

**Library Director's Report**  
to Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

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**Library launches Portland Brew Stories collection with community events**

Portland loves craft brewing, and now our library reflects that passion. [Portland Brew Stories](#) is a unique partnership between Multnomah County Library and local breweries to build a collection that represents our culture, history and passion for beer in our community. The collection includes videos, photos, labels and much more from 14 amazing breweries.

Central Library hosted a kickoff event for Portland Brew Stories on Feb. 11. More than 50 members of the public heard a talk on the history of brewing and sampled beers from six participating breweries. The audience was introduced to the collection with a [teaser video](#) produced by Hopstories.

Since the kickoff, more than 900 people have explored the [online collection](#). There are many more [Brew Stories events](#) coming up this month, including workshops on growing hops and beer history in Portland.

Thank you to all the breweries in the collection. We could not have been successful without their knowledge and support. We are also grateful for the support and collaboration from the [Oregon Hops and Brewing Archives](#) at Oregon State University.

**Library Writers Project adds 35 local e-books to library collection**

The Library Writers Project, the library's initiative to add local self-published e-books to the collection via the self-publishing website Smashwords, ended its first submission period on Dec. 31. The library received 140 submissions from genres ranging from space opera to romantic thriller to climate change fiction.

Each book was read independently by two library staff reviewers, who scored titles based on technical (readability, punctuation and word choice) and artistic (plot and character development and originality) merits. Based on their evaluations, 35 local e-books will be added to the library's OverDrive collection.

Starting in April, the library's OverDrive homepage will feature a title a month highlighting the "Best of the Library Writers Project" with the aim of connecting readers to their new favorite author who might also happen to be their neighbor.



### **Holgate Library celebrates 2016 Lunar New Year**

Holgate Library held its Lunar New Year celebration on Feb. 9, 2016. The event began with a Lion Dance performance from the White Lotus Lion Dance Team. The evening also included a combination of traditional dances and martial arts performances. Guests got a chance to bring out their inner chi by performing some tai chi, taught by a member of the Summit Wushu Academy. Several guests dressed up their children and themselves with traditional Vietnamese Áo Dài and Chinese New Year tunic suits.

Along with the fun performances, we also held some activities for kids, including a button-making station and monkey coloring sheets. New this year, we also had a photo booth set up for guests to take pictures with the lions, and staff printed out the photos on the spot for guests to take home.

### **New readers visit Multnomah County Library through Golden Ticket program**

Last fall at school conferences across the county, Multnomah County Library gave parents and caregivers of first-graders Golden Tickets — special invitations welcoming them to the library and the world of reading. And 860 first graders and their families came into Multnomah County Library locations to trade in their Golden Ticket for a free book to keep!

That adds up to about 10 percent of all first graders in Multnomah County, and fifty of those families identified as first-time library visitors. Many thanks to the library staff who created a welcoming, exciting experience, and to [The Library Foundation](#) for their generous support. The library's School Age Services team looks forward to further collaboration with the teachers and school districts of Multnomah County in supporting our beginning readers.

### **Library welcomes foster families, builds partnerships**

Everyone is welcome at Multnomah County Library, including foster families. To remind our community partners and patrons, our Youth Services Special Audiences Action Team created a "Welcome Foster Families" bookmark that they are sharing widely across the county, asking our partners to distribute the bookmark to foster families.

We've already heard great feedback on the bookmark and renewed contact with local foster family support groups. "Thank you again for keeping our kids in mind," said Kevin George, Child Well-Being program manager at the Office of Child Welfare Programs. "I can personally attest to the important role Multnomah County Library has played in the lives of my own kids, and foster kids need this opportunity as well."

### **Outreach services brings the library to homebound patrons**

Library Outreach Services works with many people in our community who are experiencing isolation. Our outreach team provides valued conversation and intellectual stimulation to these patrons as well as a wide range of library services right in their homes.

Recently, our outreach staff began bringing audiobooks to a blind patron at her home. When this woman broke her hip and could no longer easily navigate the stairs in her building, a neighbor volunteered to bring her audiobooks and got in touch with the library. "This simple act of kindness was the beginning of a new friendship for them," said Geoff Brunk, Words on Wheels coordinator. "Having both a new friend and access to the riches of the library is a great gift for this formerly isolated woman."

A volunteer for Words on Wheels also shared another story of how the program helps people at home. When the volunteer visited one of her regular patrons, she shared she had started a new medication that was making focusing difficult. "As a result, we didn't delve into how the applications on her e-reader we're working for her and instead just talked," said the volunteer. "She's a voracious reader, from westerns to history to philosophy. Having online access when able will open a whole world for her."

### **Library executes legal agreements for St. Johns parking lot**

In late January, the library executed a set of legal agreements intended to protect future public access to St. Johns Library. For decades, the library's neighbor to the south was Messiah Lutheran Church. Last year, the library learned that a developer had purchased the former church property and was planning to build a four-story mixed-use development on the site.

The parking lot between the now-demolished church and the library is a vacated portion of N. Kellogg St., with ownership split down the middle. Neither side is usable without access to the other. St. Johns patrons and church parishioners long enjoyed reciprocal access to parking, and uses of those two facilities was highly complementary. Reciprocal easements allowed that access but were set to expire in 2021.

Over many months, staff from my office worked with colleagues in Multnomah County's Facilities and Property Management division and Office of the County Attorney to engage the development team, represent the library in the public land use process and ultimately negotiate legal agreements on our behalf.

These agreements ensure continued public access to the parking lot for library patrons and will mitigate impacts during construction. They also establish a good neighbor framework for addressing issues that may arise in the future. This effort is a good example of staff working behind the scenes over a long period of time to ensure public access to a historic Carnegie library that has served its community since 1913.

### **Former Governor Barbara Roberts holds book talk at Sellwood-Moreland Library**

Former Governor Barbara Roberts held a book talk at Sellwood-Moreland Library on Jan. 23. Her book, *Up the Capitol Steps: A Woman's March to the Governorship*, was written in 2011 after many people requested she tell her amazing story.

Roberts treated participants to over an hour of stories, from her childhood to her rise in Oregon politics. She was inspired to continue in politics after she was successful in lobbying the state to educate her son, who has autism and was sent home in first grade and told not to come back.

Roberts shared anecdotes about being the governor of Oregon, her husband Senator Frank Roberts and her time at Harvard. Her stories were filled with insight, humor and some sadness. "She stayed and answered many questions and talked about current elections and which candidates she would be endorsing ... or not," said Jenna Scott, Sellwood-Moreland Library administrator. "Barbara has agreed to do another reading at Gresham Library sometime in the near future. Stay tuned!"

### **Multnomah County Library prepares for Beverly Cleary celebration**

In honor of Beverly Cleary's upcoming 100th birthday in April, library staff members are hard at work planning [festivities](#) across Portland.

Hollywood Library, the neighborhood library mentioned in many of the Ramona and Henry books, is hosting Neighborhood Walking Tours on April 2. In partnership with local businesses, schools and a park, the library is holding activities inspired by adventures in the well-loved Cleary books. Hollywood Library is also partnering with OPB and the Hollywood Theatre to host the premiere of the *Oregon Art Beat* episode featuring a new interview with Mrs. Cleary.

March 8, 2016

Central Library's Beverly Cleary Children's Library is hosting an activity-packed, buildingwide birthday party for Mrs. Cleary, which will include crafts, cake and additional showings of the *Oregon Art Beat* episode.

Library staff members have also collaborated on statewide planning efforts for the Oregon Library Association Children's Service Division and contributed to the Association for Library Service to Children blog to promote and share programming ideas around the Cleary books.

### Patron comments

"I am so happy to avail myself of the option of having my books sent to me by mail! What a perk! ... I hope my situation changes (parking and mobility) so I can come in again soon. Thank you [Greg Stevens at Northwest Library] for your cheerful assistance and interest. I'll miss it!"  
— Patron, Feb. 23

"My 10-week-old got his card this week and we checked out lots of board books! Thanks MCL!"  
— Esther Arellano Harlow, Feb. 12

"My 1-year-old is learning two languages (other than English) and the library books and CDs have been instrumental in his education. Thank you Multnomah County Library!" — Nicole Ward, Feb. 12

### In the news

[North Tillamook Library reopens with community celebration set March 12](#) (*North Coast Citizen*, Feb. 26)

[Just Another Point of View: I may have a future as a butler, or even as a lady's maid](#) (*Lake Oswego Review*, Feb. 4)

[Love Books? Plan A Trip To The Most Literary City In The Country](#) (*Uproxx*, Feb. 2)

### Upcoming events

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: Animal Felt Letters for Decorations](#)  
Various dates and libraries

[Find Your First Job \(for teens\)](#)  
March 12  
Hollywood Library

[Portland Brew Stories: Home Brewing from A to Z](#)  
Various dates and libraries

[Debt, Credit and the Law](#)  
March 12  
Midland Library

[Coding for the Whole Family](#)  
March 12  
Capitol Hill Library

[Film Screening: Latino Americans](#)  
Various dates and libraries

[Taste of Programming](#)  
March 13  
Central Library

[Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here!: What We Left Behind](#)  
March 13  
Central Library

March 8, 2016

[The Title Wave Used Bookstore Sale](#)

March 19  
The Title Wave Used Bookstore

[Meet Playwright Kermit Frazier](#)

March 20  
North Portland Library

[Comics 101 Camp for teens](#)

Five-part series begins March 21  
Various libraries

[Campamento de Cine para Jóvenes Latinos](#)  
['Héroes Magníficos' / The Heroes Magnifico](#)  
[Filmmaking Camp for Latino Teens](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary:](#)  
[Basic Bike Repair for Teens](#)

March 22  
Woodstock Library

[Comics and Animation](#)

March 25  
Gresham Library

[Sylvia Plath: Lessons for the Living](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Portland Brew Stories: Portland Beer](#)  
[History](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Portland Brew Stories: Hop Growing 101](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: A](#)  
[Mouse with His Motorcycle Flipbook](#)  
[Animation](#)

April 2  
Capitol Hill Library

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary:](#)  
[Neighborhood Walking Tour](#)

April 2  
Hollywood Library

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary:](#)  
[Costumes for Ramona & Henry](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary:](#)  
[Birthday Party!](#)

April 9  
Central Library

[Oregon Art Beat: Discovering Beverly](#)  
[Cleary screening](#)

April 2 and 9  
Hollywood Theatre and Central Library

[Portland Brew Stories: Herbal Happy Hour -](#)  
[Beer Infusions](#)

April 9  
St. Johns Library

[Celebrate 100 Years of Beverly Cleary: A](#)  
[Playdate with Ramona](#)

April 12  
Northwest Library