

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 14, 2016

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Best-selling author comes to Pueblo

Pueblo, Colo.— Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls of all ages, step right up to the greatest circus-themed, literary spectacular on earth! It's time for the 12th annual All Pueblo Reads, a literary program designed to get everyone in Pueblo County reading one book at the same time. The goal of the project is to start a dialog that crosses cultural, generational and socioeconomic lines. The 2016 project is Oct. 1-31 and features *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, who will be in Pueblo on Oct. 22 and 23.

The Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth is the setting of this *New York Times* best-selling book about a young man (Jacob) who falls in love with a married circus performer (Marlena), and the elephant (Rosie) who is acquired by the circus—all of it happening during the Great Depression. Animals, the circus, treatment of animals, Works Project Administration, life in the 1930s and other topics will be explored as part of this year's project.

APR has a long-standing tradition in Pueblo, named the seventh best city for book lovers by livability.com in 2010. Last year's project, featuring the theme *Celebrate Sci-Fi*, garnered total participation of more than 39,500. The project is managed by Pueblo City-County Library District, but is now known as a community-wide event, this year hosted with 18 partnering organizations across multiple venues throughout the county. There are 164 events and activities planned during the four-week project.

The literary project started in 2005 with total participation of just more than 4,000 and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee as the selected work. The project has increased in popularity over the last decade and is a highly anticipated annual event for Pueblo's readers.



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www.pueblolibrary.org

Barkman Library
Giodone Library
Greenhorn Valley Library
Lamb Library
Lucero Library
Library @ the Y
Pueblo West Library
Rawlings Library

Satellite libraries:
Avondale Elementary
Beulah School

In 2008, the project added the attraction of having the book's author appear in Pueblo. Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*, was the first APR author to make the journey to Pueblo. The author visits are intended to provide public exposure to great writers. Other authors who have appeared include Sherman Alexie (*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*), Sandra Cisneros (*The House on Mango Street*), Carl Hiaasen (*Hoot*), Kathryn Stockett (*The Help*), Paula McLain (*The Paris Wife*) and the late Kent Haruf (*Plainsong*).

The project culminates with the Booklover's Blacktie Ball on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., on the 2nd floor. The evening includes circus performers, dinner, presentation by Gruen, book signing and photos with the author. Reservations made on or before Sept. 30 are \$80 to the general public and \$75 for Friends of the Library members. There are four, \$250 reservations available for guests wishing to sit at the author's table. All reservations made on or after Oct. 1 are \$100, and the author-table seats are unavailable. Funds raised support the library. Make reservations online by heading to www.pueblolibrary.org/allpuebloreads or call Gloria Madrill at 553-0221.

A second Gruen event on Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. at the Rawlings Library is free and open to the public. She will present for 40 minutes, take a few questions and then sign books.

Other highlighted events include:

Oct. 1 Kickoff: Music and Magic Under the Big Top, 1-2 p.m., Rawlings Library
Oct. 7 All Pueblo Reads Family Circus Festival and Fun, 6-7:30 p.m., Rawlings Library
Oct. 8 Landmarks in the Park: Legacies of the 1930s, 10-11:15 a.m., City Park
Oct. 8 Learn to Lindy!, 6:30 p.m., Greenhorn Valley Library
Oct. 12 Red Top Ranch Trick Riding School, 6 p.m., Giodone Library
Oct. 14 Pechakucha, 7 p.m., Rawlings Library
Oct. 15 History of Pueblo Mountain Park Hike, 4 p.m., Pueblo Mountain Park
Oct. 17 Pueblo in the 1930s, 6:30 p.m., Rawlings Library
Oct. 20 P.T. Barnum Chautauqua, 7 p.m., Rawlings Library

For more details about the programs listed above and the complete schedule of events offered in October, pick up a resource guide at any library location or visit www.pueblolibrary.org/allpuebloreads.

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