

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NYT Bestselling Author and Lifelong Supporter of Libraries Chris Bohjalian is the 30th Anniversary King County Library Foundation Gala Keynote Speaker

ISSAQUAH, WA – October 4, 2023 – [Chris Bohjalian](#), the #1 New York Times bestselling author of 24 books, is the Keynote Speaker for the 30th Anniversary of the King County Library System Foundation’s [Literary Lions Gala](#) March 2, 2024. His work has been translated into 35 languages and is the basis for three movies and an Emmy-nominated TV series. His 20th novel, “The Flight Attendant,” was adapted for a miniseries starring Kaley Cuoco, now streaming on HBO Max.

Bohjalian's books have been chosen as Best Books of the Year by the Washington Post, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Hartford Courant, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Bookpage, and Salon.

“When the Foundation decided to reach out to Chris, it was not singularly related to his success as an author, but very much because he is an ardent supporter of libraries,” said Lisa Yamasaki, Executive Director of the KCLS Foundation.

On social media and in life, Chris Bohjalian is an ambassador for libraries:

“I’m a writer for lots of reasons, but libraries are a big one. I moved often between sixth and 12th grade, attending five schools in three states in six years. I was always the new kid on the block, and so there was often a period when, knowing no one, I would go to the library and read. It was at libraries where I read, for the first time, Peter Benchley’s “Jaws,” Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Joyce Carol Oates’s “Expensive People” and William Peter Blatty’s “The Exorcist.” I read those four books in the eighth grade and they taught me so much about linear momentum and how first person narrators in novels are every bit as made up as the fictional constructs around them.”

During the pandemic, Chris was on YouTube thanking librarians and promising a “renaissance” as we all return to our local libraries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFOEyDM657w>

Bohjalian is also deeply connected to his Armenian roots. In 2013 Chris penned a poignant opinion in the Washington Post, “In a Turkish town that had 10,000 Armenians, now there is only one,” and On September 1, 2017, Bohjalian delivered a Vardanants Day Armenian Lecture at the Library of Congress. The speech: “Echoes of Anatolia: An Armenian-American novelist discovers his literary DNA at mid-life,” discusses the influence of ethnic identity and literary creativity.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2021690597/>

Tickets go on sale Monday, January 8, 2024. More information is available at:
<https://www.kclsfoundation.org/llg2024>

ABOUT THE LITERARY LIONS GALA: Featuring over 20 distinguished authors, including this year's Keynote Chris Bohjalian, this is an evening to remember! Readers, writers, library lovers, civic leaders, and other community members will join to raise essential funds for life changing library programs that enhance the lives of King County residents.

ABOUT THE KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM FOUNDATION (KCLSF): [The King County Library System Foundation \(KCLSF\)](#) raises money to fund new and ongoing essential and innovative King County Library System programs that serve the needs of our diverse communities.

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