

# Would you, could you buy a book?



King Elementary students enjoy their new books in 2015, donated through the Clark College Bookstore's annual book drive.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know," wrote Theodor Geisel (aka "Dr. Seuss"). "The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." It is with this idea in mind that Clark College has chosen Vancouver's King Elementary School as the beneficiary of its tenth annual book drive, which runs Feb. 12-28.

Over the past nine years, the Clark College Bookstore has helped provide more than 1,100 books to local kindergartners.

This year's book selection is Dr. Seuss' *Green Eggs and Ham*, a favorite among children for six decades. Geisel wrote the book in 1960 after a publisher dared him to write a children's story using no more than 50 words.

The community is invited to help purchase 85 copies of the Dr. Seuss classic to be given to kindergartners at King Elementary on Read Across America Day (March 2), a celebration to commemorate Geisel's birthday. Books will be read aloud to students by volunteers from the Clark College Bookstore.

Research has shown that having age-appropriate books in the home promotes literacy in children. But according to the National Center for Children in Poverty, two-thirds of children from low-income families lack access to books. Clark College Bookstore Manager Monica Knowles, who has helped organize the book drive for many years, says that she often hears from her volunteers that this gift was the only book a kindergartner owned.

Copies of the selected Dr. Seuss books are available for purchase and donation Feb. 12-28 for \$6.85 each (plus tax). Each book will include a nameplate with the donor's name. Donors will be able to purchase books at the Bookstore or online via the Bookstore's website at [www.clarkbookstore.com](http://www.clarkbookstore.com), making it quick and convenient to participate in the book drive.

The Clark College Bookstore is located in Gaiser Hall on the northern end of Clark's main campus. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Information about the bookstore is available at [www.clarkbookstore.com](http://www.clarkbookstore.com). For additional information, contact Monica Knowles at the Clark College Bookstore at 360-992-2904.

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# Clark College Columbia Writers Series hosts Cheston Knapp



Cheston Knapp. *Photo: Alexis Knapp*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series continues its 2017-2018 season with Cheston Knapp, managing editor of the award-winning literary magazine *Tin House*. He will discuss his work and read from his new collection of essays, *Up Up, Down Down*.

This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, February 15, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Penguin

Union Building (PUB) room 258A-B on Clark College's main campus.

Cheston Knapp is managing editor of *Tin House*, a literary magazine based in Portland, Oregon. He graduated with a degree in English from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is the recipient of a 2015 Oregon Literary Fellowship from Literary Arts and the executive director of the Tin House Summer Writers' Workshop. His work has appeared in *Tin House* and *One Story*. *Up Up, Down Down* is his first book. It has received critical praise from the literary world, including this evaluation by Joshua Ferris, author of *And Then We Came to the End*: "Offering up a steady supply of perfectly chosen words in precision-guided sentences, Cheston Knapp will either break your heart or jolt your spine, and quite possibly bring some of us back to life."

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. This year's lineup of authors continues with:

- May 14, 2018: Roger Reeves, Pushcart Prize-winning poet
- May 17, 2018: Kate Berube, children's book author and illustrator

Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

This event is held on Clark College's main campus at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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# Aimee Bender at Clark College



Author Aimee Bender. *Photo: Mike Glier/USC Dornlife*

Clark College welcomes award-winning novelist Aimee Bender, author of *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* and *The Color Master*, as part of the college's Columbia Writers Series.

Bender will read from and discuss her writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, October 30, in the Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258 on Clark's main campus.

Aimee Bender is the author of five books: *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* (1998), which was a NY Times Notable Book; *An*

*Invisible Sign of My Own* (2000), which was a *Los Angeles Times* pick of the year; *Willful Creatures* (2005) which was nominated by *The Believer* as one of the best books of the year; *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* (2010), which won the SCIBA award for best fiction and an Alex Award; and *The Color Master*, a *New York Times* Notable book for 2013. Her books have been translated into 16 languages.

Her short fiction has been published in *Granta*, *GQ*, *Harper's*, *Tin House*, *McSweeney's*, *The Paris Review*, and more. It also has been heard on PRI's "This American Life" and "Selected Shorts."

She lives in Los Angeles with her family and teaches creative writing at USC.

The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP) or visit room PUB 013.

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# Kenny Fries opens Columbia Writers Series season



Kenny Fries. *Photo: Michael R. Dekker*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2017-2018 season with renowned poet, memoirist, and critic Kenny Fries. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, October 10, from 11:00 a.m. to noon in Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258A on Clark College's main campus.

Fries is perhaps best known for his memoir *Body, Remember: A Memoir*, which recounts his experiences as a disabled child growing up in an abusive Orthodox Jewish home and slowly coming to terms with his identity as a gay, disabled man. He has written two other memoirs, *In the Province of the Gods* and *The History of My Shoes and the Evolution of Darwin's Theory*, this last the winner of the Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights. He is the editor of *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out* and the author of the libretto for *The Memory Stone*, an opera commissioned by

the Houston Grand Opera. His books of poems include *Anesthesia*, *Desert Walking*, and *In the Gardens of Japan*. He teaches in the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Goddard College.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. This year's lineup of authors includes, besides Fries:

## Fall

- October 30: Aimee Bender, author of *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* and *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

## Winter

- February 15, 2018: Cheston Knapp, editor of *Tin House* magazine and author of *Up Up, Down Down*, which will appear in February 2018

## Spring

- May 14, 2018: Roger Reeves, Pushcart Prize-winning poet
- May 17, 2018: Kate Berube, children's book author and illustrator

Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

This event is held on Clark College's main campus at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.



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# Ruth Wariner at Columbia Writers Series



Ruth Wariner. *Photo:*  
*Joni Shimabukuro*

During the 2017 spring quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome Ruth Wariner, author of the memoir *The Sound of Gravel*, which has gained national praise for its frank, spare description of her childhood growing up in a polygamist Mormon colony in Mexico.

Ruth Wariner is an internationally renowned speaker and author of the 2016 *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *The Sound of Gravel*. At the age of 15, Ruth escaped Colonia LeBaron, the polygamist Mormon colony where she grew up, and moved to California. She raised her three youngest sisters in California and Oregon. After earning her GED, she put herself through college and graduate school, eventually becoming a high school Spanish teacher. She remains close to her siblings and is happily married. *The Sound of Gravel* is her first book.

*People* magazine called it “[h]eartbreaking, haunting, yet ultimately uplifting.” *Kirkus Reviews* wrote of it: “Engrossingly readable from start to finish, the book not only offers a riveting portrayal of life in a polygamist community. It also celebrates the powerful bond between siblings determined to not only survive their circumstances, but also thrive in spite of them. An unsentimental yet wholly moving memoir.” More can be found at her website, [www.ruthwariner.com](http://www.ruthwariner.com).

Wariner will read from and discuss her writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, in room PUB 258A on Clark’s main campus. The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College’s Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP) or visit room PUB 013.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. Information about the Columbia Writers Series—including the Subtext Literary Festival taking place May 15-18—is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

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# A champ returns



Award-winning author Mitchell S. Jackson began his college career at Clark. *Photo: Charlotte M. Wales*

During the 2017 winter quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome back former student Mitchell S. Jackson, an award-winning author. Mitchell will read from and discuss his writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, in room PUB 258 on Clark's main campus.

"I'm excited about Mitchell's reading because I think it will be a great opportunity for Clark students to hear from someone who grew up in the area and attended Clark," says English instructor Alexis Nelson, who co-directs the Columbia Writers Series. "I also think *The Residue Years* suits the college theme of Transformation, in addition to being a unique and powerful read."

Raised in Portland, Mitchell Jackson is the author of *The*

*Residue Years*, a novel that Mitchell has said includes many autobiographical elements. The award-winning book centers on the relationship between Champ, a young African-American man struggling to balance his ambitions with his circumstances, and his mother Grace, recently released from rehab.

Jackson began his college career at Clark in 1993, where he played basketball under then-coach David Waldow. "My time at Clark was formative," says Jackson. "It taught me that I would have to work hard to achieve my goals, that I'd have to take responsibility for my decisions. Coach Waldow was tough on me, but he was also a figure I needed at that point in my life."

Jackson transferred to another college after one year at Clark, eventually earning an M.A. in writing from Portland State University and an M.F.A in Creative Writing from New York University. He currently resides in New York, and serves on the faculty of both New York University and Columbia University.

*The Residue Years* has earned significant accolades since its release in 2013. It was praised by publications including *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Times of London*. Jackson is the winner of a Whiting Award. His novel also won The Ernest J. Gaines Prize for Literary Excellence and was a finalist for the Center for Fiction's Flaherty-Dunnan First novel prize, the PEN/ Hemingway award for first fiction, and the Hurston / Wright Legacy Award. Jackson's honors include fellowships from TED, the Lannan Foundation, the BreadLoaf Conference, and the Center for Fiction. It was also the 2015 Everybody Reads selection of the Multnomah County Library. *The New York Times* said in its review of the book, "Jackson's prose has a spoken-word cadence, the language flying off the page with percussive energy ... there is a warmth and a hard-won wisdom about the intersection of race and poverty in America."

The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due

to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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## Dana Spiotta reads at Clark



Dana Spiotta. *Photo:*  
*Jessica Marx*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series is proud to present its fall quarter installment, featuring author Dana Spiotta.

This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in Anna Pechanec Hall (APH) room 201 on Clark College's main campus.

Dana Spiotta is the author of the novels *Lightning Field*, *Eat the Document*, *Stone Arabia*, and *Innocents and Others*. She has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow, and a Rome Prize winner, and her novels have been selected as finalists for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. A recent profile of Spiotta in the *New York Times Magazine* stated that she has "created a new kind of great American novel."

Spiotta will read from some of her work and discuss her writing process from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, November 3. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

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## Seussing Things Up



King Elementary students enjoy their new books, donated through the Clark College Bookstore's 2015 book drive.

Smiles dominated the scene at King Elementary School on March 2 as volunteers from the Clark College Bookstore read Dr. Seuss's classic *The Cat in The Hat* to four kindergarten classes as part of Read Across America Day. Following the book readings by volunteers Kaina Barba and Megaera Jarvis, each student received a new copy of the book to keep for their own, courtesy of the Bookstore's annual book drive. A total of 100 copies were donated by community members, students, staff, and faculty.





Clark College Bookstore volunteers Megaera Jarvis and Kaina Barba read to King Elementary students during Read Across America Day 2015.

“What better way is there to get a child excited to read than with a Dr. Seuss book?” asked Bookstore buyer Marti Earhart, who helps organize the Book Drive. “When the books were handed out, the kids were so excited to open their books to see what words they recognized.”

“The Clark College Book Drive is a wonderful opportunity for King students to hear another adult read a book to them,” King kindergarten teacher Shari Perea said afterward. “The students treasure the book that they receive from the Clark (volunteer) and it, in some cases, is the only book that they own.”

Over the last seven years, the book drive has provided over 1,100 books to local kindergarteners.

*Story submitted by Marti Earhart*

*Photos: Marti Earhart/Clark College Bookstore*

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# Would You, Could You Buy a Book?



Clark College Bookstore buyer Kaina Derwin reads to Crestline Elementary students during Read Across America Day 2014.

As Theodor Geisel (aka "Dr. Seuss") once wrote, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Heeding those words, Clark College has chosen to make the beneficiary of its seventh annual book drive Vancouver's King Elementary School.

The Clark College Bookstore is hoping that Book Drive supporters will purchase 100 copies of the Dr. Seuss classic *The Cat in the Hat*. The books will be given to kindergarteners

at King Elementary on Read Across America Day, a celebration to commemorate the birthday of Theodor Geisel (aka "Dr. Seuss"). Books will be read aloud to students by volunteers from Clark College Bookstore.

Copies of the selected Dr. Seuss books will be available for purchase and donation Feb. 16-27 for \$6.85 each (plus tax). Each book will include a nameplate with the donor's name. Donors will be able to purchase books at the Bookstore or online via the Bookstore's website at [www.clarkbookstore.com](http://www.clarkbookstore.com), making it quick and convenient to participate in the book drive.

"The Clark College Book Drive is a wonderful opportunity for King students to hear another adult read a book to them," says King kindergarten teacher Shari Perea. "The students treasure the book that they receive and, in some cases, it is the only book that they own."

According to Clark College Bookstore buyer Marti Earhart, one of the organizers of the drive, "I've personally handed books to students nearly every year of the book drive. I don't doubt for a moment that each one of the kids will be reading the book on their own in a few weeks!"

Bookstore manager Monica Knowles adds, "I delight in knowing the joy those books bring to our local community and I don't hesitate to challenge my friends and family to join it!"

The Clark College Bookstore is located in Gaiser Hall on the northern end of Clark's main campus. Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Driving directions and parking maps are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps). Information about the bookstore is available at [www.clarkbookstore.com](http://www.clarkbookstore.com). For additional information, contact Marti Earhart at the Clark College Bookstore at 360-992-2261.

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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# Clark Welcomes Jess Walter



Award-winning author Jess Walter reads at the 2015 winter quarter installment of Clark College's Columbia Writers Series.

During the 2015 winter quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome best-selling writer Jess Walter, whose award-winning work was recently deemed "captivating" by the *New York Times* and "bad-ass" by *Esquire* magazine.

A former National Book Award finalist and winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award, Jess Walter is the author of six novels, one



book of short stories, and one nonfiction book. His 2012 novel, *Beautiful Ruins*, was both a No. 1 *New York Times* Bestseller and a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2012, as well as *Esquire's* Book of the Year and NPR Fresh Air's Novel of the Year. His 2009 novel, *The Financial Lives of the Poets* was *Time* magazine's No. 2 Novel of the Year. His most recent book, the 2013 collection of short stories called *We Live in Water*, was described by the *Seattle Times* as "[s]tories that twist and plumb, delivering unexpected laughs while playing with what it is we think we know ... Walter has emerged as one of the country's most dazzling novelists ... so freakishly, fiendishly good, it isn't fair."

Walter's work has been translated into 30 languages, and his essays, short fiction, criticism and journalism have been widely published, in *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, *Byliner*, *Playboy*, *ESPN the Magazine*, *Details* and many others. He lives with his wife Anne and children, Brooklyn, Ava and Alec in his childhood home of Spokane, Washington.

Walter will read from some of his works and discuss his writing process from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, in Foster Auditorium on Clark's main campus. The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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