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Author of Memoir on Bipolar Disorder Wins Golden Quill Award

PPLD honors mental health advocate who writes and speaks about mental health

Colorado Springs, CO—Author Kathy Brandt has been chosen as the 2014 winner of the Pikes Peak Library District's Golden Quill Award, which celebrates outstanding literary achievement and exemplary community service.

The award recognizes Brandt's book, *Walks on the Margins: A Story of Bipolar Illness*, which Brandt co-authored with her son, Max Maddox. The book chronicles the joint and separate struggles of mother and son, after Max was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Telling the story in alternating chapters, Max writes about mental illness from the inside, while Kathy records her frustrations with doctors, hospitals and the law as she sought good treatment for her son. Their courage and dedication shine through in their frank and beautifully written story.

The award also honors Brandt's work as an advocate who writes, speaks and teaches about mental health. She hopes the book will help others facing a similar struggle, help to destigmatize mental illness and show that, with determination, love and support, people with mental illness can and do succeed in living fulfilled lives.

The Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District will present Brandt with the Golden Quill Award at a luncheon May 15 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Brandt will give a short talk and later will present a longer talk on her writing journey.

Walks on the Margins: A Story of Bipolar Illness is available on [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#). For more information, visit <http://www.walksonthemargins.com> and visit Kathy Brandt's [Facebook page](#).