

Frank Waters Literary Award

History:

In early 1992, Friends and community members Mary Mashburn, Jim Bixler, Jimmie Butler, and Andrea Corley met to establish the Pikes Peak Writers' Conference, and, in doing so, the committee decided to grant a literary award and financial prize to a notable writer as a key part of the event. Jim Bixler traveled to Taos to visit with Frank and Barbara Waters and to invite them to come to the first conference at which the Award for Excellence in Literature would be presented.

Although one of the famous residents of New Mexico, Waters was born in Colorado Springs. Frank Waters (1902-1995) spent nearly 60 years capturing the American West in his 10 novels and more than a dozen works of nonfiction and numerous short stories. Nominated for the Nobel Prize, Water's work won awards and recognition as a sympathetic portrayal of Native American life, works that approach photographic descriptions of the environments, mountains, and history of the West. His best-known titles are Book of the Hopi, The Man Who Kille the Deer, and Woman of Otowi Crossing, but he also wrote of his early life and of Colorado Springs.

In 1993, the award was presented to Frank Waters, and, with his permission, the awards in the more than 30 following years were to be given bearing his name. Some of the recipients were: Tony Hillerman, John Nichols, M. Scott Momaday, C. J. Box, and Ann Zwinger among others.

Definition:

The *mission* of the award was “to enhance, document, and celebrate the Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District’s contribution and support of literacy, authors, and the work of the PPLD, by honoring the literary giant and native son of Colorado Springs, Fran Waters, and others who achieve this award.”

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Criteria:

1. Lifetime achievement of the writer as significant literature and which reflects the spirit and achievement of Frank Waters.
2. Celebrate and reflect the cultures and environment of the Southwest.
3. Represents an outstanding single work or a body of work that compares to the Waters' literary canon.

Process:

June announcement of open for nominations

August 15 nominations close

September board meeting votes for the awardee

January collections of press materials

March agreements upon transportation, lodging, cash award, and schedule

Luncheon arranged and planned for June.