



LEWIS & CLARK LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Making a great library even better!

Frazza Estate brings beloved novelist Amor Towles to Helena



Russell Rowland and Amor Towles at the Helena Civic Center. The authors talked about Towles' writing life, starting in childhood and now flourishing with three best-selling novels. Rowland is well known as author of six books, host of a literary podcast and public radio show, and mentor to fledgling writers.

Many in the Helena community knew Christian Frazza—from his work at the Montana Historical Society to Corrette Library Director at Carroll College. He was also known for his wood and metal work, canoe building, and sharp wit and sense of humor.

When Frazza died in 2020, his longtime companion, Sue Jackson, was entrusted with his estate, which included a house and property on Helena's westside that was donated to Habitat for Humanity to provide lasting affordable housing to two families. Shortly thereafter, Jackson presented Lewis & Clark Library with another gift for the community: to bring a beloved author to Helena as a tribute to Frazza's love of books and reading.

On April 25, best-selling author Amor Towles appeared at the Civic Center with host and Montana writer Russell Rowland to talk about his later-in-life foray into writing, his writing process, and always-evolving approach to character and plot development. Towles' stop in Helena—while on a national tour following the publication of his third major novel, *The Lincoln Highway*—was received with much enthusiasm by avid readers from as far away as Miles City. In addition to *The Lincoln Highway*, Towles discussed his first novel, *Rules of Civility*, and his second, *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

About 500 people attended the free-admission talk, and afterward about 60 waited patiently in a long line to speak with him and have their books signed.

Foundation Vice President Bruce Whittenberg introduced the two writers, and thanked the Estate of Christian Frazza, Helena Civic Center, Lewis & Clark Library, and the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation for this unique literary experience.

To learn more about these esteemed writers, visit their websites at <http://russellrowland.com> and <http://amortowles.com>.

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.

Visit us online at:
www.lclibfoundation.org

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

Tax ID# 81-0419768



A Special Place for Teens

A Return to Service

By John Finn, Library Director

It took a while, but on April 1 the Library reopened to full services after two years of construction and pandemic fits and starts. All five branches of Lewis & Clark Library closed to the public on March 16, 2020, due to COVID concerns. Library services were in limbo. Services were gradually and safely returned over a period of several months. Services at the branches in East Helena, Augusta, and Lincoln returned first; then a temporary branch was opened on 11th Avenue adjacent to the Capitol campus.

Construction at the Main Library was completed early in 2021 and patrons were welcomed back for limited services in March of that year. By April, staff were able to allow more and more patrons into the building. By summer the Library was ready to throw all restrictions aside. Then the Omicron surge changed those plans and halted our reopening. The Library Reopening Committee continued to meet to make plans and follow the guidance of the County Health Department and other state and federal agencies.

The Library team is thankful for the support of the community and the Library Foundation during our closures and limited services. Everybody was very understanding of our need to keep staff and patrons healthy, while providing as much service as we could, safely.

Please come see the library in full swing if you haven't visited lately. It's very rewarding to see the new building getting used as intended.



The newly remodeled Teen Library sits at the southwest corner of the library, with windows looking out on Pioneer Park, a big screen and comfy chairs, lots of books, and a counter that invites teen patrons to hang out and enjoy all that the library provides.

Teen Services Librarian, Sherry Schlundt, has revived the Teen Advisory Group (TAG), with eight new members. She said the TAG will review and recommend books and take part in the activities offered for teens, including a Teen Scavenger Hunt planned for downtown this summer.

As part of the annual Wish List "fulfillment" that the Foundation funds each year, the teens received special book boxes at the library and through the Bookmobile that stops at Helena High, Capital High, and Project for Alternative Learning (PAL). Each box contained a book and extra items ranging from a Chrysanthemum tea, a special bookmark, and an additional book about creating Podcasts.

Schlundt says, "The students were thrilled with the book boxes and receiving a free book. These visits allow me to connect with local students and encourage them to visit the Library where they have their own special section devoted to their interests and where they can learn new things and have fun."

Exposing the teens to unique activities, like visiting Helena's own Last Chance Curling Club, is another idea Schlundt has for this summer. Contact her at sschlundt@lclibrary.org for more information. Visit <https://www.lclibrary.org/197/Teens> for a calendar of teen events.

Foundation-sponsored Events are Returning to the Library!

Look for a postcard and emails this fall announcing our 2022 distinguished speaker for the **2022 Ambrose Lecture** and the writer chosen for **Celebrating a Writer's Journey**. We also plan to collaborate with the Library on more literary events and hope to resume hosting receptions for the artists who exhibit in the Helena Library lobby.

Legacy Gifts Keep on Giving

We are grateful for the enduring support of the

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TRIBUTE GIFTS: *When you give to the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation, you may name a person, group of people, or organization you wish to honor or be remembered with your gift. If you wish, we will send an acknowledgement of your gift and will also include the honored/memorialized in this annual listing.*

The Foundation and Library plan to create a permanent place in the library where names of honorees and memorials will be publicly displayed.



Library staff in our "Thank you, Helena!" video produced for Greater Helena Gives. L-R: Molly Hudson (Children's Services), Rachel Rivers (Program Assistant), Suzanne Schwichtenberg (Adult Services), Sherry Schlundt (Teen Services), and John Finn (Library Director).

2022 Greater Helena Gives ... and Gives!



Once again, the Helena community responded to the Greater Helena Gives fundraiser with enthusiasm and generosity.

This year's 24-hour fundraising event, held May 5-6, brought in \$233,971 for 96 nonprofit organizations, \$3,460 of which was gifted to the Lewis & Clark Library

Foundation from 39 donors. Many of these donors are stalwart donors and we thank them for their additional support. And a few others are new donors whom we wholeheartedly welcome!

The Foundation has participated in GHG since 2017, raising a total of \$18,335 from hundreds of generous donors. Thank you!



Our Funds in Review

Donors this year (since July 1, 2021) have generously contributed **\$52,213** toward our FY2022 goal of **\$65,000**. We're almost there!

Donations are accepted year round and up to 30% of our total annual campaign revenue is invested in the Foundation's Permanent Endowment, currently valued at **\$734,640.69**. As of April 30, 2022, the Foundation's total assets were **\$934,900.94**. This includes cash on hand, Bernice Boone Trust earnings, the D.A. Davidson Endowment Fund, and a D.A. Davidson liquid account.

THANK YOU for your continuing and generous support!

Get to know all our Board of Directors at <http://lclibfoundation.org>.



2022

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



BONNIE BOWLER is a retired high school teacher who has lived in Helena most of her life. In 1965, she graduated from Montana State University (now UM) in Missoula with a degree in Latin. During her teaching career she was active in the Helena and Montana Education Associations and raised her daughter. Since her retirement, she has served on the YWCA Board, the Shakespeare in the Parks Committee, and volunteers at the Montana Historical Society.

ROB FREISTADT retired from Helena Public Schools after teaching K-12 students in regular, special, and Montessori education. He continues to teach and tutor part-time at Intermountain Children's Home and privately. He and his wife, Norane, have lived in Helena since 1978, where they ran two businesses and raised their three children. Rob received a B.A. from the University of Idaho and earned other teacher certifications at Carroll College.



WENDY WHEELER retired from the Montana State Information Services Division after 30 years. She grew up in upstate New York and moved to Helena in 1980 with her husband, Gregg. As a child, she had a favorite backyard maple tree where she liked to read. Wendy is passionate about libraries and literacy. In the 1990s, she was a member and a chair of the Board of Trustees of Lewis & Clark Library. She has volunteered as a tutor for the Lewis & Clark Literacy Council and served on their board of directors. Wendy has a B.A. in History.