



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ Media Advisory ~
FREE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LEGACY
OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Tuesday, July 22 event is part of Oregon Humanities' statewide Conversation Project

If the Constitution of the United States speaks to the head, the Declaration of Independence speaks to the heart and to the body; if the Constitution is prose, the Declaration is poetry. What does the Declaration of Independence have to offer us as twenty-first century Americans? What does it mean to have a right to pursue happiness? And how might we think about—and use—the Declaration to improve the state of our Republic?

This is the focus of “The Truths We Hold: The Poetry and Lessons of the Declaration of Independence,” a free conversation with Wendy Willis on Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 6:30pm at the Springfield Public Library. This program is hosted by the Springfield Library Foundation and sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

Willis is a poet, essayist, and national leader in civic engagement and collaborative governance. She serves as executive director of the Policy Consensus Initiative, a national nonprofit organization housed at Portland State University and devoted to improving democratic governance. Her first book of poems, *Blood Sisters of the Republic*, was released in 2012.

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. For more information about this free community discussion, please contact Carrie Schindele-Cupples at 541-726-2237 or scupples@springfield-or.gov.

Oregon Humanities (813 SW Alder St, #702; Portland, OR 97205) connects Oregonians to ideas to 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. 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 about the legacy of the Declaration of Independence

When: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 6:30pm

Where: Springfield Library Meeting Room, 225 5th St. Springfield OR 97477

Additional Information: Contact Carrie Schindele-Cupples at (541) 726-2237