

# A Literary Tribute to Larry McMurtry

7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021

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**George Getschow**

*Welcome*

**Erik Calonius**

*Host*

**Midway Independent School District** Principal Daniel Hutchins

with students Hadley Berend, Talon Burns, John Davis, and Dawson Estes.

**William Charlie McMurtry**

*In Awesome Wonder*

*Read by George Getschow*

Charlie McMurtry attended graduate school at the University of North Texas, where he wrote 18 short stories for his dissertation and earned a Doctor of Philosophy in 1996. He taught creative writing and developmental reading and writing at Angelo State University for 10 years.

**Jim Black**

*Writer, Pass By*

Jim grew up in Archer City. He is the author of six books and nine stage plays. His first novel, *River Season*, has been the subject of classes at both the high school and college level. For the past 20 years, he has been actively involved in community theater as a playwright, actor, director, and producer at the Royal Theater in Archer City.

**Carol Flake Chapman**

*My Long Trail to Lonesome Dove*

Carol worked as a writer and editor for a number of leading newspapers and magazines. Following the sudden death of her husband on a wild river in Guatemala, the course of her career changed. She wrote about her journey of grief and healing in her book *Written in Water: A Memoir of Love, Death and Mystery*.

**Elizabeth Crook**

*“Are You Sure You Want to Know?”*

Elizabeth is the author of five novels, including the award-winning *The Night Journal* and *The Which Way Tree*, currently in development for film. Elizabeth has written for *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and *Texas Monthly* and is co-writer, with Stephen Harrigan, of the screenplay for *The Which Way Tree*.

**Geoff Dyer**

*Ranging Across Texas: On first looking into Lonesome Dove*

Geoff’s many books have been translated into 24 languages. A recipient of a 2015 Windham Campbell Prize for non-fiction, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He spent two semesters as a Visiting Fellow at the Michener Center in Austin and is Writer in Residence at the University of Southern California.

**W.K. Stratton**

*All My Friends Are Going To Be Larry*

Kip is the author of the *Los Angeles Times* bestseller *The Wild Bunch: Sam Peckinpah, a Revolution in Hollywood, and the Making of a Legendary Film* and eight other books. He’s a frequent contributor to *Texas Monthly*, *Texas Highways*, *GQ*, and other magazines. Kip is a fellow of the Texas Institute of Letters.

**Greg Giddings**

*An Afternoon With Larry*

Greg, an Archer County native, played pro basketball internationally, then returned to Wichita Falls where he has taught American Literature at Midwestern State University for the past 25 years. Greg has published scholarly articles on *The Last Picture Show*; *Horseman, Pass By*; and works by Pat Conroy and Bruce Springsteen, among others.

**Stephen Harrigan**

*Writing Plainly and Unforgettably*

Steve is the author of 12 books of fiction and non-fiction, including *Big Wonderful Thing*, his narrative history of Texas, which was named best nonfiction book of the year by the Philosophical Society of Texas. For 20 years, he taught creative writing as a faculty fellow at the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas at Austin. He has received lifetime achievement awards from the Texas Institute of Letters and was presented with the Texas Medal of Arts in 2019.

**Kathy Floyd**

*Somewhere, a Writer*

Kathy worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 16 years, including time as a writer/editor for Postal Service publications at headquarters in Washington, D.C. She has written for several North Texas newspapers and other publications. She is the administrator for the Archer City Writers Workshop.

**Sherry Kafka Wagner**

*How I Landed on Larry’s Literary Star List – And What Followed*

Sherry grew up in Arkansas and attended the University of Iowa, where her novel *Hannah Jackson* was developed. Her professional accomplishments include author, urban planner, and historian. She consults nationally and internationally for museums, aquariums, parks, and urban projects. *Hannah Jackson* was republished last year by TCU Press.

**Ron Querry**

*Closing remarks*

Ron is an acclaimed author and member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He has taught and lectured at colleges and universities across the United States and internationally, and served as writer-in-residence at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of the award-winning novel *The Death of Bernadette Lefthand*.

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*A brief Q&A will follow each reading.*

*“Few novelists have ever been able to match Larry McMurtry’s work ethic, let alone his towering popularity and influence. For many Texas writers, particularly those of my generation working from the first in the shadow of his achievements, his career was both intimidating and inspiring.*

*We could never hope to measure up,  
but we could dare to press on, because he showed us how.”*

**Stephen Harrigan**

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**George Getschow** is the co-founder and director emeritus of the nationally acclaimed Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference. He spent 16 years at *The Wall Street Journal*, where he was a reporter, editor, and bureau chief. He is a Pulitzer Prize finalist and served as a Pulitzer jurist for general nonfiction in 2017 and as a jurist for feature writing in 2013-2014. He’s lately consumed with editing the forthcoming collection of essays about Larry’s life and legacy that will be published by The University of Texas Press.

**Erik Calonius** is the author of *The Wanderer: The Last American Slave Ship and the Conspiracy That Set its Sails*. The book inspired the creation of a city museum that attracts visitors from around the world. He is a former reporter, editor, and London-based foreign correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*. He also served as an editor and writer for *Fortune*, where he was nominated for the National Magazine Award.

**The Archer City Writers Workshop** is a direct descendant of George Getschow’s literary journalism class at the University of North Texas, which is a direct result of his admiration for Larry McMurtry. The ACWW is now a fluid group of writers of all levels who gather in McMurtry’s hometown to soak in the atmosphere that gave birth to his stories and to encourage and learn from each other.

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Full versions of these essays and many more will be published by The University of Texas Press in a collection to be released next fall. The full list is not finalized but other contributors include Sarah Bird, Bill Broyles, Mark Busby, Erik Calonius, Alfredo Corchado, Kim Cross, Greg Curtis, Dagoberto Gilb, Skip Hollandsworth, Stephen Graham Jones, Alex Joyner, Paul Knight, Beverly Lowry, Bill Marvel, Christian McPhate, Michael J. Mooney, James McGrath Morris, JK Nickell, Eric Nishimoto, Diana Ossana, Scott Parks, Ron Querry, Dave Tarrant, Cathy Booth Thomas, and Katy Vine.

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*Photo by Adam Muhlig –  
used with permission from James McMurtry & the estate of Larry McMurtry.*

*\*Minor Regional Novelist – Self-proclaimed*



# LARRY McMURTRY

## *Reflections*

on a

## *Minor Regional Novelist\**

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