

Lewis & Clark Library Foundation

Making a great library even better!



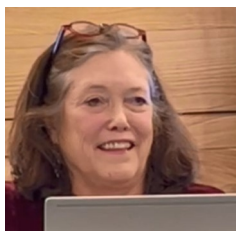
Mid-Year in Review

Lewis & Clark Library Foundation

Spring 2023

Helena, Montana

Celebrating a Writer's Journey with Missoula Writer Caroline Patterson



Caroline Patterson is a Missoula-based writer, editor, and teacher who is well known in Helena through her writing workshops, her anthology of Montana women's writing and other works, and as the author of *The Stone Sister* (2021, Black Lawrence Press).

On February 28, Patterson visited Helena and shared her career path in writing and literature, which began with a prolific love of reading as a child and a family tradition of storytelling.

Patterson shared many delightful family anecdotes and described the literary figures who most influenced her literary career. While enrolled at the University of Montana, she had both Richard Hugo and William Kittredge as writing professors. As a young woman, she took a three-month cross-country bicycle trip and also "hopped freight," all the while writing in a journal (from which she read a passage). Over the years, Patterson worked as a travel writer, freelanced, published short stories, and compiled an anthology titled *Montana Women Writers: A Geography of the Heart*.

Patterson concluded her presentation with a reading from her acclaimed novel, *The Stone Sister*, explaining why it took 12 years to write. The novel is based on a personal family secret that she endeavored to treat with honesty and grace. In 2020, it won the Big Moose Prize.

Thoughtful questions from an enthusiastic audience capped a wonderful evening with the insightful and charming Caroline Patterson.



Donor Appreciation Night & the Sarah McCabe Power Community Room

On March 18, the Foundation welcomed donors to an evening of music, drinks, and food with friends and neighbors who came to celebrate the remodeled Lewis & Clark Library, tour the Bookmobile, and listen to an informative Library update from Director John Finn.

The evening included the official naming of the Helena library's small community room, which is now the Sarah McCabe Power Community Room. Many of Power's family, friends, and longtime professional colleagues celebrated the occasion honoring the late Power, whose legacy will benefit Lewis & Clark Library for many decades through a generous Trust bearing her name.

Library Board Chair Ron Waterman worked with Power at the same law firm and he knew her well. Waterman read a poem he wrote about her that is now on display in the Power Community Room next to her framed photograph.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Power family who were gracious and appreciative of the honor bestowed on Sarah McCabe Power. Read more about the Power Trust and Sarah McCabe Power in the Foundation's *Year in Review* from Fall 2022.

Helena Reads Poetry!

The Foundation's Community Leaders Poetry Reading, an annual event from 2009 to 2019, re-emerged this spring as Helena Reads Poetry! On April 26, ten members of the Helena community shared a poem of their choosing, either one they wrote or selected, and reflected on poetry in general and what their poem meant to them.

Foundation Vice President Bruce Whittenberg warmly introduced each reader. HCTV filmed the event, which is available for viewing on YouTube and at the Helena Civic Television website at <https://www.helenacivictv.org/on-demand/4524>. Attendees enjoyed delicious desserts catered by Helena High's Culinary Club.

We wholeheartedly thank our 2023 Helena Reads Poetry! readers for participating in this year's event:

- **Bill Borneman** read "The Metaphysics of Monotony," an original poem.
- **Keiran Boyle** read an untitled original poem based on "In the Shallows" by Amanda Gorman along with Gorman's poem.
- **Aria Comstock** read an original poem about geocaching: "TFTC."
- **Ryan Cooney** read "Lost" by Patricia Goedicke.
- **Bruce Day** read "Man Dog" by Jim Harrison.
- **Kelly Elder** read an excerpt from John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley*.
- **McCall Flynn** read "Jabberwocky" from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.
- **Mary Irish Johnson** read "I Saw in Louisiana A Live-Oak Growing" by Walt Whitman.
- **Molly Kruckenberg** read "Pearl & Lee," "Alyce Looks," and "Clarissa Lands" by Sean Hill.
- **Abby Shea** read two poems from the LGBTQ2S+ zine, *Transcendent Joy*: "Trans as in Transcental" by Ashe Walker (Volume 2) and "Now Tell Me You're Afraid" by Misha P (Volume 1).



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

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The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation was established in 1978 to support Lewis & Clark Library 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 our county-wide public library system.

Message from the Board President

During April's National Library Week, Library staff and local school librarians were celebrated on National Library Workers Day with free lunches from the RockStarr BBQ food truck, provided through the generosity of Freda Wilkinson of Big Sky Brokers. The spring weather cooperated with a beautiful day for all Helena-area library workers to enjoy this much deserved recognition.

This year's national theme was "There's More to the Story," promoting the fact that libraries provide so much more than books in library collections. As one experiences, whenever visiting one of our Lewis and Clark County libraries, there are people of all ages using all sorts of formats to access information. And there are always library staff at the ready to assist in this search for knowledge.

Through the Foundation's mission to "make a great library even better" and its many dedicated donors, our remarkable libraries and their staffs are always supported in their efforts to continually improve services and activities. The Foundation is currently only \$5,000 from reaching its \$65,000 FY 2023 annual campaign goal, and we hope our donors will again help us fulfill that goal by the end of June. Thank you to every one of you who year after year support these dedicated people who bring our libraries to life each and every day!

Opal Winebrenner



Lewis & Clark Library staff enjoy BBQ lunch on Library Workers Day. L-R: Matt Backus, Michele Turville, Quinn Kurokawa, and Rachel Rivers.

The Latest Library News

By John Finn, Lewis & Clark Library Director and Foundation Board Secretary

The brutal, never ending winter has surrendered to warmth, blue skies, and budding trees. The Library is also waking up and getting ready for a very busy summer of programming for all age groups. Teens, adults, and families all have wonderful opportunities to gather in Helena's Living Room at Lewis & Clark Library as well as the branch libraries' community spaces.

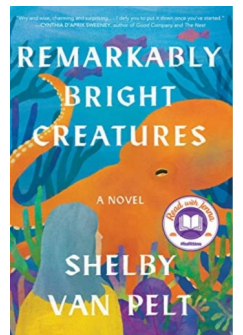
Spring and Summer programs kicked off on May 16 at the Civic Center with a Foundation-sponsored visit from Shelby Van Pelt, author of *Incredibly Bright Creatures*. After a surprise introduction by novelist Jamie Ford, Van Pelt told the audience many charming tales from her writing process, especially from her award-winning first novel, *Incredibly Bright Creatures*.

Regular storytimes will end their season at the end of May, before the Summer Library Program kicks off on June 1. A schedule of events is available at the Information Desk at the Library or on the Library's website. There are many programs this summer at all of our branch locations! There is something for EVERYONE: Bike parades, storytimes in the parks, movies (both indoors and outdoors), ASL learning opportunities, crafts, workshops, book clubs, and so much more. *Please come join us for a summer of fun and learning.*

The year has presented many learning opportunities for Library staff. We have all participated in a new strategic planning process, crisis intervention training, and communication, customer service, and team building.

The Library's new strategic plan will involve the community. Surveys, advertisements, and announcements soliciting the community's input will begin airing soon.

As always, the Library Team and I would like to thank the Foundation and its donors for their support over the past year. Without you all, our work would be much more difficult. The Foundation helps to bring inspiration to our work. We dream, and the Foundation makes those dreams come true.





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 person in this annual listing.

Tribute Gifts in Memory

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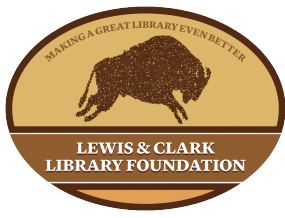
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Lewis & Clark Library Foundation
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Dear Foundation Donors ...

This is your Lewis & Clark Library Foundation *Mid-Year in Review* newsletter for Spring 2023. It includes a recap of our winter and spring events, an update from Library Director John Finn and message from Board President Opal Winebrenner, a listing of the people who have been honored or memorialized with a gift to the Foundation, and an introduction to our five new board members.

We hope you will enjoy this review of the Foundation's work of late and also the new, fresher newsletter design. Thank you for sustaining and supporting our beloved Lewis & Clark Library!

Welcome New & Returning Board Members!



Susan Geise, Augusta teacher and public servant, former Lewis and Clark County Commissioner and Montana legislator, and former Augusta branch librarian, served from January to May 2023. In demand for her many talents, she was called away to a new job. We will miss her and hope to welcome her back when time and life's commitments allow. Thank you, Susan!



Nikolas Griffith grew up across the world until his father's Air Force retirement landed his family in Great Falls. He graduated Carroll College in 2010 and worked across Montana in public relations, public policy, and communications. In 2021, Nik joined Pureview Health Center as its in-house strategic planner. He credits his success in part to the many hours he spent reading in libraries.



Sue Jackson moved to Helena from Kansas in 1977. She has worked as an archivist at the Montana Historical Society, at the Corette Library at Carroll College on a special grant project, and for the Library Development Department at Montana State Library helping public libraries with grants and training. Jackson is also a longtime active member of the local Audubon chapter.



Becca Leaphart taught English at Capital High School for ten years before becoming Deputy Director at the Helena Education Foundation. She grew up in Helena and earned a Bachelor's degree at Middlebury College in Vermont and an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Montana.



Virginia Reeves teaches writing and literature at Helena College. Her debut novel, *Work Like Any Other* (2016), won several awards. Her second novel, *The Behavior of Love* (2019), was reviewed by *The New Yorker*. Virginia was the first writer to be celebrated in the Foundation's Celebrating a Writer's Journey event in 2017. She then joined the Foundation's board of directors and served as vice-president from 2018 to 2019.

Thank you for your support during the 2023 Greater Helena Gives fundraiser!

This year's 24-hour fundraising event, held May 3-4, brought in \$273,033 for 110 nonprofit organizations, \$6,295 of which was gifted to the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation from 49 donors.

We thank our faithful supporters who give every year and welcome the new donors who gave for the first time!



The Foundation has participated in Greater Helena Gives since 2017, raising a total of \$24,631 from hundreds of generous donors.

We appreciate your support!