



CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** **For Immediate Release**

18 East 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68848-1180
(308) 233-3214
www.cityofkearney.org

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Point of Contact: Christine Walsh, Assistant Library Director, 308-233-3283

Bruce Whitacre “The Elk in the Glade” author and Nebraska native at Kearney Public Library

Join poet, Bruce Whitacre, Tuesday, April 4th for a workshop and evening presentation at the Kearney Public Library! He will lead a writing workshop at noon: “Exploring narrative and poetry in *The Elk in the Glade*.” (\$15 workshop fee, see www.kearneylib.org for more information). Then at 7:00 pm he will present a reading and book signing, free of charge.

Kearney native Bruce E Whitacre will embark on a Nebraska book tour in April for *The Elk in the Glade: The World of Pioneer and Painter Jennie Hicks*, a poetry collection celebrating his great-grandmother, a pioneer girl who went on to become an accomplished landscape painter in 20th century rural Nebraska.

The tour coincides with “Jennie Fitch Hicks: Paintings and Poetry” a special exhibit of Hicks’ work at the Dawson County Historical Society and Museum in Lexington from Feb. 10 through Aug. 3. More than 20 paintings from the collections of Hick’s descendants will be on display, marking her first museum show.

Jennie Fitch Hicks was born in 1879 in Cleveland, Ohio, and moved with her family to Nebraska in the 1880’s. After marriage, childrearing and the untimely death of her husband, she moved to Farnam in the late 1930’s and painted more than 1,500 landscapes in oil with 1,000 sold to patrons across the United States, Canada and Britain. She died in 1977.

His debut collection, *The Elk in the Glade: The World of Pioneer and Painter Jennie Hicks*, from Crown Rock Media, is a 2022 Publishers Weekly Editors Pick. Prior to devoting full time to writing, he was an arts manager for over 30 years in the New York and national nonprofit theatre, where he helped craft award-winning theatre seasons, and created and funded programs in arts education and equity, diversity and inclusion for major regional theatres. His career began in management, including the World Food Programme in Rome, Italy during the 1980’s as it transitioned into the independent, emergency-focused agency that was awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He holds an MFA from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. He is a native of Kearney, Nebraska and lives in New York. More at www.brucewhitacre.com.

Kearney Public Library is located at 2020 1st Avenue, Kearney, NE

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

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