

For immediate release

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### OREGON LEGACY 2026

The Friends of Driftwood Library will present the literary series Oregon Legacy to the Lincoln County community at Driftwood Public Library at 3:00 p.m. on each of the five Sunday afternoons in March.

The series opens on **March 1** with a visit from **Justin Hocking**. Justin's first memoir, *The Great Floodgates of the Wonderworld*, won the Oregon Book Award for Creative Nonfiction and was a finalist for the PEN Center USA Award. *Wonderworld* was also a Barnes and Nobel Discover Great New Writers selection, a *Library Journal* "Best Books of 2014" pick, and one of "Ten Brilliant Books That Will Grab You from Page One" in *The Huffington Post* and *Kirkus Reviews*. He is a recipient of the Willamette Writers' Humanitarian Award for his work in publishing, writing, and teaching, and was named as one of "Ten Writers Who Made Portland" by *Willamette Week*. His nonfiction and fiction have appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Orion*, *The Normal School*, *Portland Review*, the *Portland Noir* Anthology, *Tin House online*, *Poets & Writers*, *Swap/Concessions*, *Rattapallax*, *The Columbia Journal*, and elsewhere. He also serves as a contributing editor for *The Normal School* magazine. Justin holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Colorado State University, and has participated in residencies at Sitka Center For Art and Ecology, Signal Fire, and The Sou'wester. He is the recipient of an Oregon Literary Fellowship for fiction and four Regional Arts and Culture Council Project Grant awards. His latest book, *A Field Guide to the Subterranean: A Memoir*, was released by Counterpoint Press in June 2025.

On **March 8**, **Elizabeth Mehren** will visit Lincoln City. **Elizabeth Mehren** is a Portland-based writer, editor, and educator. After working at *The Washington Post*, she became a national correspondent for the Los Angeles Times and later spent a decade on the faculty at Boston University. Mehren earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at UC Berkeley and has

written for national magazines, appeared on television and radio, and received awards for teaching and journalism. *I Lived to Tell the World: Stories from Survivors of Holocaust, Genocide, and the Atrocities of War*, published last year, presents thirteen inspiring profiles of men and women who have endured unthinkable cruelty, only to resume productive lives in their new homes in Oregon. They come from Rwanda, Myanmar, Bosnia, Syria, and more—different stories, different conflicts, but similar paths through loss and violence to a new, not always easy, life in the United States. It is her fifth book.

Oregon Legacy continues on **March 15** with a return visit from writer **Leni Zumas**. Leni is the author of four books of fiction, most recently *Wolf Bells* which was named a Best Book of 2025 by the *Washington Post* and *Portland Monthly*. Her bestselling novel *Red Clocks* won the 2019 Oregon Book Award for Fiction and was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction and the Neukom Award for Speculative Fiction. *Red Clocks* was a *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice and was named a Best Book of 2018 by *The Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, the *Huffington Post*, and the New York Public Library. *Vulture* called it one of the 100 Most Important Books of the 21st Century So Far. Zumas is also the author of the short story collection *Farewell Navigator* and the novel *The Listeners*. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Granta*, *Guernica*, *The Cut*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. A finalist for the 2021 John Dos Passos Prize for Literature, Zumas lives in Portland, where she is a professor in the creative writing program at Portland State University.

On **March 22** we welcome **Joel Mayward**. Mayward is assistant professor of Christian ministries, theology and the arts at George Fox University. He is an alumnus of Portland Seminary and the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts (ITIA) in the School of Divinity at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, where he earned a PhD in divinity (theology, philosophy and film studies). He is the author of *The Dardenne Brothers' Cinematic Parables: Integrating Theology, Philosophy, and Film*, an academic monograph that examines the filmography of Belgian filmmakers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne's filmography in consideration of theological aesthetics, Christian ethics, phenomenological film theory, and continental philosophy; *Theology and the Films of Christopher Nolan: Cinematic Transcendence*, a work of theological film criticism which provides an analysis of filmmaker Christopher Nolan's filmography from *Following* to *Oppenheimer*; and *Sufjan Stevens' Carrie & Lowell*, one of the latest entries in Bloomsbury's ongoing 33 ½ series from. It is a theological analysis of musician Sufjan Stevens' acclaimed 2015 album. Beyond authoring books, Joel has published articles in refereed academic journals such as *Pro Ecclesia*, *Horizons*, *Theology*, *ARTS*, *Journal of Youth and Theology*, *Journal of Religion and Film*, and *Journal for Religion, Film and Media*, as well as popular magazines like *Christianity Today*. For several years he has been a professional freelance film critic as a member of the Online Film

Critics Society and a “Tomatometer approved critic” for Rotten Tomatoes. He also runs a film criticism website. Joel, his wife Katie, and their three children currently live in Newberg.

Oregon Legacy concludes on **March 29** with a visit from **Scott Nadelson**. Scott grew up in northern New Jersey before escaping to Oregon, where he has lived for the past twenty-seven years. He has published a novel, a memoir, and six collections of short stories, most recently *While It Lasts*, winner of the Donald L. Jordan Prize for Literary Excellence, and his newest novel, *Trust Me*, which was published in 2024. Winner of the Reform Judaism Fiction Prize, the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award, and an Oregon Book Award, Scott’s work has appeared in a variety of magazines and literary journals, including *Ploughshares*, *STORY*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Glimmer Train*, and *The Best American Short Stories*. He teaches at Willamette University, where he is Hallie Brown Ford Chair in Writing, and in the Rainier Writing Workshop MFA Program at Pacific Lutheran University.

Thirty-two years ago, Driftwood Public Library completed a move into its current facility at Lincoln Square in Lincoln City. To celebrate the library’s new home and to thank the community for all of its support during the transition, The Friends of Driftwood Public Library created a gift for the community. With little resources beyond the income from their occasional book sales, the Friends underwrote the first literary series ever presented in Lincoln County: Oregon Legacy. Each year they have renewed that sponsorship.

All Oregon Legacy presentations are free due to the generous support of The Friends as well as Shearwater Inn, Pelican Shores Inn, and Looking Glass Inn who generously donate lodging for our visiting authors. Each presentation begins at 3:00 p.m.

The library is located on the second floor of the City Hall building at 801 SW Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, just across the street from Burger King and adjacent to McKay’s Market grocery store. For further information about the Oregon Legacy series, contact Ken Hobson at [khobson@lincolncity.org](mailto:khobson@lincolncity.org). Visit Driftwood’s website at [www.driftwoodlib.org](http://www.driftwoodlib.org).

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