

LEWIS & CLARK LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Making a great library even better!

JAMIE FORD: On the Writing Life and Growing Up Bi-racial



Novelist Jamie Ford was the speaker for the 2018 Stephen Ambrose Memorial Lecture

MORE ABOUT JAMIE FORD

Ford's first novel, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* (2009), was awarded the Asian Pacific American Award for Literature and was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than two years. Ford's second novel, *Songs of Willow Frost* (2013), was also a *New York Times* best-seller. His latest work, *Love and Other Consolation Prizes* (2017), is inspired by the true and touching story of a young orphan boy from China who was raffled off as a prize at the 1909 Seattle World's Fair.

Visit <http://jamieford.com> for more info.

Ford's novels are available to borrow from your Lewis & Clark Library.

Racebending: *Adventures in a Bi-cultural World* was the theme of novelist Jamie Ford's lecture on October 23, 2018, as our distinguished speaker for the 2018 Stephen Ambrose Memorial Lecture. The event was also part of the *Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate* series organized by the Montana Human Rights Network, Holter Museum of Art, and other partner organizations.

The sanctuary at St. Paul's Methodist Church was nearly full for the free public event. Ford enhanced his talk with family photos as he reflected on the two cultures of his childhood—Asian and Caucasian—and the way his own life history has influenced his storytelling. Some of his most humorous stories centered around reactions from high school students assigned his first novel, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, as homework. Ford told amusing stories about his great-grandfather, Min Chung, who changed his name to William Ford as he embraced his new American culture.

On a more serious note, Ford's grandparents were forced to live in a red-lined district in Seattle that segregated non-white ethnic groups into designated neighborhoods. He explained the impact of the "symphony of half-truths [that were] created to lay the groundwork for the Japanese internment." This grim period of history is the foundation for the love story he tells in *Hotel*, which is widely read in high schools and required reading in Washington State. Ford said the young people he's met when visiting high schools around the country strike him as more "loving and accepting," and make him hopeful for a future when a person's race will "matter less, and love will matter more."

Feedback from attendees at the lecture was overwhelmingly positive. Many were grateful for the opportunity to hear Ford's well-presented lecture. On surveys handed out by the Foundation, they wrote that the author was *thought-provoking, compassionate, humble, entertaining, optimistic, down to earth, gentle, funny, and open*. His talk was just a tad bitter, but was mostly sweet and uplifting. A great evening.

To watch a video of Ford's entire lecture, visit the Helena Civic Television YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/u8epmL1hWnw>.



Humanities MONTANA
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www.humanitiesmontana.org

Jamie Ford's lecture was made possible with generous support from Humanities Montana and through a partnership with the Montana Human Rights Network.

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation was established in 1978 to support the Lewis & Clark Library system, beyond what tax monies can provide. In these times of increasing demand for information in all formats, private support is critical to maintaining excellent library services. It is the goal of the Foundation Board of Directors, through the caring and generosity of like-minded citizens, to maintain long-term financial support for the public library.

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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Visit us online at:
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Helena Library—First-Floor Renovation!

Big Changes are Coming to the Main Branch Library!

By John Finn, Library Director

As an anchor of a bustling downtown Helena, Lewis & Clark Library is a community treasure. To continue to provide the best possible services for the community and to support a critical step of the recent 2017 Strategic Plan, the Library sought proposals for a library design and space planning consultant in 2017. The Library hired the design firm MSR from Minneapolis.

The results of this design and space planning effort are a new and reimagined first floor of the library through a phased project that will increase the visual connectivity of the library and provide improvements to the teen and children's spaces as main program drivers.

The first floor will be transformed during the two-phase construction process, to begin in 2019. Meeting rooms will be improved and expanded; bathrooms will be relocated and modernized; Children's and Teen spaces will be enlarged and relocated; collections will be rearranged; four new quiet study rooms will be created; and finally, the existing Circulation and Information service points will be collapsed into one single-service desk.

The main service area will be modernized and made more comfortable with new seating and study area options. New book areas, and holds pickup will be made more visible and easier to navigate.

An intriguing part of the redesign will be the addition of new windows all around the building. One of the highlights of the design is to bring the outdoors into the library, and to allow the outside to see just how full of life the Library is inside. Windows will provide that opportunity.

All of these changes are being made with the Library's increased demands on programs and community space in mind. The Library is a heavily trafficked building and a community gathering space. The Library is the city's "Living Room" and we want to make it as comfortable for our guests as possible.

Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to learn more about this next chapter in the library's main branch.



PROPOSED LEVEL I PLAN - COMPLETE

MEETING ROOMS	CHILDREN'S	CAFE
STUDY ROOMS	NEW BOOKS/HOLDS	SERVICE DESK
SHARED PROGRAM SPACE	TEEN	FAMILY RESTROOMS

Message from Incoming President Anne Pichette

What an exciting time to be a member of the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation Board. There are so many things about our library for us to be proud.

- We just finished another successful Big READ program!
- There are exciting changes coming with the renovation of the main branch in Downtown Helena and all of the technology upgrades.
- The Foundation is proud to continue supporting the wish list items provided by staff to enhance the quality programming and services already provided at the main location, branch locations, and the Bookmobile.
- Thanks to your help as supporters, the Foundation is able to continue assisting staff with needs for different areas of the library.
- The Foundation is proud to present the Ambrose Memorial Lecture each year along with the Community Leaders Poetry Reading, and other events for the public.

I am thrilled to be the incoming President of the Foundation Board and look forward to seeing all of you at one of our upcoming events!



Our vision is that each member of our community will have superior access to the highest quality library and information services now and into the future. There are several ways to support the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation:

- Send a check by mail
- Donate online
- Make a planned gift
- Amazon Smiles*
- Greater Helena Gives
- State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign

* Amazon.com will donate a percentage of your purchases to the Foundation when it is selected as your Amazon Smiles charity.



YA LITERARY RESOURCES:

<http://www.ala.org/valsa/teenstopen>

<http://www.ala.org/valsa/great-graphic-novels>

<http://www.ala.org/valsa/2018-quick-picks-reluctant-young-adult-readers>

YOUR GIFTS MADE A DIFFERENCE!

LIBRARY WISH LIST—2018

- \$1,000—Outreach to teens with special needs
- \$2,000—Teen Summer Book Give-away
- \$250—Story Walk to create trail signs with stories
- \$1,000—Sensory Storytimes, to serve kids with sensory issues and on the autism spectrum
- \$7,750—Speakers for public programs, Big READ
- \$8,000—Year-long programs to celebrate library's 150th birthday, including publications and promotion

Teen Summer Book Give-away!

By Heather Dickerson, Teen Services Librarian

"Think about why you chose the book you did. What stood out for you?"

A group of sixth graders sit on the floor of the Large Meeting Room at Lewis & Clark Library, some with hands raised in the air, waiting to share their answer. I call on a young woman, who, moments before, I'd seen clutching the book *Amina's Voice* to her chest.

"Because it looks like me," she said proudly.

That copy of *Amina's Voice*, by Hena Khan, went home with her. One hundred and nineteen other brand new books found new homes that day, too. A book give-away disguised as activity, sixth-grade students touring the library were given books they could keep because of generous sponsorship from the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation.

Having positive experiences at their library is one of the factors that keeps youth coming back as they enter middle and high school. The autonomy to self-select their reading material without judgment is another. Barriers incurred by fines, lack of a library card, or the perception that there just isn't anything "good" to read keep youth away. Our practice

of distributing free books—new, recently published, high-interest titles—at a variety of teen programs tackles all of these challenges at one time.

Each summer, I host a "Free Book Day" during the first week of vacation. Participants browse a selection of popular titles including fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels. We have crafts, snacks, and great conversations! In February of 2019, we'll host a **Fall in <3 with a Good Book** program, where participants will sample a variety of genres, enjoy delicious treats, and go home with a new book.

Since the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, we've given away 175 books to students at CR Anderson Middle School, PAL, Helena Middle School, East Valley Middle School, St. Andrews, and Helena Christian School.

Recent titles we've given away include selections from YALSA's Teens Top Ten List (selected by youth from around the country), Great Graphic Novels for Teens, and Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers. I strive to provide a mix of books that will appeal to a variety of readers and offer them both windows onto the world and mirrors to themselves.

Early in 2018, Foundation board members asked library staff to brainstorm a wish list (see above) that the Foundation could possibly fulfill. That list was presented to the board at the January meeting and \$20,000 was immediately allocated for this purpose. The Foundation board has agreed to spend a certain percentage of annual revenue to enhance and sustain current library projects, like the Teen Summer Book Give-away.

FOUNDATION FUNDS IN REVIEW

As of November 30, 2018 the Foundation's assets totaled \$816,835. The Foundation Board set an annual fundraising goal of \$50,000 and came close at \$44,000. In addition to money raised through donations, the Foundation receives monies from two trusts. Both trusts have earmarked their contributions for materials. The Boone Trust contributes \$65,000 per year for print materials and the Thayer Trust contributes another \$1,200 annually for children's materials. Additional funds are raised through Lobby Artist art sales, Amazon Smile, Facebook fundraisers, Greater Helena Gives, and the State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign. On December 10, we held a Community Monday fundraiser at Blackfoot River Brewery.



Annual Community Leaders Poetry Reading Celebrates 10 Years with Retrospective

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation celebrated National Poetry Month with the 10th Annual Community Leaders Poetry Reading on April 17, 2018. This year's reading was a retrospective on the past ten years of readers and was co-hosted by former Foundation board members Joe Furshong and Dennis Taylor.

The Foundation warmly thanks these community leaders (listed by the year they originally read a poem at the reading) who joined us for this special anniversary of the Community Leaders Poetry Reading:

- **2009—Jim Smith**—Former Mayor of Helena
- **2010—Libby Goldes**—Former Board of Trustees, Lewis & Clark Library
- **2011—Andy Hunthausen**—County Commissioner
- **2012—Bruce Whittenberg**—Executive Director, Montana Historical Society
- **2013—Ron Waterman**—Board of Trustees, Lewis & Clark Library
- **2014—Joan Bishop**—Former Board of Trustees, Lewis & Clark Library and Board Member of Lewis & Clark Library Foundation
- **2015—Delaney Knudson**—Capital High School senior active for many years in the Library's Teen Advisory Group.
- **2016—Matt Kuntz**—Executive Director, NAMI Montana
- **2017—Virginia Reeves**—Instructor at Helena College, author of *Work Like Any Other*, and Foundation board member.
- **2018—Opal Winebrenner**—Retired lawyer and Foundation board member

An annual tradition at the reading is the Foundation's reception that features delectable desserts made by the **Helena High Culinary Arts Club**.

Boy Scout Troop donates \$1,000!

This past spring, local artist and Foundation board member Emily Free Wilson approached the board with a proposal from her son Clayton's Boy Scout Troop #206. They wanted to construct and sell five Little Free Libraries with all proceeds given to the Library Foundation. Each little library would sell for \$200.

After the libraries were built and beautifully painted with individual themes by Sarah Cook, Emily Free Wilson, and Capital High School art students, they were put on display. An April 10 presentation by the troop at the library kicked off the fundraiser and before too long all five libraries sold.

A great big **THANK YOU** to the Boy Scouts of Troop #206 for the Little Free Libraries they made to support the library!



2019

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**MAKING A GREAT
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

Our heartfelt thanks to **Richard Boyd**, **Joe Furshong**, and **Dennis Taylor**, who served with dedication on the Foundation Board of Directors until their terms ended in 2017. We also thank **Bob Morgan**, whose term ended in 2018, for his 10 years of service to the Foundation, first as a staff member and then two terms as a board member. Their gifts of time, energy, and expertise made the Foundation a stronger, more dynamic organization.

Bobbi Levine, a Wolf Creek rancher who represented the Augusta-area as a board member, retired in early 2018. Bobbi brought a spark of creative energy to the board that continues to inspire.

In January 2018, we welcomed **Emily Free Wilson**, **Virginia Reeves** and **Opal Winebrenner** as new board members. In January 2019, **Riley Meredith** will join the board.

At the end of 2018, Sonia Gavin's two-year term as President came to a close and Anne Pichette took the reins. Terry Cohea became Vice-President and Amy Berry continues as Treasurer.

Monthly Board Meetings

The Foundation Board of Directors meets every third Thursday at noon in the Large Meeting Room at the Helena library. Guests are welcome to attend the one-hour meeting, but are asked to first notify John Finn at 447-6699 or jfinn@lclibrary.org.