



News Release
For Immediate Release

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Chautauqua 2018-19 Author Series announced
Helen Thorpe, Marc Bekoff, Kitty Banner among featured writers



BOULDER, COLO. (September 17, 2018) – 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 Chautauqua Author Series. Running monthly from October through May, 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 2018-19 season includes notable writers such as Helen Thorpe, Marc Bekoff, Kitty Banner and Christine Carbo, and features moving accounts of education for refugees, adventures by a female Alaskan bush pilot, space exploration, a look at gun violence in America, the gripping story of the Gold King Mine, Denali and much more.

[**AUTHOR SERIES LINE UP**](#)

[**Helen Thorpe: The Newcomers**](#)

Tuesday, October 9.

From award-winning, meticulously observant writer Helen Thorpe comes a powerful and moving account of how refugee teenagers at a Denver public high school learn English and become Americans, in the care of a compassionate teacher. Thorpe’s latest book, “The Newcomers,” follows the lives of twenty-two immigrant teenagers throughout the course of the 2015-2016 school year as they land at South High School in Denver,

Colorado. Unfamiliar with American culture, their stories are poignant and remarkable as they face the enormous challenge of adapting.

[Kitty Banner: Wings of Her Dreams](#)

Tuesday, October 23.

The world has historically looked upon aviation as a man's domain. "Names like Wright, Doolittle and Lindbergh seem to dominate the field of aviation," said James A. Lovell, Jr. commander of Apollo 13, aviation contemporary and friend of the Banner family. "But this book tells a different story. Here you will find the adventures of Kitty Banner, who battled the weather and terrain as an Alaskan bush and glacier pilot." Banner's narrative features 240 full-color photographs detailing her flights on high altitude glaciers loaded with gear and mountain climbers from all over the world who came to Talkeetna to attempt ascent of one of the toughest mountains on earth, Denali.

[Marc Bekoff: Canine Confidential](#)

Wednesday, November 14.

For all the love and attention we give dogs, much of what they do remains mysterious. We have a good understanding of what it means when dogs wag their tails, but what about when they sniff and roll on a stinky spot? Why do they play tug-of-war with one dog, while showing their bellies to another? Why are some dogs shy, while others are bold? What goes on in dogs' heads and hearts – and how much can we know and understand? Author Marc Bekoff brings his unique perspective to these questions in his latest book, "Canine Confidential."

[Karen Auvinen: Rough Beauty](#)

Wednesday, December 5.

In the bestselling tradition of Cheryl Strayed's "Wild" and Helen MacDonald's "H Is for Hawk," a stunning, inspirational memoir from an award-winning poet at a crossroads who ventures into the wilderness to seek answers to life's big questions and finds her way back after losing everything she thought she needed. "Rough Beauty" is a luminous, lyric exploration of and homage to Karen Auvinen's forty seasons in the mountains, embracing the unpredictability and grace of living intimately with the forces of nature while making peace with her own wildness.

[Leonard David: Mars: Our Future on the Red Planet](#)

Wednesday, January 16.

Are we at a crossroad in exploring the space frontier? Are we opting out as a nation – to build upon a legacy of sending humans and robots to delve into the mysteries of our solar system and beyond? The next frontier in human space exploration is Mars, the red planet—and human habitation of this world isn't much farther off. There are countless challenges ahead – not only technical, but physiological, psychological and sociological issues too – with a helping of ethics thrown into the mix. Getting to Mars is one thing...but staying there is another matter.

[Christine Carbo: A Sharp Solitude](#)

Wednesday, March 28.

Christine Carbo, the acclaimed author of “The Wild Inside,” immerses readers in the beautiful, but often unforgiving landscape of Montana while delivering a compelling portrait of two damaged souls running from the past. Propulsive and suspenseful, “A Sharp Solitude” portrays a moving picture of complex, flawed people fighting to make their way in a wilderness where little is black or white.

[William Briggs](#): How America Got Its Guns: A History of the Gun Violence Crisis

Wednesday, March 13.

In the United States, more than thirty thousand deaths each year can be attributed to firearms. “How America Got Its Guns” examines the Second Amendment and the laws and court cases it has spawned. William Briggs’s thorough and objective account shows the complexities of the issue, which are so often reduced to bumper-sticker slogans and suggests ways in which gun violence in this country can be reduced.

[Jonathan P. Thompson](#): River of Lost Souls: The Science, Politics and Greed Behind the Gold King Mine Disaster

Wednesday, April 17.

Part elegy, part ode, part investigative science journalism, “River of Lost Souls” tells the gripping story behind the 2015 Gold King Mine disaster that turned the Animas River in southwestern Colorado orange with sludge and toxic metals for over 100 miles downstream, wreaking havoc on cities, farms and the Navajo Nation along the way. Thompson walks readers through the history and science behind the disaster, revealing how greed and lack of environmental protections made the disaster possible, as well as the current dismantling of regulations and the potential for far more dire catastrophes.

[Jon Waterman](#): Chasing Denali

Wednesday, May 1.

The history of mountaineering began on Denali with the legendary story of three gold miners (called “Sourdoughs” because they carried sourdough starter with them at all times) who claimed to have summited after climbing more than 8,000 feet of steep snow and ice, then back down again—all in a single and incredibly dangerous day in 1910. Lugging a 25-pound, 14-foot flagpole to mark their success, they took on North America’s highest peak using sheet metal crampons, coal shovels, hatchets, and alpenstocks to balance their way up the mountain. Was the expedition a success or a hoax? Denali climber Jon Waterman brings this colorful mountaineering mystery to life.

TICKET INFORMATION:

- All events take place in the Chautauqua Community House.
- All events: 7:00 PM
- 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.

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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 Executive Director, Shelly Benford, please contact Shannon Bock at shannon.bock@chautauqua.com or 303.952.1638.