

WELCOME TO OPEN BOOK: A FESTIVAL FOR READERS



CELEBRATING
READERS,
WRITERS
AND BOOKISH
ENTHUSIASM.



**VILLAGE BOOKS
AND
PAPER DREAMS**
BUILDING COMMUNITY SINCE 1980



whatcom county
library system



WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

HELLO!

We are thrilled to welcome you to the second Open Book: A Festival for Readers.

Open Book organizers – librarians, library staff and booksellers – have built upon last year’s wildly successful inaugural event. The result? A book lover’s dream day with author presentations, book talks, and weird and wonderful hands-on book-related experiences at more than 20 booths and stages.

Flip through this program to plan your afternoon. Revisit the day once you are home by linking to websites via the provided QR codes.

At Open Book, we hope you’ll find bookish

inspiration for the coming year and form an even stronger bond with local libraries and Whatcom County’s literary community.

None of this would be possible without the financial support of the Whatcom County Library Foundation. We are grateful to community members who donate to the Foundation. Thank you for believing in libraries and the power of sharing.

Enjoy Open Book! We’re so glad you’re here.

YOUR BOOK-LOVING FRIENDS

at Whatcom County Library System, Village Books and Whatcom County Library Foundation



SHOP OPEN BOOK

Village Books: Whatcom County’s favorite indie is here with books and fun book swag to purchase. Expect a few surprises, including an appearance and book signing by the authors of *Our Hearts Beat as One (Sa'le Q'ewet Netse-Ih)*, a new children’s book published by Chuckanut Editions in collaboration with Sacred Sea.

Comics Place: Serving comic book fans since 1982, Comics Place offers comics, graphic novels, games and nerd ephemera.

Bookish Craft Bazaar: It’s gift giving season! Shop a selection of area crafters’ book-inspired creations.

Cozy Food: Hungry? Swing by the Friends of the Birch Bay Library Kitchen for cozy tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, cookies and drinks. Proceeds support the Birch Bay Vogt Library Express.

OPEN BOOK SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES: WHERE TO GO. WHAT YOU'LL FIND.

MAINSTAGE		COMMUNITY ROOM
12:30	Welcome with WCLS Deputy Director Michael Cox	
12:45	Storytelling with Brian Flowers: Listen as Brian joyfully shares two tales about the importance of stories.	Your Right to Read: How Libraries Protect Intellectual Freedom: Every day, WCLS upholds your Right to Read by protecting patron privacy and resisting censorship. In this session presented by library staff, you'll learn how you can support library values.
1:15	Lightning book talks: It's speed dating with authors! Local authors give 3-minute pitches about their books and invite you to visit their Open Book tables.	
1:45	Reading by poet and author Robert Lashley: The Bellingham-based writer's novel was a 2024 Washington State Book Award finalist.	
2:00	Golden Apple Awards: WCLS Youth Services staff present awards to Jennifer Bailey, Nooksack Valley High School; Nicolle Klander, Everson Elementary School; and Tom Maxim, Blaine Primary and Elementary School.	
2:30	Janie Chang Author Presentation: Janie presents "Inspiration, Research and Serendipity" with a special focus on her bestselling book Library of Legends.	
3:15	Janie Chang presentation continues.	Judge a Book by Its Cover: Wonder how library staff find and suggest books you enjoy? Learn how to read a book in 1 minute.
3:30	Janie Chang book signing	
3:45	Lightning book talks: It's speed dating with authors! Local authors give 3-minute pitches about their books and invite you to visit their Open Book tables.	Your Right to Read: How Libraries Protect Intellectual Freedom: Every day, WCLS upholds your Right to Read by protecting patron privacy and resisting censorship. In this session presented by library staff, you'll learn how you can support library values.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Main Hall:

Booth Experiences – See pages 4-5 for descriptions of our weird and wonderful book-related experiences.

Makerspace (aka The Noisy Room*): Ongoing hands-on activities until 5 p.m.

- Use typewriters and other supplies to **create a collaborative zine** about the magic of books. Hosted by Washington Center for the Book.
- Design and **make your own button** to proclaim your library love.
- **Create a book** with Puget Sound book artist Fran McReynolds.
- Try your hand at **screen printing** with the folks from Make.Shift.

* We've affectionally nicknamed this the "Noisy Room" because it is a hive of activity.

BOOKISH EXPERIENCES:

EXPLORE MORE THAN 20 BOOTHS
IN THE OPEN BOOK MAIN HALL

USE YOUR PHONE TO SCAN THE QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Book Hospital: Stop by to see how WCLS repairs its books and get tips on how to mend your own.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: Young readers ages birth to 5 may sign up to receive free books by mail. The United Way of Whatcom County is the local partner.

Harness the Power of Bibliocommons: Did you know you can browse the entire library collection from home? Renew what you have checked out, make lists and connect with other readers. Stop by to learn how to make the most of this powerful resource.

Interlibrary Loan: Discover the unusual treasures the library can borrow for you from libraries around the country and throughout the world.

Kanopy Film Festival: Grab a seat and some popcorn at our mini movie theater. Relax with a favorite film from Kanopy's collection. Learn how to access Kanopy movies at home with your library card.

Libby eBook App: Step right up to the Amazing Libby Fortune Teller to discover your reading destiny on the library's eBook app.



Library of Things: You can borrow more than books from the library. Explore the "Library of Things" collection, including puzzles, games, dolls, ukuleles, animatronic cats and WiFi hotspots.

Mango Languages: The library's free language learning app, Mango, deepens your connections with family, friends, colleagues and others through the power of sharing a common language.

Meet WCLS's Cultural Liasons: Learn how WCLS connects with our diverse community.

Reading Lounge: Relax in the reading lounge with comfy and quirky pieces from Wilson's Furniture. Browse strange and interesting items from the library collection.

Silent Disco: Sway to music from the library's streaming service (Freegal) sent wirelessly to headphones.

Tabletop Games from the Library's Collection: Play some great, quick card games from our "Library of Things" board game collection.

Western Washington University Special Collections: Put on the white gloves of an archivist as WWU librarians guide you through antique pop-up books and rare materials that represent WWU's Special Collections.



Whatcom County Library

Foundation: With your financial support, the Foundation powers special library programs, projects and services...including Open Book! Learn how to get involved.



Whatcom Literacy Council: Talk with volunteers to discover how the literacy council empowers adults to achieve their goals and how you can help.



Whatcom READS: Celebrate reading, readers and strong communities through the shared experience of one book. Enter to win a copy of the 2025 featured title, *No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermeister.



Whatcom Story Share: Learn about the history of rural Whatcom County through photos and interviews showcased on the Washington Rural Heritage website and discover library resources to gather and share your family legacy.



Youth Services Staff Shelf: Play an interactive game to discover what books the WCLS Youth Services team are recommending on their Staff Shelf.



DON'T MISS!

Photo Spot: This imaginative and immersive cardboard art installation (featuring a dragon in his library) is a perfect spot for a selfie or family portrait. Find it in the lobby. Thank you to artist Kim Morris of Birch Bay.

Flying Books: Books take flight, an art installation to delight by Ashley DeLatour. Find it in the Reading Lounge.

KAFE Radio Remote: Stop by the KAFE booth in the lobby for swag and to learn more about KAFE programs. Noon-2 p.m.

Salish Current: The Salish Current is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, online news organization serving Whatcom, San Juan and Skagit counties. Learn more at their booth in the lobby. 2-5 p.m.

Bookmobile: In the parking lot, step aboard the WCLS bookmobile to experience a library on wheels! Check out books or just take a tour. Discover bookshelves that open to a secret lift and other surprises. Custom-built in Ferndale.

Ballistic Brew Coffee: This mobile coffee trailer in the parking lot offers a variety of bold coffee and espresso drinks, delicious energy drinks and more.

**SPARK JOY!
GET A
LIBRARY CARD.**

wcls.org/getacard

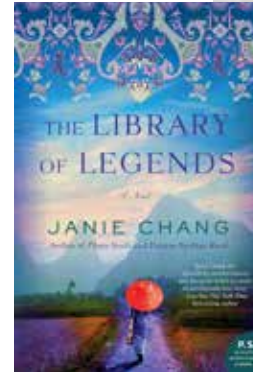


MAINSTAGE PRESENTERS AND HONOREES



Janie Chang is a Canadian bestselling author of historical fiction. Janie will present "Inspiration, Research and Serendipity" with a special focus on her book *Library of Legends*. Inspired by family stories and tales of ancestors who encountered dragons, ghosts and immortals, her novels also include *The Porcelain Moon*, *Dragon Springs Road*, *Three Souls* and *The Phoenix Crown* (co-authored with Kate Quinn). The Toronto Star calls Janie Chang "one of the most original voices in Canadian historical fiction."

JANIE CHANG 2:30 PM



Book signing 3:30 PM

BRIAN FLOWERS 12:45 PM



Brian Flowers is a dynamic performer and skilled public speaker who captivates audiences of all ages. Brian has been telling stories since he could string two sentences

together and has been calling himself a professional storyteller for almost 30 years. He even has a bachelor's degree in storytelling. A lifetime Whatcom County resident, Brian is at his most content on the beaches and in the mountains of the PNW. Even more so when joined by his wife (who is a librarian), daughter and Jack the dog. He is also the owner of Wildflower Funeral Concepts: A Different Kind of Funeral Home.

ROBERT LASHLEY 1:45 PM



Robert Lashley was a 2016 Jack Straw Fellow, Artist Trust Fellow and Finalist for a Stranger Genius Award. In 2024, his first novel, *I Never Dreamed You'd Leave In Summer*, was

a finalist for a Washington State Book Award. He also likes taking care of cats. Dr. Alassane Abdoulaye Dia of Western Washington University calls Robert's novel, "A striking and poignant perspective on contemporary America [...] will undoubtedly become a significant part of the African American literary canon."



GOLDEN APPLE AWARD WINNERS

WCLS's Youth Services staff will honor three Whatcom County educators at a **2 p.m.** mainstage ceremony. WCLS began the Golden Apple Educator Award in 2007 to honor the dedication of local teachers and school staff who connect students with library resources that further their growth and learning.

Jennifer Bailey

is a multilingual English learner specialist at Nooksack Valley High School. Jennifer's main role is to support the academic needs of her students as they develop as learners and readers, in both English and their native languages. She invites WCLS staff into her classroom to share about ConnectED and to school events like Hispanic Heritage Family Night to make sure her students' families know how to access the many books and other resources available to them from the public library. ConnectED is the county library system's partnership with local school districts that enables students to use their school ID as a library card.



Nicolle Klander

is the librarian at Everson Elementary School. She is constantly looking for ways to connect students with reading and uses the public library to fill in gaps when the school library doesn't have the books she wants to recommend. Following the 2021 flood that displaced Sumas students, the Everson Elementary School Library became a classroom so those students could continue attending classes in their own district. Despite the lack of a library space, Nicolle found new ways to deliver library services to students, including asking WCLS to bring the bookmobile to the school.



Tom Maxim

is a reading and math intervention specialist at Blaine Primary and Elementary School. Following the closure of the Blaine Elementary Library, Tom recognized the urgent need for students to have access to quality reading materials. He reached out to the Blaine Library to arrange monthly delivery of library books to scores of classrooms. Since its launch last spring, this program successfully circulated over 1,000 books through Blaine Elementary School and has expanded this year to Blaine Primary School.



MORE LOCAL AUTHORS APPEARING AT OPEN BOOK



Rob Slater



Barbara Jean Hicks



Kerry Mitchell



Motoko Lewis
(illustrator)



Brooke Pederson



Janet Oakley



Carol Reed-Jones



Rain Fordyce

Visit the writers' booths to purchase their books and to learn more about their work. Hear their lightning book talks on the mainstage at 1:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Mainstage — 1:15-1:45:

- Rob Slater
- Barbara Jean the Story Queen
- Kerry Mitchell and Motoko Lewis
- Janet Oakley
- Carol Reed-Jones

Mainstage — 3:45-4:15:

- Rain Fordyce
- Becky Mandelbaum
- Nala Henkel-Aislinn
- Ögn Magnusson
- Susan Colleen Browne



Becky Mandelbaum



Nala Henkel-Aislinn



Ögn Magnusson



Susan Colleen Browne



Open Book is generously funded by



WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Whatcom County Library Foundation supports programs, projects, and services that meet needs and opportunities in our library system. The Foundation is committed to library services that serve the diverse population of Whatcom County residents. We augment tax-based support for our local libraries through private giving.

Programs we fund with your gifts include:

- Books for Babies
- Summer Reading
- Books Unbound for at-risk teens
- Whatcom READS
- Innovation grants
- Capital project grants



GET INVOLVED: [WCLS.ORG/GIVE](https://wcls.org/give)

OPEN BOOK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thank you to Wilson Furniture for providing Reading Lounge furniture.

We are grateful to our Open Book volunteers and partners. Thank you.



WCLS buildings are on the ancestral homeland of the Nooksack, Lummi and other Coast Salish Peoples. They have been its stewards since time immemorial, respecting the land, river and ocean with the understanding that everything is connected, related and alive.

Art by Jason Allen LaClair — Sienum — Lummi Nation/Nooksack Tribe