

EVERYBODY READS

A community reading project
of Multnomah County Library

Made possible by The Library Foundation

2021

The 19th annual
Everybody Reads explores
The Book of Delights
by Ross Gay. Celebrate the
power of books to create a
stronger community.

ROSS GAY

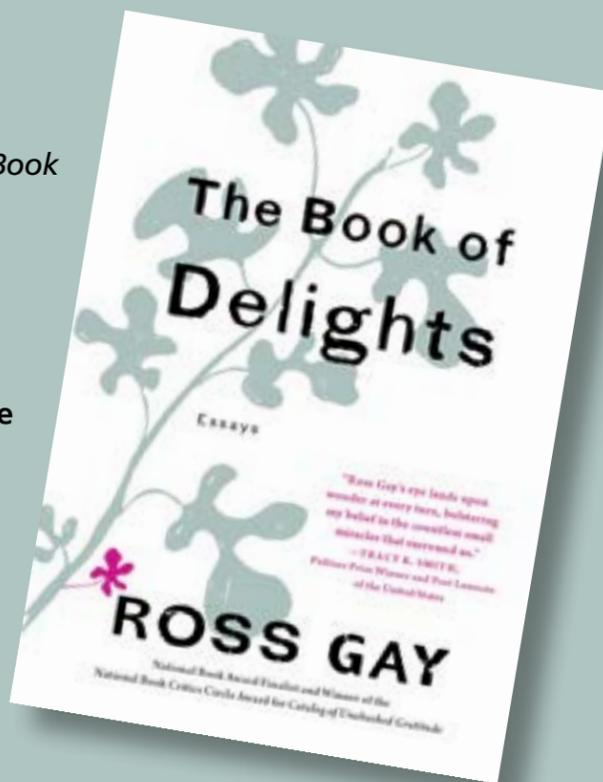
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GET INVOLVED

Read.

Pick up a copy of *The Book of Delights* from your neighborhood library (while supplies last). Check out a readily available copy of the e-book or downloadable audiobook. **Made possible by The Library Foundation.**



ABOUT THE BOOK

In *The Book of Delights*, Ross Gay contemplates the many things that bring him delight, from poetry readings to pickup basketball games, from high-fives with strangers to flowers growing in unlikely places. While his writing is filled with joy and light, he also presents a clear-eyed view of the complexities and terrors of the world, including living in America as a Black man and losing loved ones.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ross Gay is the author of four books of poetry, and the winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. He holds an MFA in poetry from Sarah Lawrence College and a Ph.D. from Temple University. He teaches at Indiana University and writes about sports, music, art and other stuff he loves.

“

It didn't take me long to learn that the discipline or practice of writing these essays occasioned a kind of delight radar . . . Or maybe it was more like the development of a delight muscle. Something that implies that the more you study delight, the more delight there is to study.

”



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

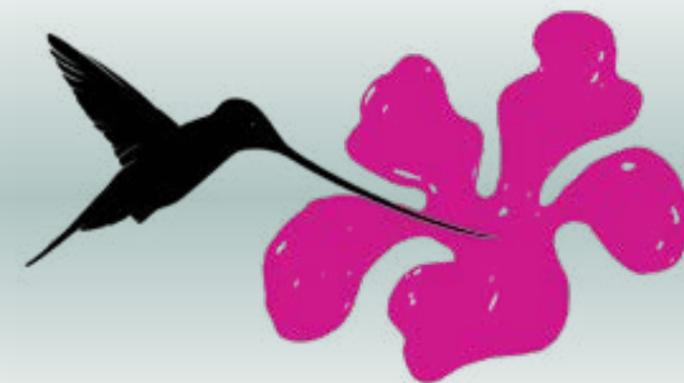
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Thanks to Broadway Books, Powell's Books and Portland area Barnes & Noble stores, where you can purchase a discounted copy of *The Book of Delights*.



Everybody Reads 2021, a community reading project of Multnomah County Library, is made possible in part by gifts to The Library Foundation with author appearance made possible by Literary Arts.

Programming support also made possible in part by Oregon Public Broadcasting

DISCUSS AND LEARN: Online Events and Activities



Events are free unless otherwise noted. Visit multcolib.org/reads for registration information.

The Delight of Reading Aloud

Monday, March 1 • 6–7:30 pm

Reading aloud to one another has benefits for people of all ages, from building confidence and strengthening emotional bonds to improving vocabulary and memory. In this workshop for adults and teens, award-winning audiobook narrator Prentice Onayemi shares tips and tricks that will have you reading with confidence and enjoyment. Registration is limited.

Drawing for Delight

Tuesday, March 9 • 6–7 pm

The world is filled with magical details. Art instructor Jess Graff will show you how to slow down and delight in the beauty of natural specimens, including plants and animal skulls, as you draw, notice and learn. All skill and experience levels are welcome! Registration is limited.

The Costs and Benefits of Living Simply: My 11 Years in a Tiny Home

Monday, March 15 • 6–7 pm

When Michelle Jones moved into her 84-square-foot tiny house, she embarked on a journey of simple and intentional living. She'll discuss the why and how of her decision, provide a virtual tour and answer your questions about tiny house living.

Discuss *The Book of Delights*

Tuesday, March 16 • 3–4 pm

Tuesday, March 30 • 6–7 pm

Join us for a facilitated conversation about *The Book of Delights*. Gatherings will involve a short reading or recorded video performance by Ross Gay followed by discussion. You don't have to read the book to attend and participate!

Delight in Nature: Re/connecting Black, Indigenous and People of Color to the Outdoors

Thursday, March 18 • 6–7 pm

Oregon boasts an abundance of beautiful outdoor spaces, but historically, people of color have been excluded from enjoying nature freely. Pamela Slaughter, founder of POCO (People of Color Outdoors), will share stories, photos and tips about the group's adventures, demonstrating how nature adds joy to our lives, and life to our joy. Come get inspired!

太极拳的韵味 / The Delight of Tai Chi

Tuesday, March 23 • 7–8 pm

太极拳是一种结合健康，冥想和武术的古老艺术。参加我们一起了解和练习这精美的艺术。

The ancient art of Tai Chi combines health, meditation and martial arts. Join Rui Chao Li to learn about this beautiful art form and practice the forms in a short class. Registration is limited.

Finding Your Why

Saturday, March 27 • 2–3:30 pm

In especially challenging times, how do you know if you're on the right path? In this interactive workshop, Jonathan Gibson of Wayfinding Academy will provide practical tools to assist you in anchoring to a sense of purpose, while providing a space to connect with others on the same journey. Registration is limited.

Meet Anis Mojgani, Oregon's Poet Laureate

Thursday, April 1 • 6–7 pm

Delight in the words and company of Oregon's Poet Laureate, Anis Mojgani, as he shares his poetry and answers questions about his work.

Find a discussion guide and further reading at multcolib.org/reads.

All abilities are welcome. For disability accommodations at events, call 503.988.5123 or email help@multcolib.org 2–3 days before a program.

Multnomah County Library and Literary Arts present

AN EVENING WITH ROSS GAY, IN CONVERSATION WITH LIDIA YUKNAVITCH

Thursday, April 8 • 6–7:30 pm, online

Tickets and event information: literary-arts.org

FIND A DELIGHT EVERY DAY



Pick an activity and tag us on social media:

#DailyDelight #EverybodyReads #RossGay

Multnomah County Library: @MultCoLib
@multnomahcountylibrary

The Library Foundation: @TheLibraryFoundation
@PDXLibraryLove

Literary Arts: @LiteraryArts



DAILY DELIGHTS

Show off your dance moves.	What's your favorite word and why?	Show appreciation to someone for something they've done.	Submit a short piece of writing to the Library Writers Project. multcolib.org/library-writers-project
Start a daily gratitude journal and make it easy: write one sentence per day.	Take a photo of a favorite place.	Read aloud to a friend or loved one, in person, online, or on the phone.	Take up birding. audubonportland.org
Attend a library event online. multcolib.org/events	Get a copy of <i>The Book of Delights</i> at your library or online.	Move your body: Find yoga instruction and more with Hoopla. bit.ly/3otml8u	Organize a small area of your living or work space.
Plant a seed or a garden.	Do a good deed.	Take care of yourself by meditating for 5 minutes.	Make a care package for a friend.
What's your comfort food? Share a recipe or take a photo of something tasty.	Find new local music through librarymusicproject.com	Send someone a handwritten letter.	Make art: draw, paint, write or sing for 15 minutes.
Observe closely and take a photo of something you find in nature.	Be a citizen scientist. Learn more at bit.ly/3ab3zqx	Visit The Archive Project from Literary Arts to hear lectures from past Everybody Reads. literary-arts.org/archive	Take a photo of a favorite pet or animal.