

KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



FOUNDATION

2019
SPRING
NEWS

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Teens DREAM BIG, Thanks to New Partnership

KCLS Partners with Russell Wilson and Ciara's Why Not You Foundation and JPMorgan Chase to Launch DREAM BIG: Anything is Possible Campaign



Russell Wilson and Ciara's Why Not You Foundation, King County Library System, King County Library System Foundation and JPMorgan Chase proudly introduce DREAM BIG: Anything is Possible – a new initiative to inspire King County youth to achieve their dreams, address inequalities, and prompt everyone to ask “Why Not Me?”.

The campaign highlights the wealth of information, tools, and support available to students at KCLS libraries through new limited-edition Russell Wilson and Ciara library cards, a wide variety of programs – including *Teen Voices* – to develop students' skills and leadership, and a new Why Not You Scholarship program.

It all begins with a limited-edition library card featuring Russell Wilson and Ciara.

King County residents of any age can pick up a free limited-edition, all-access library card at any KCLS library and at participating JPMorgan Chase bank branches throughout King County.

This card serves as an all-access pass to resources, programs, mentors and more to help teens set out on the path to success. KCLS provides students with a wide variety of programs including STEM education, homework help and mentoring, coding classes, ESL support, SAT prep, and much more.

The campaign also introduces *Teen Voices*, a multi-week spring program offered at six King County Library System libraries to motivate, empower, and prepare students to be tomorrow's leaders.

Your support of the KCLS Foundation funds programs like *Teen Voices* and helps make initiatives like DREAM BIG possible. Thank you!



Literary Lions Gala: Books, Meals, and Possibilities

Community raises \$470,000 for library programs, including the beloved Summer Reading



Author of the award-winning novels *A Visit From the Goon Squad* and *Manhattan Beach*, Jennifer Egan delighted attendees at the March 16 **Literary Lions Gala**. Egan's keynote address capped off the evening's celebration which raised more than \$470,000 for the King County Library System's programs including Summer Reading. Leading sponsors **B3 Wealth Strategies** and **Better World Books** were among the 650 guests who came together to celebrate bringing **Books, Meals, and Possibilities** to King County Library patrons.

The KCLS Foundation proudly recognized Keynote Jennifer Egan, Master of Ceremonies Nancy Pearl, and 17 esteemed authors as the 2019 Literary Lions. Authors like Martha Brockenbrough and Esi Edugyan mingled with guests during the reception, sharing insights about their work and future projects. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn more about their favorite characters from authors like Tara Conklin and Robert Dugoni.

Once in the ballroom at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency, KCLS Foundation Board member Nicole Partridge introduced her precocious son William as the star of a video tour of the Bothell Library to highlight summer programs. And the crowd responded enthusiastically to fully fund Summer Reading at KCLS in 2019! Thanks to their generosity, more than 100,000 kids, teens, and adults will be able to participate in Summer Reading. Additionally, 10,000 meals will be provided at the library to those students who qualify for free and reduced lunches during the school year. **Thank you to Co-Chairs Rick and Frances Taylor and Michele Leonard for their leadership in making the 2019 Gala a success!**

Next year's Literary Lions Gala is set for **March 7, 2020** with **Colson Whitehead as Keynote Author**. Whitehead is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Underground Railroad*, winner of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize. His upcoming novel, *The Nickel Boys*, will be released in July.



From Left: KCLS Executive Director Lisa Rosenblum, Foundation Board Member Ducksoon Hwang, and attendee JL Song



Keynote Jennifer Egan, right, with attendee Venice Herring



From Left: Jim Leonard, Gala Co-Chair Michele Leonard, and Gala Co-Chairs Rick and Frances Taylor

2019 Literary Lions Authors

Mike Austin
Martha Brockenbrough
Dori Butler
Linda Chalker-Scott
Tara Conklin
Robert Dugoni

Esi Edugyan
Daniel Gemeinhart
Thor Hanson
Sanae Ishida
Ken Jennings
Jill Lightner

Kate McDermott
Nancy Pearl
Craig Romano
Karen Thompson Walker
Jing Jing Tsong
Paul Zitarelli

A Day in the Life of a Gala Volunteer

Amanda Lowell wears many volunteer hats for KCLS. She is as an appointed member of the Duvall Library Advisory Board, a Literary Lions Gala Committee member, and this year served in a big role as the Stage Manager for the event. [Follow Amanda's recap of her day to get a glimpse of the fun!](#)

9:00_{AM}

It's GALA DAY!
I begin the day with coffee and breakfast with my family.

10:00_{AM}

It's my last chance to give the "Run of Show" for tonight a final review.

12:00_{PM}

I fuel up with a quick lunch and another cup of coffee. It's going to be a long day!

2:00_{PM}

I arrive at the Hyatt to help with event set-up and last minute details.

3:00_{PM}

Our AV Team meets to prep for Sound Check. It's my first time as Stage Manager so I am learning the ropes!

4:00_{PM}

It's time for Sound Check! All the event's "stars" are here: Keynote Jennifer Egan, Emcee Nancy Pearl, and KCLS Executive Director Lisa Rosenblum.



Amanda, left, with Nancy Pearl at Sound Check

5:00_{PM}

I join my fellow committee members at the reception to enjoy our hard work coming together.

7:00_{PM}

SHOW TIME!
I'm listening to the AV team in my headset so I can cue each person to go on stage at the right time.

9:00_{PM}

And that's curtain! Now is my chance to purchase a few books from the "Literary Lions" authors.

A Universe of FUN: Summer at the Library

Your donations support summer reading challenges, children's activities, teen hangouts, community outreach and author visits for all ages

If you've stepped foot in a KCLS library during the busy summer months, then you know that libraries transform from June to September. What may usually be a cozy place becomes a hub for summer fun with **author visits, learning camps, story times, and reading parties** – encouraging people of all ages to keep reading and learning even when the sun is out.



The fun starts on June 1 and kick-off events are planned for each library to debut this year's reading challenge for kids, teens, and adults. The 2019 Theme is A Universe of Stories, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing.

But summer is also a time to bring the fun outside the library! To reach kids from all neighborhoods, KCLS brings the bright red **Library2Go vans to parks, community centers, YMCA camps, and apartment complexes** – handing out free books and nutritious meals

with our nonprofit partners. KCLS Librarians can also be seen walking in parades and community events for everything from SeaFair to Pride.

Because of your generous donations, the KCLS Foundation will give **\$250,000 to KCLS for Summer Programming in 2019**. You can show your support for these beloved programs by making a tax-deductible donation at kclsfoundation.org/donate. To find info on Summer Reading and other summer programs at your library, visit kcls.org/summer or search "summer reading" on the KCLS events calendar.

Getting to Know You: Q&A with Laurie Besteman

Putting Her Passion Into Action as a Foundation Donor, Avid Reader, and "Literary Legend"



Laurie Besteman, avid reader
and library supporter

There are many ways to be a library supporter, and Laurie Besteman is doing them all. As an avid reader, Laurie reviews books monthly on her own blog. Once she realized how much she was getting out of her library card (she checks out hundreds of books each year!), Laurie knew it was time to give back. She now proudly supports the KCLS Foundation with annual donations, as a regular Literary Lions Gala attendee, and as a member of the Literary Legends Society by leaving KCLS in her will.

Learn more about this inspiring library lover in this fun Q&A.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about yourself? What's your library story?

A: I've always been a reader. I grew up in a town in Wisconsin and I was at my town library every two weeks picking up new books. I can remember sitting on my father's lap in our blue chair, before he went off to WWII, learning to read. He'd have the newspaper or a book and we would sit there and read.

When I turned 80 recently, I decided I wanted to do something new. I was a journalism major in college so I like to read and I like to write. With my granddaughter's help I set up a blog. I review 6-8 books per month, and include brief comments on a few mysteries. It's been really fun.

Q: Why do you feel it's important to support libraries?

A: Libraries are such an amazing resource for our community. It's important for people to realize the scope of what libraries do, which is so beyond just providing books. The accessibility, the hours, the staff who are so nice. There are always people of different nationalities using the meeting rooms, attending programs. There is free parking, places to sit and read quietly, physical spaces that are like sanctuaries. Libraries are one of the only places you can go for free entertainment. I recently visited the ideaX Makerspace at the Bellevue Library to learn about the programs and the kids that come to the space. Libraries are doing the impossible for our kids who are the next generation of leaders and voters.

Q: With so many great organizations to support, why should others choose the KCLS Foundation?

A: Libraries contribute to the greater good. It's important to have educated, knowledgeable citizens and libraries make that happen. ***The more educated we all are, the better off we are as a society. If you want your kids to be readers and support them with library books, you also have to do that for others who don't have access to as much in our society.***

Q: What are you reading right now?

A: I'm reading *These Truths* by Jill Lepore, about the history of the United States. It's very long, but it's the most wonderful book! I keep thinking, "Oh, I didn't know that." There are some books everyone should read and this is one of them.

You can follow along with Laurie's reading over on her blog: bestlau.wordpress.com

