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# NEWS RELEASE



May 1, 2026

**Contact:** [Nicole Milbradt](#), Marketing and Communications Manager  
253-548-3353-office; 253-380-2485-mobile

## Explore Asian and Islander culture with stories and voices at Pierce County Library

**PIERCE COUNTY, Washington** – Celebrate the vibrant cultures, rich histories, and lasting contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. Explore AANHPI stories and voices at Pierce County Library System through engaging classes and events, thoughtfully curated booklists, and informative displays, all in honor of AANHPI Heritage Month this May.

Throughout the month, various events and activities will take place at library locations to celebrate and recognize the AANHPI community, including the West Coast’s largest book club [One Book, One Coast](#) with George Takei. [One Book, One Coast](#) is a community reading event done in partnership with 140 library systems stretching from California to Washington.

### [One Book, One Coast](#): Author livestream with George Takei

Gather to watch the One Book, One Coast featured author talk with George Takei. All ages.

**Sunday, May 31, 2-4p.m.**

**Sumner Pierce County Library**, 1116 Fryar Ave. • 253-548-3306

**South Hill Pierce County Library**, 15420 Meridian E. • 253-548-3303

**University Place Pierce County Library**, 3609 Market Place W., Suite 100 • 253-548-3307

**Gig Harbor Pierce County Library**, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive • 253-548-3305

### BOOK DISCUSSIONS

#### [One Book, One Coast](#): Book Discussion of *They Called Us Enemy*

Read and discuss “*They Called Us Enemy*” by George Takei as part of the One Book, One Coast reading challenge. The graphic memoir recounts actor/author/activist George Takei’s childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Ages 18 and up.

**Wednesday, May 6, 5-6 p.m.**

**DuPont Pierce County Library**, 1540 Wilmington Drive • 253-548-3326

**Wednesday, May 13, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

**Key Peninsula Historical Society & Museum**, 17010 S Vaughn Rd NW, Vaughn • 253-548-3309

**Tuesday, May 19, 5:30p.m.-6:30p.m.**

**Summit Pierce County Library**, 5107 112th St. E., Tacoma • 253-548-3321

**Thursday, May 21, 1-2 p.m.**

**Milton/Edgewood Pierce County Library**, 900 Meridian E., Suite 29 • 253-548-3325

**Saturday, May 23, 2-3 p.m.**

**South Hill Pierce County Library**, 15420 Meridian E. • 253-548-3303

**Thursday, May 28, 5-6 p.m.**

**Bonney Lake Pierce County Library**, 18501 90th St. E. • 253-548-3308

#### Conversation Cafe: *They Called Us Enemy*

Discuss the book *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei. Ages 18 and up.

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**Saturday, May 30, 1-2 p.m.**

**Gig Harbor Pierce County Library**, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive • 253-548-3305

The full calendar of events includes:

**Our Own Archipelago: Mindfulness and Clay Workshop\***

Join us for a hands-on workshop designed to help you explore your creativity, find your center and unwind. All materials provided. Ages 18 and up.

**Saturday, May 2, noon-1:30 p.m.**

**Interim Lakewood Pierce County Library**, 10202 Gravelly Lake Drive SW • 253-548-3302

**Virtual Facing Turmoil with Integrity\***

Explore the connections between Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ways that these visionaries - and the Kural itself - can inspire clarity and courageous action in our own time and place. Ages 18 and up.

**Thursday, May 7, 5-6:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Pierce County Library**

**Sewing and Mending with Sanae Ishida\***

Join author and artist Sanae Ishida for a workshop on using Japanese embroidery for sewing and mending. Ages 18 and up.

**Saturday, May 9, 1-3 p.m.**

**South Hill Pierce County Library**, 15420 Meridian E. • 253-548-3303

**My father was an Enemy Alien during WWII**

Learn about Lynn Kanaya's family's story of hardship, surveillance, loss of finances and dignity during the interment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. Ages 13 and up.

**Saturday, May 16, 1-3 p.m.**

**Gig Harbor Pierce County Library**, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive • 253-548-3305

**Conversation Cafe: Bento Boxes\***

Discuss the cultural significance of Bento Boxes and how they might mirror similar practices for portable, nutritious meals. Recipes of your favorite portable meals welcome! Ages 18 and up.

**Wednesday, May 20, 3-4:30 p.m.**

**Graham Pierce County Library**, 9202 224th St. E. • 253-548-3322

**Fabulous Furoshiki\***

Discover the origins stretching of the furoshiki multi-purpose cloth that, with a few simple knots, can be used to carry almost anything it can wrap around. All ages.

**Friday, May 22, 10:30 a.m.-noon**

**Milton/Edgewood Pierce County Library**, 900 Meridian E., Suite 29 • 253-548-3325

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**Friday, May 22, 2:30-4 p.m.**

**University Place Pierce County Library**, 3609 Market Place W., Suite 100 • 253-548-3307

### **Ikebana Demonstration and Drop-In Studio**

Observe a formal demonstration about the history and artistry of Ikebana with the culture of Japan. After, make your own miniature Ikebana arrangements with real to take home. Ages 9 and up.

**Saturday, May 23, noon-3 p.m.**

**Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library**, 13718 Pacific Ave. S., Tacoma • 253-548-3304

### **VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS**

On Courage, Turmoil, and the Transformative Power of Love with Marjan Kamali\*

**Thursday, May 7, 4 p.m.**

Reshape Your Beliefs and Unlock Your True Potential with Nir Eyal\*

**Tuesday, May 19, 11 a.m.**

**\*Registration required.**

Explore the diversity and rich stories of the Asian and Islander cultures with booklists for all ages, available in printed book, e-book and audiobook. You can also find free movies and documentaries on Kanopy or watch recorded AANHPI author events including Liann Zhang, Rebecca F. Kuang, Grace M. Cho and more.

Register for events and find more information at [mypcls.org](http://mypcls.org).

### **About Pierce County Library System**

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 680,000 people throughout Pierce County with 19 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and property taxes are the main funding source. People may choose from more than one million books, e-books, audiobooks, movies and other materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. People make approximately one million visits to Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in adult care facilities, people who are homebound, and to children in childcare centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

[mypcls.org](http://mypcls.org)

[facebook.com/PierceCoLibrary](https://facebook.com/PierceCoLibrary)