



## Lunar New Year at Holgate Library

On the evening of February 5, nearly 400 people came to Holgate Library, despite weather uncertainty, to celebrate Lunar New Year, the Year of the Pig.

Library staff happily greeted patrons, ready to showcase the richness of Asian culture and traditions. A cherry and forsythia tree decoration were spread on the front wall and windows, while a book display, lanterns, and colorful paper firecrackers decorated the library.

The event started with the popular White Lotus Lion Dance group, which performs a lion dance show each year that leaves both kids and adults mesmerized. Children and teens from the Summit Wushu Academy performed martial arts, showing power, determination and discipline in their every move.

"My daughter saw the Lion dancers for the first time in her life. She kept her mouth open and couldn't believe it; she kept opening and closing her eyes like trying to see if she was really seeing it," said one patron.

Other activities and performers included traditional and modern dance groups from China and Vietnam, the Van Lang Vietnamese School dance group and the Chinese Women's group; a Vietnamese calligrapher, Hoa Dang; and "Year of the Pig" crafts for children.

Thanks to the hard work of Holgate Library staff and an additional 18 library volunteers, the event was friendly and engaging for all.



## **Denise Auld is making a difference for teens, library staff through mentorship**

For Denise Auld, pursuing a career as a librarian has always been about more than finding books and information. It's about forging connections and being there for people in the community.

As a teen, Denise spent her days after school at the St. Johns Library. She would see other teens from around the neighborhood, and they all became library regulars — huddling over new laptops on "teen lounge" nights and sharing stories with Janie, the youth librarian.

"Often nobody was at home, and the library became a calm and safe place for me to just be a teenager," said Denise. Visiting the library as a teen was more than a second home, it reinforced her desire to make working in libraries a career.

Today, Denise is currently serving dual roles for the library. For the past six years, she's been an access services assistant at Holgate Library, assisting patrons with their accounts, helping coordinate the vast amount of library materials that are checked in and out each day, and training new library staff. The position also provided an opportunity for her to work with teens at the library, managing teen programming, running an active Teen Council group of 20 members, and mentoring more than 50 teen volunteers during the library's annual Summer Reading program.

"I want to be the person that Janie was for me when I was a teen," she says.

Possessing both the experience of helping patrons in the library and a desire to help others, Denise was selected to help create a comprehensive training program for more than 400 staff and 200 volunteers on a new library software system that staff will begin using in May.

"I enjoy teaching and finding different ways to help people learn. Whether it's working with the teen council or organizing classroom training for library staff, I want people to feel confident in what they do."

Currently in college working toward her bachelor's degree in psychology, Denise plans to pursue a master's program so she can become a teen librarian.

## **New teen hygiene health space at Rockwood makerspace**

After noticing that some of the teens visiting the Rockwood makerspace do not have regular access to critical health and hygiene items or to a safe place to clean up, Library Assistant Judith Guzman-Montes knew she had to do something.

To address the need, Judith created a Teen Hygiene Health Center in the Rockwood makerspace restroom to serve the needs of teens visiting the library. She put out a call for donations, starting with library staff. People were receptive to the ask, and Judith gathered donations of hygiene items. Using a shoe organizer, she stocked the space with items such as soap, deodorant, menstrual supplies, and shampoo and conditioner. In addition, staff offered pamphlets and resources for related health services.



Thanks to these efforts, teens are now able to access the supplies anonymously and in a safe place. Because the Rockwood Teen Hygiene Health Center is currently dependent on donations, and those are primarily provided by library staff, Judith is exploring ways to keep the resources sustainable so that all teens who use the health center can feel comfortable in their bodies.

## Patron comments



From Jayson, a Central Library staff member: *This patron (pictured above) came in to get his first library card. His name is Mohammed, and he just turned five years old. When he walked into the Children's Library, the first thing he did was come up to the desk and hand me a piece of paper he wrote on that says, "I Love You, Central Library."*

"Lori [at Woodstock Library] was very patient and great to work with. She helped me to get online and removed my anxiety. Thanks and much appreciation." — Geraldine, February 26

"I needed important legal information looked up & had absolutely NO knowledge of how to do so...or where to look... Heidi, on 2nd floor, Science + Business Library [at Central Library] was very very patient attentive + kind most of all VERY VERY helpful...She is a gem...and a very valuable asset to your library." — Tabitha, February 25

"Thanks for being open today [at Woodstock Library], after the snow! So helpful." — Tom, February 5

## In the news

['Lunar New Year' Welcomed in Mill Park](#) (East PDX News, March 2)

[The Five Best Book Events in Portland This Spring](#) (Willamette Week, February 27)

[Not Just Deodorant: Teen Hygiene Health Center at the Rockwood Makerspace](#)

(WebJunction, February 26)

[Reynolds student creates display for Black History Month](#) (Gresham Outlook, February 22)

[How the Hillsdale Library led the way in better building practices](#) (Southwest Connection, February 2)

[Midland Library hosts 'Jujuba dance party'](#) (East PDX News, January 2019)

## Upcoming events

[Race, Bias and the Brain](#)

Wednesday, March 13

6:30 pm

Hollywood Library

[Tea 101](#)

Saturday, March 23

2 pm

Belmont Library

[Savory Crepe Making for Families](#)

Thursday, March 14

4 pm

Gregory Heights Library

[Notable Women of Portland](#)

Monday, March 25

6:30 pm

Kenton Library

[Title Wave Used Bookstore Sale](#)

Saturday, March 16

Title Wave Bookstore

[Watch Us Rise Reading](#)

Friday, March 29

6:30 pm

North Portland Library

[Frida Kahlo, Mexican Painter](#)

Wednesday, March 20

6:30 pm

Gresham Library

[¡Día de los Niños y Día de los Libros!](#)

Saturday, April 6

2 pm

St. Johns Library