

2024 — YEAR IN REVIEW

14th Annual Stephen Ambrose Memorial Lecture with Peter Stark

On October 15, Foundation Board member, V. Lee Harrison, greeted an overflow crowd who came to the Library to hear Missoula-based writer, Peter Stark, give his lecture, “When Ohio was ‘the West’—Washington, Jefferson, Harrison and how they Launched the Western Movement.”

Kay Satre, retired English professor and Foundation board member, wrote the following summary that captures a few key points from the trove of information shared by our featured speaker. You can also watch the recording at Helena Civic TV’s website: <https://www.helenacivictv.org/on-demand/5926>.



Focusing on the period between 1760 and 1812, Stark described a number of factors that promoted white westward movement into Indian lands. He said he wanted to emphasize some “crucial moments back in the Ohio Valley, back in the infancy of the United States, when certain choices were made and how they were made, and how they eventually played out.”

Stark began by sharing a series of maps. The first showed the homelands of diverse Indian tribes spread throughout North America. Other maps displayed the competing “fantasy land claims” made by French, British, and Spanish colonial governments. These were followed by maps that highlighted specific boundaries—e.g. the Proclamation Line of 1763, the Greenville Line of 1795—that were supposed to protect Indian homelands; beyond these lines, it was promised, white settlers would not be allowed.

Many of these early maps acknowledged the tribes’ right to big tracts of land. Stark noted that even the newly formed U.S. Congress asserted that “the rights of the natives will always be respected. Their lands shall never be taken without their consent” (followed, added Stark, by this “fine print: ‘unless in a just war.’”) Of course, those boundaries and promises were

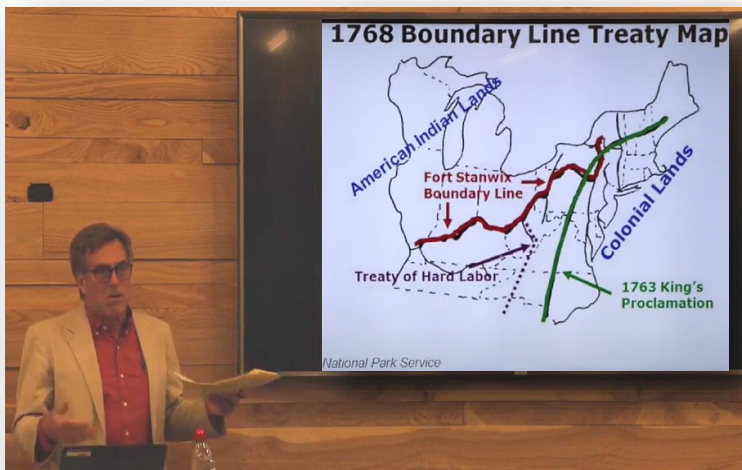
repeatedly violated and eventually abandoned. Stark detailed many “shady land deals” and “slimy treaties” made by the colonial powers and then U.S. politicians, all of which enabled the steady appropriation of Indian lands.

Drawing on his research for *Gallop Toward the Sun* (2023), Stark also described the role that William Henry Harrison played in white westward expansion during the early years of the United States. Harrison became an Indian fighter and went into territorial politics. At 26, in 1800, he became Representative of the Northwest Territory and persuaded Congress that, instead of taking Indian lands and selling big chunks to big speculators, they should sell little pieces to small farmers.

The Harrison Land Law of 1800 may be, said Stark, a pivotal, but largely unrecognized moment in the westward movement. Soon after, as the Governor of Indiana Territory, Harrison was encouraged by President Jefferson to acquire as much land as possible to the west of the Greenville Line. In just three years, by shady dealing with the tribes, Harrison laid claim to 30 million acres of land.

Stark said, “This was another crucial moment in the story of westward expansion—Jefferson’s and Harrison’s decision to break the Greenville Line.” This prompted the rise of the great Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, who unified tribes across North America to fight against Harrison’s land grab. Then, in the War of 1812, Tecumseh and his confederacy of tribes allied with the British against U.S. troops, which included General Harrison. The British lost the war and bailed on the support they had promised Tecumseh and the tribes. Tecumseh’s death in the final battle of that war essentially ended Indian resistance in the region, said Stark. “The war for the center of the continent was over,” he concluded.

Learn more about Peter Stark and his books, articles, and interviews at <https://www.peterstarkauthor.com>.





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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.

A great community deserves a great library.



I think we would all agree that our great community is blessed with one of the finest libraries in Montana. With renovations in the past few years, wonderful

programming for all ages, a talented and skilled staff, and friends and donors like you, our Library can continue to serve this community and all of Lewis and Clark County in a manner that its citizens deserve.

As president of the Board of Directors of the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation, I have a lot of gratitude to share.

Our Board of Directors is a volunteer board. Members give their time and talent to support the activities of the Library and represent the Library Foundation in the community. I would like to thank our board members for their service and generosity.

Patricia Borneman is the executive assistant to the board. Patti does a terrific job in supporting the board and our activities, making our jobs much easier.

Library Director John Finn and his remarkable team of professionals in Helena, East Helena, Lincoln, and Augusta inspire us with their creativity, compassion, hard work, and commitment to the patrons of the Library, young and old. They are the pillars of their communities and inspire us to do the work of the Foundation.

And to all of you who have supported the Library and the branches, we thank you for your generosity and engagement with the Library's programs, services, and events.

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation hosts events throughout the year designed to

educate, entertain, and provide a connection to the Library. The Stephen Ambrose Memorial Lecture, Helena Reads Poetry!, and Celebrating a Writer's Journey provide opportunities to engage with "creators" and be inspired by their talents. In addition, the Foundation supports many of the Library's activities like the Big Read, Downtown Art Walk, and staff development.

Perhaps our most important work is in supporting innovation in all of the Library's branches by funding what is affectionately referred to as the "Wish List." As the Foundation, it's our role to make those wishes come true. In 2024, we provided over \$80,000 to support these projects that fall outside of the library's budget but provide great service to our communities.

We also are raising funds to support the Library's goal of replacing the wonderful but aging Bookmobile. The Bookmobile provides access to library materials and services to those who may not be able to travel to the branches.

Our Lewis & Clark Library is a great equalizer. It belongs to all of us in our communities. We are all welcome to explore, learn, relax, engage with each other and even have some fun.

Finally, I am personally grateful to you for making a great library even better. The main Library sits adjacent to Anchor Park at the head of Last Chance Gulch, just steps from where gold was discovered in 1864 and the spot our city was born. I can think of no more appropriate location for a golden anchor for our community and a beacon of knowledge and civility.

Thank you for supporting the Lewis & Clark Library through the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation. We are grateful for you.

Bruce Whittenberg, Board President
Lewis & Clark Library Foundation

A great library gets better with Foundation support.

The Library is wrapping up another very successful Big Read grant cycle. I hope you all enjoyed reading Jess Walter's *The Cold Millions*. Jess spoke to an overflow crowd of nearly 250 book lovers at Carroll College on October 22. He was a delightful speaker and had the crowd eating out of his hand. If you missed the talk or would like to relive his stories and wry sense of humor, you can watch it on Helena Civic TV's website: <https://www.helenacivictv.org/on-demand/5939>.

The Library team was happy to host nearly 30 programs throughout the month of October. Without the financial backing of the Library Foundation, the month-long schedule of activities would be a much heavier lift.

Library news that was shared this past year included the search for a new library building in East Helena as well as plans to purchase a new Bookmobile vehicle. In 2023, the Library formed a committee consisting of Library staff, an architect, Lewis and Clark County officials, Library Trustees, and East Helena citizens. We were tasked with finding an existing building that could be renovated to give us a new 11,000 square-foot library space. Unfortunately, it became clear that a building like that does not exist. The committee decided that constructing a new building would make more sense. The search now is focused on finding the right piece of land in East Helena. A little more than an acre is needed.

The Bookmobile purchase, on the other hand, is moving along very smoothly. With financial assistance from the Library Foundation, the Library has hired a consultant to assist us in planning the program area of the Bookmobile; write a proposal to help us find the right manufacturer; and help us outfit the new rig. Bookmobile and Outreach Program staff are about one year away from putting a For Sale sign on the current vehicle and taking delivery of a

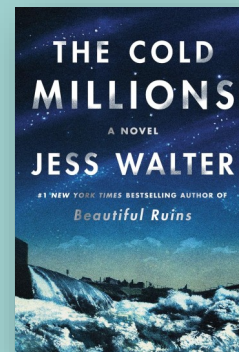
*John Finn, Director
Lewis & Clark Library*

new Bookmobile that will be more energy efficient, easier and safer to drive, and decked out with the latest library technology and services, and, of course, a wonderful book collection.

The Foundation has made this all possible thanks to the many donors who participated in the New Bookmobile fundraising campaign and a generous gift from the estate of Bob Morgan. Bob and his husband Carl Deitchman were and are dear friends of the Library and the Foundation.

The central function of the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation is to serve as an auxiliary fiscal agent for the Library. Purchases that fall outside of our regular budget, or special pilot programs, are supported by the Foundation. The Foundation also acts as pass-through organization for special gifts from existing family trusts, such as the Sarah McCabe Power Trust, the Bernice Boone Trust, and Dorothy Thayer Trust, all wisely invested and growing every year.

The Foundation is the most supportive organization that this Library team could imagine. We appreciate your support and look forward to meeting you at upcoming events and our annual donor appreciation dinner next year.



Jess Walter, author of *The Cold Millions*, told stories and answered questions at Carroll College on October 22.



The Big Read Kickoff featured a special ice cream from the Big Dipper, scooped here by Foundation board members Lee Harrison, Wendy Wheeler, and Virginia Reeves.



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Seeking Treasures with the Foundation's Help

Teen Fieldtrips to Explore Montana's Natural and Cultural Heritage

Emmon Rogers, Teen Services Librarian, Lewis & Clark Library

Since I began my tenure as Teen Services Librarian in January 2024, I've counted myself extremely lucky to work with a group of talented, insightful, enthusiastic teens. I witness their creativity, their passion for making the world a better place and, of course, their love of books and reading.

Many of these kids are being set up for success in the world, and many have hidden struggles that they battle valiantly to achieve their goals. My job, besides being a listening ear and an adult in their corner, is to provide access to perspectives, stories, and experiences that open—and in some cases unlock—doors for them, all the while prioritizing services for those who face more financial or personal barriers. It was this that inspired LCL Teen Services to begin a new tradition: an annual summer Teen Fieldtrip, generously supported by the Lewis & Clark Library Foundation.

Montana is known around the world for its natural riches: precious ores and gems, ranches and ranges, and of course two of the most jaw-dropping parks in the world, to say nothing of the carefully-guarded secret fishing spots, huckleberry patches, and hunting trails. The name Montana conjures images of soaring peaks, geysers, glaciers, histories both tragic and triumphant, cowboys, railroads, and wildlife so compelling as to inspire travelers from across the world to witness them in person. But, access to these things costs money, time,

means to travel, and especially know-how.

During the summer of 2024, we had the opportunity to put the fieldtrip idea to the test, arranging a proof-of-concept pilot excursion to the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts for three days of picnic lunches, tours, and building with clay. Sixty-three

teens and tweens took part, with many of them thanking the Library for providing the experience afterward. In 2025, we hope to expand the scope of this project by providing an experience further afield—with travel, food, and entry fees all taken care of—so as to address the barriers that most commonly prevent teens from engaging with the area's unique opportunities.

With our rich cultural and geographical inheritance, it makes sense to us that the Library is a gateway for living stories as well as reading them, and for finding value in cultivating our natural and intellectual resources. As renowned conservationist and forester Aldo Leopold wrote in 1925, "Wilderness as a form of land-use is, of course, premised on a qualitative conception of progress... It is premised on the assumption that the rocks and rills and templed hills of this America are something more than economic materials."

Surely, then, the cultural value of this place is also premised on the chance to know, explore, play, learn, and foster love and belonging in it (without worry for food, transportation, and funds) by allowing teens experiences they might otherwise miss out on, and by doing so, encouraging a sense of wonder and ownership in our home.

This year, 63 teenagers—some for the first time—were able to get their hands into the clay and take part in the art community of Helena. We look forward to next year (destination yet unknown) when we open another window onto adventure!



A New BOOKMOBILE for Lewis & Clark Library

We are raising funds to make sure the Library's Bookmobile Program has a more reliable and energy-efficient vehicle to deliver books and many Library services and programs throughout Lewis and Clark County. By the end of 2025, the Library plans to roll out a brand new Bookmobile. **You can help make it happen!**

Lewis & Clark Library introduced its first Bookmobile in 2012 and began serving the widespread and rural communities of Lewis and Clark County. Now, close to 100,000 miles later, it's time to replace this hardworking vehicle so our beloved Bookmobile services continue long into the future.

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation has committed \$250,000 toward the estimated cost of \$600,000 for a new Bookmobile vehicle. Most of this funding is already in place, thanks to the Sarah McCabe Power Trust and a significant bequest from the Robert "Bob" M. Morgan estate. Last April, on Library Giving Day, we launched our New Bookmobile Campaign to raise \$28,000 and we are nearly there. After the current Bookmobile sells and the final bill comes in from the purchase and outfitting of the vehicle, the Library will know how much to withdraw from its carefully managed Depreciation Reserve Fund. **But, the more we raise, the less the Library has to draw out of its savings.**

So, even if we meet our \$28,000 goal, we will gratefully accept any additional gifts to help the Library with this essential purchase. We are so grateful to the many donors who have already contributed or pledged to give to the campaign. We look forward to celebrating with all of you next year when the new Bookmobile arrives!

To give to the campaign, please send a check with a note specifying your support for the Bookmobile Campaign or give online at <https://www.lclibfoundation.org/donate>.



FY 2025 WISH LIST GROWS AND THE FOUNDATION FULFILLS

One of the ways the Foundation makes our Lewis & Clark Library system better is through our close relationship with the Library and its staff when, each year, we learn what is needed to enhance and improve Library services and offerings to the public. This spring Library staff submitted a Wish List of items totaling \$83,000 and gave a compelling presentation to the Foundation Board, sharing stories of the ways the Wish List has made their programs really soar. If you're interested in learning more, visit our website at <https://www.lclibfoundation.org/a-better-library> to view the Library's Foundation Wish List slideshow and a detailed list of the programs, materials, and services that our donors helped us fund in FY 2025.

Foundation Funds in Review

In a nutshell, at the end of FY 2024 (June 30, 2024) the Foundation's total assets were **\$1,400,598**. Our D.A. Davidson Sustainability Fund held **\$852,367**. Our Special Projects Account held **\$427,867**. At the end of FY 2024, there was a total of **\$120,363** in cash accounts.

We are pleased to report that **\$69,819** was received in unrestricted charitable contributions from generous donors during FY 2024. And a total of **\$39,309** was generated from the Sarah McCabe Power Trust, Doering Family Trust, and Montana Community Foundation. The Thayer Trust and Bernice Boone Trust support the purchase of books and other literary materials every year, and together provided **\$68,227** for this purpose in FY 2024.

Foundation expenditures totaled **\$89,908** in FY 2024, following a budget that allowed up to **\$116,800** in expenditures.



Lewis & Clark Library Foundation
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Save the date and join us!

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – Lewis & Clark Library

*Celebrating a Writer's Journey with Helena
writer Diane Carlson Evans*

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation invites the public to a special celebration of Helena's own **Diane Carlson Evans**, who will share her story and how she came to write *Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C.* (Permuted Press, 2020).

Diane Carlson Evans is known and admired throughout our nation as the determined Vietnam War nurse who made it her mission to establish a memorial for the women who served in the Vietnam war. She began her quest in 1983 to honor the women, both living and lost, who were not being recognized for their service and sacrifice. After waging a fierce advocacy campaign for ten years, Evans opened the National Mall ceremony to dedicate the Vietnam Women's Memorial on November 11, 1993.

Learn more: <https://www.vvmf.org/stories/Diane-Carlson-Evans>.

