

Have lunch with author Laurie Frankel Jan. 31

SEASIDE — Beach Books will welcome author Laurie Frankel for the next Lunch in the Loft, set for noon Tuesday, Jan. 31. Cost is \$30 and includes a catered lunch and signed copy of Frankel's newest novel, "This Is How It Always Is." RSVP for reservations to Beach Books, located at 616 Broadway, by calling 503-738-3500.

When it comes to being different and standing out, stories are the key to opening minds and winning hearts — enter Frankel's novel "This is How It Always Is." From bestselling writer Maria Semple to beloved librarian Nancy Pearl to Man Booker Prize finalist Ruth Ozeki to Bustle to Publishers Weekly, people are singling out Frankel's novel as a breakout book, and they're falling for the little girl at the center of it all: Poppy.

When Rosie and Penn and their four boys welcome the newest member of their family, no one is surprised it's another baby boy. At least their large, loving, chaotic family knows what to expect. But Claude is not like his brothers. One day he puts on a dress and refuses to take it off. He wants to bring a purse to kindergarten. He wants hair long enough to sit on. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl.

Rosie and Penn try to take the news in stride. Kids go through phases, after all, and make-believe is fun. They're alert teachers. They do their research. But for Poppy — as Claude now wants to be called — and her family, the journey is only just the beginning. It takes them from Wisconsin to Seattle to Thailand, and somewhere along the way, Rosie and Penn start



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Author Laurie Frankel will read from her novel Jan. 31 at Beach Books in Seaside.

to see that the fairy tale ending doesn't always look the way it does in stories, that no family conforms perfectly to the cookie cutter model, and that in many ways, this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again; parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts; children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

Originally from Maryland, Frankel lives in Seattle, Washington. She is the author of two previous novels, "The Atlas of Love" and "Goodbye for Now," as well as a New York Times Modern Love column about her own daughter, who is transgender. Frankel drew on her own experiences as a parent to write "This Is How It Always Is," a novel for anyone who has to toss out the best laid plans in the face of the unexpected, for anyone who finds change both terrifying and miraculous, and for anyone who delights in watching their loved ones grow and change.

Photography exhibition follows the Columbia River from its source to the sea

PORTLAND — The Columbia River flows for over 1,200 miles, born free in the cradle of the Rocky Mountains in British Columbia. From its humble beginnings from a tiny spring you can straddle, to a 2-mile wide confluence with the Pacific Ocean, the river flowed for thousands of years in a natural state of astounding beauty. It was also the place of a miraculous ancient migration of Pacific salmon that came all the way home to the headwaters in Canada.

In his new original exhibition, "The Columbia River: From Source to Sea," Oregon photographer Peter Marbach shares his decade-long odyssey to document the sacred landscapes and the people of the entire river. The exhibition opened Jan. 13 at the Oregon Historical Society and is on view through April 1.

"It was a challenge to sort through all the work I have created for this exhibit," Marbach said. "It is a vast, diverse river with so many distinct features and people who have inspired me with their stories. Ultimately, it came down to which images best represented the essence of the project and help illuminate the larger story of preserving this great river and taking steps toward restoring ancient salmon runs."

One striking image featured in the show is a self-portrait of the artist. "In December 2015, I drove the 15 hours to the headwaters region in search of the true source of the river," said Marbach. "It was bitter cold, but I was determined to stay until finding it. I trudged through a mile of frozen marsh following a creek that was continually narrowing until I found the spot where the water bubbles up from an underground spring. I



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Wildflowers glow during last light on Dog Mountain above the Columbia River Gorge.



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A friendship dance at National Aboriginal Day in Windermer, British Columbia.



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Photographer Peter Marbach straddles the headwaters of the Columbia River in British Columbia, Canada.

was overjoyed to stand there and straddle the headwaters! But it took two hours to create a self-portrait,

waiting for a brief moment of sunlight to illuminate the moment of discovery."

The exhibit will include

a blend of riverscapes, wildlife and portraits of people who live along the Columbia, showcasing the beauty, culture and geographic diversity of Nch I Wana — The Big River.

"Having lived along the Columbia for more than 20 years, I have a deep respect and connection to this sacred river," said Marbach. "This project only enhanced that connection, especially getting to know the wild and free section of the Columbia in British Columbia. Cradled between the Rocky Mountains and the Purcell Range, the unspeakable beauty fired my imagination to wonder what it must have been like before the era of dams when fish used to migrate all the way, some 1,200 miles from the Pacific to the headwaters."

The Oregon Historical Society's museum, located at 1200 S.W. Park Ave. in Portland, is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$11, and discounts are available for students, seniors and youth. Admission is free for OHS members and Multnomah County residents thanks to the renewal of the Oregon Historical Society levy.