



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 10, 2017**

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## ~ Media Advisory ~

### **FREE DISCUSSION ABOUT RACIAL DIVERSITY IN OREGON**

*A Conversation Project event facilitated by Willamette University sociology professor Emily Drew*

Although census data show Oregon's population becoming more racially diverse, the perception persists that we are one of the whitest states in the nation. Many Oregonians value racial diversity and the dimension and depth it adds to our lives, yet we remain largely isolated from one another and have yet to fulfill the vision of a racially integrated society.

At 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 18 in the Library Meeting Room at Springfield City Hall, 225 Fifth Street in Springfield, Willamette University professor Emily Drew will lead participants in a conversation on Power, Privilege, and Racial Diversity in Oregon. This free event offers a place to explore some of the causes of continued isolation and the differences of experience between Oregonians of different races—such as institutional racism, white privilege, and unconscious bias. What systems are in place to prevent the racial integration and equity many of us strive for? Knowing what we do, how do we act—as individuals and communities—to embrace the opportunity presented by a more diverse Oregon?

Drew is an associate professor of sociology at Willamette University, where she teaches courses on racism, race and ethnicity, urban sociology, mass media, and social change. She earned her doctorate from Loyola University Chicago and has published articles in *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, *Television & New Media*, and *Tourism & Cultural Change*.

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to our daily lives and our state's future. A series of Conversation Project events will be hosted by the City of Springfield's Committee for Diversity and Inclusion and Springfield Library the third Wednesday of the month January through April 2017. Willamalane Parks and Recreation District is a marketing partner of this program. Funding for the program is generously provided by Springfield Public Library Foundation. Free and open to the community.

Oregon Humanities (921 SW Washington, Suite 150; Portland, OR 97205) connects Oregonians to ideas that change lives and transform communities. More information about Oregon Humanities' programs and publications, which include the Conversation Project, Think & Drink, Humanity in Perspective, Idea Lab, Public Program Grants, and Oregon Humanities magazine, can be found at [oregonhumanities.org](http://oregonhumanities.org). Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

**What:** Conversation Project: "Power, Privilege, and Racial Diversity in Oregon," facilitated by Willamette University sociology professor Emily Drew

**When:** 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2017

**Where:** Springfield Public Library Meeting Room, Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield OR

**Additional Information:** Contact Thea Hart at 541.726.2238 or [thart@springfield-or.gov](mailto:thart@springfield-or.gov)

## NEW SATURDAY BOOK GROUP

*Newly formed book discussion group for Springfield adults begins with Coates' Between the World and Me*

At 1 p.m., Saturday, January 21 at the Springfield Library, the Saturday Book Group will meet to discuss *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, winner of the 2015 National Book Award for nonfiction.

"We have received many requests for additional book discussion groups at Springfield Public Library. I am very excited that we continue to increase the number and the variety of free events for adults in our community. The Library's mission is to be a community hub for lifelong learning and our new Saturday Book Group will make discussing literature more accessible to adults who are not available during weekday morning hours," said Thea Hart, adult services librarian at Springfield Public Library.

Acclaimed author Ta-Nehisi Coates, whose work confronts many of the most challenging aspects of race in modern America, will be the 2017 Ruhl Lecturer at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. The Ruhl Lecture will be open to the community and takes place on the UO campus on February 3. Additionally, *Between the World and Me* is the 2016-17 UO Common Reading book selection, which means that incoming UO freshmen are reading and discussing the book over the course of the school year. Coates' lecture, titled "A Deeper Black: Race in America," will tackle the systemic racism and racist policies that have been inseparable from the growth of the nation.

The book discussion group is facilitated by Springfield Public Library with support from the Springfield Library Foundation. The discussion group is for adults and will be held in the Library Conference Room, located at 225 Fifth Street in Springfield.

The Saturday Book Group will continue at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 18, 2017 with a discussion of the NEA Big Read book, *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. Community events are planned in conjunction with the NEA Big Read of *The Maltese Falcon*, including presentations, theater performances, Radio Redux, movie nights, and more.

**What:** January Saturday Book Group meeting discussing *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

**When:** 1 p.m., Saturday, January 21, 2017

**Where:** Library Conference Room, Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield OR

**Additional Information:** Contact Thea Hart at 541.726.2238 or [thart@springfield-or.gov](mailto:thart@springfield-or.gov)

## Wordcrafters Writing Workshop

*Cross Genre Mash Up: Poetry and Prose*

Hark! Be that poetry or prose? Attend the free Wordcrafters Writing Workshop at the Springfield Public Library from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Monday, January 23, 2017, in the Library Meeting Room and uncover the secrets of bridging poetry and prose! What is the difference between poetry and prose? What are the benefits of either? Are some ideas better suited to one or the other? How do I move my prose to poetry or my poetry to prose? You will leave this workshop with one piece of prose, one piece of poetry, and the scoop on how to use them.

Pre-registration is encouraged to secure a seat. Call 541.726.3766 or sign up at the Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth Street Springfield. This program is presented by Leah Velez, sprouted from the streets of Chicago like a rare dandelion, and Tia North is a commonplace orchid from Hilo, Hawai'i. This program is generously sponsored by The Springfield Public Library Foundation.

**What:** Wordcrafters Writing Workshop

**When:** 5:30-7:30 p.m., Monday, January 23, 2017

**Where:** Library Meeting Room, Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield OR

**Additional Information:** Thea Hart at 541.726.2238, [thart@springfield-or.gov](mailto:thart@springfield-or.gov) or Amy Orre at 541.726.4609, [aorre@springfield-or.gov](mailto:aorre@springfield-or.gov)

## **Teens on Tuesday @ 4:30**

### *Steampunk Harry Potter Cosplay Workshop*

Teens are invited to “get their Potter on” by making their own steampunk and Harry Potter accessories. The cosplay workshop begins at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 24 at the Springfield Public Library in the Library Meeting Room, 225 Fifth Street in Springfield. There will be supplies to make magic potions, wands and steampunk jewelry. All materials will be provided. This program is free and intended for teens ages 13 to 18.

The Library offers a weekly gathering for teens at 4:30 p.m., every Tuesday to hang out, enjoy a snack, learn new skills, and have fun.

**What:** Teen program: Steampunk Harry Potter Cosplay Workshop

**When:** 4:30-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2017

**Where:** Library Meeting Room, Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield OR

**Additional Information:** LuCinda Gustavson, 541.726.2287, [lgustavson@springfield-or.gov](mailto:lgustavson@springfield-or.gov)

## **PRESCHOOL FUN WITH ART AND SCIENCE**

### *Lots of Spots*

Let’s go dotty over spots! Preschoolers are invited to learn about impressionistic art through fun stories, songs and activities at Springfield Public Library at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, January 26, 2017. Children should come dressed for messy craft projects and be accompanied by a caregiver. The program is free and all supplies will be provided. This program is intended for children ages 3-6.

**What:** Preschool Fun with Art & Science

**When:** 10:30-11:15 a.m., Thursday, January 26, 2017

**Where:** Library Meeting Room, Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield OR

**Additional Information:** LuCinda Gustavson, 541.726.2287, [lgustavson@springfield-or.gov](mailto:lgustavson@springfield-or.gov)

## **Teen Dance & Activities**

### *Harry Potter Yule Ball*

The Springfield Library Annex of Hogwarts School of Wizardry invites teens to join us for a Yule Ball. Magical and muggle teens of all sorts are welcome to don their finest garb and dance the night away. There will be music, dancing, fantastic beasts, fortunetelling, photo booth, house contests, and refreshments. Wizardly and formal attire is welcome. Less formal muggle apparel is also appropriate. This event is free and for ages 12-18.

**What:** Teen program: Harry Potter Yule Ball

**When:** 7-9 p.m., Friday, January 27, 2017

**Where:** The Springfield Public Library, City Hall Lobby, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield OR

**Additional Information:** LuCinda Gustavson, 541.726.2287, [lgustavson@springfield-or.gov](mailto:lgustavson@springfield-or.gov)

## **SPANISH LANGUAGE STORYTIME/CUENTOS SABATINOS BILINGÜES**

*Families are invited for a Saturday Cuentos storytime.  
Se invite las familias a los Cuentos Sabatinos en Español.*

Join us at the Springfield Public Library at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 28 for interactive bilingual stories, songs, and a craft. We will be learning to count in Spanish and English. See our event calendars for more details. Families of all ages are welcome!

Acompáñenos en la biblioteca de Springfield el sábado, 28 de enero, a las 11 a.m. para cuentos bilingües, canciones y manualidades. Vamos a contar numeros con cuentos. Lea nuestro calendario de eventos para más información. ¡Se invita a las familias con niños de todas las edades!

**What:** Cuentos/Bilingual Storytime in Spanish

**When:** 11 a.m., Saturday, January 28, 2017

**Where:** Springfield Public Library, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield OR

**Additional Information:** LuCinda Gustavson, 541.726.2287, [lgustavson@springfield-or.gov](mailto:lgustavson@springfield-or.gov)