

## Local Author Honored in Indie Book Awards for Timely Memoir on Dignity in Palestine

[Fitchburg, Wisconsin, July 18, 2024] *Crossing Borders: The Search for Dignity in Palestine* by Fitchburg resident Christa Bruhn has been named one of the best indie books of 2024 by the Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group. Bruhn is the Grand Prize Winner in Non-fiction and was also named the winner in the category Social Justice in the 2024 Next Generation Indie Book Awards, the world's largest book awards program for independent publishers and self-published authors.

Publisher Little Creek Press of Mineral Point, Wisconsin released *Crossing Borders* in May 2023, to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, which for Palestinians marks the 75<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Nakba, Arabic for Catastrophe, when over half of Palestinians were dispossessed of their homeland and barred from returning to this day. The release of *Crossing Borders* could not have been more timely in helping others understand both the historical context and current realities Palestinians face living in the shadow of the State of Israel.

Christa has devoted her entire life to making a difference on the ground in a land two peoples call home. Her memoir, ten years in the making, has offered her a platform to deepen the conversation and narrow the divide that has only led to more death and destruction. As an active non-Jewish member of Jewish Voice for Peace – Madison and a writing mentor for We Are Not Numbers, Christa offers hope by envisioning a future where “all people between the river and the sea can live with dignity.”

The winners and finalists of the 2024 Next Generation Indie Book Awards were honored June 28, 2024, at a gala event at the US Grant Hotel in San Diego, CA. The ceremony coincided with the American Library Association Annual (ALA) Conference where Christa Bruhn was represented by Headline Books, Inc to do a book signing and interview on location with podcast host Burke Allen.

This year's Next Generation Indie Book Awards gala was livestreamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NextGenerationIndieBookAwards/videos/2386522344871900>. Christa Bruhn joined other award winners in offering remarks in gratitude of receiving recognition for her memoir which you can hear at 58:47 minutes into the program. Videos of the 2022 and 2023 events have been viewed more than 100,000 times.

In 2024 the Next Generation Indie Book Awards is its 17th year. As the largest international book awards program, participants are judged by leaders of the indie book publishing industry, including many with long careers at major publishing houses. Their love of a great read and experience in the publishing arena identify books deserving a wider audience.

Christa Bruhn is the recipient of numerous other awards, including Silver awards in the 2024 Nautilus Book Award in the category Multicultural & Indigenous, the 2024 Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY) where she Tied for Best First Book Non-Fiction – Personal, and the 2023 International Book Publishers Association (IBPA) Benjamin Franklin Award in Non-fiction: Political & Current Events. Christa Bruhn was also a finalist in the 2024 American Legacy Book Award in the category Social Change and the 2023 American Book Fest Best Book Award in two categories: Multicultural: Nonfiction & Social Change, and received an Honorable Mention in Biography/Autobiography/Memoir for the 2023 Royal Dragonfly Book Award.

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You can meet Christa Bruhn in person at the Oregon Public Library Local Author Open House on Saturday, July 20, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at 200 N Alpine Parkway in Oregon, Wisconsin or hear her on community radio station WORT 89.9 FM on World View Sunday, July 21, at 5:00 pm.

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