

Creating a community of readers

Foundation and Friends Offer Innovative Literacy Programs

From free books for babies to 'auction bucks' for teens, the KCLS Foundation sponsors innovative literacy programs in partnership with Friends of the Library organizations. The KCLS Foundation will support these community programs in 2007:

- **Bellevue Reads**—In conjunction with Bellevue Community College, Bellevue libraries focus on a single book: *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien's 1990 novel/memoir about the Vietnam War. Bellevue Friends of the Library (\$3,520).

- **Read Me a Story** teaches Early Literacy skills and offers opportunities for reading to and with children. Woodinville Friends of the Library and Duvall Civic Club/Friends of the Library (\$1,000).

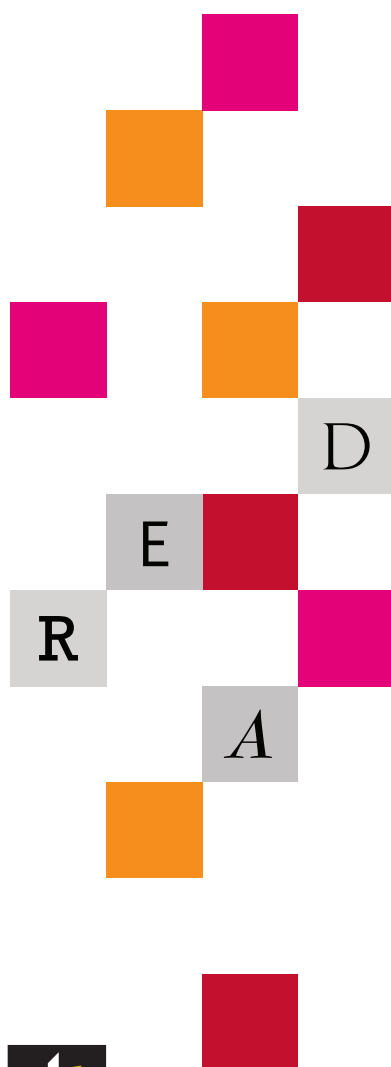
- **Read 3, Get 1 Free "Book Bucks"** Auction continues the popular teen reading program piloted in Federal Way in 2006. Friends of the Federal Way Libraries (\$450).

- **English for Spanish Speakers**—Free series of classes at the Library Connection @ Crossroads includes reading activities for parents and children and tips on using the library. Bellevue Friends of the Library (\$4,800).

- **Books for Babies**—Public health nurses distribute gift books and reading tips to low-income parents in South King County. Coordinated by the White Center Library Guild with support from 13 Friends groups (\$7,050).

- **Book Shelf Connection**—Volunteers encourage family reading and visits to the library, and offer free books at the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. Friends of the Issaquah Library (\$2,000).

- **Early Literacy Bridges/Little Literacy Bridges**—Story Times, musical activities, and creative movement programs help children learn skills through rhymes, stories, and songs. Newport Way Library Association (\$750).



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Save the Date!
Literary Lions Gala
March 10, 2007

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Record Attendance at Ready to Read Events

Storytellers, book characters, and authors took center stage at King County Libraries during the recent system-wide celebration of **Ready to Read Day**, November 4.

Libraries greeted more than 30,000 children, families, and readers of all ages—a 28% percent increase in visitors over the previous Saturday. Imagine 3,500 visitors in the 3,700 square foot Library Connection @ Crossroads, and you know it was a busy day.

With the focus on Early Literacy, storytellers and performers raised awareness of the importance of reading to and with very young children, and literacy agencies provided resources for parents and caregivers. Eager readers checked out a record 56,545 items, 18% more than the previous Saturday.

Library visitors also enjoyed refreshments, courtesy of Schwartz Brothers Bakery and Starbucks Coffee Company. “Offering our patrons cookies, scones, muffins,



coffee, and water significantly added to the celebration. Patrons, both big and small, enjoyed these special treats. Finding words to express our gratitude is hard, but the smiles on the faces of the community members who came to the library that rainy Saturday lit up our building,” said Sandra Ogren, Children’s Librarian, Burien Library.

The KCLS Foundation supports the Ready to Read campaign, which reaches out to parents, caregivers, educators, and agencies to promote the importance of developing Early Literacy skills in children from birth to age six. Free workshops for small or large groups can be tailored to participants. Schedule a workshop by calling Maren Ostergard, Children’s Outreach Librarian, at 425.369.3323. For more information on Ready to Read, visit www.kcls.org/readytoread.

Thank you to Ready to Read Celebration Day sponsors:



KCLS Foundation Elects Officers for 2007



President
Mark A. Hulak, Senior Director, Corporate Development, BEA Systems, Inc.

Vice President
Dean Smith, Co-owner, Optime Capital Management

Secretary
Pamela Martin, Attorney (retired), Community Volunteer

Treasurer
Deborah Kuehner, Director of Sarbanes-Oxley Compliance, Expedia, Inc.

Kathy Brown, Ray Chan, Deborah Kuehner, Marcia Kuszmaul, and Julia Shaw were re-elected to three-year terms on the KCLS Foundation Board of Directors.



Teresa Byers recently joined the KCLS Foundation Board of Directors. An attorney with Garvey Schubert Barer, Byers specializes in tax and estate planning. Teresa and her family are frequent visitors at the Fairwood Library.

Literary Lions



Celebrate great books and dine with 30 award-winning authors—our Northwest Literary Lions—March 10, at the Bellevue Regional Library.

Book reviewer extraordinaire Nancy Pearl will keynote this year's program. She is a rock star among readers and the tastemaker people turn to when deciding what to read next. Pearl is the author of *Book Lust*, *More Book Lust*, and soon to be released *Book Crush: For Kids and Teens—Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Interest*.

Check It Out: Pearl's Picks

Looking for something good to read? Look first at the KCLS web site and click on Pearl's Picks.

Everyone's favorite librarian and book reviewer, Nancy Pearl, provides a pack of picks for you to peruse. From children's books and young adult novels to non-fiction titles and blockbuster best-sellers, she gives you the scoop on books you will want to read.

Visit www.kcls.org, click on Pearl's Picks, and pick out a good book to read today.

Here is a preview of the outstanding talent that will headline this year's event:

- Greg Atkinson—*West Coast Cooking*
Chelsea Cain—*Does This Cape Make Me Look Fat?*
Janet Lee Carey—*The Beast of Noor*
Kathy Casey—*Kathy Casey's Northwest Table*
Debra Dean—*The Madonnas of Leningrad*
William Dietrich—*Napoleon's Pyramids*
Robert Dugoni—*Damage Control*
Valerie Easton—*A Pattern Garden*
Karen Fisher—*A Sudden Country*
Clyde W. Ford—*Deuce's Wild*
G.M. Ford—*Blown Away*
Michael Gruber—*The Witch's Boy*
Maria Headley—*The Year of Yes*
Stephanie Kallos—*Broken for You*
Peg Kehret—*The Ghost That Followed Us Home*
Julie Larios—*Yellow Elephant*
David Long—*The Inhabited World*
Layne Maheu—*Song of the Crow*
Skye Moody—*Washed Up: The Curious Journeys of Flotsam & Jetsam*
John Nance—*Orbit*

- Robin Nelson—*Regular Lu*
Julie Paschkis—*Twist: Yoga Poems*
Jack Prelutsky—*My Parents Think I'm Sleeping*
Indu Sundaresan—*The Splendor of Silence*
Jess Walter—*Citizen Vince*

New this year: a silent auction featuring literary activities. Sail away for lunch on a boat cruise with the multi-talented John Nance. Enjoy a tasty basket from chef and author Kathy Casey. Or challenge your friends with a lively game of Liebrary.

Third Place Books will provide books for sale at the event.

"Literary Lions is the premiere book discussion event in the Northwest and it is always great fun to dine in the library while raising funds for vital literacy outreach programs," said Mark Hulak, KCLS Foundation President.

Bring your book-loving friends and meet your favorite authors. Invitations will be in the mail soon. For ticket and program information, visit www.kcls.org/foundation, or contact Claire Wilkinson at 425.369.3448, cwilkins@kcls.org.

Dig! Breaking Ground in Snoqualmie

The next chapter for library service in Snoqualmie debuted in December, with the groundbreaking for the new 6,000 square foot library at Snoqualmie Ridge. More than 150 community residents enjoyed the festivities. The library is scheduled to open in 2007.



KCLS Foundation Board member Debbie Kuehner and her children Adelaide (in arms) and Sydney, visit the ABC Express van during the Snoqualmie Library groundbreaking event.

Neighborhood Literacy Parties Get Kids on the Road to Reading

KCLS is reaching out to Spanish-speaking families in south King County and offering Early Literacy training in their neighborhoods through festive and informal Literacy Parties.

“Regardless of where we come from, as parents we all want our children to have better opportunities, better education, and better lives. Literacy Parties—Fiestas de Alfabetización Temprana—are an excellent vehicle to get kids on the road to reading.

All cultures share a strong focus on family, community, and celebration,” said KCLS Literacy Project Coordinator Karina Kawaguchi, who is originally from Argentina. “By using a format that brings families together to learn and socialize with their neighbors, the Literacy Parties build on our cultural values.”

Funded by a grant from the Discuren Foundation, Kawaguchi is recruiting and training parents who will teach the essential Early Literacy skills to other parents in the community. Based on a successful program in Maryland, the eight-week series

features social activities and focuses on how to teach children six and under the pre-reading skills they need to master before they can learn to read.

These skills include demonstrating excitement about books, creating awareness of the connection between words on the page and the story, using native language to expand children’s vocabulary, building children’s storytelling skills, identifying letters of the alphabet, and using rhymes and games to illustrate sounds of letters and words.

“The response from the Spanish-speaking community has been really positive and we plan to launch the first workshops this spring,” said Kawaguchi. For more information, contact Karina Kawaguchi at kakawaguchi@kcls.org or 425.369.3443.

Online Giving is Just a Click Away!

Internet technology makes it easy to support the King County Library System Foundation. A click of the mouse and you can help libraries change lives.

Donate online

Go to www.kcls.org and click on the Foundation button on the lower left-hand side of the home page. Go to How You Can Help and make a secure online donation.

Shop at your favorite online stores

Your favorite online retailers are listed at sites such as www.greatergood.com and www.igive.com. When you buy merchandise through those sites, you can designate the KCLS Foundation to receive a percentage of your purchase as a donation.

What really knocks me out is a book that, when you’re all done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours.

~J.D. Salinger



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- Yes, my employer will match this gift and I have enclosed the appropriate form.
- Yes, please send me information about supporting the Foundation through estate planning.