

A NOVEL IDEA

READ TOGETHER

Ritu Mukerji



Sarvenaz Tash

Event listing
pages 8-11

April 2-May 3

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE



Welcome to A Novel Idea 2025



Novel Idea is in its third decade of building community—one book at a time. By harnessing the power of books to foster empathy and understanding, this beloved annual community read program also strengthens connections among people throughout Deschutes County.

Over the years, we've explored and discussed dozens of books as part of A Novel Idea. Yet, one genre has been notably absent from our selections: mystery. And we know Deschutes County residents love a good mystery. In a recent 12-month period, local readers checked out more than 67,000 mysteries—making it the second-most circulated genre after general fiction. What is it about mysteries that keeps us coming back for more?

Mystery is the perfect genre for unraveling complex puzzles and following unpredictable character arcs. Often featuring unforgettable sleuths, a great mystery delves into high-stakes tensions and the intricate twists of the human experience. These thrilling, hard-to-put-down stories keep our minds engaged until the final scene, when everything is revealed in those last, satisfying pages.

We encourage you not only to read this year's selections—*Murder by Degrees* and *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*—but to take part in the thought-provoking events and discussions that will enrich your experience (see pages six and seven), including in-person visits from authors. Our hope is that you engage in conversations about this year's books—with friends, family, and fellow readers throughout Deschutes County. It's your engagement and those discussions that make A Novel Idea the largest community read program in Oregon.

Selecting the Annual Community Read

Deciding on the A Novel Idea selection is a two-step, nearly yearlong process. Starting in January—just one month after the current title is revealed at the annual Unveiled event—a team of community nominators begins reading. By the end of May, the team compiles a list of more than 30 promising titles. The advisory team then narrows that list to ten, then five, and finally three books. The final three are sent to the library director for the final decision.

The committees use a set of guidelines when considering books, looking for:

- A well-written book that explores fundamental human truths and features three-dimensional characters that resonate with today's readers.
- A discussable book that appeals to and enriches a wide audience—from devoted book lovers to those who may not yet consider books and reading essential to their lives.
- A book that can be supported and discussed by an author willing to participate in a speaking engagement or other public appearances.
- A book available in multiple formats (print, electronic, audio, large print, Spanish) and published within the last 18 months.
- A book that allows for dynamic programming and does not repeat themes, locations, or structures from recent selections.

The time and dedication that all committee members invest in selecting the perfect book for Deschutes County readers is remarkable, and we thank them for their continued commitment to A Novel Idea.

COMMUNITY NOMINATORS

Paige Bentley-Flannery
Cassie Clemens
Michele Clements
Kayla Duncan
Liz Goodrich
Laurel Hively
Dan Medin
Glays Pilz
Jordan Portier
Becca Reynolds
Mandee Seeley
Deon Stonehouse

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jake Agatucci
Paige Bentley-Flannery
Cassie Clemens
Joel Clements
Liz Goodrich
Elsa Hager
Lucy Hilburn
Laurel Hively
Lavon Medlock
Becca Reynolds
Jessica Lorentz Smith

YOUTH SELECTION COMMITTEE

Paige Bentley-Flannery
Sheila Grier
Elsa Hager
Josie Hanneman
Diana Hernandez
Erin Heyl
Meagan Looney

ADULT READERS

Rounding Out the Final Five

The Refugee Ocean by Pauls Toutonghi

This book tells the stories of two refugees living in America whose lives are linked by traumatic events of the past. Moving from Aleppo on the brink of civil war to Lebanon in the late 1940s, then to Havana during the Cuban Revolution, and finally to the suburbs of Washington, D.C., *The Refugee Ocean* grapples with what it means to be an immigrant, shows how wounds can heal, and highlights the role of music and art in the resilience of the human spirit.

—Liz Goodrich, Library Staff

Symphony of Secrets by Brendan Slocumb

Symphony of Secrets features a compelling heroine and a composer, seemingly sympathetic—but who is really a con man. The plot moves readers back and forth from the 1920s to the present, where a music professor and computer genius discover that the composer stole “his” music from the heroine, a neurodivergent prodigy. They work to expose the crime, while a foundation dedicated to the composer works to keep his—and its—reputation intact.

—Gladys Pilz, Community Nominator

You Are Here by Karin Lin-Greenberg

This is a well-written, quiet book that tells the stories of five people—ordinary people. This is a subtle book, but the messages discussed are weighty, including racism, bigotry, stalking, gender roles, adopting children from other cultures, gun violence, disappointment in life, and the importance of hopes and dreams. At the center of these stories is an old woman, not particularly well-liked and perhaps a bigot. There are books that make you cry and rip you to shreds. This is not that book, and yet it is quietly reflective and sparks curiosity.

—Laurel Hively, Library Staff

The Great Divide by Cristina Henríquez

This profound novel brings to the forefront untold stories of local inhabitants whose lives were forever changed by the building of the Panama Canal. Deep bonds of family, duty, and loyalty are set in contrast to the destruction of colonialism. This book offers a front-row seat to the impact of capitalism on a community, country, and region.

—Lavon Medlock, Novel Idea Advisory Committee

Rounding Out the Top 10

Real Americans by Rachel Khong

The Deep Sky by Yume Kitasei

The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali

Anita de Monte Laughs Last by Xochitl Gonzalez

Headshot by Rita Bullwinkel



YOUNG READERS

Books considered along with *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*

Ophie's Ghosts by Justina Ireland

The Body Under the Piano by Marthe Jocelyn

The Secret Library by Kekla Magoon

The Lost Year by Katherine Marsh

Olivetti by Allie Millington

The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall by Jasmine Warga



An Interview with Ritu Mukerji



QUESTION What was your inspiration for *Murder by Degrees*?

ANSWER I have been an avid reader of mystery and crime fiction for as long as I can remember, and I am always drawn to stories with a strong, independent woman investigator. Some of my favorites include Sujata Massey's Perveen Mistry, Laurie R. King's Mary Russell, and Cara Black's Aimée Leduc. So, when I decided to write a mystery novel, I knew I wanted to create a character along those lines.

As a medical student in Philadelphia, I discovered the rich history of American medicine that is woven into the city. It is a very atmospheric place, where the old and the modern exist side by side. I would explore the narrow cobblestone lanes, discovering places like the historic surgical amphitheater at Pennsylvania Hospital, the Mütter Museum, and the medical library at the College of Physicians.

All these interests simmered in my mind for years. It was only later, when I learned of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, that I knew I had the perfect setting to create a mystery.

Q Who was your inspiration for Dr. Lydia Weston?

A Dr. Lydia Weston is a composite of the many inspiring women doctors whose lives I researched to write this book. Many were delightfully "non-traditional" students—some had been temperance activists and abolitionists, suffragists, schoolteachers, a children's book author. Another was a widow with grown children who graduated from the medical college at the age of 58! There were international students; some of the first Black women physicians in the U.S. were graduates. Because women doctors faced

steep obstacles to acceptance, they often found creative opportunities: as sanitary inspectors, medical missionaries, in private practice in remote locations. I hoped to draw the stories of these fascinating women into the fictional character.

Q Besides being a doctor yourself, do you share anything in common with Dr. Weston?

A Like Lydia Weston, I take solace and pleasure in books. I love to read: mystery, poetry, history, literary fiction. I am also drawn to her sense of justice and compassion, her kindness. Those are character traits I hope we share.

Q How do you balance your writing with your work as a physician?

A I wrote the book while working as a doctor; it was very much a kitchen-table enterprise! I would write in the early mornings or evenings, or at any free moment. The consistency of a daily routine helped build creative momentum and I looked forward to my writing time. But there were things about being a writer that felt very familiar from my career in medicine: I enjoy reading, spending lots of time in libraries, and doing research. I also think medicine teaches resilience and adaptability, and the need to trust yourself, qualities that are very helpful to a writer!

Q What's next for Dr. Weston? Will we see her again in a sequel?

A Yes! I am currently working on the second novel in the series, set at the 1876 Centennial Exposition—the World's Fair held in Philadelphia. The story centers on a woman surgeon, who is using newer techniques of anesthesia. And Dr. Lydia Weston is back, investigating a murder.

Q Poetry is highlighted throughout your novel. What is revealed about the plot and the characters through the poems and poets that you include?

A I love to read poetry, and I needed a way for the reader to understand the inner thoughts of the character Anna. I thought of using a diary or letters. Then the idea of using cryptic, haunting passages of poetry came to me, as a way of mirroring the character's inner voice and building suspense.

Q What do you hope readers will take away from this story?

A I hope readers are immersed in a twisty, suspenseful mystery and are intrigued by the atmospheric setting. And I hope that they will be as inspired as I am by women doctors whose lives infuse those of the fictional characters: they were trailblazers in every sense of the word, and their stories, and the important work they did, deserves to be known.

Q What role have libraries played in your life?

A Some of my earliest, most wonderful memories involve libraries. I would go each week with my mom to choose books, to be part of the summer reading program or to go to story time with the librarians. I remember the thrill of finding a great new book and sitting down cross-legged on the floor to enjoy it immediately. Not much has changed since then! As a reader and now as a writer, I have a deep appreciation for the library as a place of learning, community and sanctuary.

Follow Ritu on
Instagram
@ritumukerji

An Interview with Sarvenaz Tash



SASH PHOTO: ©KIMBERLY M. WANG | EARDOG.COM

QUESTION When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

ANSWER Since I was seven years old! Ever since my second-grade teacher started reading Beverly Cleary to us—and then I started reading them at home to myself, followed by Roald Dahl and *The Baby-Sitter's Club*, and much more. I dreamed about making up my own stories and having a stack of my own books on a shelf one day.

Q What was the inspiration for *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*?

A I was very much inspired by my own Brooklyn neighborhood, my apartment building, and my kids, as well as *Harriet the Spy*, a book that I loved when I was a kid. I was always enamored with the idea of a kid like Harriet having such amazing access to the lives of so many adult neighbors, and the idea that a super's kid in a big Brooklyn apartment building would have the same kind of access really appealed to me. Making that kid both really curious and really resourceful made me certain that she'd be in for one epic adventure.

Q *The Queen of Ocean Parkway* is rooted in the real world with vivid descriptions of urban life in New York. What inspired you to integrate a modern, nonfictional setting with the fantastical element of a magic fortune-telling machine?

A I love living in New York and Brooklyn very deeply, and I feel like there is something inherently magical about it already. But when I started writing the book, I didn't know that the solution to the mystery would have a fantastical element. In fact, I didn't know the solution to the mystery at all! I just knew that Katya had gone missing, that there may or may not be a family curse, and that Roya, the super's kid, was on the case. I also knew that I wanted her to go to Coney Island, a place that I also feel is steeped in history, folklore, and a little bit of magic. Because the mystery involved

several generations of Katya's family, I was interested in places in Coney Island that had been around a long time, and I happened to stumble on an article about a century-old fortune-telling machine called Grandmother's Predictions (which is very much real). My imagination leapt at that and filled in the blanks from there, finding a solution to the mystery that incorporated the elements I knew I wanted to have, and gave me a heck of a challenge too in dealing with the logistics and physics of time travel. But one of the things I love most about writing is researching and learning new things and I got to do a ton of that while writing [this book].

Q Throughout *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*, it becomes clear to Roya that some things in life simply cannot be changed; even if one could turn back time, certain outcomes are inevitable. Tell us more about the theme of acceptance in the book.

A Well, there was one more major inspiration for this book, and that was my aunt, Hengameh, who unfortunately dealt with the same illness as Roya's father. And I found myself, in the midst of my grief, having to explain things like her illness and her ultimate passing to my very young children. As much as I wanted to protect them from it, I couldn't and I didn't have any concrete answers about what happened to her after, either. The only thing I knew was that talking about her and remembering her kept her present in our lives, even if it was sometimes hard. I thought about that a lot as I wrote this book and what Roya is dealing with in terms of her father. Because even if you're a kid, and you're living the best, happiest life imaginable, there is going to be loss and grief because they are a part of living in this world. For me, it was not about ignoring those feelings, but honoring them and trying to figure out how to move through them.

Q What do you share in common with Roya?

A My culture for one: we're both Iranian-American. But personality-wise, I think Roya is a lot braver and more self-assured than I've ever been, though I think we are both naturally curious. I actually think that I'm a lot more like Amin than Roya when it comes to following rules!

Q What do you hope readers take away from *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*?

A I hope it's a story that they want to keep reading because it's fun and interesting. And I also hope it lets them into a world that they might not otherwise get to experience: whether it's the fantastical elements or the unique experience of growing up as a New York City kid.

Q What role have libraries played in your life?

A There are few places from my childhood that feel as monumental as my local public library. I was an extremely shy kid who started school in America without speaking any English. Books were my gateway to everything: language, experiences, fictional friends that eventually turned into real ones. And the library gave me access to all of that. It was extraordinary to me (and still is) that I would be able to read practically any book I wanted to for free. My favorite was the summer reading programs that rewarded my reading with prizes; nothing felt more like I was gaming the system than that! I truly don't think I would be an author now if it wasn't for spending so much time at my public library growing up.

Follow Sarvenaz
on Instagram
@sarvenaztash

Discussion Questions



Murder by Degrees

1. What motivates Dr. Lydia Weston in her investigation of Anna Ward's death? How do her professional and personal experiences shape her character?
2. Discuss Lydia's relationships with her students, colleagues, and the police. How do these interactions reflect the power dynamics of the time?
3. How do themes of family, loyalty, and betrayal manifest in the novel? How do they drive the plot and reveal deeper aspects of the characters?
4. How does Anna's diary develop her character? How does your perception of her change as you read more of her entries?
5. How do social class and power dynamics play a role in both the murder and the investigation?
6. What role does the setting of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania play in the narrative? How does it play into the book's discussion of class?
7. The novel explores themes of gender inequality. How is the commentary woven into the investigation? How does it affect the resolution?
8. How does Lydia's medical background enrich the novel?
9. In the final pages, Mr. Kohler suggests that maybe "It is time for a respite from poetry," to which Lydia replies, "No, Mr. Kohler...never" (p. 286). What do you think is next for Lydia?

The Whole of it came
not at once

The Whole of it came not at once—
'Twas Murder by degrees—
A Thrust—and then for Life a chance—
The Bliss to cauterize—

The Cat reprieves the Mouse
She eases from her teeth
Just long enough for Hope to tease—
Then mashes it to death—
'Tis Life's award—to die—
Contenteder if once—
Than dying half—then rallying
For consciouser Eclipse—

—Emily Dickinson

About the Author

Ritu Mukerji was born in Kolkata, India, and grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. She received a bachelor's degree in history from Columbia University and a medical degree from Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. After residency training at the University of California, Davis, she has practiced as an internist for 15 years. She lives in Marin County, California, with her husband, three children, two rescue beagles, and two cats.

Discussion Questions



The Queen of Ocean Parkway

1. Before you started reading, who or what did you think the Queen of Ocean Parkway was? Were you surprised at what it really was?
2. What were some theories you had about where Katya went and what the Petrov family curse was before you discovered what really happened to her?
3. What makes Amin a good co-sleuth for Roya? What makes him a good friend?
4. If you had the ability to go back into the past and change one thing, what would you change?
5. Before reading this book, had you heard of Coney Island? If so, what did you know about it? How did reading this book change or confirm what you knew about Coney Island or Brooklyn in general?
6. Is there something you love as much as Amin loves the subways? Why do you think he takes comfort in them and in wearing his subway shirts in a specific order?
7. Do you have any food sensitivities like Amin, or is there any food that causes you stress? How do you think having food sensitivities might affect someone's everyday life?
8. Roya tries very hard to change the outcome of her father's disease, but isn't able to. Why do you think the author chose this ending?
9. If you had a podcast, what would it be about? Who would you bring on as guests?
10. *The Queen of Ocean Parkway* is going to have a sequel. If you were writing it, what mystery would you have Roya solve next?



Iso by Sarvenaz Tash

A Whole Song and Dance (2023)

A freshman at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Nasrin is seemingly living her dream, except her parents think she is attending business school. It gets harder to keep lying to them, especially after they surprise her in New York.

The Geek's Guide to Unrequited Love (2016)

Graham met his best friend, Roxy, when he moved into her neighborhood eight years ago and she asked him which Hogwarts house he'd be sorted into. Graham has been in love with her ever since.

Three Day Summer (2015)

During the three days of the music festival known as Woodstock, Michael and Cora share incredible experiences, the greatest of which is meeting each other.



About the Author

Sarvenaz Tash is the author of nine novels (and counting) for kids, young adults, and adults, including *The Queen of Ocean Parkway* series, *The Geek's Guide to Unrequited Love*, and *A Whole Song and Dance*. Her books have won awards and recognition from the Junior Library Guild, the American Library Association, Amazon, Kirkus, and Publishers Weekly. Sarvenaz was born in Tehran, Iran, and grew up on Long Island, New York. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Television from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She currently lives in Brooklyn with her family.



Visit dpl.pub/anovelidea to learn more about these events, and to register for programs that require registration (noted with an *).

Murder by Degrees Book Discussions

Explore the mystery of *Murder by Degrees* by discussing the book with friends and neighbors.

Thursday, April 3 • 1:00 p.m.
Redmond Library

Saturday, April 5 • 1:00 p.m.
La Pine Library

Monday, April 7 • 6:00 p.m.*
Online only (register for link)

Saturday, April 12 • 11:00 a.m.
East Bend Library

Monday, April 14 • 4:30 p.m.
Sunriver Books & Music
57100 Beaver Dr., Sunriver

Monday, April 21 • 5:30 p.m.
Paulina Springs Books
252 W. Hood Dr., Sisters

Friday, April 25 • noon
Downtown Bend Library

Saturday, April 26 • 1:00 p.m.
Sunriver Library

Wednesday, April 30 • 5:30 p.m.
Online only
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81198802130>

Forensics: It Must Take a “Special” Person

In *Murder by Degrees*, Dr. Lydia Weston works alongside police to investigate the suspicious death of Anna Ward, a young chambermaid found in the Schuylkill River. This event explores the collaboration between medicolegal investigators and forensic scientists in solving mysteries.

Wednesday, April 2 • 12:30 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Monday, April 7 • 12:30 p.m.
Redmond Library

Forensics: It Must Take a “Special” Person with
Kori Barnum & Sari Ourada **APRIL 2 & 7**



Exhibit Sneak Peek: Read/Create

Get a sneak peek of the exhibit highlighting this year’s A Novel Idea selections. See the literary-inspired quilts that are a beloved part of the A Novel Idea experience.

Friday, April 4 • 4–6:00 p.m.
Deschutes Historical Museum
129 NW Idaho Ave., Bend

Read/Create: A Novel Idea 2025 Exhibit

See this year’s Read/Create exhibit, curated by our friends at the Deschutes Historical Museum. The exhibit will be on display through May 10. Show your library card for free admission.

Saturday, April 5–Saturday, May 10 • 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Deschutes Historical Museum
129 NW Idaho Ave., Bend

Live History Shows Presents: A Timeless Gathering*

Murder by Degrees takes readers deep into the heart of an intriguing mystery. Ready to solve your own? Now you can experience history coming alive like never before in this interactive theater event! Registration required.

Saturday, April 5 • noon
Saturday, April 5 • 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 5 • 4:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Exhibit Sneak Peek: Read/Create at Deschutes Historical Museum (pictured quilt detail by Martha Phair Sanders) **APRIL 4**



Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy: Oregon's Doctor to the World

Like Dr. Lydia Weston, the fictional doctor in *Murder by Degrees*, Oregon's own Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy broke many barriers. During this presentation, Dr. Kimberly Jenson will compare Dr. Lovejoy's real-life experiences to those of fictional Dr. Weston's.

Saturday, April 5 • 3:00 p.m.
Redmond Library

Sunday, April 6 • 11:00 a.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Plays Out Loud: *Clue*

Have you ever wanted to dip a toe in the theatre world? Participate in this madcap whodunnit reader's theatre that'll keep you guessing. We'll take on characters from the play and read the script together from start to finish within two hours. Beginners welcome in this low-stress theatre environment!

Monday, April 7 • 5:30 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Mystery Book Talk*

Hear about the wide variety in the genre, including cozy, thriller, historical, and literary; explore standalone mysteries versus series; and get great reading recommendations from bookstore owner Deon Stonehouse. Registration required.

Tuesday, April 8 • 4:30 p.m.
Sunriver Books & Music
57100 Beaver Dr., Sunriver

Women in Medicine: Post-Civil War America

Dr. Lydia Weston was extraordinary for her time; however, we can better understand her if we are also familiar with the gender notions, class divisions, and the role of women in the emerging field of formalized medical training in post-Civil War America.

Wednesday, April 9 • 3:00 p.m.
Redmond Library

Wednesday, April 23 • 12:30 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Unions in Bend: Yesterday and Today

Labor unions began forming in the U.S. in the early 19th century, partly to address concerns about working conditions. *Murder by Degrees* highlights the consequences of unsafe workplaces through a preventable tragedy. Learn about unionization efforts in Central Oregon with labor journalist Michael Funke.

Wednesday, April 16 • 1:00 p.m.
Sisters Library

Tuesday, April 22 • 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Folded Bookbinding Workshop*

In *Murder by Degrees*, Anna Ward's secret journal is key to unraveling the mystery of her disappearance. Who gave it to her? Where did it come from? Create your own small journal in this bookbinding class. Materials provided. Registration required.

Thursday, April 17 • 1:00 p.m.
La Pine Library

Friday, April 18 • 1:00 p.m.
East Bend Library

The Mystery Book Experience

Do you have a favorite mystery author? Do you enjoy dark or light mystery books? Experience an afternoon with a variety of new mystery books, discussions about favorite mystery authors, and a look at where to find your next mystery book with Community Librarian Paige Bentley-Flannery.

Saturday, April 19 • 1:00 p.m.
Redmond Library

Poetry and Mystery

Ritu Mukerji uses poetry throughout *Murder by Degrees* to unfold a mystery. Join us for an hour of Victorian and contemporary poetry, where we explore clues, intrigue, and the mysteries poetry can reveal.

Thursday, April 24 • 4:30 p.m.
Redmond Library

Sunday, April 27 • 1:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy: Oregon's Doctor to the World with Dr. Kimberly Johnson
APRIL 5 & 6



Women in Medicine: Post-Civil War America with Janet Rankin **APRIL 9 & 23**

Poetry and Mystery with Irene Cooper **APRIL 24 & 27**

Folded Bookbinding Workshop with Lee Kellogg
APRIL 17 & 18



Radical Shifts: Gender, Class, and Belonging Post-Civil War with Timothy J. Williams

APRIL 25 & 26

The People Called “Quakers” and Quaker Foundations with Paul N. Anderson

APRIL 29 & 30



©JACK LIU



Quackery: A History of the Worst Ways to Cure Everything with Nate Pedersen **APRIL 30**

Self-Defense Seminar with Thomas Bengé **APRIL 30**

From Agatha Christie to Ruth Ware: A Mysterious Book Talk*

Covering everything from the Golden Age of crime fiction to psychological thrillers, bookseller and writer Joey Roddy will highlight the mystery genre’s history, tropes, and unspoken rules—giving plenty of great book recommendations. Registration required.

Thursday, April 24 • 6:30 p.m.

Roundabout Books

900 NW Mt. Washington Dr., Bend

Radical Shifts: Gender, Class, and Belonging Post-Civil War

Set a decade after the Civil War, *Murder by Degrees* weaves a thrilling mystery while exploring the transformative effects of the war on Philadelphia. It highlights women’s wartime roles, shifting class dynamics, and the societal changes that defined the Gilded Age.

Friday, April 25 • 4:00 p.m.

Downtown Bend

Saturday, April 26 • 11:00 a.m.

Sisters Library

The People Called “Quakers”

Learn about the Quakers, or Friends, and how they’ve shaped world history and society. Paul N. Anderson, Professor of Biblical and Quaker Studies at George Fox University, will outline their beginnings with George Fox in 1652 through to the present day.

Tuesday, April 29 • 6:00 p.m.

Downtown Bend Library

Quaker Foundations: The SPICE-y Testimonies of Friends

In *Murder by Degrees*, Dr. Harlan Stanley, a Quaker, defied late 19th-century societal norms by founding Women’s Medical College, based on a real college. Learn about the Friends’ influential and progressive views on peace and rights with professor Paul N. Anderson.

Wednesday, April 30 • 1:00 p.m.

Sisters Library

Quackery: A History of the Worst Ways to Cure Everything*

Murder by Degrees features a cast of skilled doctors, but quackery has always existed. Hear stories about outlandish cures, experimental medicines, and scams with author Nate Pedersen. He’ll explore the bizarre, yet true, ways humans have attempted to cure their ailments. Registration required for online access.

Wednesday, April 30 • 5:00 p.m.

Online only

Self-Defense Seminar*

Murder By Degrees opens with a chase scene in which a mysterious woman flees from her aggressor and throws herself into the Schuylkill River rather than fight him. Learn the basics of self-defense in this seminar with Thomas Bengé. Registration required.

Wednesday, April 30 • 5:30 p.m.

Redmond Library



Murder by Degrees

Main Event*

A Novel Idea Author Ritu Mukerji

Join us for this capstone event, when author Ritu Mukerji takes the stage at Summit High School to discuss her book, her writing process, and more. Free tickets are required and available online (www.dplfoundation.org) starting April 5.

Saturday, May 3 • 4:00 p.m.

Summit High School

2855 NW Clearwater Dr., Bend



Tarot Card Workshop 10+ YRS

Like Grandmother from Grandmother's Predictions in *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*, create your own fortunes! We will learn about the origins of Tarot cards and design and illustrate our own cards to take home. Youth 10 and over may attend unaccompanied by a caregiver.

Thursday, April 3 • 3:45 p.m.
Sisters Library

Friday, April 4 • 4:15 p.m.
East Bend Library

Children's Museum of Central Oregon: Physics Exhibits 0-11 YRS

Roya's father in *The Queen of Ocean Parkway* is a teacher and lover of physics. Learn about this topic with CMCO. Experiment with force and motion on interchangeable ramps, play with magnet pendulums, observe sound waves, and more.

Wednesday, April 9 • 1:30 p.m.
La Pine Library

Science Circus Extravaganza with Rhys Thomas 6+ YRS

In *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*, Katya's family comes from a long line of circus performers. See a real-life circus performer and learn some science at the same time. The Science Circus teaches Newtonian physics using comedy and circus arts.

Tuesday, April 15 • 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Wednesday, April 16 • 1:30 p.m.
Sunriver Library

Book Discussions 8+ YRS

Read and discuss *The Queen of Ocean Parkway* by Sarvenaz Tash.

Saturday, April 19 • 10:00 a.m.
Redmond Library

Saturday, April 19 • 1:00 p.m.
East Bend Library



Science Circus Extravaganza with Rhys Thomas
APRIL 15 & 16

Family Class: Coney Island Hotdogs* 7+ YRS

In *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*, Roya's adventures take her past Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs on Coney Island. Create your own classic Coney Island hot dogs with yellow mustard, chili sauce, and onions. Registration required. All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. No more than 2 children per accompanying adult.

Wednesday, April 23 • 4:30 p.m.
Arome Kitchen
432 SW 6th St., Redmond

Mystery Writing Workshop with Sarvenaz Tash* 10-13 YRS

The *Queen of Ocean Parkway* author Sarvenaz Tash will share tips and tricks with young writers interested in mystery. Learn the building blocks of the genre to craft your story. Participants will receive a free copy of *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*. Registration required. Youth 10 and over may attend unaccompanied by a caregiver.

Saturday, April 26 • 11:00 a.m.
Redmond Library



The Queen of Ocean Parkway

Main Event

The Journey of a Book with Sarvenaz Tash

Sarvenaz Tash will unravel the mystery of how a book gets made, using her novel, *The Queen of Ocean Parkway*, as an example. Learn about the writing, revision, and publishing processes that shape stories into books. Enjoy a Q&A session afterward.

Saturday, April 26 • 3:00 p.m.
Redmond Library

STAFF

Tina Walker Davis
Liz Goodrich
Elsa Hager
Ann Hettinger
Laurel Hively
Kiefer McCool
Dana O'Connell
Suzy Olsen
Becca Reynolds
Michael Rivera
Chantal Strobel

LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD

Ann Malkin
Anne Ness
Bunny Thompson
Erin Trimble
Betsy Tucker

LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD

Georell Bracelin, President
Sarah Monkton, Vice President
Brent Uhrig, Secretary
Michele Anderson, Treasurer
Todd Dunkelberg, Library Director
Alexis Albin
Brian Bergler
Sarah Haverly
Helen Silfven
Betsy Tucker
Eric Webber
Chantal Strobel, Project Director
Suzy Olsen, Development Coordinator
Sarah Wuepper, Campaign Coordinator

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Ace Hardware
Wylie Ackerman
Kiefer & Tiffany Aguilar
Airbnb
Charlie & Michele Anderson
Eleanor Anderson
The Anjulia Foundation
Anonymous
Eric Artzt
Thomas & Amy Bahrman
James & Kathleen Bailey
Cindy Gibb Barnes
Andrea Simpson Barss
BasX
Kristin Batchelor
Edward & Nancy Beaudry
Barbara Bell
Alyssa Bennett

Elizabeth Berbera
Brian & Kerry Bergler
James Berry
Fred & Martha Betz
Linda Bilyeu
Blair & Trebor Struble
Donna Blankenship
Nan Bogdan
Boundless Farmstead
Mark Bradford
Bob Bradley & Victoria Gordon
Cynthia & Jay Brandt
Catherine Jacobs Break
The Bright Family
Ken Brinich
Jim & Penny Brommer
Zachery Bruckner
Neil Bryant
Keith Bucher
Brenda Butler
David & Michele Butler
Kelly Cannon-Miller
Lori Carmichael
Savannah Chandler
Linyee Chang
Anonymous
Rachel Cohen
Collis Family
Jamie Conklin & Sonia Thakur
John & Jane Conover
Virginia Contento & Paul Miller
David & Nancy Cook
Mary Kay Counos
Jim & Judy Crowell
Gayle McConnell & Steve Cunningham
Robert & Elayne Logan Currie
Judy Cushing
Bruce & Janet Daucsavage
Daria Davidenko
Tina Davis
Ralph Delamarter
Deschutes Pediatric Dentistry
Tom & Lindi DeWolf
Charlotte Dixon
David & Donna Dobkin
Lian Dolan
Stacey Donohue
Timothy Dragila & Joan Miller
Deanna Duckett
Danny & Lisa Duggan
Norm & Kathy Dull
Judy Dumm
Todd & Terry Dunkelberg
Joyce Durban

E.H. & M.E. Bowerman
Advised Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
Echo Fund
Matt Eisenhower
Carl & Anita Elliott
Sarah Elmer
Anita Elsey
Robin Emerson
Ric Ergenbright
Photography, LLC
Douglas Ertner
Patrick Evoy
First Interstate Bank
Focus Physical Therapy
Sally Foster
Joe & Judy Francoeur
Sandra Freeman & Allen Beekman
Gretchen Friesen
Phil & Rhoda Friesen
Madelle Friess
Kathryn Wood & Michael Funke
The Byron T. Shutz Foundation
The George Backer Family Foundation, Inc.
Ralene Gleeson
Deborah Goodall
Pete & Liz Goodrich
Karen Jones Grandidier
Bryant & Blake Green
James Gregory
Sheila Grier
Mandy Gritzner
Anonymous
Barb Hagen
Patricia Ann Haim
Erin Hall Meade
David & Nancy Hall
Ron & Beth Hanson
Nancy Harris
Hayden Homes LLC
Mr. & Mrs. Hayward
Charles & Wilma Hens
Patricia Herrick
Vikki Hickmann
Janet Hildreth
Dennis & Alexis Hlavacek
Elizabeth Hoefle
Mike & Sue Hollern
Marcia Houston
Howl Goods
Kathryn Hunt
Linda Hurley & Tom O'Connell
Danielle Hyde
Kenneth Iltz
James Irving
Alice Johnson

Ray & Marilyn Johnson
Gary Jones & Sarah Wright
Kathryn Johnson Joylove
Judy & Roger Aikin
Karen Katzbeck
Keller Gard Fund
Brad & Melissa Kent
Cameron Kerr
Jennifer & Terry Kirkpatrick
Susan Shuck & Stephen Knapp
Coaching What's Next
Michael Kozak
Sue Krouscup
Mary Ann Kruse
Linda Kurtz
Richard Lance & Leanne Latterell
Nicole Landis
Therese Langley
Jim & Sara Langton
James Larsen
Martha Lawler
Caroline Lincoln
Marion Littlehales
Anonymous
Kae Loverink
Steven & Cynthia Magidson
Jill Mahler
Jim & Denise Mahoney
Thomas & Patricia Majchrowski
Ann Malkin
Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation
Peter & Claudia Martin
Brenda Mattson
Kemah Fund of Coastal Community Foundation of SC
Kim & Steve McCarrel
Greg McCarthy
Anonymous
Kelli McMaster
Barbara Menicocci
Tom & Jane Merrow
Lynne Mildenstein
Nicholas Millar
Dan Miller
Nancy Miller
Julie Mitchoff
Theresa Wadden & Mark Molner
Susan Mondry
Patricia Moreland
Cheryl Morgen
Patricia Moss
Lance Murty
Maddison Myers
James Naibert & Jill Ann Miller
Siobhan Nash

Nancy Nelson
Susan Neubauer
Bryson Newell
Sarah Haverly
Danielle & Sanders Nye
Arielle Ocel
Cate O'Hagan
Suzy & Shawn Olsen
Leslie O'Meara
David & Judy Osgood
Dennis & Carol O'Shea
James Ouchi & Barbara Faust
Greg Owens & Chris Bell
Joyce Ownby
Katy Payne
Pebbles Oakes Charitable Fund of the Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Phyllis Pengelly
Brittany Perry
Martha Peterson
Ken & Jude Piarulli
Cynthia Pierce
Susan Prowell
Melvin & Dolores Raff
Susan Raleigh
Holly Remer
Carolina Resende
Rosalee Reynolds
Joe & Nancy Richie
Gale & Mark Rietmann
LeAnne Roberts
Rick Roise
Stephen & Carol Rooney
Martha E. Rose
Lynne Rosenthal
Holly Rosenzweig
Tina Pavelic & Steven Roti
Claire Rusunen
Joeth Ryan
Joy Ryan
Nichole Ryan
Alan Sall & Mary Love
Miriam & Henry Schaup
Tim & Renee Schindele
Carol Schlenker
Theodore & Carol Schoenborn
Julie Scholler
Laura Seaver
Robert & Alice Selder
Stan & Sue Shepardson
Kathryn Shuey
Helen Silfven
Roy Silfven
Brenda & Mike Simpson
Liisa Sjoblom
Jamie Smith
Jay & Yvonne Smith
Bill Smith

Laurel Sorlie
Nancy Spreier
Nikki & Dell Squire
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Roy & Mary Stafford
Linda Steahly
Chantal Strobel
Lorraine Stuart
Hete Sugnet
Ledlie Szaraniec
Dale Thorne
Judith Thornburg
Steve Thorp & Kimberly Rogers
Rick & Susan Torassa
Marge Trayser
Richard Truitt
Betsy Tucker
Frances & Bill Tweed
Amy Tykeson
Brent Uhrig
Malcolm Ulrich
Arleen Vallejo & Warren Regan
Helen Vandervort
Chandra vanEijnsbergen
Charlie & Desi Vial
Mary Wallis
Kimm Ward
Bonnie Waybright
Samantha Weald
Elizabeth Wehrli & Joy Graham
David Weilmuenster
Celena Westlund
Kathleen Whattam
Alisha Wiater
Richard & Sally Wilson
Christine Winters
Michael & Frances Woolsey
Patricia Kolling & Mark Worshtil
Sarah & Kyle Wuepper
Laurel Yocom
Julie Yonge

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF

Betsey Ashley
Rhoda Friesen
Carolyn Hayden
Holly McKinley
Tony Rosenthal

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Ruth Burleigh
Dolores Latterell
Grace Linn
Ted MacAniff
Marjorie Smith
Arden Squire
Sally Wood

