



News Release
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ann Obenchain
303.952.1645
ann.obenchain@chautauqua.com

Chautauqua 2017-18 Author Series announced

John Gierach, Pam Houston, Peter Heller among featured writers



BOULDER, COLO. (July 25, 2017) – The Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA), steward of Boulder’s cultural gem, the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark, is pleased to announce the lineup for this season’s Author Series. Running monthly from October through April, the series pays homage to the nation’s oldest (1878) continuous book club, the Chautauqua Literary & Scientific Circle, by selecting nine authors to present their work to an audience in the cozy atmosphere of the 125-seat historic Chautauqua Community House (b. 1918).

The 2017-18 season includes notable writers such as John Gierach, Pam Houston, Peter Heller and Adam Bradley, and features musings from the stream, the poetic power of popular music, nature’s influence on well-being, ranch life, life as an Apollo 14 astronaut and much more.

AUTHOR SERIES LINE UP

Peter Heller: *Celine*, A Novel

Wednesday, October 25. 7:00 PM

Peter Heller is the best-selling author of “The Painter” and “The Dog Stars.” An award-winning adventure writer and a longtime contributor to NPR, Heller is a contributing editor at Outside magazine, Men’s Journal and National Geographic Adventure, and a regular contributor to Bloomberg Businessweek. He is also the author of several nonfiction books, including “Kook,” “The Whale Warriors” and “Hell or High Water: Surviving Tibet’s Tsangpo River.” Heller returns to Chautauqua with his latest novel.

Adam Bradley: *The Poetry of Pop*

Wednesday, November 29. 7:00 PM

Adam Bradley is a professor of English at the University of Colorado, Boulder where he directs the Laboratory for Race & Popular Culture (RAP Lab). His commentary has appeared in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and in numerous other publications. Bradley is the author or editor of five books, including “Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop,” “The Anthology of Rap,” and the New York Times

bestseller “One Day It’ll All Make Sense,” a memoir he wrote for the rapper and actor Common. In “The Poetry of Pop,” Bradley presents a trailblazing exploration of the poetic power of popular songs, from Tin Pan Alley to The Beatles to Beyoncé and beyond.

[John Gierach: A Fly Rod of Your Own](#)

Thursday, December 14. 7:00 PM

John Gierach, “the voice of the common angler” (The Wall Street Journal) and member of the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, brings his sharp sense of humor and keen eye for observation to the fishing life and, for that matter, life in general. He is the author of numerous best-selling books on fly-fishing. His work has appeared in Field & Stream, Gray’s Sporting Journal and Fly Rod & Reel, where he is a regular columnist. Known for his witty, trenchant observations about fly-fishing, Gierach once again takes us into his world and scrutinizes the art of fly-fishing in his newest book, “A Fly Rod of Your Own.”

[Ellen Mahoney: Earthrise](#)

Wednesday, January 10. 7:00 PM

Dr. Edgar Mitchell, along with eleven other Apollo moonwalkers during six historic moon missions (July 1969 to December 1972), helped change our perceptions of Earth. Suddenly, it was possible for humans to leave our planet and walk on a different heavenly body. Ellen Mahoney is a journalist, educator and author with a focus on writing nonfiction. Mahoney will discuss her work with Dr. Mitchell co-writing his memoir, “Earthrise: My Adventures as an Apollo 14 Astronaut.”

[Pam Houston: Some Kind of Calling](#)

Wednesday, February 21. 7:00 PM

Pam Houston is the author of two collections of linked short stories, “Cowboys Are My Weakness” and “Waltzing the Cat,” the novels “Contents May Have Shifted” and “Sight Hound,” and a collection of essays, “A Little More About Me.” Her stories have been selected for volumes of Best American Short Stories, The O. Henry Awards, and Best American Short Stories of the Century and many others. She directs the literary nonprofit Writing By Writers and is professor of English at University of California-Davis. Houston will preview her forth-coming book and talk about life on the ranch – trials, tribulations, joy and healing – and the greatest love story of one woman’s life.

[Cynthia Swanson: The Glass Forest](#)

Wednesday, March 28. 7:00 PM

Cynthia Swanson is the New York Times and USA TODAY bestselling author of “The Bookseller.” An Indie Next selection and the winner of the 2016 WILLA Award for Historical Fiction, “The Bookseller” has been translated into a more than dozen languages and is soon to be a movie starring Julia Roberts. Cynthia has published short fiction in numerous journals and been a Pushcart Prize nominee. Swanson will discuss and read from her second novel, “The Glass Forest.”

[Heather Hansen: Wildfire in the West](#)

Wednesday, April 11. 7:00 PM

In her newest book, “Wildfire in the West,” Heather Hansen takes a look at wildfires through the eyes of the firefighters. Spending 18 months with the City of Boulder’s wildland firefighters, Hansen learned what it takes

to be a member of this elite group and how citizens can help turn around the destructive trends in wildfires. She will discuss her talks with leading fire scientists, wildland firefighter training, and answer the burning question, what's with all the bacon.

Florence Williams: The Nature Fix

Wednesday, April 25. 7:00 PM

Florence Williams is a journalist and contributing editor to Outside magazine. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, the New York Times Magazine, and National Geographic among others. Her first book, "Breasts: A Natural and Unnatural History," was a New York Times Notable Book of 2012 and the winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Science and Technology. For centuries, poets and philosophers extolled the benefits of a walk in the woods. In "The Nature Fix," Florence Williams sets out to uncover the science behind nature's positive effects on the brain.

TICKET INFORMATION:

- All events take place in the Chautauqua Community House.
- All tickets: \$12.00 (\$9.00 Chautauqua Concert Member)
- Purchase tickets online now at www.chautauqua.com.
- The public is welcome to become a member at any time.
- All tickets are subject to a service fee.

###

The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that preserves, perpetuates and improves the site and spirit of the historic Chautauqua, enhancing its community and values through cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences. The chautauqua experience is based on lifelong learning, love of nature, voluntary simplicity, and music, oration and the arts. Historic significance, traditions, cultural relevance, respite and enrichment are among the community benefits provided by the Colorado Chautauqua. CCA serves as the steward of historic Chautauqua. It leases from the City of Boulder and has full responsibility for preservation and use of 26 acres of Chautauqua Park, home to many public buildings, gardens and 99 cottages, 58 of which are available for rental through the Association. The Colorado Chautauqua was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006. The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) Tier II organization. For more information about the Colorado Chautauqua and the CCA visit www.chautauqua.com or www.facebook.com/coloradochautauqua. For access to historic or event photos, or to arrange interviews with interim executive director Shelly Benford please contact Ann Obenchain at 303-952-1645.