



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 24, 2026

Contact: Suzanne Harold, Library Director

[sharold@astoria.gov](mailto:sharold@astoria.gov) 503-298-2450

ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY KICKS OFF 2026 WITH SLATE OF PROGRAMS  
Oregon History, Introduction to Online Resources, and FisherPoets

Astoria, OR –

Astoria Public Library is embracing its newly renovated space with fresh programs each week in February and March!

The fun and learning kicks off on Wednesday, February 11 at 5:30 PM with an author talk about Steve Forrester. Forrester will read from and talk about his recently published book, *Richard Neuberger: Oregon politics and the making of a US senator*. Neuberger was elected to the US Senate in 1954, but had garnered national attention twenty years earlier as a journalist when his article “The New Germany,” was published in *The Nation*. “The New Germany” was one of the first pieces of investigative journalism to expose the abuses of power and murders already being committed by the Nazis. Copies of Forrester’s book will be available for purchase at the event.

On Tuesday, February 18, at 5:30 PM, volunteer Frank Betzer will demonstrate how to use World News to access regional, national and global newspapers. News Bank is available for free to all Astoria Public Library card holders and provides access to over 16,000 U.S. and global news sources from nearly 200 countries, including 50 specific to Oregon and 278 in Spanish.

World News is the second of a 4-part series on accessing the Library’s free online resources. Programs are on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM through April. March will focus on Heritage Quest, a genealogy tool, and April will introduce the Library’s online archives and digital index to historical newspapers.

Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30 PM, AI expert Temese Szalai will present *AI for Everyone: Understand it, use it*. The presentation will be a friendly and practical introduction to artificial

intelligence and how tools like ChatGPT work. Learn what AI can (and can't) do, where it can go wrong, and how to use it thoughtfully.

Wednesday, March 4, at 5:30 PM LaRee Johnson will perform as Abigail Scott Duniway, Oregon's Mother of Equal Suffrage, in Tea with Abigail. Scheduled at the start of Women's History Month, the program will honor women's rights advocate Duniway who crossed the Oregon Trail with her family in 1852. Johnson will arrive in the persona of Duniway, sharing her story. Light refreshments will be served.

All programs are free and open to the public. To learn more about the Astoria Public Library, visit [www.astorialibrary.org](http://www.astorialibrary.org) or contact Suzanne Harold at 503-298-2450.

# # #