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Many Ways to Participate in Whatcom READS!

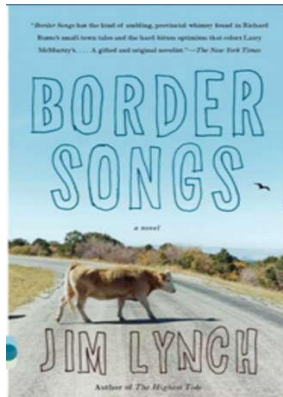
Thank You For Being Our Friends

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Dear Library Patron,



Happy New Year! It's the time of year for resolutions, so how about this one: resolve to read Jim Lynch's latest novel *Border Songs* (or his first book, *The Highest Tide*) and participate in at least one Whatcom READS! event.

Lynch will visit Whatcom County February 22 to 24, so read the book and join the community-wide discussion! *Border Songs* is set locally, so it's the perfect book to share with your friends and neighbors.

Many Ways to Participate in Whatcom READS!

Part of the fun of Whatcom READS! is getting the chance to explore issues related to the book in-depth, and discuss the issues with others who have also read the book.



Are you a writer? Enter the Whatcom READS! Writing Contest and submit an 800 word piece on the theme of "Borders". Visit www.whatcomreads.org for details. Entries are due February 1.

On February 1, local immigration attorney and border expert Greg Boos will present "Barbarians at Our Gates: Immigration, the Security Regime and Whatcom County's Economic Well-Being" from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Central Library Lecture Room.

Book club members (or individuals) will have two chances to discuss *Border Songs* with author Jim Lynch himself: from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Bellingham Public Library on Feb. 22, and from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 24 at the Lynden Library.

Lynch will speak at two free public presentations on Thursday, February 24 at Whatcom Community College's Syre Center. At 1:30 p.m., Lynch will give a keynote address. At 7:30 p.m., Lynch will be interviewed by Bob Winters, WCC Division Chair for Arts and Humanities. Each author event will have its own unique spin and avid fans are encouraged to attend some or all of them.

Bird watchers won't want to miss presentations by Joe Meche of the North Cascades Audubon Society. Meche served as the "birding consultant" to the author (the main character is an avid birdwatcher). He'll lead a birding tour of Whatcom Creek on Sunday, February 20; meet at the Central Library at 1:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. that evening, he'll reconvene at the Central Library Lecture Room at 6:30 p.m. for a slide show of the various avian species mentioned in the book.

Details about these and other Whatcom READS! events around Whatcom County can be found at www.whatcomreads.org.

There's still time to read *Border Songs* before Lynch's local appearances. Bellingham Public Library has copies in book, audiobook, playaway and e-book formats. Place a hold on a copy today!

Thank You For Being Our Friends



In 2010, the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library raised donated more than \$90,000 to the library -- possibly an all-time record! Most of the funds were earned at used book sales held throughout the year. With most items selling for \$1 or less, that's a lot of books sold!

Thanks to the Friends, we were able to make the following purchases in 2010:

- \$30,000 for children's materials
- \$7,500 for ebooks
- Music CD shelving
- New book trucks
- Summer Reading Superstar yard signs
- Summer Reading Kickoff party
- Barcode duplicators
- Funding for Whatcom READS! ...and much more



The Friends are a dedicated group of volunteers who put in countless hours sorting donated books and preparing for book sales. They'll be hosting two sales in the coming months:

Children's Book Sale

- Friday, 2/18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, 2/19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

March Book Sale

- Wednesday, 3/2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Most Books \$1!
- Thursday, 3/3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Most Books \$1!
- Friday, 3/4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Half Price Sale
- Saturday, 3/5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - \$4 Bag Sale

For more information about ways to participate in the Friends of the Library, [visit their website](#).