

Cannon Beach Library hosts Matt Love

Hear about his two latest books at Northwest Author Series

CANNON BEACH — Matt Love, a noted Oregon author, will be the speaker at the Cannon Beach Library's Northwest Author series scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 10. This event is held at 2 p.m. at the library and is free to the public.

Love will focus on his two recent books, "Of Walking in Rain" and "Rose City Heist." The latter is a true crime tale of the biggest jewelry theft in Portland history, a crime in which Matt Love and his friend became the chief suspects. No one was ever arrested in the case, the jewelry never recovered. The statute of limita-

tions on the crime, grand larceny, has finally expired, and Love is free to confess what really happened. His confession is called "Rose City Heist: A True Crime Portland Tale of Sex, Gravy, Jewelry and Almost Rock and Roll." And it's all true, meaning creative non-fiction. "I've waited a long time to tell this incredible story," says Love, "and I didn't leave out a thing or make anything up. I didn't have to."

The plot of "Rose City Heist" involved Magic Johnson, a German jewelry salesman, the Grateful Dead, the FBI, te-

quila, a substitute teacher who looked like Emily Dickenson but danced like Uma Thurman, the Harvey Scott statue in Mount Tabor Park, a fry cook named Tony, and much more.

The story unfolds in the languid era when Portland wasn't a coffee or dog or bike or quirky indie rock city. It was a cheap gray town. "When I finished writing the book it occurred to me that I had written a short little history of Portland in the early '90s," said Love. "What a golden time then, and what a short strange trip it was for me that one

summer day when I was on my way to see the Grateful Dead."

Love's preceding book, "Of Walking in the Rain," is complementary to the "Heist" book. In October 2012, as the longest summer drought in recorded Oregon history finally gave way to the rainy season, Love decided to write a book about what it means to live in one of the rainiest places on earth. He calculates that 1.5 tons of rain have fallen on him during his 16 years living on the Oregon Coast.

"When this project began, I had no idea where it was going. Rain is like that. I did, however, have the modest ambition to write the greatest book on rain in the history of Oregon," he said. Three months later, Love produced a



Submitted photo

Astoria author Matt Love will speak at the Cannon Beach Library's next Northwest Author Series.

unique volume about rain that has very little to do with weather and everything to do with life.

Love is the author/editor of 10 books about Oregon, and in 2009 was awarded the Oregon

Literary Arts Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award for his contributions to Oregon history and literature. He lives in Astoria teaches at Astoria High School.

Seaside hosts Pacific University reading series

Hear from writers of contemporary American literature

SEASIDE — The Pacific University Master of Fine Arts in Writing program will once again host readings by some of America's finest

writers during its 10-day residency in Seaside. Free and open to the public, the evening readings begin at 7:30 p.m. and take place Friday, Jan. 9 through Friday, Jan. 16 at the Best Western Ocean View Resort, located at 414 N. Prom.

This event is a rare opportunity to hear some of

the best writers of contemporary American literature read on successive evenings. Featured authors include poet Marvin Bell, recipient of an American Academy of Arts & Letters Award in Literature; and fiction writer Pam Houston, winner of the Western States Book Award.

The evening reading

schedule is:

- Friday, Jan. 9 — Pete Fromm, Joseph Millar and Mary Helen Stefaniak;
- Saturday, Jan. 10 — Ellen Bass, Claire Davis and Vievee Francis;
- Sunday, Jan. 11 — Sandra Alcosser, Craig Lesley and John McNally;
- Monday, Jan. 12 — Steve Amick, Eduardo Corral and Mike Magnuson;
- Tuesday, Jan. 13 — Frank Gaspar, Scott Korb

and Valerie Laken;

- Wednesday, Jan. 14 — Marvin Bell, Carolyn Coman and David Long;
- Thursday, Jan. 15 — Kwame Dawes, Pam Houston and Porter Shreve;
- Friday, Jan. 16 — Jack Driscoll and Debra Gwartney.

The authors in the reading series also teach at the residency where MFA students participate in workshops, lectures, classes and other

events in preparation for the guided study that follows. Students leave the residency paired with a professional writer who responds to their reading and writing throughout the semester, encouraging and inspiring emerging craft and voice.

For more information about the writers or the MFA in Writing program, contact director Shelley Washburn at 503-352-1532 or visit pacificu.edu/as/mfa

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Astoria library celebrates a month of sci-fi

ASTORIA — Astoria Public Library is celebrating science fiction during the month of January with activities serv-

ing all ages. To kick off the month, the public is invited to attend a free showing of a sci-fi film starting at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9. Stop by the library any time before to vote on the movie selection.

For all the Dr. Who teenage fans, the library will host a Dr. Who party at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. The party will feature Dr. Who-themed crafts, snacks and entertainment.

The library's book discussion group will have the opportunity to discuss two alternate history novels: Philip K. Dick's "The Man in the High Castle" and Michael Chabon's "The Yiddish Policemen's Union." The discussion group will

start at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21.

January's events take place at the Astoria Public Library, located at 450 10th St. The events are free and open to the public. For more information about library programs and services, call 503-325-7323, email to comments@astorialibrary.org or visit the library's website at www.astorialibrary.org

The Astoria Public Library is a department of the city of Astoria, providing tax-supported services to all residents living within the city boundaries. Guided by the mission statement, "Explore ideas, engage minds, excite imagination," the Astoria Public Library is an active and responsive part of the community.



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