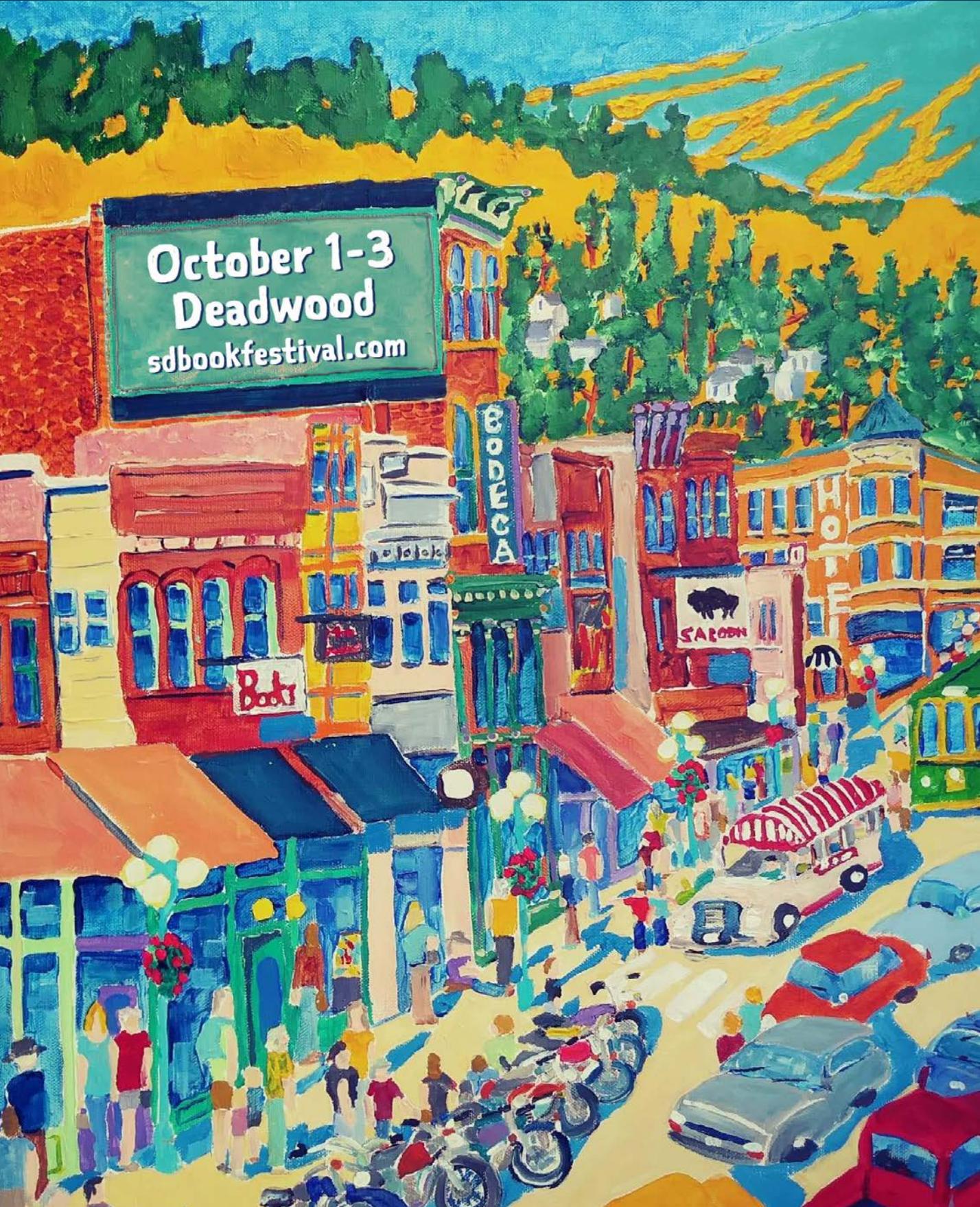
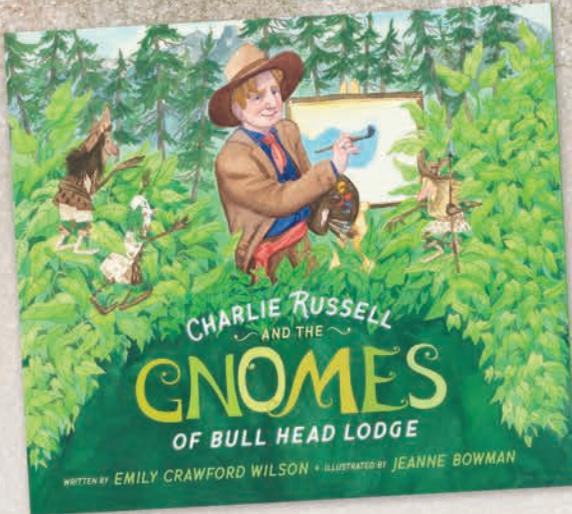


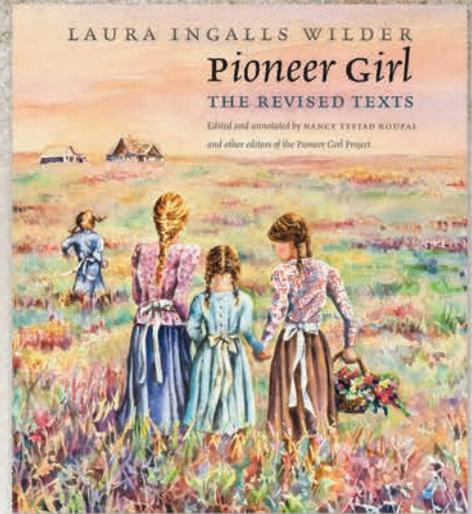
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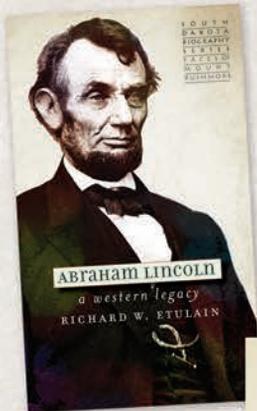


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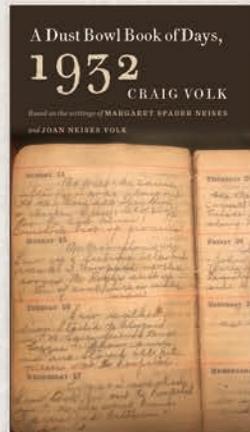
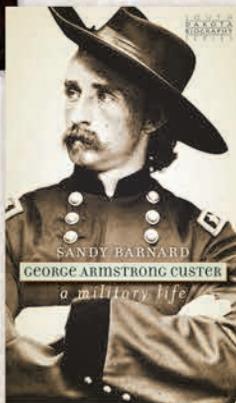
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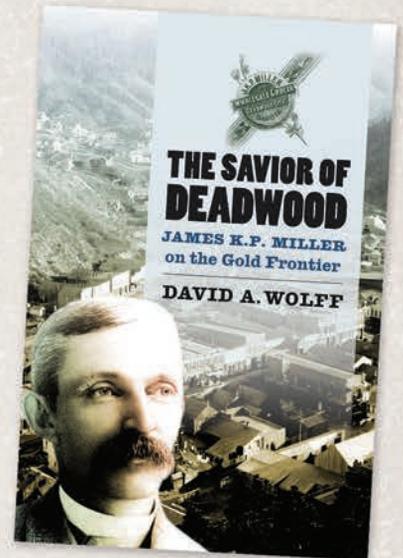


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View the schedule, changes to the author roster and other news at **SDBookFestival.com** or on the **SDHumanities Facebook** and **Twitter** pages. Use **#sdbookfest** when commenting or to view others' comments.

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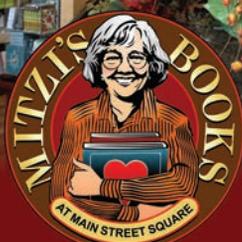
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# WELCOME...

## FESTIVAL OF BOOKS VISITORS,

I have the privilege as Mayor of the City of Deadwood to welcome you to our community for the 19th Annual South Dakota Festival of Books. Since the inception of this event in 2003, Deadwood has been the host city each odd-numbered year. The City of Deadwood, Deadwood's Historic Preservation Commission, and the Deadwood City Library are pleased to partner with the South Dakota Humanities Council to present this book festival.



The list of presenters is both long and impressive. Book lovers will have an opportunity to listen to a diverse group of authors from around the country.

There are many historical and cultural sites to visit throughout the City of Deadwood. We encourage you to visit each and every one. Included in the list are the Days of '76 Museum, the Adams House, the Adams Museum, The Brothel Museum, Mt. Moriah, the Broken Boot Gold Mine, the History and Information Center, the Welcome Center and our new Outlaw Square.

We look forward to having you join us for this exciting event and hope you get a chance to explore Deadwood, a National Historic Landmark. If there is anything I can do to make your visit more pleasant, please contact me.

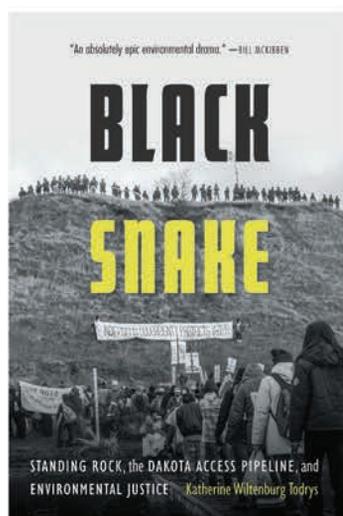
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David R. Ruth, Jr.  
Mayor of Deadwood

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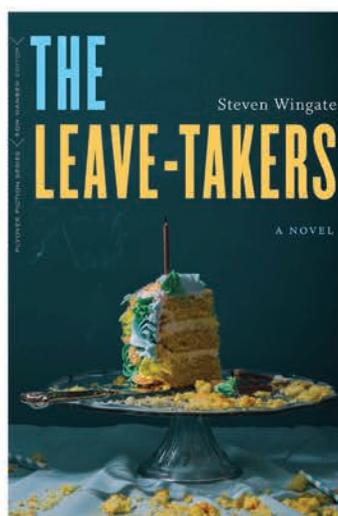
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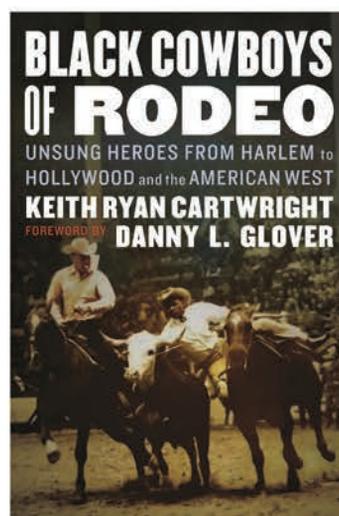
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# LOST IN STORY

## Finding refuge in reading

Welcome to the South Dakota Festival of Books. We are looking forward to your participation in this annual celebration of literature, when readers and writers happily connect over the written word.



I was recently struck by what a large percentage of my day is spent in contact with writing. Of all things, it was the back of a dark chocolate bar wrapper that surprised me — and led me to take stock. The wrapper’s note had a small essay with four similes comparing the taste of chocolate to memorable physical scenes. I enjoyed the polished composition, and then I realized that I often turn a label over or read the back of a package, not just for instructions but to see how it is written.

Reading starts early in the morning for me, as I first check articles and editorials about the latest news. Then I read emails and attachments, write and send various letters, finalize drafts and go through physical mail and newspapers. The most anticipated part of my day’s reading are my evening books, many of which are part of the Festival.

Whether you’re an all-day reader like me or a more focused reader who has found a special author or book that you like, we are pleased to provide this statewide Festival to immerse you in many literary offerings. We trust that chocolate bar wrappers, interesting as they might be, will be eclipsed by the skilled and delightful authors and books that are part of this Festival.

Surprise yourself with the amount of time that you too spend with the written word and join us at this year’s Festival of Books in Deadwood.

Sincerely,

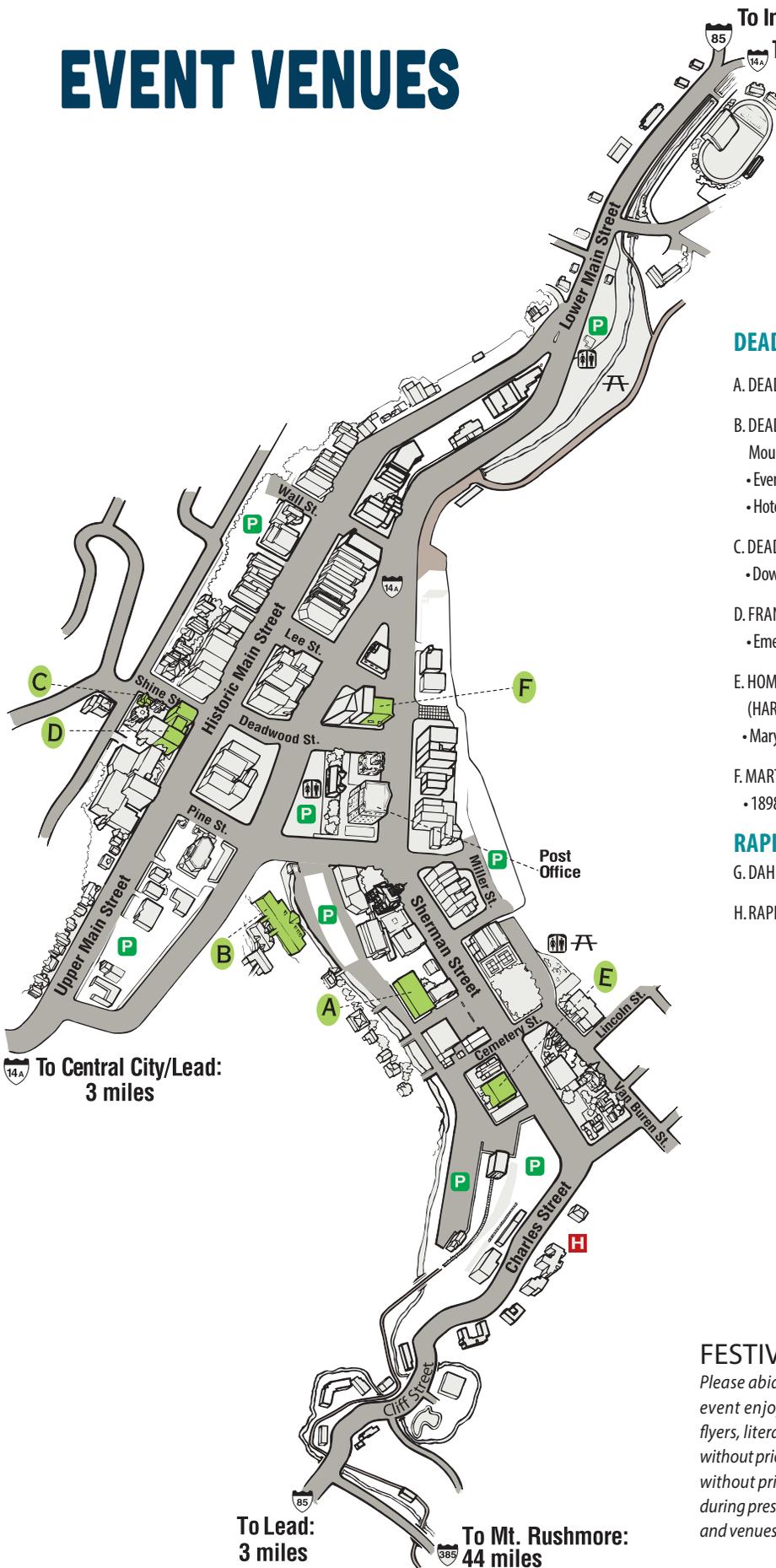
Ann Volin, Executive Director  
South Dakota Humanities Council



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  - B. DEADWOOD MOUNTAIN GRAND (1906 Deadwood Mountain Dr.)
    - Event Center • Prospector Room
    - Hotel Conference Room • Bill's Backstage Bar
  - C. DEADWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY (435 Williams St.)
    - Downstairs • Main Floor
  - D. FRANKLIN HOTEL (700 Main St.)
    - Emerald Room – 2nd floor
  - E. HOMESTAKE ADAMS RESEARCH & CULTURAL CENTER (HARCC) (150 Sherman St.)
    - Mary Adams Lecture Hall – 2nd floor
  - F. MARTIN & MASON HOTEL (33 Deadwood St.)
    - 1898 Ballroom – 3rd floor
- RAPID CITY** – Take Hwy. 14A north to I90 to Rapid City.
- G. DAHL ARTS CENTER (713 7th St.)
  - H. RAPID CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY (610 Quincy St.)

## FESTIVAL GUIDELINES

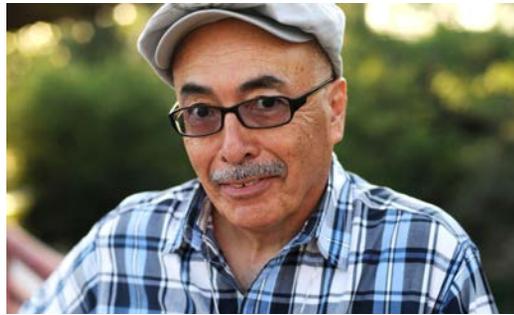
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## GHOST CHILDREN'S STORIES

When Ann Bausum's publisher suggested World War II as a topic for her 16th children's book, she traveled to Germany to explore. Her tour included the Wolf's Lair, Adolf Hitler's military hideaway northeast of Berlin, where she became immersed in the story of Operation Valkyrie — a failed assassination attempt against Hitler — and the largely untold story of the Nazis' revenge. *Ensnared in the Wolf's Lair* explores Hitler's campaign of *Sippenhaft*, or family punishment, that led to the capture of more than 200 relatives of the Valkyrie conspirators, many of them children who were held at a compound called the Borntal.

"This layer of additional history has, to my knowledge, never been shared in the United States," Bausum says. "We've known so much about the ruthlessness and brutality of the Nazi regime, but this is an example of the extent to which revenge was also a contributing factor."

Research led Bausum to the diary of Christa von Hofacker, who was 12 years old when she recorded her experience at the Borntal. She later found several other "ghost children," as they were called, including two survivors that she interviewed in Germany. Bausum also talked to von Hofacker, today an octogenarian living in California. Having covered other epochal moments in history, including the Civil Rights Movement, Bausum knew the interviews might be difficult. "You're asking them to basically relive a trauma and tell you about it in a way that benefits the public," she says. "But I found each of the individuals that I spoke with very forthcoming and very generous in being willing to go to these dark places."



## Creating Something Beautiful

Juan Felipe Herrera is always happy to speak to children about his book *Imagine*. "I start with joy," he says. "I tell them that I really believe in them, and that I'm so happy to meet them. And I tell them that they are filled with intelligence and creativity."

Herrera will bring that message to students in South Dakota's elementary schools as part of this year's Festival of Books. *Imagine/Imagina* — Herrera's dual-language lyrical memoir told as a poem through 16 panels illustrated by Caldecott Honor-winning artist Lauren Castillo — was selected the 2021 Young Readers One Book South Dakota. This fall, the South Dakota Humanities Council will distribute 10,000 copies to third graders, who will hear from Herrera via a recorded message and from Castillo as she visits students in person.

Herrera will also talk about his vision of writing. "Writing is expressing who you are, and sharing who you are with someone else, and how that creates something beautiful," he says. "We begin to know each other and friendship blossoms."

It's easy to feel as though Herrera has shared something about himself after reading *Imagine*. The book tells his story of growing up the only child of migrant farm workers in southern California. We see him as a painfully shy boy who speaks barely any English but ultimately finds his voice in music, literature and writing classes. The final

panel shows him addressing a crowd as the 21st Poet Laureate of the United States, a distinction he held from 2015 to 2017.

The poem came together as Herrera neared retirement from the University of California-Riverside. "I like to write while I'm moving around," he says. "I have a paper pad with me in case I get an idea. So I had a yellow legal pad and I got the idea to write *Imagine*. It just came to me, and I wrote it from start to finish. I put the pad against the wall and started writing. I chose scenes that were all real, leaving villages because we were always moving, going through the forest by myself to find water."

Castillo gives those scenes life through her ink and foam monoprint illustrations. "It's a book that's inspiring and it's for everyone, but it's also his story, and I really wanted to capture that," Castillo says. "I wanted to use the foam printing technique with the ink drawing because I felt like it brought this loose, dream-like quality to parts of the art. It had an airy feeling to it."

*Imagine/Imagina* was published in both English and Spanish, allowing Herrera's inspiring story to find broader audiences. "Knowing that the book is going to reach more readers is a wonderful thing," Castillo says. "Because it's published in Spanish too, it may serve as a mirror to those children of families whose first language is Spanish. It could be extra encouragement for them to dream big."

## Getting to the Personal

January 12, 1888, began as an unusually balmy winter morning on the Great Plains. Farmers wore light clothing as they did chores and children left heavy coats and scarves at home before walking to their one-room schoolhouses. No one foresaw the wicked blizzard that swept over the land that afternoon, killing 235 people — many of them children caught trying to get home from school. That deadly storm is the setting for Melanie Benjamin's latest novel *The Children's Blizzard*, selected as the 2021 One Book South Dakota.

Benjamin has a knack for blending fact and fiction. Her previous *New York Times*-bestselling novels have brought readers into the swanky worlds of the Ritz in Paris and New York's Fifth Avenue, where historic figures such as Truman Capote, Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald mingle with imagined characters. But with *The Children's Blizzard*, Benjamin wanted to find a historic event and create its entire cast. "I'm always looking for stories to tell that most people don't know about anymore, and I thought that was one of them," Benjamin says. "Not many people, except perhaps for those who live on the Great Plains, really knew about this tragedy. It was a wonderful, big epic story to hang the personal stories on, which are what always interest me the most."

The main characters are Raina

and Gerda Olsen, teenaged sisters and schoolteachers who make very different choices when it becomes clear that a violent winter storm is upon them. Stories of young teachers were especially intriguing for Benjamin as she researched the storm. "These were very young women, barely out of the schoolroom themselves, having to make life and death decisions in an instant," she says. "The ramifications of those decisions followed them the rest of their lives. That was fascinating to me. How would we all react? These weren't Arctic explorers trying to find the Northwest Passage. These were people on the Plains, who were certainly no strangers to the punishing weather, but this one was different."

During her research, Benjamin read David Laskin's nonfiction book of the same name, a rich resource of triumphal and tragic family stories from the blizzard. They informed many of Benjamin's characters, but the addition of fiction provides another layer to the already dramatic story. "Fiction gets to the personal," she says. "Facts are for historians, but when you get to emotions and turmoil and the personal stories, that's what a novelist can do because we get to imagine these things and try to understand why these people did the things they did. A novelist distills it down to the personal. And historical fiction is very popular. A lot of people who might not normally read nonfiction might pick up a novel to get a good story and along the way learn some things they may not have known."



## RESERVATION INJUSTICE

Virgil Wounded Horse gets \$100 for every bone he breaks and every tooth he knocks out. Virgil is a vigilante, seeking justice on South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation when authorities refuse to act, and the compelling protagonist of David Heska Wanbli Weiden's *Winter Counts*.

Weiden's debut novel has already earned several accolades, including winner of the 2021 Spur Award for Best Contemporary Novel and Best First Novel. It explores several themes, including Virgil's own sense of belonging. But in an interview with the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, Weiden said he wanted to focus on the broken criminal justice system.

"There's a federal law called the Major Crimes Act that was passed about 130 years ago, but is still good law," says Weiden, a professor of Native American Studies and Political Science at Metropolitan State University in Denver. "It holds that Native nations cannot prosecute violent felons for crimes that occur on their own lands. They must defer prosecution of those crimes to federal authorities. The problem, though, is that the federal authorities decline prosecution about 50 percent of the time. Those violent offenders are released and are free to offend again. The victims' families want to see justice served, but there's no recourse from the U.S.



government. So, a class of professional vigilantes has emerged. ... Of course, I'm personally uncomfortable with the idea of vigilante justice, but I also understand the rage that the family of a victim must feel.

This is the dilemma that Natives face today on reservations, and I've argued for major changes to the Major Crimes Act in other writings."

## A POEM FOR EVERY COUNTY

Reading Christopher Vondracek's *Rattlesnake Summer: 66 Poems for 66 South Dakota Counties* is like driving every Interstate, highway and dirt road of South Dakota with the author at the wheel. Whatever the actual speed limit of those routes may be, the observations that range through this collection move like any good road trip conversation should: at 75 miles an hour, nodding at geologic time, high school basketball and burrowing owls while stopping at all the best coffee shops and fall suppers along the way.

Written while working for an online courthouse news service and the *Rapid City Journal* and polished at his home in Washington, D.C., *Rattlesnake Summer* spans miles that Vondracek himself covered in his duties as a reporter. "There's so much psychology in an interview," Vondracek says, "and a lot I was writing down on these assignments is poorly served by journalism. Poetry became a way to use those details that usually get left out."

As a performer with the Rock Garden Tour radio show and in bands throughout the Midwest, Vondracek sees his "short, snappy free verse"



informed by lessons learned from music. "When writing a song, you can feel when you've reached a point of balance. Looking for a poem is the same. In Douglas County, you see a woman on a lawnmower. You see a Schlitz sign, and you see a kid spraying weeds along the track. You suddenly know that *these* are the images. This much is enough."



## In Badger's Footsteps

There's a passage from the final stanza of Badger Clark's poem "I Must Come Back" that resonates with Craig Pahl: "I ask no heaven but leave to wend, / Unseen but seeing, my old trails . . ."

"I'm just enthralled with that phrase," says Pahl, a retired engineer and poet living in Brookings. "I think there are plenty of old trails of Badger Clark's that are around and can inspire others."

In fact, that's the goal behind Camp Inspiration, a poetry workshop scheduled for Thursday, September 30 at the Badger Hole, Clark's home in Custer State Park for 20 years. Attendees will begin the day by touring the three-room Craftsman-style cabin that Clark — a renowned cowboy poet and South Dakota's first poet laureate — built in 1937. Then a Badger Clark re-enactor will lead them on a poetry walk along the same trails that inspired much of Clark's work. After lunch and cowboy poetry music at the Peter Norbeck Education Center, Christine Stewart-Núñez — South Dakota's current poet laureate — will conduct the workshop. Poets are encouraged to produce work that can be shared the following evening at an open mic night at the Deadwood Mountain Grand.

Pahl is retired from a career at 3M and is an SDSU Extension Master Gardener, "but I didn't realize I loved poetry as much as I did until I started attending a local poetry group," he says. Pahl came to admire Clark's dedication to the craft and the way he expressed his experiences through poetry. He vis-

ited the Badger Hole and left with the idea of holding a workshop there as a way to further the South Dakota State Poetry Society's goal of expanding awareness of poetry in the state.

Clark was born in Iowa in 1883. His father, a Methodist minister, moved the family to Dakota Territory that same year. As a young man, Clark spent six years in Cuba and Arizona during which he developed a love for ranching and cowboy culture. He expressed his feelings in a poem titled "Ridin'" written to his stepmother, who got it published in *Pacific Monthly*, setting Clark upon his literary career.

In the mid-1930s, he received special permission to build his rustic cabin in Custer State Park, where he lived until his death in September 1957. The interior remains much as he left it: his typewriter sits atop a table, his boots by the bed.

Stewart-Núñez hopes the workshop helps demonstrate the importance of poetry of place. "If you can't have a poem written in any other place, then it's a poem of place," she says. "It can be about different themes, but if the imagery is grounded in a particular spot, it's a poem of place."

"What do we see? What do we hear? What do we smell? What are the textures and the temperatures? All of those things appeal to our senses, and that's how contemporary poetry is built, through imagistic sensory material. That's something beginning writers can learn to develop and experienced writers can always build."

## A Book with a Second Life

When she began writing a profile for *Harper's Magazine* on workers who took to the road after being displaced by the 2008 financial crisis, Jessica Bruder said that her stipend would have “paid for two nights in a hotel, and I knew that wasn't going to get the story.” So, eschewing an air-conditioned room and hot shower, she instead bought a tent and spent two weeks in the deserts of Nevada living alongside RVs and pop-up campers driven by modern-day American nomads following seasonal jobs at Amazon fulfillment centers, national forest campgrounds and Major League Baseball spring training games.

Those two weeks began a journey spanning three years and 15,000 miles, many of those spent in the driver's seat of her own camper van, “Halen.” The critically acclaimed work of nonfiction that resulted was *Nomadland*, a book adapted by director Chloé Zhao into the Oscar-winning “Best Picture” of 2021, filmed partially in South Dakota.

“It's crazy to have a book with a second life,” says Bruder. “And for the subjects of the book to have their stories find a new audience — one who gets their information primarily from film — is really satisfying.”

Those subjects, like the indomitable Linda May and Charlene Swankie (aka “Swankie Wheels”), talk about their lifestyle in many ways: “work-amping,” “rubber tramping,” “hous-

ing refugees.” There's one term, however, that Bruder is herself cautious of using. “You won't find the word ‘pioneer’ on my lips,” she says. “Pioneering suggests discovery of something new and we know that narrative has always rested on shaky premises.



But these narratives are out there. People fit themselves into a grander drama when their own agency is constrained.”

Those constraints are in part the result of wage stagnation and housing costs that continue to rise in places large and small across the country. In such a situation, many are forced to trade their “stick-and-brick” home for a life on wheels, and that life is rarely carefree. “The ads for campground hosts say things like ‘Get paid to camp!’ ‘Retirement has never been this much fun!’,” Bruder explains, “but Linda and Swankie both broke ribs during their season. These are hard jobs.”

In the face of this precariousness, the subjects of *Nomadland* nevertheless find that tiny worlds of comfort and community can be carved out within the larger one. The encampments of Quartzsite, Arizona, and the Rubber Tramp Rendezvous appear in the book as places where like-minded migrants gather after pulling up roots and before the next job down the road. “They share a language and passions,” Bruder says. “The family they've made is logical rather than biological.”

## THE PIONEER GIRL GIFT

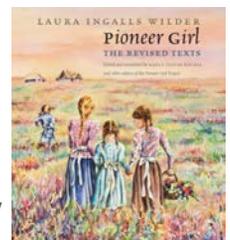
For more than a decade, Nancy Koupal has overseen the wildly successful Pioneer Girl Project, an arm of the South Dakota Historical Society Press dedicated to researching and publishing the autobiography of children's author Laura Ingalls Wilder and subsequent books exploring her life and work. The Project's third installment, *Pioneer Girl: The Revised Texts*, is due out in September 2021. This one examines three versions of the autobiography's text, each one edited by Wilder's daughter Rose Wilder Lane. “We put those three side by side to look at what Lane is doing and what that is going to mean for the ‘Little House’ series, how that editing affected what came later,” Koupal says.

The book also sheds more light on their working relationship. “The only handwriting that we see on this is Rose Wilder Lane's, but that doesn't mean Wilder isn't involved because she's writing things out by hand for Lane to insert, so there's a cooperation between the two women that's interesting.”

*Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography*, released in 2014, became an instant bestseller. A second volume, *Pioneer Girl Perspectives*, included essays by Wilder scholars that delve into the themes behind her writing. And a planned fourth book will examine all the manuscripts for Wilder's *Little House in the Big Woods*.

For Koupal, recently retired as editor-in-chief of the South Dakota Historical Society Press, the Pioneer Girl Project is a never-ending gift. “I didn't expect it to be as continually interesting as it is,” she says. “Looking at the

language and the process between editing and writing has been endlessly fascinating.”



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## NEW DISCOVERIES

Clay Stafford wants his students to know that the satisfaction and delight of writing is within their reach. "I just get jazzed about helping new writers find their way," says Stafford, a writer-in-residence at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee, where he teaches creative writing to "young-adults-to-be." "And when I say 'new writers,' that's not age based. Kindergarteners can write about the spot they're in. Fourth graders can write from a different spot. Seventh graders? They're in a lot of different spots all at once."

As a best-selling, award-winning author, poet, screenwriter, playwright, actor, book reviewer, educator and public speaker (to list just a few), Stafford's experience makes him uniquely prepared to tease out insight from those many threads of a writer's business and craft. But one element of his background guides him especially. "I was an Appalachian kid," he explains, "and there were so few opportunities around me growing up. I got where I am only because people spent time helping me see something that I maybe didn't see myself. It's great to now be able to give that back."

As a self-proclaimed "eclectic reader," Stafford says that "shoulds" and "oughts" have no place in his workshop. "I can help writers of all kinds with the framework for what makes a good story argument, but finding your own style and voice: that's what I want to encourage." So, new writers, have no fear. "Even you're not pursuing it as a profession," he says, "writing is something fun and expressive, and with it, you always discover something new about yourself."

## The Art of World-Building

"Each genre has an emotion," says K.J. Howe. "Romance could be said to be about hope. Mysteries are about puzzle solving. Thrillers? That's adrenaline, for people who love pulse-pounding tension as they read or write."

As the author of the novels *Skyjack* and *The Freedom Broker* — as well as the executive director of Thrillerfest,

the annual conference of International Thriller Writers — Howe brings her understanding of the craft of tension to attendees of the South Dakota Festival of Books through a variety of workshops on developing your unique voice and world building. "There are people out there who are naturally gifted," Howe explains. "Others have to learn the craft. I was definitely in the second category. I started my career as a medical writer, but the transformation into action-oriented fiction requires you to learn to show instead of tell. Because I've gone through that process myself, I've picked up some tips to share with people who feel it's difficult to grapple with creating worlds for their characters to live in."

It was in the real and physical world of her childhood, though, where Howe's own particular perspective developed. "My dad was in telecommunications," she explains, "and when you have that international upbringing, your situational analysis is higher than others. You're always a stranger in a

strange land. That instinctively drew me into a world of carefulness and dangers."

Channeling that instinct into writing thrillers brought Howe into a circle of experts in kidnapping and ransom, a subset of the genre that has become her specialty. "It used to be that high-net-worth individuals and multinational executives were the targets of kidnappings. Now, it's journalists, aid workers, travelers and adventure seekers. The possibility of finding yourself in that situation is greater than ever.

"I'm not sure how I'd be as a hostage," she continues. "It's a fascinating purgatory: alive but not really living. We want to fight, initiate, do something, but the key word for a hostage is 'endure.' They have to endure boredom, hardship, lack of hope. How do you work through something like that? We all have bad days, but sometimes I have to say to myself, 'Get a grip! You're not chained to a radiator.'"

Howe says that the characters of fiction can give readers and writers alike a chance to feel what it would be like to face "the shadowy world, the go-behind world." "Studying lives helps you learn a lot about yourself," she says. "Festivals like this bring together people with a shared passion for being transported. Through characters, we get to navigate other worlds; we get to go somewhere else. And that's something we all need, especially after the last year."



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## Crazy Horse and Custer: The Real Story



**S**.D. Nelson and Joseph M. Marshall III both say they first encountered Crazy Horse in the stories of their youth. Nelson remembers his mother, who was born on the Standing Rock Reservation at Fort Yates, North Dakota, speaking about Crazy Horse with “admiration and pride.” Marshall, in turn, was told about the Lakota leader starting around age 5. “He became more than a boyhood curiosity,” Marshall says, “once I realized he was a real person.”

Though the Battle of the Little Bighorn — also called the Battle of the Greasy Grass — was fought 145 years ago, Crazy Horse and his chief antagonist George Armstrong Custer still loom large in the mythology of the American West. And, like all mythic characters, it can be hard to sort fact from fiction. That’s something both authors are attempting to rectify, Nelson in *Crazy Horse & Custer: Born Enemies* (for grades 4-8) and Marshall in *The Journey of Crazy Horse* (for adults) and *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* (for young readers).

Nelson sees the underlying dynamic of 1880s America regarding conflict between people playing out today. “My primary reason in writing this book is to point out an aspect of human nature that is quite the paradox,” Nelson says. “We truly do love peace, camaraderie and harmony. At the same time, we

have clearly demonstrated that we are aggressive creatures and are drawn into conflict time and again. The story of Crazy Horse and Custer is a manifestation of this human nature, which is a puzzlement to me.

“Both men,” he continues, “had interesting childhoods, similar in that they both aspired to be leaders in combat, and their cultures supported that. I’m afraid that this story does not have a happy ending, but some of the best stories don’t resolve neatly. Instead, they ask questions we need to be asking.”

Marshall says that perceptions of the Battle of the Greasy Grass are shifting. “Overwhelmingly, the narrative told at the park site was about settling the west and people who were cut down while doing their ‘sacred duty,’” he says. But, Marshall explains, a grass fire swept through the battlefield in the 1980s, revealing many artifacts hidden on the prairie, “and the narrative told by those artifacts concurred more with Native versions of how the battle unfolded.

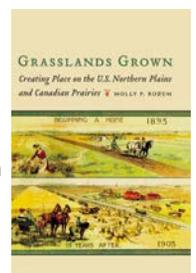
“My work is intended for those who are honestly looking for another perspective,” Marshall says. “The drive for these perspectives has grown. There’s more than one voice in any history and we have to uncover and listen to them all in order to reveal a more complete narrative. We’re not trying to establish who is a hero and who is a villain: we want the real story.”

## CLAIMING A CULTURE

Molly Rozum, associate professor of history at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, believes that there’s much yet to discover about the character of the Plains. “I grew up around Mitchell, hearing what would be called ‘pioneer origin stories’ about my grandparents who were homesteaders or the children of homesteaders,” she says. “The place was on my mind throughout my academic research, but I discovered few histories that made it the center of their analysis. What are its contours? What effect did it have on me and others who lived in it?”

Rozum’s exploration of those questions is compiled in *Grasslands Grown: Creating Place on the U.S. Northern Plains and Canadian Prairies*, a fascinating mix of history, sociology, environmental writing and biography that examines the many factors which worked on the people of the prairie to shape a regional identity. “We don’t live,” she says, “as a study of ag sciences, or of journalism or teaching on their own. A history is made from what they share and, as a historian, I’m trying to find out how the land has manifested in them all.

“If you’re driving through the grasslands,” Rozum says, “it’s the huge spaces you see. But the people who live here know what’s on the ground. There’s something in us to look really closely at things. This study is really about how one generation found a way to feel at home in a place. The parents claimed the land, but their children claimed the culture.”



## WHERE'S THE SCHEDULE?

Due to lingering uncertainties about venue capacities, travel schedules, and other logistics in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Dakota Humanities Council has chosen not to include a complete event schedule in this year's guide. We are strongly committed to holding the 2021 South Dakota Festival of Books in Deadwood as planned; however, we need to remain flexible in case of unanticipated developments.

An abbreviated schedule can be found on page 15, and a complete schedule will be available by the end of August. You can get your copy by visiting [SDBookFestival.com](http://SDBookFestival.com), calling (605) 688-6113, or emailing [festival@sdhumanities.org](mailto:festival@sdhumanities.org). We will also post updates at [twitter.com/sdhumanities](https://twitter.com/sdhumanities) and [facebook.com/sdhumanities](https://facebook.com/sdhumanities) and through the Festival Updates Bulletin, available at the Exhibitors' Hall information desk in the Event Center at the Deadwood Mountain Grand, 1906 Deadwood Mountain Drive, Deadwood.

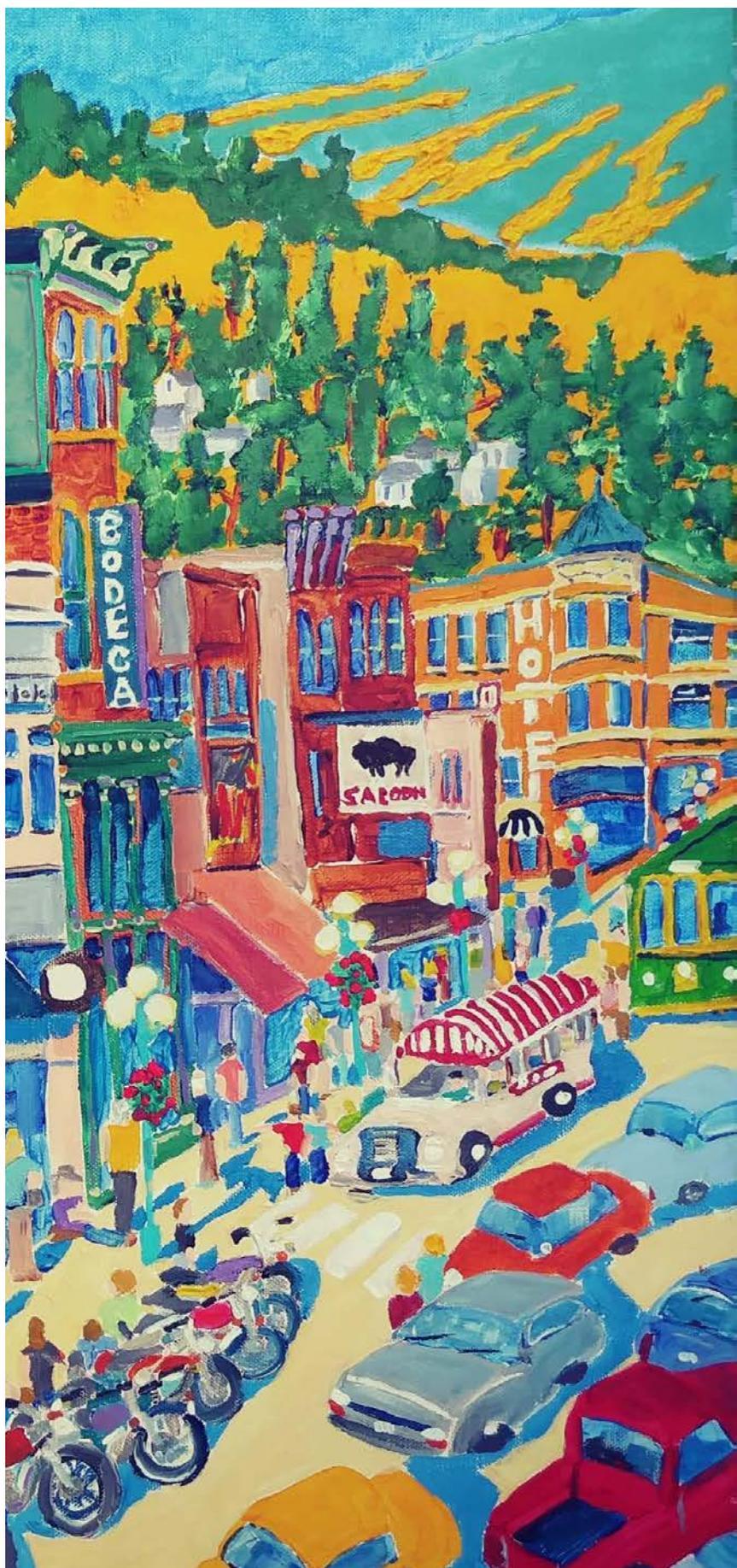
### SAFETY FIRST!

We want to assure all attendees that we will make every effort to provide a safe and pleasant experience at the Festival. We will follow local, regional, and national public health reports closely and respond with applicable COVID prevention protocols. These will include cleaning and sanitizing all spaces, providing hand sanitizer and masks, and reducing capacity or offering distanced seating when appropriate.

We will create a "mask-friendly" environment, and we ask that attendees follow any specific rules posted at our host venues. Nothing is more important to us than the well-being of our Festival's readers and writers!

### CAN'T JOIN US IN PERSON?

While we're all looking forward to gathering in Deadwood, we know some of you might not be able to join us there. If you'd still like to experience a bit of Festival fun, you can log on to attend the virtual events listed here in the guide, or you can watch a livestream of selected Festival weekend events on the South Dakota Humanities Council's Facebook page.



# SCHEDULE SNEAK PEEK

All events take place in Deadwood unless otherwise indicated

For events marked **TICKETS REQUIRED**, purchase tickets at [SDBookFestival.com](http://SDBookFestival.com) unless otherwise indicated.

## FESTIVAL KICKOFF

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

**5–6 p.m.** — Gallery Talk & Book Signing: *The Sketchbook & the Journal* — Martin Garhart. Dahl Arts Center (Ruth Brennan Gallery), **Rapid City**

**6:30–9 p.m.** (Doors open at 6 p.m.) — *Women Behaving Badly* — Mary Kay Andrews, Joshilyn Jackson, Lorelei James/Lori Armstrong & Ariel Lawhon, with a special appearance by Virgo the Vixen. **\*adult content\*** Dahl Arts Center (John T. Vucurevich Event Center), **Rapid City** (**TICKETS REQUIRED**: AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DAHL, 605-394-4101 or [TheDahl.org](http://TheDahl.org), \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door)

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 30

Young Readers events at area schools and the **Rapid City** Public Library

Camp Inspiration Poetry Workshop at the Badger Hole, **Custer** State Park — Christine Stewart-Nuñez (**TICKETS REQUIRED**)

Festival Fundraiser & Author Reception — Deadwood Public Library (**TICKETS REQUIRED**)

### FRIDAY, OCT. 1

**9 a.m.–9 p.m.** Full day of festival events & workshops to be announced

**1 p.m.–5:30 p.m.** Exhibitors' Hall open

Early Bird Mass Book Signing

Writing Workshops, including *Game On: How to Use Roleplaying Games to Electrify Your Story* — Joshilyn Jackson & Lydia Netzer (**TICKETS REQUIRED**)

In the Moment Live Broadcast with Lori Walsh featuring Lisa Napoli

Deadwood Alive Shootout featuring Marc Cameron and K.J. Howe

Keynote Events with Lauren Castillo, Mary Kay Andrews and Jessica Bruder

Literary Feast: *HER*storical Fiction — Melanie Benjamin, Marj Charlier & Ariel Lawhon (**TICKETS REQUIRED**)

### SATURDAY, OCT. 2

**9 a.m.–9 p.m.** Full day of festival events & workshops to be announced

**9 a.m.–5 p.m.** Exhibitors' Hall open

Author Talks, Craft Sessions, Poetry Readings, and More!

Pair and Panel Discussions, including:

- *Bringing the 1888 Children's Blizzard to Life* — Melanie Benjamin & Lauren Tarshis
- *Mass Media & Citizenship* — Jessica Bruder, Allyson Hobbs, Marc Johnson & Lisa Napoli
- *Unfinished Business: A Conversation on Creativity* — Kent Nerburn & David Heska Wanbli Weiden
- *Researching and Writing about the Holocaust* — Ann Bausum & Patrick Hicks
- *The Real Crazy Horse* — Joseph M. Marshall III & S.D. Nelson
- *Solving the Mystery of Writing* — Baron Birtcher, J.A. Jance & Clay Stafford

- *Creating Place, Developing Identity* — Richard Etulain, Jon Lauck & Molly Rozum

Book Signings

South Dakota Poet of Merit Awards

Veterans Story Contest Awards

Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities Awards

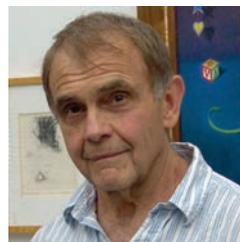
### SUNDAY, OCT. 3

**10 a.m.** — Book Lovers' Brunch & SDHC's 50th Anniversary Kickoff (**TICKETS REQUIRED**)

**11 a.m.** — *Parting Words: Original Thinking on Politics, Humanity & Unity* — Glenn Aparicio Parry

**2 p.m.** — *A Visit with J.A. Jance* — **Rapid City** Public Library

## KICKOFF PRESENTER



**MARTIN JOHN GARHART** has worked as an artist — teaching, making and showing his images — for 40 years. His works reside in more than 40 institutions worldwide, including the British Museum, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institute. A Professor Emeritus of Art at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, Garhart now splits his time between his cabin/studio in the Black Hills and his home/studio in Powell, Wyoming.

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# PRESENTERS

## VIRTUAL PRESENTER



**KWAME ALEXANDER** is a poet, educator, publisher, and *New York Times* Bestselling author of 35 books, including Newbery Honor-winning picture book *The Undefeated* and Newbery Medal-winning middle grade novel *The Crossover*. A regular contributor to NPR's Morning Edition, Alexander is the writer and executive producer of *The Crossover* TV series on Disney+.

Sat., Sept. 18,  
11 a.m. CT/10 a.m. MT

**MARY KAY ANDREWS** is the author of several *New York Times* bestsellers, including *Sunset Beach*, *The High Tide*



*Club*, *Beach Town*, *Savannah Blues*, and *Christmas Bliss*, among many others. She has also written 10 critically acclaimed mysteries, including the Callahan Garrity series, under her real name, Kathy Hogan Trocheck. A native of St. Petersburg, Florida, a former journalist, a frequent writing teacher, and a lifelong "junkie," she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

**LORI ARMSTRONG** is the *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author of the Julie Collins and Mercy Gunderson mystery series. Her books have won two Shamus Awards and a Willa Cather Literary Award and have been nominated for the High Plains Book Award and the Daphne du Maurier Award. As Lorelei James, she is also a *New York Times* bestselling author of romantic fiction. Arm-

strong lives in western South Dakota.

**SANDY BARNARD** specializes in writing about the Civil War and the Plains Indian engagements of the post-war period. For nearly 25 years, he edited the annual *Greasy Grass* magazine published by the Custer Battlefield Historical & Museum Association.



A U.S. Army veteran who served as an intelligence officer in Vietnam in 1968-1969, Barnard holds degrees from Boston College and the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He is a professor emeritus from Indiana State University.

**ANN BAUSUM** writes about history for readers of all ages from her home in southern Wisconsin. Her books frequently explore issues of social justice and the influence of propaganda on historical events. Her lat-



# imagine

The 2021 Young Readers  
One Book South Dakota Selection

by former US Poet Laureate

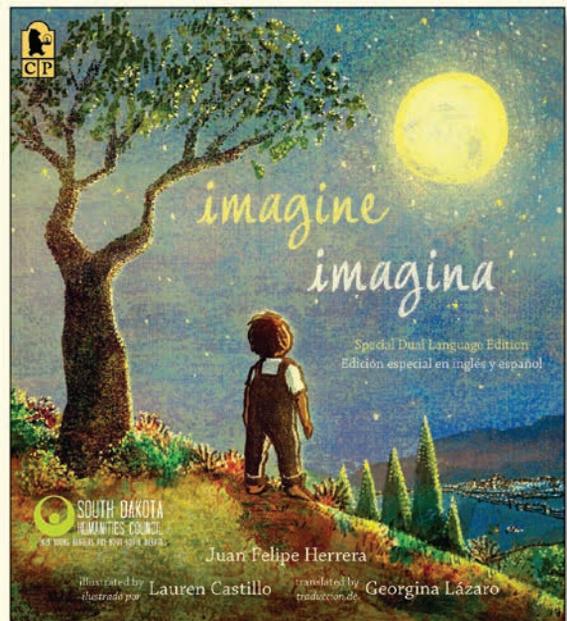
Juan Felipe Herrera

illustrated by Lauren Castillo

"This poem is a masterly picture book text:  
its precisely chosen words create a world you  
have to listen to, to think about."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

- ★ Publishers Weekly
- ★ Kirkus Reviews
- ★ School Library Journal



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Illustration copyright © 2018 by Lauren Castillo

est title, *Ensnared in the Wolf's Lair*, applies this lens to Nazi Germany. In 2017, the Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C., honored the body of Bausum's work with its venerable Nonfiction Award.

**MELANIE BENJAMIN** is the author of the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling historical novels *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*, *The Aviator's Wife*, and *Mistress of the Ritz*. Her latest, *The Children's Blizzard*, is the 2021 One Book South Dakota, offering a deeply researched and fictionalized take on the deadly storm that swept through Dakota Territory in January 1888. An Indiana native, Benjamin lives on the East Coast and puts her theatrical training to use at literary events.



**BARON R. BIRTCHER** is the author of the hardboiled Mike Travis series (*Roadhouse Blues*, *Ruby Tuesday*, *Angels Fall*, and *Hard Latitudes*), the award-winning Ty Dawson series (*South California Purples* and *Fistful Of Rain*), and the critically-lauded stand-alone, *Rain Dogs*. His honors include the 2018 Killer Nashville Readers' Choice Award and five Silver Falchion Awards. Birtcher has worked as a professional musician, guitarist, singer, and songwriter and founded an independent record label.

**JIM BORGMAN** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and the co-creator (with Jerry Scott) of the comic strip *Zits*, about 16-year-old Jeremy Duncan, which appears in about 1,500 newspapers worldwide. Born in Cincinnati, Borgman graduated from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he became a staff artist and cartoonist for the *Kenyon Collegian*. He went on to work for *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, with his editorial cartoons syndicated first by King Features and now by Universal Press Syndicate.



**JEANNE BOWMAN** has illustrated *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde and *Charlie Russell and the Gnomes of Bull Head Lodge* by Emily Crawford Wilson. She studied painting, earning a bachelor's in art from Rocky Mountain College in 2010. Primarily a watercolor artist, Bowman is branching out into cut paper, digital, and cyanotype art. Her work has been exhibited at galleries, libraries, and cultural centers in Montana and New Mexico, among others.



**SANDRA BRANNAN** sets some of her heart-pounding Liv Bergen Mysteries in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where she lives and works in the family mining business. Her intrepid protagonist has been described as "the love child of Sue Grafton's Kinsey Milhone and Lee Child's Jack Reacher," and her books have been called "unputdownable" by the Red-Headed Blogger and "good and scary" by *Library Journal*.

**JESSICA BRUDER** reports on social injustice, subcultures, and the dark underbelly of American capitalism. Her latest book, *Nomadland*, was hailed as a feat of immersive journalism and inspired the Oscar-winning film starring Frances McDormand and directed by Chloé Zhou. Bruder teaches narrative storytelling at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. A longtime contributor to *The New York Times*, she was the founding columnist behind *Start*, a blog profiling socially innovative startups.

**MARC CAMERON** is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling Jericho Quinn thrillers, the Deputy U.S. Marshal Arliss Cutter crime series, and since 2016 the continued Tom Clancy Jack Ryan/Campus Thriller series. A retired Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal, Cameron holds a second-degree black belt in Jujitsu and is



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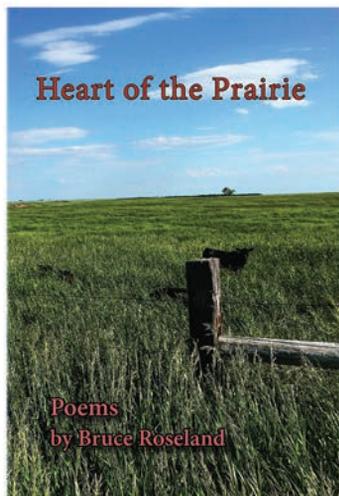
Edited by Nancy Plain  
and Rocky Gibbons

**WHY  
COWS  
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from the  
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for more information.

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**HEART OF THE PRAIRIE**

Short stories on the beauty and struggles of life on South Dakota's prairie by Wrangler Award winning poet & rancher, Bruce Roseland. Roseland offers an insider's plea to preserve the prairie for generations to come.

Books: Amazon.com

Readings: bbroseland@venturecomm.net



**SDSU'S ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OFFERS** an opportunity to earn a Master of Arts degree in English online. The only offering of its kind in South Dakota, this program provides a great option for teachers, writers, and lifelong learners to get a graduate degree.

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a law enforcement scuba diver and man-tracking instructor. He hails from Texas and now lives with his wife in Alaska.

**LAUREN CASTILLO** has illustrated many books for children, including *Happy Like Soccer* by Maribeth Boelts, *Yard Sale* by Eve Bunting, and the 2021 Young Readers One Book, *Imagine/Imagina* by Juan Felipe Herrera. She is also the author-illustrator of the Caldecott Honor-winning book *Nana in the City*. Castillo studied illustration at the Maryland Institute College of Art and received her MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She lives in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



**ANN CHARLES**, a *USA Today* bestselling author, writes spicy fiction full of mystery, comedy, adventure, suspense, romance, and supernatural mayhem. A member of Sisters in Crime and Western Writers of America, she is currently juggling five different ongoing series and contemplat-



ing a sixth. When she's not dabbling in fiction, she's arm wrestling with her two kids, attempting to seduce her husband, and arguing with her sassy cats.

**MARJ CHARLIER** is a former *Wall Street Journal* reporter and the author of 12 novels and three novellas. Her first historical novel, *The Rebel Nun*, set in sixth-century Gaul, was published in March 2021 as a BuzzFeed "most anticipated novel." Her second historical novel, *The Candlemaker's Woman*, comes out in 2022. Charlier teaches writing and publishing workshops throughout Southern California and was selected for residency at the Dorland Mountain Arts Colony this past spring.

**SHARON (GRENZ) CHMIELARZ** was born and raised in Moberidge, South Dakota, attended two years at Sioux Falls (then)



College, and graduated with degrees in German, French, Education, and English from the University of Minnesota, where she fell in love with poetry. She has published 13 books of poetry

and three children's picture books. In May the South Dakota State Poetry Society named Chmielarz the 2021 Poet of Merit.

**VIRGINIA DRIVING HAWK SNEVE**, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, has published 27 books for all ages, as well as short stories, articles, and poems. A retired K-12 and college educator, she received the National Humanities Medal in 2000 and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from South Dakota State University in 2008. Sneve's recent work includes a reissue of her children's classic, *The Christmas Coat*, and a biography of her brother, *Too Strong to Be Broken*.

**CHRIS ENSS** is a *New York Times* bestselling author with more than 40 books about the Old West. She has profiled famous frontier figures, as well as ordinary schoolmarms, gold miners, madams and mail-order brides. For her preservation of history, Enss has earned a Will Rogers Medallion, an Elmer Kelton Award, a Spirit of the West Alive Award and the Nevada County Historical Society's Citizen of the Year Award.

**RICHARD W. ETULAIN** is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of New Mexico, where he also served as editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review* and director of the Center for the Ameri-



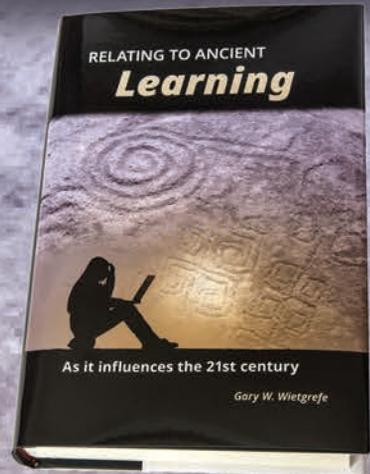
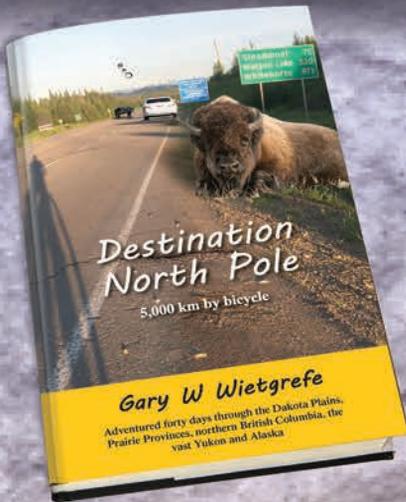
can West. He has written or edited 60 books, most recently *Abraham Lincoln: A Western Legacy*. Etulain served as president of

both the Western Literature and Western History associations. He has earned numerous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination for *The American West: A Twentieth-Century History*.

**WAYNE FANEUST** has a penchant for writing about the dark side of history and advocating ardently for the underdog. He was born in Sioux Falls and raised in rural South Dakota and Iowa. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps and performing in rock bands in California, Faneust earned a BA in history from UCLA and a JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Now retired from practicing law, he has written 11 nonfiction books.

# AWARD WINNING SOUTH DAKOTA AUTHOR

Intriguing author and international researcher, Gary Wietgrefe, identified the mysterious agent changing culture, predicted how learning will influence the 21st century, and traveled from Pierre to North Pole, AK by bicycle at age 65. Timeless books for all ages!



**Humor**  
**History**  
**Mystery**  
**Education**  
**Nature**  
**Travel**



## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT WIETGREFE'S BOOKS

Dr. Larry P. Arnn, President, Hillsdale College:  
"Your goal to understand modern learning and culture in the context of the ancients is noble indeed. I was especially pleased to see that you cite *Plato's Republic in Learning*. Perhaps you would be interested in reading his *Meno*, a lesser-known dialogue in which he offers an intriguing theory of learning. Your account and his seem to share many important tenets. Thank you for your diligence. Your books offer a great testament to your love for truth. I wish you every success."

Grady Harp, San Francisco Review of Books Hall of Fame  
Top 100 Reviewer – *five of five stars*

"The aging mind tampers with memory, shrouding elements of yesterday to alter perception ... In this superb book [Culture] Gary Wietgrefe explores this phenomenon scientifically and philosophically ... This is one of the most satisfying reading experiences around – take advantage of retrospection to put the world in perspective and become enriched! Very highly recommended."

**AWARDS:** SD State Fair, Pinnacle Award, and ManyBooks author of the day

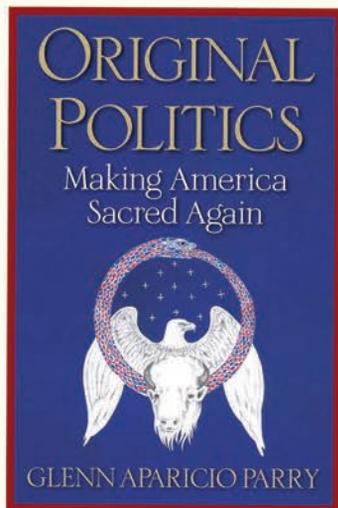
Find Gary Wietgrefe's books (available in hardcover, paperback and e-books) at the South Dakota Festival of Books, local bookstores, online retailers, [RelatingtoAncients.com](http://RelatingtoAncients.com) or by calling **800-431-1579**. Gift wrapping available.



**BOOK SIGNING**  
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**Glenn Aparicio Parry, PhD**

*Original Politics: Making America Sacred Again*

**Saturday, October 2**  
Exhibition Hall, Deadwood Mountain  
Grand, Deadwood, SD,  
10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm



Dr. Parry's appearances at the Festival of Books are supported by sponsors of the ...  
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**LARISSA FASTHORSE** (Sicangu Lakota Nation) is a 2020 MacArthur Fellow, award-winning writer/choreographer, and co-founder of Indigenous Direction, the nation's leading consulting company for Indigenous arts and audiences,



which produced the first nationally-televised land acknowledgement for the 2020 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Her satirical comedy *The Thanksgiving Play* was named one of the top 10 most produced plays in America, making her the first Native playwright on that list. FastHorse lives in Los Angeles with her husband, sculptor Edd Hogan.

**PHILIP S. HALL** is a psychologist and fourth-generation South Dakotan who has spent many hours exploring the White River Badlands, mostly on horseback, and interviewing "old-timers" living there. These experiences gave rise to three books about the area's history: *To Have This Land*, *Reflections of the Badlands*, and, with Mary Solon Lewis, *From Wounded Knee to the Gallows: The Life and Trials of Lakota Chief Two Sticks*.

**COLIN D. HALLORAN** is a U.S. Army veteran who documented his combat experiences in Afghanistan in his memoir



in-verse *Shortly Thereafter*, which won the 2012 Main Street Rag Poetry Books Award and was named a Massachusetts Must-Read Book. He has also published the poetry collections *Icarian Flux* and *American Etiquette*, along with many essays and short stories. When not writing, Halloran leads workshops that seek to promote personal and international healing and reconciliation through writing and the arts.

**MARY WOSTER HAUG** is the author of *Out of Loneliness: A Murder and Memoir* and *Daughters of the Grasslands*. She has been published in several anthologies and journals, and has edited a collec-

tion of her brothers' columns entitled *The Woster Brothers' Brand: Episodes Out of a Shared Inheritance*. Haug has been twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize and is a recipient of the Spirit of Dakota award. She currently lives in Minneapolis.

**PATRICK HICKS** is the author of *The Commandant of Lubizec*, *Adoptable, Library of the Mind*, and *The Collector of Names*, among others. A former Visiting Fellow at Oxford, he is the Writer-in-Residence at Augustana University and a faculty member in the MFA Program at Sierra Nevada University. He hosts the popular radio show, *Poetry from Studio 47*, which airs on NPR affiliates. His latest novel is *In the Shadow of Dora*.

**ALLYSON HOBBS** is Associate Professor of American History, Director of African and African American Studies, and Kleinheinz Family University Fellow in Undergraduate Education at Stanford University. A contributing writer for *NewYorker.com*, she has received the Freedom Fighter Award from the Silicon Valley chapter of the NAACP and served on the jury for the Pulitzer Prize in History. Her award-winning first book, *A Chosen Exile*, examines the phenomenon of racial passing in the United States.



**JOSEPH HOLT** is author of the story collection *Golden Heart Parade*. He grew up in Aberdeen and studied at the University of South Dakota and the University of Southern Mississippi. Holt has taught at



the University of Minnesota and South Dakota State University, and he now serves on the MFA faculty at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. His writing has appeared in *The Sun* and *Prairie Schooner* and has received an AWP Intro Journals Award.

**K.J. HOWE** is the executive director of the International Thriller Writers and an

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internationally bestselling author. She has spent the last six years immersed in the shadowy world of kidnap and ransom to create *The Freedom Broker* series, which showcases elite kidnap negotiator Thea Paris. Howe holds a master's degree in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University and lives in Toronto, Canada, but her passion is traveling the world in search of adventure.



**JOSHILYN JACKSON** is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of 10 books, including *Mother May I*, *The Almost Sisters*, and *Never Have I Ever*. Her work has been translated into more than a dozen languages, and she is also an award-winning audiobook narrator. Jackson writes page-turners that revolve around women's issues and faith and justice issues. She lives in Decatur, Georgia, with her family.



**J.A. JANCE** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Ali Reynolds series, the J.P. Beaumont series, and the Joanna Brady series, as well as five interrelated Southwestern thrillers featuring the Walker family. When not writing, she advocates for causes such as the American Cancer Society, Gilda's Club, the Humane Society, the YMCA, and the Girl Scouts. Born in South Dakota and brought up in Arizona, Jance lives with her husband in Seattle and Tucson.

**MARC C. JOHNSON**, a South Dakota State University graduate, has worked as a broadcast journalist, primarily with Idaho Public Television, and as a communication and crisis management consultant. He is a regular columnist for the *Lewiston Tribune* and a frequent contributor to the blog Many Things Considered. Johnson's latest book, *Tuesday Night Massacre*, explores how independent expenditure campaigns helped upend American politics after



## VIRTUAL PRESENTER



**JUAN FELIPE HERRERA** is a poet, performance artist, and activist. The son of migrant farmworkers, he was the U.S. Poet Laureate from 2015–2017. He has published more than a dozen collections of poetry and is the author-illustrator of *Jabberwalking* and the author of the 2021 Young Readers One Book, *Imagine/Imagina*. He lives in Fresno, California and will appear via a recorded message that will be posted on the Festival website and shared with third-graders around the state.

## PUBLISHING BOOKS OF ENDURING WORTH

### No Justice for Agnes: The Strange Death of Agnes Polreis and the Sensational South Dakota Murder Trials of Emma Kaufmann

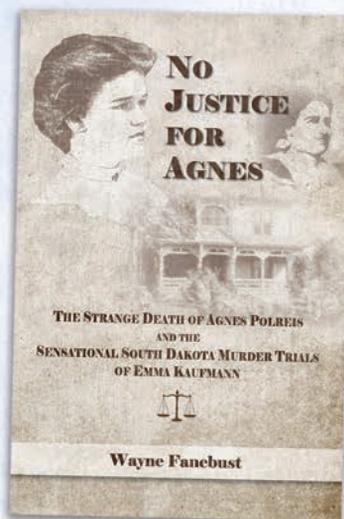
by Wayne Fanebust

For three years, beginning in 1906, the mysterious death of servant girl Agnes Polreis, followed by the trials of Emma Kaufmann, gripped the nation's attention. Lurid reports of abuse and even torture in the heartland appeared with regularity in newspapers from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

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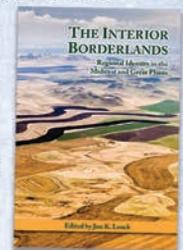
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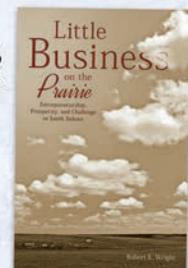


### Little Business on the Prairie: Entrepreneurship, Prosperity, and Challenge in South Dakota

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**RAHELE MEGOSHA** is the 2021 Poetry Out Loud National Champion. The daughter of an Ethiopian immigrant, she grew up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, watching her three older siblings perform and compete, which sparked her interest in speech, music, and the arts. A recent graduate of Washington High School, Megosha is studying biochemistry at Columbia University and exploring the art world in New York City.

Thurs, Sept. 23,  
7 p.m. CT/6 p.m. MT

1980, and his book *Political Hell-Raiser* was a Western Writers of America Spur Award finalist.

**STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Only Good Indians*, *My Heart Is a Chainsaw*, *Memorial Ride*, and nearly 30 other books. He has received an NEA fellowship, a Texas Institute of Letters Award for Fiction, a *Los Angeles Times* Ray Bradbury Award, an Independent Publishers Award for Multicultural Fiction, a Bram Stoker Award, and four This is Horror Awards. An enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, Jones lives and teaches in Boulder, Colorado.

**DAPHNE KALMAR** is the author of *Stealing Mt. Rushmore*, a 2020 Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, and *A*



*Stitch in Time*, chosen by Bookpage and NPR as a best book of 2018. As an elementary and middle-school teacher for over 20 years, exploring the natural world with kids was her

passion —she owned 75 pairs of rubber boots so she could outfit each student for expeditions to local creeks and ponds.

**NANCY TYSTAD KOUPAL** recently retired as founding director of the South Dakota Historical Society Press and now



serves as director and editor-in-chief of the Pioneer Girl Project. She worked with renowned Wilder scholars to compile the anthology *Pioneer Girl Perspectives: Exploring Laura Ingalls Wilder* and is lead editor of Wilder's *Pioneer Girl: The Revised Texts*. Koupal's other publications include *Our Landlady*, an annotated collection of L. Frank Baum's satirical newspaper columns.

**WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER** has logged timber, worked construction, done freelance journalism, and researched child development. He now makes his living as the *New York Times* best-



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selling author of the award-winning Cork O'Connor mystery series, set in the Minnesota Northwoods. Krueger's stand-alone novel, *Ordinary Grace*, received the Edgar Award and was named the 2015 One Book South Dakota. Krueger lives with his wife in St. Paul, a city he dearly loves.

**DENISE K. LAJMODIERE** is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She spent 44 years as an educator, retiring as Associate Professor from the School of Education at North Dakota



State University in Fargo. Lajmodiere co-founded the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and has published poetry, academic work, and a children's book, *Josie Dances*. A traditional jingle dress dancer and Ojibwe birch bark biting artist, she lives on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation.

**LORNA LANDVIK** is the author of 12 novels, including the best-selling *Patty Jane's House of Curl*, *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons*, and *Oh My Stars*, which has been made into a short "proof of concept" film. Her latest book, *Chronicles of a Radical Hag (with Recipes)* has just been released in paperback. Also an actor, Landvik regularly performs a one-woman, all-improvised show called *Party in the Rec Room*.

**JON K. LAUCK** is the author of several books, including *The Lost Region: Toward a Revival of Midwestern History* and *From Warm Center to Ragged Edge: The Erosion of Midwestern Regionalism, 1920-1965*. He earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Iowa and his law degree from the University of Minnesota. Lauck currently serves as adjunct professor of history and political science at the University of South Dakota and as Editor-in-Chief of *Middle West Review*.

**ARIEL LAWHON** is a critically acclaimed, bestselling author of historical fiction books, including *I Was Anastasia* and *Code*



*Name Hélène*. Her novels have been translated into numerous languages and have been Library Reads, One Book One County, Indie Next, Costco, Amazon

Spotlight, and Book of the Month Club selections. Lawhon lives in the rolling hills outside Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and four sons. She splits her time between the grocery store and the baseball field.

**MARY SOLON LEWIS** grew up on a ranch between the Badlands and the Pine Ridge Reservation. She spent much of her adulthood in Omaha, rearing six children, then returned to South Dakota to assist in publishing the weekly newspaper at Martin. Lewis now lives in Wasta, near the Cheyenne River, researching and writing about local history. Her most recent titles are *Squatters, Homesteaders and Survivors in South Dakota's Badlands* and *From Wounded Knee to the Gallows*.



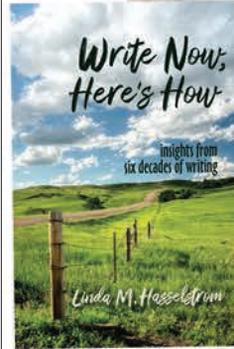
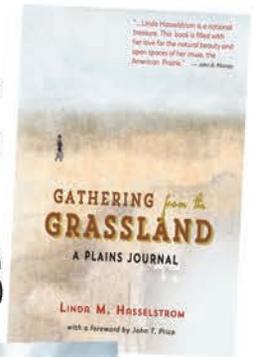
**LAYLI LONG SOLDIER** holds a bachelor's from the Institute of American Indian Arts and an MFA from Bard College. Her full-length poetry collection, *Whereas*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award and

was a finalist for the National Book Award. Long Soldier has received a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a Native Arts and Cultures Foundation National Artist Fellowship, and a Whiting Award. A citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation, she lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

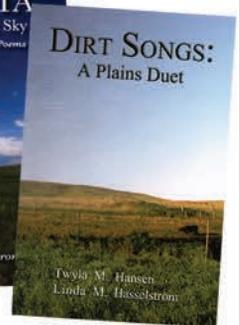
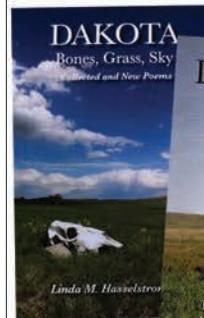


**KEVIN NOBLE MAILLARD**, a professor and journalist, lives with his family on the 13th floor of a 115-year-old bank in Manhattan. A regular writer for the *New York Times*, he has interviewed politicians, writers, tribal leaders, and movie stars. His children's book *Fry Bread* won the 2020 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal and was a 2020 American Indian Youth Litera-

**Gathering from the Grassland A Plains Journal**  
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50 poems each by Hasselstrom and Twyla M. Hansen \$16.00 (2011, The Backwaters Press)

Linda M. Hasselstrom, SD Poet of Merit for 2020, is the resident writer and instructor at Windbreak House Writing Retreats, established on her ranch in 1996.



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## PRESENTERS

ture Picture Book Honor Winner. Originally from Oklahoma, Maillard is a member of the Seminole Nation, Mekuskukey Band.

**BILL MARKLEY**'s latest book, *Geronimo and Sitting Bull*, is the third in the *Legendary West* series. He has published many nonfiction books — including *Dakota Epic*, a journal he kept while working on *Dances with Wolves* — and a historical novel, *Deadwood Dead Men*. A member of Western Writers of America, Markley writes for *True West*, *Wild West*, and *Roundup* magazines. His upcoming books are *Standoff at High Noon* and *Wild Bill and Buffalo Bill*.



**JOSEPH M. MARSHALL III** is a teacher, historian, writer, storyteller, and Lakota craftsman. Raised by his maternal grandparents in a traditional household on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation, he is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota tribe. Marshall published his first book in 1991 and has written 17 more

since, mostly nonfiction focusing on Lakota history, issues, and culture. He is an adjunct instructor at Sinte Gleska University and a board member of Lakota Youth Development.

**KENT MEYERS** has written a memoir, a book of short fiction, and three novels, including the 2005 One Book South Dakota, *The Work of Wolves*. His honors include a Society of Midland Authors Award and a High Plains Book Award, and two of his novels have been chosen as *New York Times* Notable Books. Meyers lives in Spearfish, South Dakota, and teaches in Pacific Lutheran University's low-residency MFA program, the Rainier Writing Workshop.



**LISA NAPOLI** has worked in print, radio, TV and online journalism at the *New York Times*, *Marketplace*, MSNBC, and KCRW. Her latest book, *Susan, Linda, Nina & Cookie*, relates the history of NPR's "Founding Mothers." Napoli has published three pre-

vious books, *Radio Shangri-La*, *Ray & Joan*, and *Up All Night: Ted Turner, CNN, and the Birth of 24-Hour News*. Born and raised in Brooklyn, she now lives in Los Angeles.

**S.D. NELSON** is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe who also has Norse ancestors. He has written and illustrated many children's and YA books, including *Crazy Horse and Custer: Born Enemies*, *Black Elk's Vision*, and *Buffalo Bird Girl*. He has received the American Indian Library Association Honor Book Award and the Western Writers of America Spur Award, among others. Nelson brushes, sponges, splatters and sprays acrylic paint for a contemporary interpretation of traditional Lakota imagery.

**KENT NERBURN** has written 16 books, including the 2019 One Book South Dakota, *Neither Wolf nor Dog*. He has appeared on C-SPAN, The History Channel and PBS, where his work was featured in the documentary *Sculpting in Wood and Words*.



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Nerburn believes that Native peoples, as the elder cultures on this land, have much to teach us all, and that we must learn from them to develop an authentic American spirituality and a true understanding of this land.

**LYDIA NETZER** is the author of *Shine Shine Shine*, a *New York Times* Notable Book and Target Book Club Pick, and *How to Tell Toledo from the Night Sky*. Her books have been nominated for the People's Choice Award from the Library of Virginia and shortlisted for the *LA Times* Book Prize in Fiction. Netzer lives in Norfolk, Virginia,



teaching writing workshops at The Muse Writers Center, literary and gaming seminars for children, and college classes at Old Dominion University.

**GLENN APARICIO PARRY** is the author of the Nautilus Award-winning book, *Original Thinking: A Radical Revisioning of Time, Humanity, and Nature*, and an educator, ecopsychologist, and political phi-



losopher whose passion is to reform thinking and society into a coherent, cohesive whole. The founder and past president of the SEED Institute, Parry is currently the director of a grassroots think tank, the Circle for Original Thinking. His latest book is *Original Politics: Making America Sacred Again*.

**JIM REESE** is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota. He has spoken at venues from the Library of Congress to San Quentin Prison. Reese's awards include a First Place Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award and a Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of his contributions to the Education Department at Federal Prison Camp Yankton. His fourth poetry collection, *Dancing Room Only*, is coming this year.



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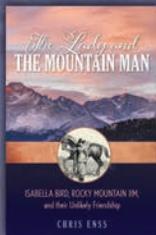
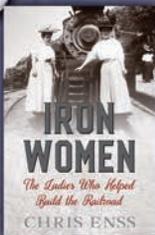


Darren Vigil Gray

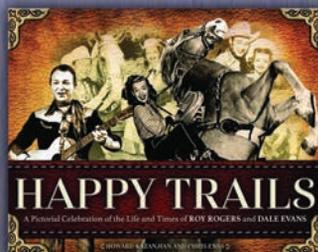
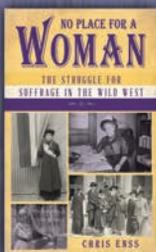
**NAVARRE SCOTT MOMADAY** is a Kiowa novelist, short story writer, children's book author, essayist, playwright, and poet. His novel *House Made of Dawn* won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1969 and is considered the first major work of the Native American Renaissance. His follow-up work, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, blended folklore with memoir.

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**RICHARD VAN CAMP** is a proud Tlicho Dene from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Canada. He is the author of 26 books in 26 years in multiple genres for all ages. His novel, *The Lesser Blessed*, is now a feature film with First Generation Films. His graphic novel, *A Blanket of Butterflies* (with Scott Henderson), was nominated for an Eisner Award.

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 Also featuring **JACE DECORY, LIZ FAYER & JOANNA JONES.**

**BRUCE ROSELAND** is a fourth-generation cattleman who grew up on — and still works — a ranch in north central South Dakota. His poetry collections include *The Last Buffalo* (2007 Wrangler Award), *A Prairie Prayer* (2009 Will Rogers Medallion Award), *Cowman* (2019 Will Rogers Medallion Award), and 2021's *Heart of the Prairie*. Roseland holds a master's degree in sociology from the University of North Dakota and serves as South Dakota State Poetry Society president and a South Dakota Humanities Council scholar.

**MOLLY P. ROZUM** is the author of *Grasslands Grown* and the co-editor of *Equality at the Ballot Box*. She is Associate Professor and Ronald R. Nelson Chair of Great Plains and South Dakota History at the University of South Dakota. A Mitchell, South Dakota native, Rozum earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's and doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**JAMES SOLHEIM** has written books that explore the wackiest foods on Earth and explain Santa's sleigh technology. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library gave away nearly half a million of his books free to preschoolers, and *The Wall Street Journal* and PBS included his first book in their lists of best books for getting boys to read. Solheim's latest book, *Grandmas Are Greater Than Great*, explores a family's history through 10 generations of grandmotherly love.



**CLAY STAFFORD** is a bestselling and award-winning author, poet, screenwriter, and playwright; publisher; film and television producer, director, showrunner, and actor; book, film, and stage reviewer, educator, and public speaker. His books have sold 4 million copies and been distributed in 16 languages. He is CEO of American Blackguard Entertainment and Clay



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Stafford Books, as well as founder of the Killer Nashville International Writers' Conference. Stafford is Writer in Residence at Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee.

**CHRISTINE STEWART-NUÑEZ**, South Dakota's Poet Laureate, is the author and editor of several books of poetry, including *The Poet & The Architect*, *South Dakota in Poems: An Anthology*, *Untrussed*, and *Bluewords Greening*, winner of the 2018 Whirling Prize. As a professor at South Dakota State University in Brookings, her teaching, creative work, and service has earned accolades, including the Dr. April Brooks Woman of Distinction Award (2020) and the Outstanding Experiential Learning Educator Award (2019).



**FAITH SULLIVAN** is the author of many novels, including *Gardenias*, *The Cape Ann*, *What a Woman Must Do*, and, most recently, *Ruby & Roland*. A demon gardener, flea marketer, and feeder of birds, she is also an indefatigable champion of literary culture and her fellow writers. Born and raised in southern Minnesota, she spent more than 20 years in New York and Los Angeles, but now lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Dan.



**LAUREN TARSHIS** writes children's books, including the *New York Times* best-selling "I Survived" series, which retells historical disasters from the perspective of a boy or girl who lived to tell the tale. She is also the author of *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree*, a Golden Kite Honor Book and Oprah Book Club pick. As Senior Vice President Editor-in-Chief & Publisher, Classroom Magazine Division at Scholastic, Inc., Tarshis oversees 21 classroom magazines, reaching one in three American students.

**KATHERINE WILTENBURG TODRYS** is a lawyer specializing in health and human rights research and advocacy. A former researcher with Human Rights Watch, she has reported on health conditions in African prisons, access to HIV treatment for migrants, and police abuses against

sex workers in New York City. Her first book, *Black Snake*, considers the health impacts of fracking in the Bakken and tells the story of four Indigenous leaders in their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline.



**CRAIG VOLK** received degrees from the University of South Dakota and the Yale School of Drama. His stage plays have been selected three times for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, and he won the 2007 PEN-USA award for best drama. Volk was a staff writer on the Emmy-winning CBS series *Northern Exposure* and has taught at UC-Davis, UCLA, and CU-Denver. He is working on a biography of noted Black Hills artist, and his good pard, Dick Termes.



**CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK** is a journalist, piano player, and poet, whose 2020 book, *Rattlesnake Summer*, features a poem for every county in South Dakota. He contributes music and free verse to a traveling radio program, *The Rock Garden Tour*, and his band, The Golden Bubbles, will release their third album later this year. Vondracek holds degrees in literature and journalism from the University of South Dakota and in creative writing from Hamline University in St. Paul.

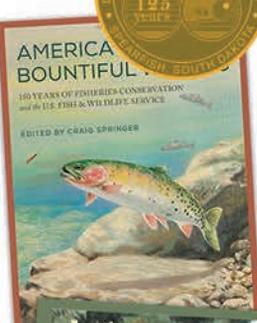
**DAVID HESKA WANBLI WEIDEN**, an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Nation, is the author of the novel *Winter Counts*, nominated for the Edgar Award, Anthony Award, Barry Award, Thriller Award, and Hammett Prize. The book won the Lefty Award for Best Debut Mystery Novel and the Spur Award for Best Contemporary Novel. Weiden has also written *Spotted Tail*, a biography for middle-graders. He lives in Denver with his family.



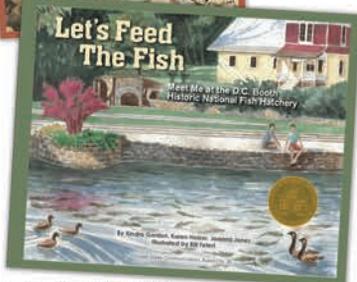
**LYDIA WHIRLWIND SOLDIER**, born on the Rosebud Reservation, is a founding member of the Oak Lake Tribal Writers Society. A graduate of Sinte Gleska University and Pennsylvania State University, she is best known for her poetry, but is also a

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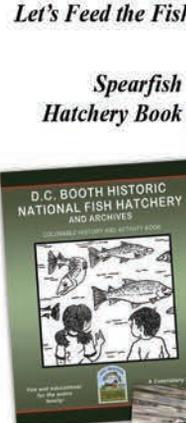




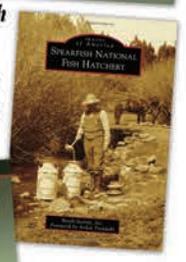
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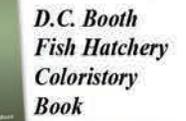
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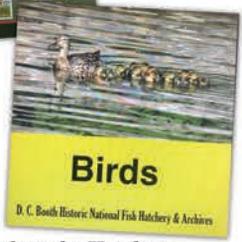
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nonfiction writer, teacher, business owner, and Native craftswoman. Whirlwind Soldier received the 2015 South Dakota Living Indian Treasure Award in recognition of her preservation of traditional art forms.

**DIANE WILSON** is a writer, speaker, and educator who has published two award-winning nonfiction books, numerous essays, the children's book *Ella Cara Deloria: Dakota Language Protector*, and, most recently, the novel *The Seed Keeper*. She has received a Bush Foundation Fellowship and honors from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, and the East Central Regional Arts Council. A Mdewakanton descendant enrolled on the Rosebud Reservation, Wilson is executive director of the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance.



**EMILY CRAWFORD WILSON** is the curator of art at the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas, and the former senior curator at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana. She holds a master's degree in art history from Indiana University. Wilson has curated exhibitions and contributed essays to catalogues on the art of the American West. She lives in Texas with her daughter and enjoys being outdoors and hiking in national parks.

**NORMA WILSON** was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, where she began writing poetry. In 1978 she completed a doctorate in English at the University of Okla-



homa; published her first book, *Wild Iris*; and joined the English faculty at the University of South Dakota, where she taught until 2005. Since retirement

Wilson has authored five books, most recently *Continuity*. She and her husband, the writer Jerry Wilson, live on a prairie bluff near Vermillion, South Dakota.

**STEVEN WINGATE** is the author of the novels *The Leave-Takers* and *Of Fathers and Fire* and the short story collection *Wifeshopping*, which won the Bakeless Prize in Fiction from Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. His experimental work includes the prose poem collection *Thirty-One Octets* and the digital interactive memoir *daddy labyrinth*. Wingate has taught at the University of Colorado and the College of the Holy Cross, and he is now associate professor of English at South Dakota State University.



**DAVID WOLFF** is Professor Emeritus at Black Hills State University, where he specialized in South Dakota and Black Hills history. He has written three books: *Industrializing the Rockies*, *Seth Bullock: Black Hills Lawman*, and *The Savior of Deadwood*. Wolff serves on the Board of Trustees for the South Dakota State Historical Society and chairs the Adams Museum & House Board of Directors. His honors include the Mining History Association's Rodman Paul Award for Outstanding Contributions to Mining History.



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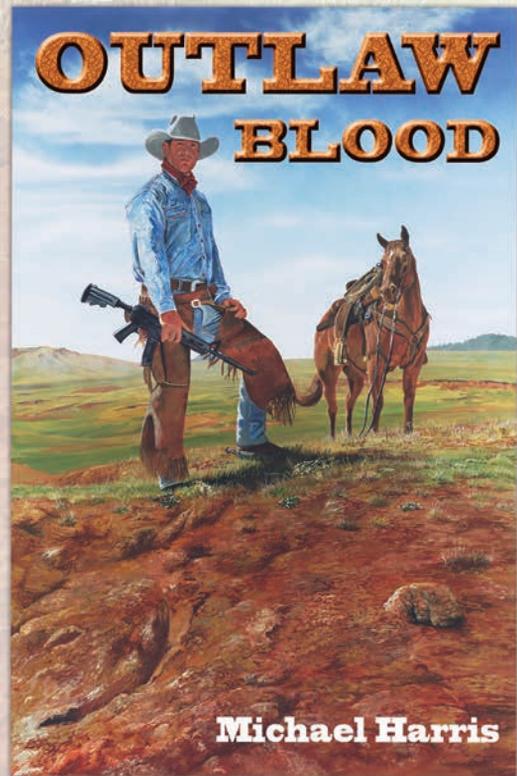
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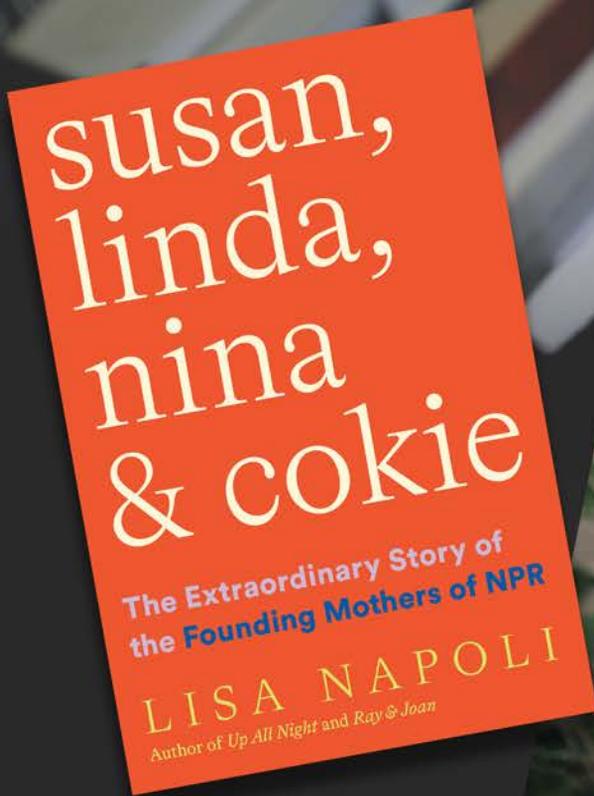
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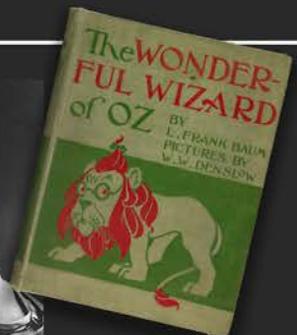
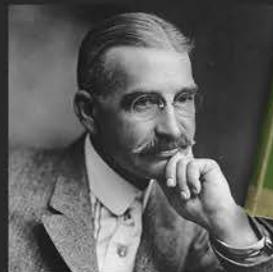
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