

## Table Captain Information

- **What:** Madison Public Library Foundation's annual *Lunch for Libraries* fundraiser is an opportunity for community members who are committed to our libraries to come together to celebrate, support, and invest in the Wisconsin Book Festival
- **Who:** 2026's event will feature award-winning author Jesmyn Ward, talking about her new memoir, *On Witness and Repair*
- **When:** Tuesday, May 5 (Networking at 11 a.m., flow to tables at 11:30 a.m., and program at 12 p.m.)
- **Where:** Monona Terrace

As you consider becoming a Table Captain for Madison Public Library Foundation's 15th annual Lunch for Libraries, review the outline below, which defines a Table Captain's role.

### Invite guests to fill a table of eight to ten people total.

- **Reserve your table by April 7, 2026.** (Note: The earlier you claim your table, the better.)
- Recruit your guests by reaching out to friends or colleagues and/or promoting the event to a book group. The foundation can provide printed materials or email invites to send your guests. (Contact Katy Kaufman at [kkaufman@mplfoundation.org](mailto:kkaufman@mplfoundation.org) or 608-266-6562 to request materials.)
- Individual Lunch for Libraries tickets will be on sale **from February 24 through April 24**. Your guests can purchase their tickets from the event page on our website. When they check out, your guests can **enter your name** in the table captain field. (Note: You can also opt to pay upfront for the whole table.)
- Tickets are \$150.00 per person and come with a pre-signed hardcover copy of *On Witness and Repair* and lunch provided by Monona catering. (The tax-deductible portion of each ticket is \$108.)

**To confirm that you will serve as a Table Captain:** Please complete a confirmation form, which is attached here and also available online at <https://forms.gle/orfkzFzDk4G8etfw8>.

**Questions?** Contact Katy Kaufman at [kkaufman@mplfoundation.org](mailto:kkaufman@mplfoundation.org) or 608-266-6562.

---

**About the author:** Jesmyn Ward received the 2022 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction and is the winner of two National Book Awards for Fiction for *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and *Salvage the Bones*. She is also the author of the novel *Where the Line Bleeds* and the memoir *Men We Reaped*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She is currently a professor of creative writing at Tulane University and lives in Mississippi.

**About the book:** *On Witness and Repair* gathers more than a decade of Jesmyn Ward's creative nonfiction, including widely read essays, three previously unpublished speeches, and a new introductory essay. Ward traces the origins of her storytelling voice and her commitment to honesty, as guided by her grandmother's mandate to "tell it straight." Ward also examines her approach to fiction, motherhood, and raising a Black son amid social division and racial violence and confronts profound personal loss, most notably the sudden death of her partner just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Lyrical, unflinching, and deeply humane, the book stands as both personal testimony and a meditation on resilience, hope, and collective survival.