



## **North Portland Library brings together authors, high school students**

This November, North Portland Library welcomed three critically acclaimed authors for a new program aimed at connecting local teens with the library.

Although North Portland Library neighbors Jefferson High School, teens from the school rarely participate in after-school library programs. In a discussion with some Jefferson students during a classroom visit, North Portland Library Administrator Kirby McCurtis learned many of the students had jobs and other after school commitments that kept them from the library.

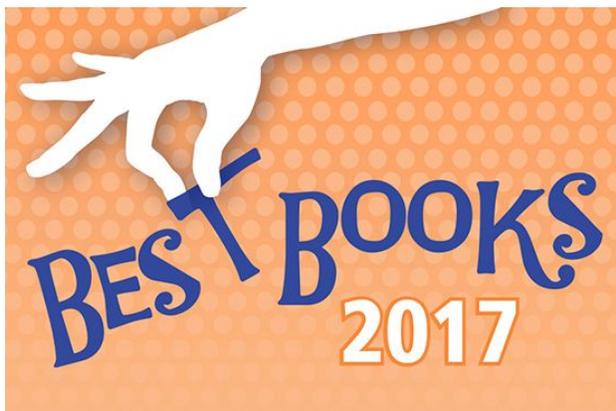
Kirby wanted to find a way to engage teens with the library, so she approached New York-based author Renée Watson — who happens to be a Jefferson High School alumna — about organizing a special author visit for Jefferson students during school time. The pair connected with Jefferson High School librarian Leigh Morlock, the library's Programming and Outreach Specialist Coi Vu, and the freshman English teachers. Together, they

developed a plan: half of the freshman English classes at Jefferson would read *All American Boys* by *New York Times* bestselling authors Brendan Kiely and Jason Reynolds, while the other half of the classes would read *This Side of Home* by Renée Watson. When they finished, the classes would visit North Portland Library for a talk with all three authors.

The books tackled tough themes — police brutality and gentrification. Teachers developed a curriculum, and on November 8, about 100 Jefferson students visited North Portland Library to hear the authors read from their books and take questions from students about their writing processes, inspirations, and how they use writing to explore what's happening in the world. The students actively listened and asked questions about how to improve their own writing.

"It was a huge success. Not only did the teens show interest in the books, we were able to connect them to the library and these incredible authors. I heard from many students about how exciting it was for them to think of themselves as writers," said Kirby.

While school classes frequently visit the library, this event spurred greater interest among the students and the library to find more ways to connect the school's curriculum with library programming.



## Staff compile the best titles of the year

The library has a book for everyone on its site of the [Best Books of 2017](#). The annual compilation of titles, which has been published by Multnomah County Library since 2015, is created and curated by library staff.

"It's fun for our patrons to have an interactive way to get recommended reading selections, and library staff enjoy sharing the books that've had an impact on them" said Alison Kastner, reader services librarian and lead organizer of the effort.

The best books are browsable by cover and easily filtered by audience and genre. Each selection also includes a short description from the library staff who recommended the

title. This year's list includes 250 selections, including diverse titles, northwest authors and a wide variety of books for kids and teens.

## Migration Patterns: Mapping Our Journey

[Migration Patterns: Mapping Our Journey](#) is an exhibition of a 10-month social practice project in collaboration with residents housed in the Human Solutions Emergency Family Shelter and photographer Rachel O'Rourke.

Photographs and maps capture stories of forced migration, economic displacement, escape from domestic violence and everyday experiences that demonstrate the fortitude required to live as a domestic refugee in Portland, Oregon.



This exhibition will run at the Collins Gallery at the Central Library from January 4 to February 25.

## Librarian Nancy Peate helps return missing wedding ring after 46 years

Oregon couple Dean and Janice Anderson got a surprise this fall when Dean's wedding band, which went missing 46 years ago, was returned to them— thanks to a contractor, a journalist, and Multnomah County Librarian Nancy Peate.

This October, contractor Tim Lacey was excavating in Aloha's Hazeldale Park when he uncovered a gold wedding band. After turning it over to Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, parks district staff noticed the inscription "J.B. to D.A." and the date "6-25-66."

*The Oregonian/OregonLive* reporter Samantha Swindler saw a social media post mentioning the ring and asked if she could help find the owner. When a search at Oregon's vital records office was unsuccessful, Samantha submitted an inquiry to the library, which ultimately reached Librarian Nancy Peate.

"When I saw the question in the queue, I did this kind of mental sort in my head about what kinds of resources we have available at Central — city directories, maps, vital records index, and so on — and it seemed likely I could find something," said Nancy.

After exploring a few dead ends, Nancy decided to try searching the digitized archives of wedding announcements from *The Oregonian*.

"I figured it probably took a week or longer to get something in the paper in 1966, so I looked through seven days of wedding announcements, but I knew it as soon as I saw it."

On Sunday, June 26, 1966 — a marriage announcement for Janice Margaret Biehler to Dean Arthur Anderson — J.B. to D.A.

The Andersons, who have now been married for 51 years and live in Gresham, were delighted to get the call about their ring after all these years.

"I was tickled that the Andersons were re-united with the ring, but I wasn't surprised. It just seemed like it was going to happen. I'm an optimist."

Read Samantha Swindler's story about the efforts to track down the ring's owner at [OregonLive](#).

## Patron comments

"Spent a long time here helping my daughter and found the staff exceptionally helpful and kind. First experience with this library and it was so good. Will be back. Just wanted to give a shout out to staff." - Maryann Hansen, November 2017

"Gary [at Central Library] was extremely helpful. He knew exactly where everything I was looking for. As well as he was very sweet and polite. He went above and beyond for all the different genres I was searching for. He is definitely a wonderful librarian." - Ashlyn, November 2017

## In the news

[After 46 years, Oregon couple thought wedding ring was lost forever, then fate intervened](#)

(The Oregonian/OregonLive, November 30)

[Library Partners with Health Department for Open Enrollment](#) (The Skanner, November 17)

[Local Author Visits North Portland Library](#) (The Skanner, November 16)

[Bring Ideas: Lego Games & Challenges](#) (ALSC Matters!, November 2017)

## Upcoming events

[Mexican Tacos for Teens](#)

Thursday, December 14

4 pm

Hillsdale Library

[Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family,](#)

[Community and Culture](#)

Saturday, December 30

10:30 am

North Portland Library

[Children's Scandinavian Dance Performance](#)

Saturday, December 16

11 am

Woodstock Library

[Seismic Retrofitting](#)

Tuesday, January 9

5:30 pm

Albina Library

[Corn Husk Traditional Winter Season](#)

[Ornaments/Adornos Tradicionales de](#)

[Invierno de Hoja de Maíz](#)

Saturday, December 16

2pm

Midland Library

[Talking about Race with Preschoolers](#)

Wednesday, January 10

6:30 pm

Hollywood Library