Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District

# Literary Awards & Luncheon



## About the 2027 Literary Awards

Established in 1955, the Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District has supported our community's libraries for more than 70 years. Through used book sales, memberships, donations and special events, Friends has contributed more than $1.9 million to PPLD since 2000.

The Literary Awards are Friends' signature fundraising event, celebrating outstanding voices of the West and Southwest while supporting library programs, staff and spaces.

The nationally recognized Frank Waters Award honors a significant body of work celebrating the cultures, spirit, people and landscape of the West and Southwest. The Golden Quill Award recognizes outstanding work in writing, the arts, photography or publishing by creators from El Paso or Teller counties.

### 2027 honorees:

- Gretel Ehrlich (Frank Waters Award)
- John E. Stith (Golden Quill Award)

## Why support?

This is Friends' signature fundraising luncheon. Net proceeds from the Literary Awards support PPLD programs, staff and spaces.

A keynote by Gretel Ehrlich is a rare opportunity to hear a Whiting Award winner who has also received two PEN Awards and National Geographic Society grants.

## When and where?

Saturday, June 5, 2027 | 11:30 a.m.
DoubleTree by Hilton
1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

More than 150 Friends members, community leaders and library supporters traditionally attend.

Tickets are $70 per person.

## Questions?

Sue Gilbert
FriendsFinance@ppld.org | (505) 490-8750

# Literary Awards & Luncheon

2027
GOLDEN QUILL
HONOREE



**John E. Stith** is the author of ten novels, including *Redshift Rendezvous*, a Nebula Award nominee, and *Manhattan Transfer*, a Hugo Award Honorable Mention. Several of his works with Ace Books and Tor Books have been bought by the Science Fiction Book Club, optioned for film, and translated into numerous languages. He has optioned several feature-film screenplays, and has sold to television (*Star Trek*).

His backlist has been re-released in trade paperback and all major ebook formats from ReAnimus Press.

His 2018 novel *Pushback*, a mystery-suspense title published by ReAnimus Press and Audible, was a finalist for the Daphne du Maurier Award for Excellence in Mystery/Suspense and the Colorado Authors' League Award. *Tiny Time Machine: The Complete Trilogy* was published in October 2024, followed by his latest novel, *Disavowed*, in December 2024, both from Amazing Stories. *Manhattan Transfer* is in development for television.

Stith lives in Colorado Springs and he spent most of his pre-college years in Alamogordo, New Mexico, (near the site of the first atomic bomb test). He received a B.A. in physics at the University of Minnesota. After service as an Air Force officer, which allowed him to work in the NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex near Colorado Springs, and took him to Alaska for a year, he entered private industry at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

In the 1970s he returned to Colorado Springs, and his work included several software engineering and management positions. In 1977 he began writing nonfiction, and in 1978 he began writing fiction regularly. "Stith" rhymes with "Smith." He is married to Karen Flitton Stith.

Longer Bio at www.neverend.com/biography.

The Golden Quill Award recognizes outstanding work in writing, the arts, photography or publishing by creators from El Paso or Teller counties. Presented as part of the Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District Literary Awards, it celebrates the exceptional talent, creativity and cultural contributions found within our local community.

# Literary Awards & Luncheon

## 2027 FRANK WATERS HONOREE



**Gretel Ehrlich** is one of the preeminent and most admired observers of the natural world. Her life and work have been shaped by the American West and circumpolar travel in the high Arctic. She is the author of eleven books of nonfiction, including *Unsolaced*, *The Solace of Open Spaces*, *Facing the Wave*, *In the Empire of Ice*, *The Future of Ice*, *This Cold Heaven*, *John Muir: Nature's Visionary*, *Cowboy Island*, *Questions of Heaven*, *A Match to the Heart*, and *Islands, the Universe, Home.*

She is also the author of four works of fiction—*Heart Mountain*, *Drinking Dry Clouds*, *A Blizzard Year*, and the forthcoming *Gin Chow's Book of Predictions*—as well as three chapbooks of poetry: *Arctic Heart*, *To Touch the Water*, and *Geode Rock Body*.

Ehrlich's books have received the PEN West Award for Nonfiction, the PEN New England Henry David Thoreau Award for Nature Writing, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award for Distinguished Prose, and a Whiting Award. She has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Facing the Wave was longlisted for a National Book Award in 2013.

She received three *National Geographic* Expedition Grants for travel in the high Arctic and a 2015 Robert Rauschenberg Residency for a performance piece about climate change. She collaborated with artist Mel Chin on theatre events for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference and received a Bellagio Fellowship with theatre director Martha Clarke. She has appeared on *PBS NewsHour*, *Ken Burns's The National Parks*, and the *Discovery Channel*.

Her essays have appeared in *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Orion*, *Aperture*, *Outside*, *Time*, and *Life*, and in anthologies including *Best Essays of the Century*. She has reported from Africa, the Arctic, Kosovo, and Greenland for public radio, and has contributed to major international arts and climate projects. Ehrlich is a resident of Wyoming, Montana, and Hawai'i.

The Frank Waters Award honors a significant body of work celebrating the cultures, spirit, people and landscape of the West and Southwest. Presented by the Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District, it recognizes writers whose work deepens our understanding of the region and its enduring stories.

# Literary Awards & Luncheon

## 2027 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Gold Sponsor
**$2,000**

- Full-page program advertisement
- Four event tickets
- Logo on Friends website
- Logo on event screen
- Recognition at the event
- Listed in email communications
- Newsletter acknowledgement
- Display space at event
- Logo on table tents

### Silver Sponsor
**$1,000**

- Half-page program advertisement
- Two event tickets
- Logo on Friends website
- Logo on event screen
- Recognition at the event
- Newsletter acknowledgement
- Display space at event
- Logo on table tents

### Bronze Sponsor
**$500**

- Quarter-page program advertisement
- One event ticket
- Logo on Friends website
- Logo on event screen
- Recognition at the event
- Newsletter acknowledgement
- Logo on table tents

### Table Sponsor
**$530**

- One table for eight guests
- Recognition at the event

### Friends of PPLD Community Impact

- Net proceeds from the Literary Awards support PPLD programs, staff and spaces.
- $167,362 contributed to PPLD programs and services in 2025
- 6,526 Winter Adult Reading registrations in 2026
- 388 Mountain of Authors attendees and 84 participating authors
- 19 Library Speaker Consortium programs reaching 1,611 attendees
- More than $1.9 million contributed to PPLD since 2000

## Ready to Sponsor?

Complete the form below. For payment arrangements, contact Sue Gilbert at FriendsFinance@ppld.org or (505) 490-8750.
Commitments, logos and ads are due May 15, 2027.

Ads: Full 5 x 7.5 in. | Half 5 x 3.7 in. | Quarter 2.5 x 3.7 in. Submit a 300-dpi PDF, JPG or PNG.

Sponsor/Donor Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Website: _____

Friends Contact: _____

Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District | 5550 N. Union Blvd. | Colorado Springs, CO 80918
friendsofppld.org | (719) 531-6333 x1461 | 501(c)(3) nonprofit | EIN: 23-7006973