**Sample Press Release**

{*Print your press release on your sponsoring organization's letterhead*

*or include name, address, and phone number of organization at top of release*}

**For Immediate Release**

**THE [SPONSORING ORGANIZATION] HOSTS MONTANA CONVERSATION “MARY FIELDS: AT THE JUNCTION OF HISTORY AND MYTH” WITH LESLIE BUDEWITZ**

[City–date]

The [sponsoring organization] hosts Montana Conversation “Mary Fields: at the Junction of History and Myth” with Leslie Budewitz on [date of program]. The program is at [location and time of program]. The presentation is free and open to the public. Funding for Montana Conversations is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montana’s Cultural Trust, and private donations. We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana’s cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund.

“Mary Fields: at the Junction of History and Myth,” with Leslie Budewitz, tells the story of Montanan Mary Fields (ca. 1832-1914). Born into slavery, Fields spent the last 30 years of her life in Montana, ten of them working with the Ursuline Sisters at St. Peter’s Mission near Cascade. “Mary Fields: at the Junction of History and Myth” explores the historical record on the Black experience in 19th century Montana. Further, Budewitz explores the missionary era in Montana, and discusses how historical fiction can help Montanans better understand the past and the present.

Leslie Budewitz is a lawyer, fiction writer and a native Montanan, who is passionate about telling the stories of forgotten people, particularly women, and how their lives and experiences relate to and reflect on our Montana history and heritage. Budewitz has produced 18 books and many more short stories and articles. Her most recent book, *All God’s Sparrows and Other Stories: A Stagecoach Mary Fields Collection* (Beyond the Page Books, Sept 2024), imagines the life and heart of Mary Fields through historical fiction. As a novelist, Budewitz uses her research experience for asking questions to dive deeper into the subjects that drive her historical fiction practice.

For more information, please call [sponsoring organization] at [phone number].

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Contact person: [project organizer and phone number]