



Library hosts new citizens at naturalization ceremony

On April 14, Library Director Vailey Oehlke and County Chair Deborah Kafoury congratulated 13 immigrants from 12 countries on becoming United States citizens. Friends and family gathered in the U.S. Bank Room at Central Library to watch and cheer as new citizens, like Roxana Geaca, who immigrated from Romania more than a decade ago, raised their right hand and swore an oath to the United States of America.

“This ceremony is a proud moment for our new community members, and I am honored to have the library be a part of it,” said Oehlke. “We hope the library will continue to be an important part of their lives as they pursue their dreams and exercise their freedoms.”

This is the fifth year the library has participated in the naturalization ceremony held by United States Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS). In addition to hosting the ceremony, the library provides free citizenship classes and volunteer assistance to help immigrants navigate the citizenship application process.

Coasting into May with “Bike to Books” partnership



To celebrate National Bike Month, Multnomah County Library is partnering again with the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation to host [Bike to Books](#).

Patrons who ride their bikes to the library and The Title Wave Used Bookstore during May can get a free bike light (while supplies last), courtesy of Metro. Patrons can also attend one of the [bike-themed storytimes](#) being offered at many locations.

Young patrons across Multnomah County can enter a [coloring contest](#) to design whimsical bike lane art. One winner will have their design placed in a Portland bike lane, and others will win passes to the Lumberyard or a Nutcase helmet.

During May, all county employees are encouraged to ride their bikes to work and log trips as part of the [Bike More Challenge](#). Every year, [Team Library](#) mounts an impressive effort. Library Director Vailey Oehlke has pledged to ride her own bike during May (and not the motorized one, either!).

Coffee and Conversation helps staff and homeless patrons connect

A new program at Central Library aims to help the library better serve patrons who are experiencing homelessness. Led by librarians Kate Schwab and Amy Honisett, Coffee and Conversation is a bimonthly pilot program, funded by the Kettering Foundation, that offers an opportunity for library staff to sit down and talk with patrons.

According to a 2013 survey, 18 percent of Central's daily patrons are experiencing homelessness, and many of those patrons reported using the library multiple times per week. Guided by informal conversation topics about our community, library use and

personal interests, library staff have been able to form connections with the community, while further identifying the varying needs of patrons experiencing homelessness or living in temporary or transitional housing. All patrons are invited to attend Coffee and Conversation, regardless of housing status. The next sessions are on May 10, May 24 and June 7 from 12 to 1 pm in the Central Library Community Room.

Holgate Library invites patrons to cook around the world

Holgate is using the power of food to bring together the community. At its monthly programming series, "Cooking around the World," presenters offer demonstrations of popular meals from Vietnam, China, Mexico, Japan, Austria, France, Russia, Thailand, and more!

Since offering its first program in January 2016, Holgate has organized 13 hands-on cooking demonstrations. Library Assistant Karen Nguyen worked with other library staff to create a calendar of world holidays, harvests, and other notable events. Staff then reached out to local businesses and community members to present demonstrations. The program has been so successful, it's attracted library patrons from across the county.



As one patron commented, it's a way for him to help his family:

"As a single father of two teenager daughters, coming to this program helps me to have different ideas of how to cook and feed my daughters." — Holgate patron

For others, it's a way to embrace the diversity of the community:

"I have been to every one of the classes. I love the sharing of culture. Everyone should do this -- it breaks down barriers." — Holgate patron

Patron comments

"My disabled adult son needed help loading Hoopla to his Kindle Fire so he could view movies. Both Nick and Betsy were wonderful! They were kind, patient & helpful, without being condescending. I hope you will provide them with formal recognition for their skills & compassion. Many thanks." — Marilyn, Feb 11

"Nicholas is the consummate teacher & patient trainer. First of all, he kindly offered an individualized learning session. I feel he offered (& delivered) a wonderful, personalized training a la the famous & effective Apple "Genius Bar." I am a 'sassy senior' and am reasonably facile with my computer. However, I struggle to absorb and comprehend tactile, kinetic instruction, particularly on the first go-around. But Nicholas made me feel SO comfortable and safe to ask questions & admit non-understanding. I am a former educator of adult learners (at the community college level). As such I know the needed qualities and skills of an inspirational & effective teacher. Nicholas possesses them all. He invited me back for more training with my e-reader which I plan to enjoy. He is a dynamic asset to the library system. Thank you!" — Claudia, April 17

In the news

- [City launches 'Bike to Books' art contest to kick off Bike Month](#) (Bike Portland, May 1)
- [Library tech guru Carlos Galeana provides one-on-one guidance](#) (*Gresham Outlook*, April 21)
- [Spring book sale set for Lloyd Center's DoubleTree](#) (Hollywood Star, April 20)
- [Bookselling Tips from Children's Institute 2017](#) (*Publishers Weekly*, April 18)
- [Library Hosts Black Storytime with Food: Sharing Farming and Nutrition Knowledge](#) (*The Skanner*, April 14)
- [A quick look at libraries in Oregon and America to celebrate Library Week](#) (*OregonLive*, April 14)
- [14 cool things we saw in Multnomah County Library's special collections](#) (*OregonLive*, April 14)
- [North Portland Library says goodbye to Patricia Welch](#) (*The Skanner*, March 30)

Upcoming events

[Descubre STEAM / Discover STEAM](#)

Tuesday, May 9
Kenton Library

[Museum of Curious Things](#)

Tuesday, May 16
Gresham Library

[Forensic Science \(Crack the Case!\)](#)

Wednesday, May 10 (8 week session)
Gresham Library

[Citizen Advocacy 101: We Can Make Change Happen](#)

Saturday, May 13
Woodstock Library

[Vegetable Gardening: Tips and Tricks for Beginning Gardeners](#)

Monday, May 15
North Portland Library

[Urban Headwrapping](#)

Saturday, May 20
Midland Library

[The Fascinating World of Reptiles](#)

Saturday, May 20
Northwest Library

[Portland Opera Preview: Man of La Mancha](#)

Sunday, June 4
Collins Gallery, Central Library