

Multicultural

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration



Do you have Martin Luther King Jr. Day off of school? Spend this January 15th at the Main Library for a day ON as we celebrate the birthday of the American Civil Rights icon. [Read more](#)
Posted by Lizzie F. on January 2, 2018

[African American](#)

[American History](#)

[Civil Rights](#)

[Coretta Scott King](#)

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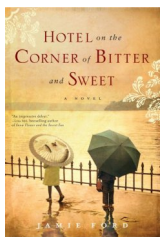
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[Lizzie F.'s blog](#)

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet



[view in catalog](#)

On November 17, author Jamie Ford speaks at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in Bloomington for the [NEA Big Read](#) and the library's biennial [Power of Words](#) program. Tickets are free, and can be picked up at the Main Library (at the [Friends of the Library Bookstore](#) or the [Friends office](#)) or [ordered online](#).

As he often does, Jamie Ford writes about the clashing and melding of different cultures in his three historical novels: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, *Songs of Willow Frost*, and *Love and Other Consolation Prizes*. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on November 8, 2017

[Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet](#)

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[Coming of Age](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

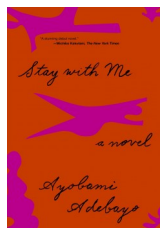
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Stay with Me



[view in catalog](#)

With economy of language and a taut emotional underlying, [Ayobami Adebayo](#) tells the parallel tales of a young couple's marriage, alongside Nigeria's struggle for independence.

Told alternately by Yejide and her husband, Akin, the book opens late in the story to a woman packing her bags. She's done this many, many times before, but something—whether deep feelings or fear—has always stopped her from making the trip to her southwestern Nigerian hometown of Ilesa, once the site of a magical kingdom. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 31, 2017

[Stay with Me](#)

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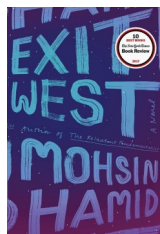
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Exit West



[view in catalog](#)

Several books use the concept of a magical door to provide characters entry into other worlds, or to better places in this one. [Exit West](#), a timely novel about refugees by [Man Booker Prize](#) winner [Mohsin Hamid](#), employs this device—but because of the power of his plotting and beauty of his prose, it's highly believable.

The novel begins when a young man, Saeed, meets Nadia in an adult evening class in an unnamed country at some point in the near future. Civil war wracks the country; terrorists and militants roam the streets. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 14, 2017

[Exit West](#)

[Fiction](#)

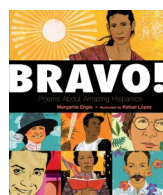
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April 30th is Día!



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Every day is a celebration of reading at the Library! But *Día* (or [El día de los niños, El día de los libros](#)) is an extra special celebration. [Read more](#)

Posted by Alex G. on April 30, 2017

[The boy & the book](#)

[The deaf musicians](#)

[Bravo!: poems about amazing Hispanics](#)

[Stella's Starliner](#)

[Be Who You Are](#)

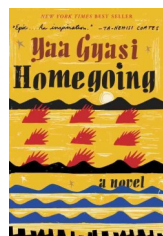
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Homegoing



[view in catalog](#)

A Ghana proverb says, "By going and coming, a bird weaves its nest." The title of this novel tells the story of many people from Ghana who were forcibly removed from their African home, yet centuries later, two descendants return to find their family.

If you liked Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*, Yaa Gyasi's novel will make the perfect follow-up. Hard to believe that she started writing this in her early twenties and finished it by age twenty-six. It covers much more ground than Whitehead's historical novel: Africa and the U.S., and much more time, from the mid-seventeen hundreds to now.

At one point in the novel, a black history teacher describes history as storytelling. Gyasi presents

many eloquent and heart-rending stories here. What ties them together is that all the characters belong to one extended family, who were once royalty in Ghana. They became both slave-sellers and slaves. Many came to America.

Gyasi follows two tracks of this family: one remained in Ghana, the other was forced into slavery in the U.S. It follows their descendants after the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the great migration north.

Gyasi visited Africa as a student to do research on a book about mothers and daughters. But when she toured Ghana's Cape Coast Castle, something in the rooms, the cellar where slaves were chained and abused in dungeons called out to her. She immediately decided to focus on the African slave trade and its diaspora later in the U.S. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on April 25, 2017

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[African American](#)

[Fiction](#)

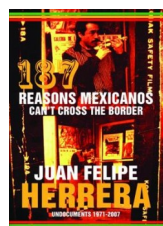
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New United States Poet Laureate



[view in catalog](#)

Just announced: the Library of Congress appointed Juan Felipe Herrera as our latest national poet laureate. The child of migrant farm workers, Herrera is the first Latino poet laureate. As a child, he traveled up and down the state of California with his parents, and later attended UCLA with the help of a grant for disadvantaged youth.

At the age of 21, Herrera was inspired by the debut book by Puerto Rican poet, Victor Hernandez Cruz.

He also writes children's books and those for young adults. Check out our [list of his titles](#). [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on June 10, 2015

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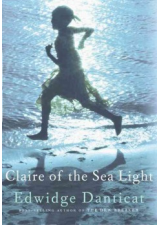
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Claire of the Sea Light



[view in catalog](#)

This Sunday at 2 p.m. in Room 2B, join our Booksplus discussion about Edwidge Danticat's *Claire of the Sea Light*. In honor of Black History month, we will discuss this luminous book set in Haiti just before the cataclysmic earthquake of 2009.

Danticat, who emigrated from Haiti as a child, has won many awards including the MacArthur Award (nicknamed the genius award).

If you like folklore and learning about other cultures, *Claire of the Sea Light* is the book for you. It tells the tale of a young girl whose mother died just after her daughter's birth. According to Haitian folklore, this makes Claire a *revenan*, a child who battled with her mother's spirit and won.

On each of her birthdays, Nozias, Claire's father, takes her to visit her mother's grave. In the cemetery they meet Madam Gaelle, a fabric store owner and wealthy widow in town, who lost her own daughter on the same date as Claire's birthday. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on January 28, 2015

[Claire of the Sea Light](#)

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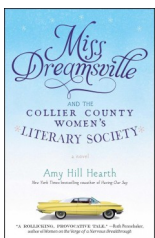
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Booksplus Discussion, Sunday Nov. 2 at 2: **Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County** **Women's Literary Society**



[view in catalog](#)

What happens when an energetic, middle-aged Bostonian moves to a sleepy town in Florida in 1962? First, she starts a radio show under the persona of Miss Dreamsville and secondly forms a book club. Ex-Bostonian Jackie Hart starts a ruckus when she invites people of other races and sexual persuasions to the club in a decidedly racist, homophobic town where a divorcee is considered socially-risque and improper.

Narrated by a lovable octagenarian, Dora, who does not fit into Naples herself, this novel discusses important issues such as racism, feminism, and homophobia while presenting an interesting mix of characters. With a backdrop of serious and important issues, it provides a humorous and entertaining read.

In her debut novel Amy Heath manages to take on both the Ku Klux Klan, North versus South, the nature of community, and newcomer angst to Naples, Florida. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 29, 2014

[Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society](#)

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[Female Friendships](#)

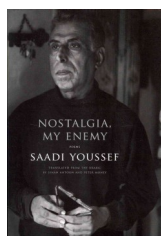
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Nostalgia, My Enemy



[view in catalog](#)

A great way to explore another culture is through poetry. This book, by one of the best living writers in Arabic, Saadi Youssef, does just that. It also provides beautiful poetry.

Youssef writes about all the traditional topics: love, nature, the changing seasons, and daily activities but he also describes his pain and anger at seeing the damage to his home country. In "A Difficult Variation" he describes his wishes for his native country, "Peace be upon Iraq's hills, its two rivers, the bank and the bend, / upon the palm trees / and the English hamlet gently dragging its clouds."

He writes deeply poignant poems about Iraq. In one he asks, "Is it your fault that once you were born in that country? / Three quarters of a century / and you still pay from your ebbing blood / its tax." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on September 30, 2014

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