
Library Director's Report
to Multnomah County Library Advisory Board



Hundreds celebrate Hayhurst Family Library Night at Hillsdale Library

Families, teachers and library staff had a great time at Hillsdale Library's second annual Hayhurst Family Library Night. More than 200 kids and parents participated in the event.

Students and parents explored our collections with a Library Bingo game, created bookmarks and signed up for library cards at this community event. The kids got to choose a free take-home book, and Hayhurst School Assistant Principal Dawn Schlegel led a storytime. Students also took part in a Hayhurst student art show.

Hillsdale Library Youth Librarian Barbara Head organized the event in partnership with Hayhurst School Principal Deanne Froehlich and Hayhurst's library assistant, Tricia Dowling. Deanne and Tricia's dedication to serving the neediest families at Hayhurst School made the event a special success.

Principal Froehlich organized school buses to transport families from Home Forward's Stephens Creek housing community to the library. She also worked with staff to coordinate publicity and phone calls to the parents of each Hayhurst student living at Stephens Creek.

Thank you to all the staff at Hillsdale Library who helped plan and lead this event. And a special thanks to Deanne and Tricia for their leadership, partnership and community dedication.



Library celebrates Beverly Cleary's birthday with friends and neighbors

Multnomah County Library celebrated Beverly Cleary's 100th birthday in April with activities for kids of all ages. Northwest Library organized "A Playdate with Ramona," inspired by Cleary's Ramona Quimby books. Kids made bunny ears and paper bag owls, and contributed to "the longest drawing in the world." After a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday," they also tried out walking on tin can stilts and celebrated with cake.

"Thankfully, seven of our excellent community volunteers helped decorate, set up and assist kids with all the crafts," said Youth Librarian Susan Smallsreed. "It was noisy, chaotic and great fun."

Across town, Hollywood Library led walking tours and events in Cleary's childhood neighborhood. The library also held a book signing with author Laura Foster for her upcoming book [Walking with Ramona](#). Tour participants and library guests were treated to celebratory cupcakes from Fleur de Lis Bakery, provided by the Grant Park Neighborhood Association.

Patrons played classic games at the Northeast Community Center, where they were also given a free Beverly Cleary book. A highlight of the day was a special premiere of OPB's documentary [Discovering Beverly Cleary](#) at Hollywood Theatre. More than 250 people and local organizations joined in the Hollywood festivities.

Central Library's big birthday celebration included "Toys and Crafts" for Ramona and Henry, with live readings from Cleary's books, a costume contest and cupcakes. OPB held three screenings of *Discovering Beverly Cleary*, and Laura Foster led a Ramona trivia contest, awarding signed copies of her book to trivia winners.

Thank you, Mrs. Cleary, for all the books and inspiration!

Library Outreach Services connects with deaf and blind residents in Gresham

Gresham's Brookdale Chestnut Lane assisted living community is the newest stop for lobby service from Library Outreach Services. Brookdale is one of only two assisted living communities in the country to specialize in care for deaf, deaf-blind and hard-of-hearing residents.

On April 20, Library Outreach Services staff brought books, descriptive videos (DVDs with audio descriptions for blind patrons) and audiobooks to Brookdale, just as they do with many other retirement facilities in Multnomah County. Staff members were assisted by American Sign Language interpreters on the Brookdale staff and signed up 15 new patrons.

Jere White, library outreach specialist, was enthusiastic about the visit, noting that the experience seemed a little daunting initially, but that staff were very helpful with interpreting, and residents were eager to sign up. Communication turned out not to be a problem, and the universal love of stories and books won the day. Library Outreach Services staff will be visiting Brookdale each month, bringing holds, browsing materials and readers' advisory.

Patron comments

“**Carlos [Galeana]** has a talent that creates a comfortable feeling for those of us in the beginning stage of ‘learning how to use the computer.’ This is a great teacher for those of us who are feeling ‘less than smart.’ He never speaks in a way that could make us uncomfortable. I feel inspired to learn more when I leave his class.” — Shirley Johnson, March 30

“I am an 80-year-old woman who recently bought an Apple computer. I was delighted to learn that I could sign up for free classes at the public library. **Carlos Galeana** has been so patient and kind and helpful. ... I do appreciate the library system and the good people they hire to help us learn new things even when we are old.” — Mary McFeters, April 4

In the news

[Celebrate Beverly Cleary's 100th Birthday With a Trip to Her Sculpture Garden](#)

(Smithsonian.com, April 12)

[Celebrate Beverly Cleary's 100th birthday with "Walking With Ramona" tour in NE Portland](#)

(KATU.com, April 12)

[Tiq Notaro: She's Just a Person](#) (*American Libraries Magazine*, April 9)

[PLA 2016 Opens with Anderson Cooper and a Drum Line](#) (*American Libraries Magazine*, April 7)

[Survey shows fewer Americans are visiting libraries](#) (*Associated Press*, April 7)

Upcoming events

[The Music and Life of David Bowie](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Portland Brew Stories: Beer Balms and Beauty](#)

May 14

St. Johns Library

[Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: The Untold Story: Chinese American History in Oregon](#)

May 14

Midland Library

[Renters Rights Workshop](#)

Various dates and libraries

[Fly Gals: Women Airforce Service Pilots in World War II](#)

May 15

Central Library

[Sentiment Saved: Letters, Postcards and Other Correspondence from the John Wilson Special Collections](#)

Opens May 21

Central Library

[Ballet Between the Books: Napoli Pas de Six and more](#)

May 21

North Portland Library

[Teen FanCon](#)

May 21

Hollywood Library

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

May 21

Central Library

[Going Solo: The Value of Solitude in a Social World](#)

May 22

Capitol Hill Library

[Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: 中国书法 / Chinese Calligraphy](#)

May 24

Woodstock Library

[Girl Rising Film Screening](#)

May 29

North Portland Library

[Portland Opera Preview of Sondheim's Sweeney Todd](#)

May 29

Central Library

[Film Screening: Sista in the Brotherhood](#)

May 31

Fremont Whole Foods Market

[The Heroes Magnificos Film Screening](#)

Various dates and libraries

[History of Bebop](#)

Begins June 5

Central Library

[Author Talk: Kate Dyer Seeley](#)

June 11

Troutdale Library

[Get Started With African American Genealogy](#)

June 11

North Portland

[Juneteenth: Words Along the Way](#)

June 14

North Portland Library

[Becoming Your Own Publisher](#)

June 14

Albina Library