create, and the danger of holding on to a troubled past. La La Fine relates to animals better than people. Abandoned by her mother, raised by a locksmith-turned-thief, La La looks to pets when it feels like the rest of the world conspires against her.

R.L. Maizes is the author of the short story collection *We Love Anderson Cooper*. Her essays and stories have aired on National Public Radio and have appeared in numerous literary journals. Her work has also been included in *The Best Small Fictions 2020* and her humor articles have run in the New York Times and McSweeney's Internet Tendency. She lives in Boulder County.



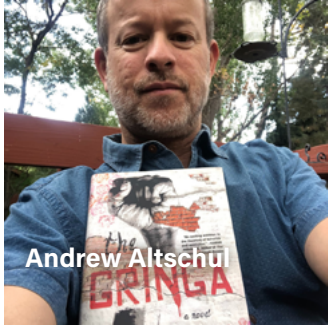
## *Memories in the Drift*

**Melissa Payne**

Lake Union Publishing

Ten years ago, Claire lost her unborn child and her short-term memory. With notes, lists, and her father's support, she manages each day. When characters from her past return, there's more to relive than she wants. Through healing, forgiveness, and second chances, Claire may realize that what's most important might not be re-creating who she was, but embracing the possibilities of who she is.

Melissa Payne is the bestselling author of *The Secrets of Lost Stones*. She first learned the importance of storytelling when she worked for a residential and day treatment center for abused and neglected children. Melissa lives in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains with her family and the occasional bear.



### *The Gringa*

**Andrew Altschul**

Melville House Press

Inspired by the real-life case of activist Lori Berenson, Stanford grad imprisoned for life in Peru after a bloody government raid, Andrew Altschul's third novel maps the blurred boundaries between fact and fiction, author and text, resistance and extremism. Part coming-of-age story, part political thriller, *The Gringa* asks what one person can do in the face of the world's injustice.

Andrew Altschul is the author of the novels *Deus Ex Machina* and *Lady Lazarus*. His short fiction and essays have appeared in *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Ploughshares*, *Fence*, *One Story*, and other publications, as well as numerous anthologies. A former Wallace Stegner Fellow and Jones Lecturer at Stanford University, he has received fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, the Ucross Foundation, and the Fundación Valparaíso. He directs the Creative Writing program at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.



### *The Loneliest Band in France: A Novella*

**Dylan Fisher**

Texas Review Press

Mistaking an ad to join the titular Loneliest Band in France for one to sell his blood, Sri Lankan student Migara de Silva finds himself under the band's sway, drinking heavily and recruited to play a battle-of-the-bands-esque concert at the local Café Bovary his bandmates see as an opportunity to debut a new song they claim could kill its listeners.

Dylan Fisher is currently an MFA candidate in Creative Writing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. *The Loneliest Band in France*, his first book, was the Winner of Texas Review Press's 2019 Clay Reynolds Novella Prize and selected as a 2020 Coups de Cœur by The American Library in Paris.





Nancy McKinley

### *St. Christopher on Pluto*

**Nancy McKinley**

West Virginia University Press

Blending screwball humor with social criticism in a novel of interlocking stories about two women who work in a bankrupt mall, readers of this book encounter humanity in its eccentric, hilarious, and touching glory as the women show how people can choose to help each other and maintain a community of hope.

Nancy McKinley is the author of short stories, novels, and essays. She earned her Ph.D. from State University of New York at Binghamton, receiving the John Gardner Newhouse Award; her MA from Colorado State University; and her BA from College of the Holy Cross where she was one of the first females at the previously male school. A founding faculty member for the low-residency Wilkes University Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing, she teaches fiction and nonfiction and supervises the writer-as-teacher internships. Nancy lives in Fort Collins.



Aaron Anstett

### *This Way to the Grand As-Is: New and Selected Poems*

**Aaron Anstett**

Sagging Meniscus

Poetry Finalist *This Way to the Grand As-Is* offers a snapshot of Anstett's career, with selections from six previous collections, plus 27 new poems.

Driven by a restless attention and lyrical ear, Aaron Anstett is a poet of surprise, wit, and wonder. His previous collections are *Please State the Nature of Your Emergency*, *Moreover*, *Insofar as Heretofore*, *Each Place the Body's*, *No Accident*, and *Sustenance*. Among other honors, his work has received the Nebraska Book Award, the Backwaters Prize, and the Balcones Poetry Prize, and he has served as a regional poet laureate, instituting a continuing program that places the work of local writers in waiting areas.



## *A History of Kindness*

**Linda Hogan**

Torrey House Press

These poems explore new and old ways of experiencing the vagaries of the body and existing in harmony with Earth's living beings. Throughout this clear-eyed collection, Hogan tenderly excavates how history instructs the present and envisions a future alive with hope for a healthy and sustainable world that now wavers between loss and survival.

Recipient of the 2007 Mountains and Plains Booksellers Spirit of the West Literary Achievement Award, Linda Hogan is a Chickasaw poet, novelist, essayist, playwright, teacher, and activist. Her fiction has garnered many honors, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination, and her poetry collections have received the American Book Award, a Colorado Book Award, and a National Book Critics Circle nomination. A volunteer and consultant for wildlife rehabilitation and endangered species programs, Hogan has also published essays with the Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club.

## *Anodyne*

**Khadijah Queen**

Tin House

These poems consider the small moments that enrapture us alongside the daily threats of cataclysm. Formally dynamic and searingly personal, *Anodyne* asks us to recognize the echoes of history that litter the landscape of our bodies as we navigate a complex terrain of survival and longing. Queen's poems show us the terrible consequences and stunning miracles of how we choose to live.

Khadijah Queen is the author of *Conduit*, *Black Peculiar*, *Fearful Beloved*, *Non-Sequitur*, and *I'm So Fine: A List of Famous Men & What I Had On*. A finalist for the National Poetry Series, the Balcones Poetry Prize, and the CLMP Firecracker Award in Fiction, she is an assistant professor of creative writing at University of Colorado at Boulder, and serves as core faculty for the low-residency Mile-High MFA program at Regis University.



# CELEBRATE STORY



CENTER  FOR THE BOOK

Colorado Humanities is the only Colorado organization exclusively dedicated to supporting humanities education for adults and children statewide. Celebrating its 47th year and its 17th year as host for the Colorado Center for the Book, Colorado Humanities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working in partnership 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. 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. Learn more at [coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org), or call 303.894.7951.

## Programs

Center for the Book  
Colorado Center for the  
Book Speakers Bureau  
Colorado Book Awards  
Colorado Poet Laureate  
Motherhead/Fatheread Colorado  
Veterans Writing

## Conversations

Change in Rural Colorado  
Changing the Legacy of  
Race & Ethnicity

## Educational Resources

Colorado Encyclopedia  
Great Lives in Colorado  
History bilingual biographies  
for young readers

## History

Black History Live  
History Live Durango  
High Plains Chautauqua  
History Alive! Colorado  
West Chatauqua  
History Speakers Bureau  
Latino Heritage Live  
Museum on Main Street  
Young Chautauqua



## CELEBRATE STORY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Hugo Cordova**

Video Producer/Owner,  
Reel Positive

**David M. Dadone**

Director & Chief Curator, Boulder  
Museum of Contemporary Art

**Juliana A. Fajardo**

Development & Marketing Manager

**Will C. Holden**

Director of Communications  
& Storytelling, Gary  
Community Investments

**Vernon Jones, Jr.**

Executive Director, Northeast  
Denver Innovation

**Debra S. Kalish**

Community Leader

**Kimberly D. Keith**

Executive Director,  
Steamboat Creates

**Corinne Koehler**

Owner, Koehler Wealth  
Management

**Taffy Lee**

Community Leader

**Florence M. Mason**

Library Management Consultant

**Adrian E. Miller**

Executive Director, Colorado  
Council of Churches

**Omar Montgomery**

Director, Black Student Services,  
University of Colorado

**William Philpott**

Associate Professor of History,  
University of Denver

**Robbin Schincke**

Director of Regional  
Community Outreach, Morgan  
Community College

**Kathy R. Woods**

Director, Economic Development,  
City of Alamosa

### STAFF

**Margaret Coval**

Executive Director

**Josephine Jones**

Director of Programs &  
Center for the Book

**Brynda Shingles**

Director of Operations

**Abigail Kerstetter**

Center for the Book  
Program Coordinator

**Christine Goff**

Technical Producer

**Sandy Tucker**

Development Coordinator

**Gina Huett**

Chautauqua Programs Coordinator

**Marnie Lansdown**

Grants Administrator

**Tawnya Albright**

Administrative Assistant

**Rhonda Livingston**

Clerical Assistant

**Charlene Emory**

Video Intern

**Savannah Reeve**

Programs & Communications Intern

**Tawnya Albright**

Administrative Assistant

**Rhonda Livingston**

Clerical Assistant

**Nora Ridgeway**

Marketing Intern





Don't publish  
just anywhere!

When your book  
deserves nothing  
but the best, trust  
the #1-rated  
self-publishing  
company\* to  
deliver a polished,  
professional book  
you can be proud  
of.



\*According to Top Consumer Reviews.

### It's Your Book, Let's Make it Your Way.

You've poured your heart and soul into your book. Now it's time to publish with a company that is as passionate about bringing your words to life as you are.

Being accepted by Outskirts Press  
entitles you to...

- Keep all rights to your book
- Dedicated, personal support throughout the publishing process
- Set your own retail price and author royalties
- Enjoy the highest profit margins anywhere
- Comprehensive book marketing support



on our top-of-the line publishing packages with promo code: **CH2019**

1-888-672-6657

[www.outskirtspress.com](http://www.outskirtspress.com)



# You seek out local produce, why not local news?

Get thoughtful news you can't get anywhere else, from an outlet 100% owned and operated by Colorado journalists.

**[coloradosun.com/books](http://coloradosun.com/books)**



**THE COLORADO SUN**



**think. learn.  
join the conversation.**