

AUTHORS, AUTHORS AND MORE AUTHORS

NCRL continues to provide interesting opportunities to our patrons by arranging to bring popular authors to our communities to talk about their books, the writing experience and to answer questions. Meeting an author in person and listening to the story of how a book is developed from first inspiration to final cover approval is fascinating. Plan to add the following dates to your calendar:



Kristin Hannah

April 1st, 7:00-9:00

Wenatchee Public Library

Author of 16 titles (available through the NCRL catalogue) Kristin Hannah has had a good year. Her novel *Firefly Lane* spent 8 1/2 months on the best seller list. Her most recent novel, *Winter Garden*, comes out in February. It is described as a family drama, a multi-generational, multi-cultural exploration of family bonds

set in the beautiful, chilly Pacific Northwest which focuses on two daughters and their difficult, Russian-born mother.



Terry Brooks

May 16, 1:00 pm

Wenatchee Public Library

(in conjunction with *Write on the River*)

Terry Brooks is the New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty-five books, including the *Genesis of Shannara* novels; the *Voyage of the Jerle Shannara* trilogy, the *High Druid of Shannara* trilogy; the nonfiction book

Sometimes the Magic Works: Lessons from a Writing Life; and the novel based upon the screenplay and story by George Lucas, *Star Wars(R): Episode I The Phantom Menace* (tm). His novels *Running with the Demon* and *A Knight of the Word* were selected by the Rocky Mountain News as two of the best science fiction/fantasy novels of the twentieth century. The author was a practicing attorney for many years but now writes full-time.



Nancy Pearl

May 20, 7:00-9:00

Wenatchee Public Library

Nancy is coming back! The author of best sellers *Book Lust* and *Book Crush*, Nancy Pearl is considered the Northwest's personal advocate for reading. She says "Every time I open a new book to read, it's like embarking on a voyage to an unexplored place that just might be filled

with wonder and excitement." Become infected with book lust as her enthusiasm and joy of reading takes you on her own special journey.

Grab your calendars! Here are some important dates.

• Meet Lois Lowry at one of these free public events:

- April 5 at 7:00 pm - Omak Performing Arts Center
- April 6 at 10:00 am - Republic High School
- April 7 at 7:00 pm - Wenatchee Performing Arts Center
- April 8 at 7:00 pm - Moses Lake Events Center

• "An Evening with Garth Stein"

Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 pm
NCRL Distribution Center, 16 N Columbia Street, Wenatchee

• Book-it Theatre Presents "Catching the Moon"

- Twisp Public Library
Monday, April 12 at 4:00 pm
- Okanogan Public Library
Tuesday, April 13 at 3:30 pm
- Soap Lake Public Library
Wednesday, April 14 at 4:00 pm
- Ephrata Public Library
Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm
- Wenatchee Public Library
Thursday, April 15 at 3:30 pm



What's new on the NCRL website? Check it out.

NCRL is constantly adding items to the website for our patrons to enjoy. We encourage you to take a look at the Research & Homework Center at www.ncrl.org. There are some new links for parents and educators that will help with gaining reference tools and information. AR Bookfinder is a website where Accelerated Reading point designations can be found as well as lists of award nominees and winners paired with the AR points. The PBS Parents website has interesting information on literacy, nutrition, child development, crafts and a book search engine. Take a look... you will be pleased with the many tools found on the NCRL website.

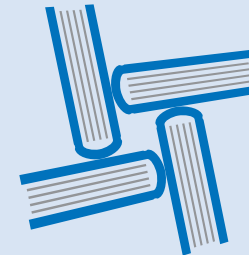


NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL LIBRARY

Promoting reading and lifelong learning

BOOK REPORT

Spring 2010



www.ncrl.org

Celebrating 50 years
1960-2010

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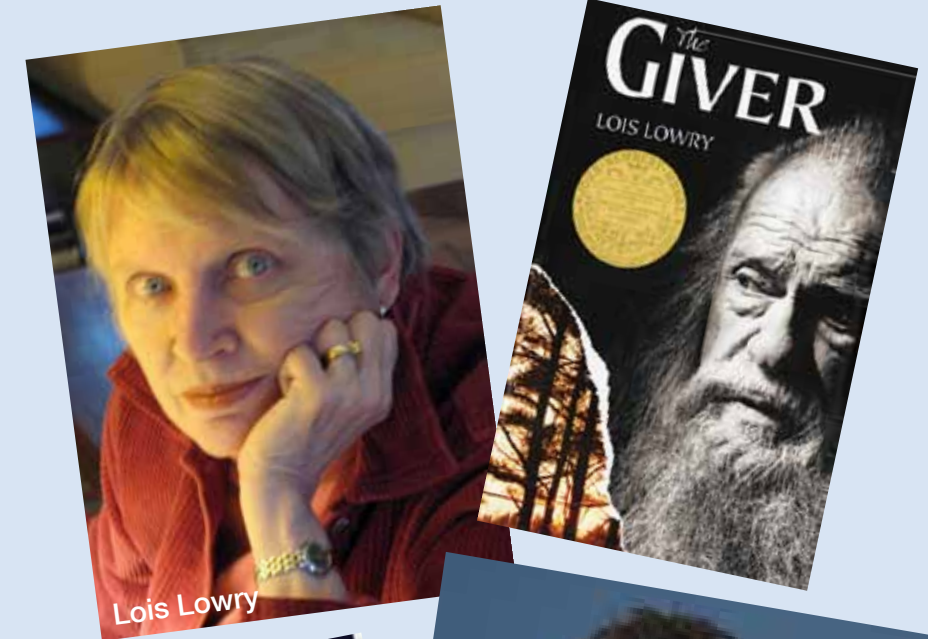
Happy 50th Birthday!

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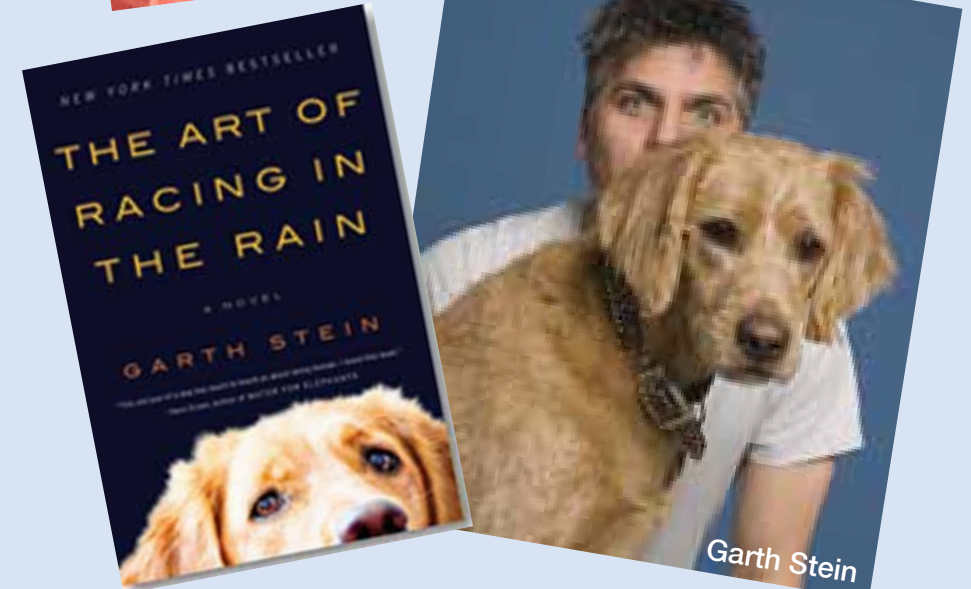
Authors, Authors
and More Authors

Grab Your Calendars
Here are Some
Important Dates

What's New on the
NCRL Website?



Lois Lowry



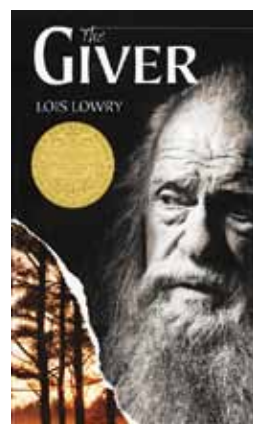
Garth Stein

**IN CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS OF SERVING
NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON WE PROUDLY ANNOUNCE
"COLUMBIA RIVER READS," A PROGRAM FEATURING
AWARD WINNING AUTHOR LOIS LOWRY,
BEST SELLING AUTHOR GARTH STEIN AND MUCH MORE!
TURN THE PAGE TO READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

EXCITING "COLUMBIA RIVER READS" PROGRAMS THIS SPRING

North Central Regional Library has long held the belief that families who read together establish strong and lasting bonds focused on the reading experience that will lead to a life-long love of learning. Over the past decade many communities across the nation have participated in what has become known as "one book" programs. Essentially, this means that all who are interested read the same book, participate in group discussions and share the experience of the book together. The NCRL One Book plan is now called "Columbia River Reads" and this spring the program offers two wonderful opportunities to share a book across all five counties in the region, to attend an appearance of the authors of these books and to meet in groups within your communities for discussion.

COLUMBIA RIVER FAMILIES READ "The Giver"



NCRL is excited to bring the renowned author, Lois Lowry, to our communities in April. Her prize winning novel, *The Giver*, is the featured book for this program. "We hope this program inspires adults to read with their children," says Angela Morris, Children's Services Coordinator. Publisher's Weekly recommends this book for readers age 5th grade and above. Since its publication in 1993, many children, young adults and grown ups have enjoyed this unique tale. Among its many accolades and

awards are the 1994 Newberry Medal, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and Notable Children's Book awards. In 2007 Lois Lowry was granted the Margaret A. Edwards Award for *The Giver*; the award honors an author's lifetime contribution to young people's literature.

Lois Lowry began her career as a photographer and freelance journalist during the early 1970s. Her work as a journalist drew the attention of a publisher who encouraged her to write her first book in 1977. She has since written more than 30 books for children. She is known for writing about difficult subject matter including racism, terminal illness, murder and the Holocaust.

The Giver is set in a futuristic utopia with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, where everyone is happy. In this ideal world it has been agreed that well-matched married couples will raise exactly two offspring, one boy and one girl. These children's adolescent sexual impulses will be stifled with specially prescribed drugs; at age 12 they will receive an appropriate career assignment, sensibly chosen by the community's Elders. Until the main character, Jonas, begins training for his job assignment—the rigorous and prestigious position of Receiver of Memory taught by an old man, The Giver—he too is a complacent model citizen. He discovers a disturbing truth about this "ideal" world and struggles to decide what to do.

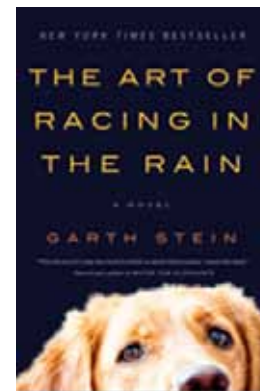
As noted by Publisher's Weekly: "Lowry's development of this civilization is so deft that her readers, like the community's citizens, will be easily seduced by the chimera of this ordered, pain-free society. Lowry is in top form—raising many questions while answering few, and unwinding a tale fit for the most adventurous readers."

When interviewed by School Library Journal in 2007 about what led her to write *The Giver*, she described a visit to her parents in a nursing home. Each had a different challenge with memory, her mother wanting to retell her life story with memories of all the joyful events and her father failing to remember most of these events at all. "I began to think about memory—how we use it, how painful it can be, yet how necessary. What if we could manipulate it? What if I could leave my mother with all those happy memories of puppies and picnics and take away the sad memories? I began to play with the idea of people who had learned to manipulate memory. I realized that such a story would have to be set in the future and I began creating a community quite different from the ones we now have. I had to figure out what these people had been able to control. They were without war, poverty, crime, alcoholism, divorce; I slowly understood that this group of people had at some point made collective choices and terrible sacrifices in order to achieve a level of comfort and security."

Lois Lowry will be visiting some NCRL branches the week of April 5-9 with a special public presentation on April 7 at the Performing Arts Center in Wenatchee from 7:00-9:00. The complete schedule is printed on the back of this Book Report. Books are available from mail order and all local branches where a group discussion will also be held. Contact your local library for the date. Book Groups may contact Paula Walters at 1-800-426-7323 extension 144 to schedule books. In addition, many schools are featuring *The Giver* in English curriculums for this semester. If your child is reading the book, pick up a library copy and join in!



COLUMBIA RIVER READS "The Art of Racing in the Rain"



This Spring NCRL is excited to have an additional "one book" program featuring the adult novel by Garth Stein, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, capped by a visit from the author in Wenatchee on April 22nd.

The *Art of Racing in the Rain* captivates from the very first page when we learn that the story is told through the eyes of Enzo, an endearing dog owned by race car driver Denny. Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master. Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast.

A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life...as only a dog could tell it. Even skeptics who expected not to like this concept are delightfully surprised to find it a perfect vehicle for telling a story. One reviewer on amazon.com stated "Since Enzo is a dog, he is able to put forth some very progressive ideas--ideas that we readers might have rebelled against had Enzo simply been a human being. It is his dogness that makes him so disarming and allows us to fall effortlessly into his world. It really doesn't matter if dogs or racing are not your thing. I don't know much about racing, but I do appreciate Enzo's ideas of how the principles of driving can be applied to living a more successful life. A sure classic!"



The Art of Racing in the Rain is Garth Stein's third book. It has been gaining in popularity since its publication in 2008 and has been translated into 25 languages with close to a million copies in print. A movie is also in the works. The novel has become a book group favorite and many of the NCRL book groups have already read it or will be reading it together this spring. Book Groups may contact Paula Walters at 1-800-426-7323 extension 144 to schedule

books. Each library will host a discussion group as well. The author visits the NCRL Distribution center located at 16 N. Columbia Street, Wenatchee, from 7:00 to 9:00 on April 22. This is open to the public. Call 1-800-426-7323 or 509-663-1117 for information.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Happy 50th Birthday
North Central Regional Library!*



2010 is a year of celebration and gratitude for the foresight of 5 sets of county commissioners who put a vote to the people of Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, and Okanogan Counties to establish the North Central Regional Library District.

Much has changed in the last 50 years, especially with our ability to deliver services to you via the internet. In 2010 we are adding even more online services and 36 additional public access computers at our branches. However, what has stayed the same through the years is our commitment to *Promote Reading and Lifelong Learning*.

In the last 10 years, circulation has risen by 31.23%. That bucks the national trend in rural areas. We now have over 300 active adult book clubs. The numbers show that we live in an incredible part of the state filled with amazing people who read!

Here is to the next 50 years being even more amazing!

Dean Marney, Director

BOOK-IT THEATRE RETURNS THIS SPRING WITH "CATCHING THE MOON"



Over the past couple of years, NCRL has sponsored appearances by Seattle's Book-It Theatre company and this spring the company will be visiting five library branches with a new production of a book that is sure to inspire young audiences.

Catching the Moon by Crystal Hubbard is the story of a young girl named

Marcenia Lyle who, growing up in the 1930s, loves nothing more than baseball. She chases down fly balls, steals bases and dreams of becoming a professional baseball player. One day her spirit and talent catch the eye of a coach for a baseball summer camp. Even when the lack of a new pair of cleats and her family's objections stand in the way of her dream, Marcenia overcomes unbeatable odds to become the first woman to play for an all-male baseball team. Based on a true story, *Catching the Moon* is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

Book-It will be in our region from April 12-April 15. Check the schedule on the back page and don't miss this great opportunity to see a performance of this unique and imaginative approach to literature.