# SALEM PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION presents



Outcasts United is the real-life story of a soccer team of refugees from all around the world seeking new lives in a small American town struggling to accommodate its new arrivals. Together, the inspiring group of teens, and a Jordanian woman with tough love and fiery determination, change an entire community for the better.



Warren St. John, Author

# Sponsored by:





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SALEM LIBRARY

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# **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### Friday, February 2 | 11:30am-1pm Willamette Heritage Center



Salem City Club presents "Soccer and Salem: The Multi-**Dimensional Impact of the** Beautiful Game."

A panel of Salem-area players, coaches and advisors will discuss the history, rapid development, economic impact, and cultural connections of soccer in Salem. Join us to learn how the world's most popular sport is positively affecting our community.

City Club members—free. Non-members program only—\$7. Optional lunch—\$15. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., program at noon. Registration required at www.salemcityclub.com or by calling 503-370-2808 by noon, Wednesday, January, 31.



### Friday, February 2 | 7-9pm **Loucks Auditorium**



### Salem Public Library Concert Series

Al-Andalus Ensemble. Led by oudist Tarik Banzi, the Al-Andalus Ensemble is internationally known for a creative fusion that etches a fine line between the exquisite and raw, the passionate and powerful, while treating the listener to a confluence of the best of the East and West. The ensemble draws on influences from Africa, the Middle East, and beyond. www.andalus.com



# Tues., February 6 | 5:30–7:30pm Main Floor of the Salem Public Library

### **Opening Night Reception**

Outcasts United Book Giveaway

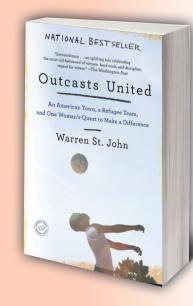
Salem Reads chosen title, Outcasts United will be given away. 600 free books, one to each library cardholder.

- Warren St. John Author Lecture Ticket Giveaway Warren St. John author tickets will be given away.
- Outcasts United Inspired Art Exhibit Opens

275 free tickets, two to each library cardholder.

Meet the local professional artists who created work inspired by reading the book *Outcasts* United. Exhibit on display until March 4.

Don't have a library card? Don't worry. Just bring your picture ID and a utility bill showing your address and we'll get you a free card. If you miss the giveaway, we have 100 copies in circulation or the book can be purchased at Friends Book Store, Salem Book Bin, and Reader's Guide. We hope you will join us for second season of Salem Reads.



### Tuesday, February 6 | 7pm **Anderson Rooms A & B**

Books for Dessert Book Club will discuss Outcasts United.

All are welcome to attend.





Salem Multicultural Institute presents the opening of a photographic interpretation of refugee resettlement in Salem. The exhibit gives Salem's refugee residents the opportunity to share their stories and allows other residents to see Salem through their eyes. It will feature the gifts the refugees bring to our community as

well as the challenges of fleeing conflict or persecution. Runs through April 2018. www.salemmulticultural.org

### Wednesday, February 7 | 7pm **Anderson Room**



**Ellen Knutson** 

**Oregon Humanities** Conversation Project: 0. Hm What Does It Mean to

be American?



Share your ideas about what it means to be American and hear others' ideas, to identify differences and points of connection that may lead us toward the ideal stated in our nation's motto: E pluribus unum, out of many, one. www.oregonhumanities.org

### Saturday, February 10 | 2:30 pm **Loucks Auditorium**



### Our New Neighbors: Refugees in the City of Shalom

Since the end of 2015, Salem has welcomed refugees from nine different countries around the world. They have endured unimaginable hardships, fleeing their own homes and loved ones in search of a life free

from war, persecution, and violence. Salem for Refugees, a network of community members, businesses, government organizations, non-profits, resettlement agencies, and faith communities, will share the experience of refugees as they find their way in our community.

### Baby Kit Drive for New Refugee Families

Anyone attending the Refugee Panel Discussion is encouraged to consider donating necessary items for babies to be packed into transitional boxes for new refugee families. Brand new items accepted are:

- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Onesies
- Board Books

A complete list of items accepted will be shared online and in the library newsletter during February. The Baby Kit Drive will be organized by the Library's Teen Advisory Board, with donations going to Salem for Refugees. www.salemforrefugees.org

### All events are free and at the Salem Public Library, except where noted

# Thursday, February 15 | 4–5pm **Children's Discovery Room**

Creative Kids Afterschool Program's Winter 2018 focus is on world crafts. Children from second to fifth grade are invited to join library staff on the third Thursday of each month to explore crafts from Mexico, Chile, Australia, Japan, and Scotland. One country will be featured each month. February 15 will feature weaving from Ghana. Sign up online or at the Youth Services Desk.

# Saturday, February 17 | 2:30pm **Loucks Auditorium**



Lessons of Basketball and War is an uplifting documentary about a dedicated educator at Portland's Hosford Middle School, who uses the game of basketball to bring unity to a group of Muslim refugee girls from war-torn Somalia as they struggle to overcome ethnic hostility and violence. The film follows a year in the lives of these refugee girls. Ron Bourke, the film's Award-winning Director, will join us for a discussion after the screening. www.lessonsofbasketballandwar.com

# Tuesday, February 20 | 4-5pm

Speak Up! Teen Book Club will discuss Outcasts United. All middle and high school-aged youth are welcome to attend.



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## Wednesday, February 21 | 12 noon **Anderson Rooms A & B**

Books for Lunch Book Club will discuss Outcasts United. All are welcome to attend.

## Wednesday, February 21 | 7pm **Anderson Rooms A & B**



**David Osborn** 

### **Oregon Humanities** Conversation Project: *The World* to Come

Explore how our fear about the future affects our actions today. By talking among ourselves about our emotional responses to the world, we can begin to empathize with one another and see the shared origins of different political and personal convictions.

www.oregonhumanities.org

# Thursday, February 22 | 7pm **Loucks Auditorium**

### A Great Wonder. Documentary Film

Award winning, hour-long documentary film detailing the difficult transition of three of the "Lost Boys and Girls" of Sudan to life as immigrants in Seattle, Washington. A Salem Progressive Film Series program paired with dynamic speakers and moderated discussion following the film. www.salemprogressivefilms.net



# Saturday, February 24 | 1–3 pm Main Library, Floor 1

### A Look at Refugee Life Display

Information panels, videos, and artifacts combine in this display to give the visitors a glimpse into the realities of life in refugee camps around the globe where people spend weeks to years waiting for resettlement.

### Saturday, February 24 | 2:30 pm **Anderson Rooms A & B**



**Jennifer Roberts** 



Attendees are encouraged to bring a copy of a treasured recipe, as we consider how food helps us connect and create communities across time, distance and culture. We'll have samples of foods from different refugee communities. www.oregonhumanities.org

## Tuesday, February 27 | 7pm **Loucks Auditorium**

Warren St. John, author of Outcasts United will speak about the book. His research for Outcasts United led to an acclaimed series of front page stories in the The New York Times about the Fugees and the struggle of Clarkston to adapt to its new identity. See February 6 listing for ticket information.











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# **Book Summary**

Outcasts United is the true story of a small U.S. town. In the span of just a decade, Clarkston, Georgia transformed from a typical small southern town into one of the nation's most diverse communities—a place where children from 50 countries attend the once allwhite local high school. In Outcasts United, St. John explores the impact of this radical change on refugees and townspeople through the story of a Clarkston youth soccer team called the Fugees. The team, coached by a Jordanian-born woman named Luma Mufleh, consists of players from more than 15 war-torn countries, who, despite their differences and hurdles placed in their way by locals opposed to resettlement, find ways to connect and cohere across broad cultural divides.



### **About the Author**

Warren St. John has written for the New Yorker, Slate, Wired, and the New York Observer, in addition to his work in The New York Times. His research for Outcasts United led to an acclaimed series of front page stories in the The New York Times about the Fugees and the struggle of Clarkston to adapt to its new identity, and he has appeared on the Today Show, National Public Radio, MSNBC, CNN and other outlets to discuss his reporting on the town and team in his book.

Find out more information at splfoundation.org or Salem Public Library Foundation on Facebook.



# **Salem Reads**

Salem Reads: One Book, One Community is a community reads project that invites everyone in Salem to come together to read the same book, take part in discussions, and enjoy related programs throughout the month of February 2018. For our second season, we have chosen Outcasts United, a captivating and inspiring story about young people overcoming great odds. Outcasts United by Warren St. John explores the topics of war and peace, displacement, belonging, cultural awareness, youth in America, and how team spirit and hard work can make amazing things possible. Based on a true story, this book has the potential to bring together people from diverse generations, backgrounds and cultures around shared values.

# **FEBRUARY 2018**

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Outcasts United by Warren St. John

All events are free and at the Salem Public Library, except where noted

Outcasts United by Warren St. John Public Library, except where noted						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Supported by the Salem Public Library Foundation One Continuation	LIBRARY CLOSED		31	1	2 Salem City Club 11:30am-1pm Willamette Heritage Center Al-Andaus Ensmble 7-9pm Loucks	3
	5	6 Opening Night Art Exhibit Book & Lecture Ticket Giveaway 5:30-7:30pm Main Floor	7 Oregon Humanities Conversation Project: What Does It Mean to be American? 7pm Anderson Rooms	8	9	10 Our New Neighbors: Refugees in the City of Shalom 2:30pm Loucks
11	12			15 Creative Kids Afterschool Program 4pm Discovery Room	16	17 Lessons of Basketball and War, Documentary & Discussion 2:30pm Loucks
18	19 PRESIDENT'S DA	20 Speak Up! Teen Book Club 4-5pm Teen Scene	21 Oregon Humanities Conversation Project: The World to Come 7pm Anderson Rooms	22 Salem Progressive Film Series: A Great Wonder, Documentary Film & Discussion 7pm Loucks	23	24 Refugee Life Display 1-3pm Main Floor Oregon Humanities: Stone Soup 2:30pm Anderson Rooms
	26	27 Warren St. John, Author Talk 7pm Loucks	28	Salem Ready  Airun  One Book, One Condition	Library on Face	lem Public Foundation ebook and get Reads updates



### **Partners**

Salem Reads would not be possible without the amazing generosity of our sponsors and partners. Thank you for funding programs and in-kind services to support our goal of bringing the community together through reading and the Library. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the success of the second season of Salem Reads.

















