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**NEVADA HUMANITIES ANNOUNCES BOOK SELECTIONS FOR
2018 NEVADA READS PROGRAM**

Programming Will Occur Statewide in 2018

(Reno, NV) – Nevada Humanities has announced the book selections for the 2018 *Nevada Reads* program. *Nevada Reads* is a statewide book club that invites Nevadans to read selected works of literature, and to come together in their communities to share the ideas and perceptions inspired by the books they have read. *Nevada Reads* offers avenues for safe discussion of topics of importance to Nevadans. Programming around the selected books will take place throughout the state in 2018, including book clubs, discussion groups, and community partnership-led initiatives.

This year, *Nevada Reads* will feature one novel, Julie Buntin's *Marlena: A Novel*, and one nonfiction book, Sam Quinones' *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*. The opioid crisis impacts all Nevadans; rich and poor, young and old in every community in the state. More than 64,000 people died in the United States from opioid overdose last year, and according to statistics from the Center for Disease Control, Nevada ranked among the top 15 states for opioid overdose deaths.

"We are excited to delve into the stories of *Dreamland* and *Marlena*, with the hope of better understanding the epidemic of opioid abuse that is ravaging our state," said Christina Barr, executive director of Nevada Humanities. "At Nevada Humanities, we believe that books and conversation can be restorative and helpful in understanding our shared experience, and we are so pleased to be launching this year's *Nevada Reads* program with this goal in mind."

Nevada Reads and *Nevada Center for the Book* are programs of Nevada Humanities, and made possible with support from Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Library of Congress *Center for the Book* promotes books and libraries, literacy and reading, and poetry and literature. Library of Congress programs include a diverse range of events, series, lectures, partnerships, prizes, contests, and awards.

Those interested in reading the 2018 *Nevada Reads* books and participating in the scheduled programming are encouraged to request the books at their public library or purchase them now. Descriptions and information about their respective authors follows:

Julie Buntin, *Marlena: A Novel*, Henry Holt and Co.

Everything about fifteen-year-old Cat's new town in rural Michigan is lonely and off-kilter, until she meets her neighbor, the manic, beautiful, pill-popping Marlana. Cat, inexperienced and desperate for connection, is quickly lured into Marlana's orbit by little more than an arched eyebrow and a shake of white-blond hair. As the two girls turn the untamed landscape of their desolate small town into a kind of playground, Cat catalogues a litany of firsts—first drink, first cigarette, first kiss—while Marlana's habits harden and calcify. Within the year, Marlana is dead, drowned in six inches of icy water in the woods nearby. Now, decades later, when a ghost from that pivotal year surfaces unexpectedly, Cat must try to forgive herself and move on, even as the memory of Marlana keeps her tangled in the past.

Buntin's work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Cosmopolitan*, *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *Slate*, *Electric Literature*, and *One Teen Story*, among other publications. She teaches fiction writing at Marymount Manhattan College, and is the director of writing programs at Catapult. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. *Marlena* is her first book.

Sam Quinones, *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*, Bloomsbury Press

In 1929, in the blue-collar city of Portsmouth, Ohio, a company built a swimming pool the size of a football field; named Dreamland, it became the vital center of the community. Now, addiction has devastated Portsmouth, as it has hundreds of small rural towns and suburbs across America—addiction like no other the country has ever faced. Acclaimed journalist Sam Quinones weaves together two riveting tales of capitalism run amok whose unintentional collision has been a catastrophic opiate epidemic in *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*."

Quinones is a journalist, storyteller, former *Los Angeles Times* reporter, and author of three acclaimed books of narrative nonfiction. His career as a journalist has spanned almost 30 years. He lived for 10 years as a freelance writer in Mexico, where he wrote his first two books. In 2004, he returned to the United States to work for the *Los Angeles Times*, covering immigration, drug trafficking, neighborhood stories, and gangs. In 2014, he resigned from the paper to return to freelancing, working for *National Geographic*, *Pacific Standard Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Magazine*, and other publications. He is the 2008 recipient of the Maria Moors Cabot prize for a career of excellence in covering Latin America. He is also a 1998 recipient of an Alicia Patterson Fellowship, one of the most prestigious fellowships given to print journalists.

For more information about Nevada Humanities or the Nevada Center for the Book, visit nevadahumanities.org or call 800-382-5023 in Reno, or 702-800-4670 in Las Vegas.

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Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public programs and supports public projects statewide that define the

Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to Nevadans and their communities.