



Everybody Reads 2017 is now underway with *Evicted*

How do we make Portland a city in which everyone can thrive? Homelessness and affordable housing are complex, persistent and visible issues in Portland and Multnomah County. Through Everybody Reads 2017, we can examine how to address these problems together and create the kind of community in which we all want to live, starting now.

Multnomah County Library's Everybody Reads 2017, the library's 15th annual community reading project, began Jan. 2 with the distribution of thousands of copies of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond.

Evicted portrays the issue of eviction — and its cascading effects on individuals, families and communities — through the personal stories of landlords and impoverished tenants in Milwaukee, Wis. An associate professor of sociology at Harvard University, Desmond was awarded a MacArthur Foundation “Genius” grant in 2015. *Evicted* has garnered a host of honors, landing on best books of 2016 list from the likes of *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Washington Post*, *Booklist* and *Library Journal*.

Thanks to [The Library Foundation](#), more than 5,600 copies of *Evicted* are available through libraries across Multnomah County, including e-books and audio books. High schools, Portland Community College and organizations serving youth will receive 3,200 of those copies.

The author will present a talk on March 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. This event is [presented by Literary Arts](#). Ticket information is available from Literary Arts.

Everybody Reads, 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 is also made possible in part by Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Portland State University and Portland Community College.



County, library welcome new commissioners

Multnomah County Tuesday welcomed three new commissioners to its board, making it the first board with a majority people of color, and the seventh board in the county's more than 160 years comprised entirely of women.

Sharon Meieran, who represents west Portland as commissioner for District 1, was sworn in along with Jessica Vega Pederson, who represents east Portland as commissioner for District 2, and Lori Stegmann, who represents east Multnomah County, including Gresham, as commissioner for District 4.

They join Commissioner Loretta Smith, who represents north Portland for District 2 and Chair Deborah Kafoury, who leads the board. Together, the five elected officials also comprise the Multnomah County Library District Board (MCLDB).

The Multnomah County Board was entirely white and male until 1974, when Alice Corbett -- a former teacher, hardware-store owner and state senator -- was elected. Gladys McCoy, a social worker from Georgia, was elected in 1978, the first African American member of the board. And in 1987 voters ushered in the first all-women board. The commissioners included Gretchen Kafoury, mother of current Chair Kafoury.

Commissioner Vega Pedersen will be the MCLDB's appointed representative to the Library Advisory Board. I congratulate the new members of the board and look forward to working with Commissioner Vega Pedersen in her LAB liaison role, along Commissioner Meieran and Commissioner Stegmann in serving our diverse and vibrant community.

A new way to contact the library

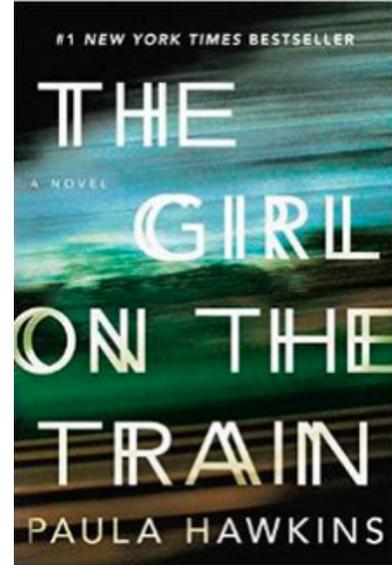
Starting on Monday, January 30, 2017, the library will have one phone number where patrons can connect with us, **503-988-5123**. We'll also have a streamlined contacts page on the library website so patrons need only choose their favored mode to communicate with us.

The phone number and web links will connect to the Contact Center, where a dedicated group of customer service experts will respond to the library's 200,000 annual remote patron contacts via voicemail, phone, chat and text.

The Contact Center will deliver a convenient and consistent experience that puts patrons first, allowing them to build relationships with a small staff of virtual service experts who will answer 80-85 percent of questions on the first contact and refer the rest as needed. We've repurposed vacancies to create the Contact Center positions and an enthusiastic group of library employees, both English and Spanish speakers, is ready to delight our patrons. They are looking forward to hearing from you!

Checking out 2016

As each calendar year comes to a close, it's fun to take a look back and see what what items were of most interest to library patrons. Below is a recap of the top three titles checked out (not including renewals) by type and format.



Adult fiction

1. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins (2,243 checkouts)
2. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (2,175 checkouts)
3. *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout (1,130 checkouts)

Adult nonfiction

1. *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi (1,682 checkouts)
2. *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo (1,669 checkouts)
3. *Between the World and Me* by Te-Nehisi Coates (1,580 checkouts)

Children's

1. *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* by Jack Thorne (1,336 checkouts)
2. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid : Hard Luck* by Jeff Kinney (1,224 checkouts)
3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid : The Third Wheel* by Jeff Kinney (922 checkouts)

E-books

1. *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez (1,489 checkouts)
2. *The Martian* by Andy Weir (1,411 checkouts)
3. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins (1,335 checkouts)

Audiobooks

1. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins (1,300 checkouts)
2. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (1,250 checkouts)
3. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K Rowling (1,191 checkouts)

Streaming titles

1. Hamilton Original Broadway Cast Recording - audio (918 checkouts)
2. The Girl on the Train- movie [not the popular current film] (855 checkouts)
3. *Yes Please* by Amy Poehler - audiobook (669 checkouts)

Patron comments

"Hannah was very informative and very helpful. We were coming to this library the first time and trying to open an account. She guided us thoroughly and told us all we needed so we were were informed. Very happy experience. Hannah - 5 star service." — Northwest Library patron, November 4

"Each time I visit the NW Library I require some kind of assistance. It is quickly given and serves my need/request appropriately. Everyone is friendly (librarians). The atmosphere encourages a wide range of user and income of gender and ethnicity." — Hilda, Northwest Library, November 9

"I am writing to send a huge thank you to Taylor Taney at Kenton library. Last week, I briefly explained to her that I had been on a long hiatus from fiction & was looking to remedy that, though I was stumped as to what to try. She asked what I liked in the past & I gave her 2 of my favorite authors, Barbara Kingsolver & Margaret Atwood. I'll admit I was doubtful of the outcome. I felt like we were playing Name That Tune & she had just said she could name that tune in 2 notes. Impossible! Nonetheless, after a mere moment, she strode confidently over to the shelf & took an orange book titled All My Puny Sorrows off the shelf & handed it to me. She gave me the briefest description & I took it home. Little did she know HOW indescribably perfect the pick was for me. I devoured it in just a few nights & am happily back on the fiction train. Thank you Multnomah County Library for hiring great staff & overall, being nothing short of magical!" — Dorine, Kenton, December 11

"I am a homeschooling parent and cannot fully express how grateful I am for the abundance of resources the library has made available for me. My son and I have loved the discovery kits so much. They have been so terribly helpful to our learning and having fun while doing so. I just wanted to pass on our gratitude for this resource. As our financial resources and home space does not allow us to purchase all these wonderful resources, it has been so great to be able to borrow them from the library. If you could please pass this on to whomever is responsible for putting them together and over homeschooling resources, I'd greatly appreciate it. Thank you thank you." — Holly, Youth Services, December 20

"I found it a pleasure to be assisted on the phone with your employee by the name of Daphne! She was so polite and listened to my questions and gave me answers to all! My husband and I have been coming to Midland branch for over 10 yrs. We certainly will be continuing." — Sydney, Midland, January 3

In the news

['Absolutely life-threatening': Homeless battle days of frigid conditions](#), kgw.com, January 4

[Music Millennium's Most-Sold Album of 2016 Was David Bowie's "Blackstar"](#), Willamette

Week, December 27

[The Most Expensive Book on Sale at Powell's City of Books Costs \\$350000](#), Willamette

Week, December 27

Upcoming events

[Beginning Cybersecurity](#)

January 10

Albina Library

[Transit 101](#)

January 21

Gresham Library

[Renters Rights Workshop](#)

January 12

Belmont Library

[Make your own chai](#)

January 22

Kenton Library

January 26

Wayfinding Academy

February 19

Gregory Heights Library

[Know the 10 Signs of Alzheimer's Disease:](#)

[Early Detection Matters](#)

January 12

North Portland Library

[Learning Spanish Through Art](#)

January 23

Capitol Hill Library

[Origami and Towel Folding for Tweens](#)

January 18

Troutdale Library

[Brown Bag Lunch and Learn: The 10-Point](#)

[Leadership Triangle](#)

January 26

Central Library

[Introduction to Watercolor Florals](#)

January 21

Troutdale Library

[Interviewing Skills](#)

January 26

February 2

February 9

Hollywood Library

February 25

Belmont Library