

# **PROGRAMS & SERVICES AT MERCER ISLAND LIBRARY**

**2022-2023**

# 2022: A YEAR OF TRANSITION

In 2022 and 2023, we navigated a changing pandemic environment and worked to maintain connections with our Mercer Island communities. Planning for in-person programs resumed in April 2022, with restrictions that have slowly opened over time.

Here are some highlights from your Mercer Island Librarian Team, 2022 & 2023:

- Adult Services Librarian, David Dawson
- Teen Services Librarian, Carrie Bowman
- Children's Services Librarian, Kelcy Tiger

# 2022 Stats-At-A-Glance

## **Kids & Families**

April – December 2022:

- 50 story times with more than 1200 people total attending
- Fridays:
  - Morning toddler time that now averages 75 people in attendance
  - Repeat toddler time that averages about 50 people
  - Afternoon preschool story time that has about 30 people in attendance each week

## **Teens**

23 programs, connecting with over 475 teens, parents, and other adults

Examples: Chess; *Race to be Human* film and panel discussion; Games & Art at the Library

## **Adults & All Ages**

Eight programs connecting with over 167 participants.

Examples of programs: Medicare Made Clear; Banned Books Week: Humanity in Print; The Ruins of Memory: Women's Voices of the Holocaust; and The Dickens Carolers.

# Story Times



# Chess

"I have been working with Chouchan Airapetian since 2017. She is the current WA State Women's Champion and is well respected in the chess community. She is also fantastic with kids of all abilities." --Carrie Bowman, Teen Service Librarian

## **Chess From Home (online)**

For children, tweens and teens.

Join Chouchan Airapetian for online chess instruction and games. Participants will also play each other on chess.com.

Attendance ranged around 12-20 per session.

## **Chess at the Mercer Island Library (in person)**

Join Chouchan Airapetian for chess instruction and games in the library. Challenge yourself and others!

*Safety guidelines and current protocols followed.*

### **Date – attendance**

May 11 – 17

June 22 – 32

July 20 – 26

Aug 24 – 32

Nov 2 – 30

Nov 16 – 35

Nov 30 – 22

Dec 14 - 20



# Race to be Human: Film and Panel Discussion

*RACE to Be Human* helps us understand the impact of racism through the stories and expertise of students, scholars and educators.

Sponsored by Mercer Island School District, MIHS PTSA-DEI, Parent Edge, Friends of the Mercer Island Library and Mercer Island Youth and Family Services.

*Held at Mercer Island High School.*

There were two other screenings in addition to this one.

## **Date – attendance**

Oct 14 (MIHS staff, at MIHS) – 100 (paid by MIHS/MISD)

Oct 17 (at the library, film and discussion, no panel) – 7

Oct 17 (at MIHS, film and panel discussion) – 80

Oct 18 (at the library, film and discussion, no panel) – 8

# *The Ruins of Memory: Women's Voices from the Holocaust*

November 1, 2022

**Attendance:** 16

Presented by Tales of the Alchemysts Theatre, a Jewish Literature & Music Performance Company.

This in-person performance featured selections from fiction, poetry, and oral histories primarily by (and about) female survivors and victims of the Holocaust—from both the Ashkenazi and Sephardic communities. The performance featured live music, sound, and movement, and combined these things with the spoken word and song.

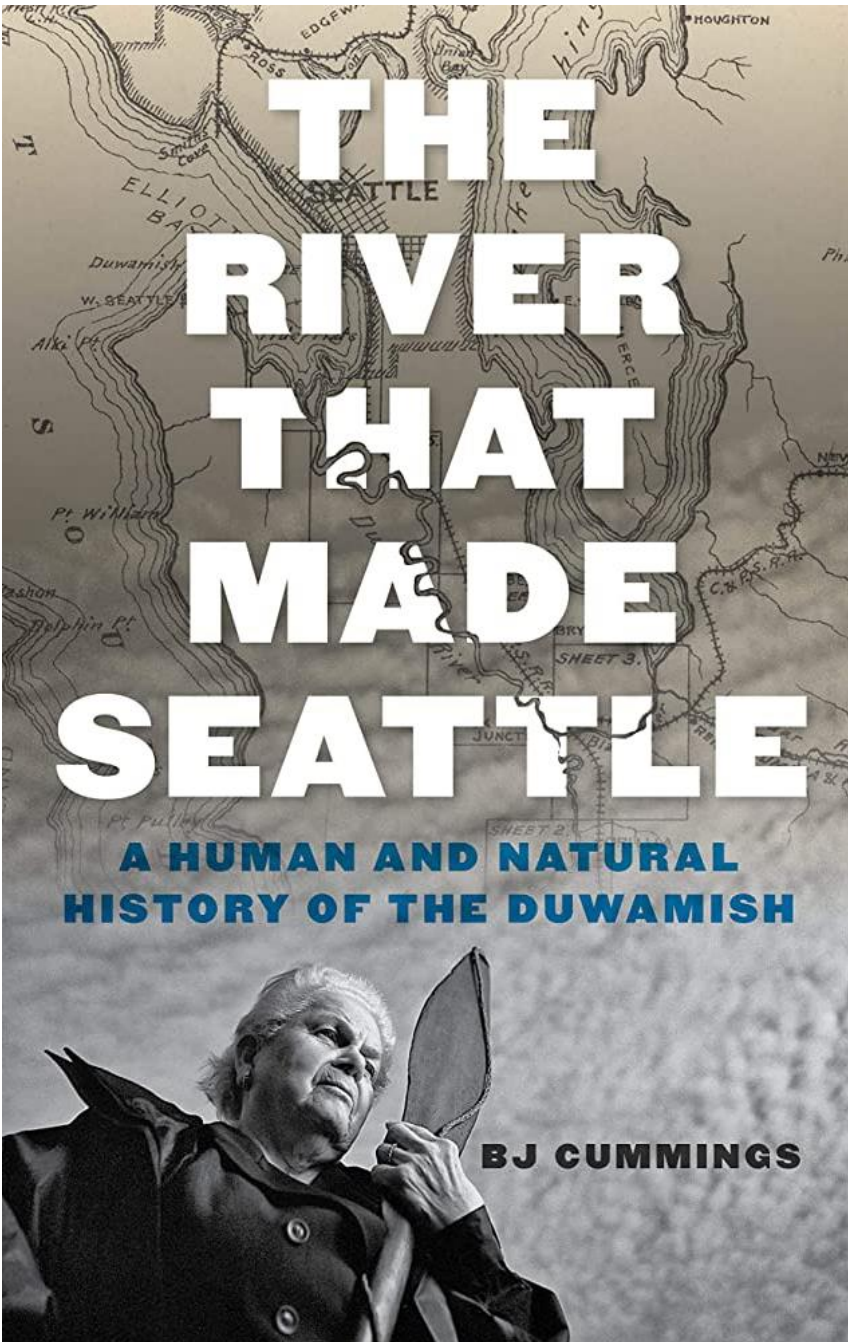
--David



Picture Credit: Ghetto Fighters' House Museum, Photo Archive







# The River That Made Seattle

Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 pm

Presented by BJ Cummings

For adults.

Attendance: 45

Once teeming with bountiful salmon and fertile plains, Seattle's Duwamish River drew both Native peoples and settlers to its shores over centuries for trading, transport, and sustenance. Unfortunately, the very utility of the river was its undoing, as decades of dumping led to the river being declared a Superfund cleanup site.

Much of Washington's history has been told through the perspective of its colonizers, obscuring and mythologizing the changes to these lands that have long been occupied by Native peoples. Through the story of the river, author BJ Cummings explores previously unrecorded Native and immigrant histories, and exposes settler falsehoods about the founding of the state. The river's story is a call to action to align future decisions with values of collaboration, respect, and justice.

In partnership with the Mercer Island Historical Society and sponsored by the Friends of the Mercer Island Library.

# 2023 Service Goals

## **Early Literacy Programming for Children (Children's Services)**

Continuing to offer quality literacy-based programming for children 5 and under, and their families.

## **Emphasize Programming and Engagement for Seniors**

Instill a sense of community among our senior citizens by a return to mostly in-person programming. Respond to the needs and special interests of our seniors by emphasizing programs that focus on art, music, and film, as well as history, travel, and health.

## **Partnerships with High School & Middle School Clubs and Organizations (Teen Services)**

Maintaining and strengthening relationships with the clubs at the high school.

## **Investigate a Partnership/Collaboration with Crest Learning Center (part of MIHS) (Teen Services)**

Crest serves a diverse group of students, including students who identify as LGBTQ+. Crest is "carefully designed to offer a successful alternative pathway to graduation."

## **Engagement with Elementary School Aged Children (Children's Services)**

Establishing regular literacy programming, as well as enrichment programs for elementary aged children in the library.

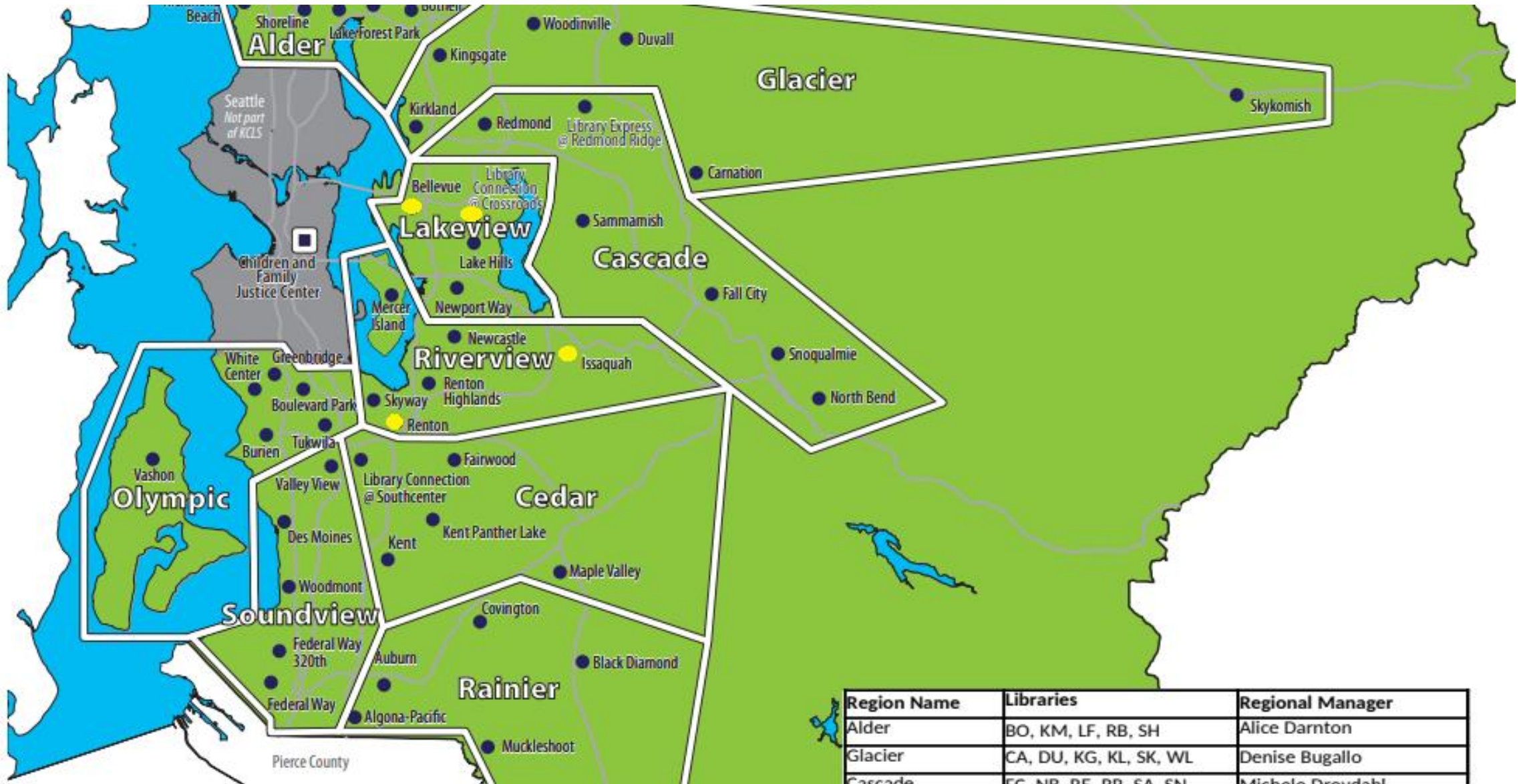
# Coming Up...

## Children's Services Programs

- **Friday Story Times continue:**
  - **Toddler Time at 10:05am and 11:15am**
  - **Preschool Story Time at 1:00pm**
- **Spring Forward program with Mikey the Rad Scientist, ages 1-5 with caregiver (May 26th, 10:30am)**

## Adult Services Programs

- **Opera Preview: La Traviata (May 10th)**
- **Spring Forward with Mikey the Rad Scientist, Ages 1-5 with adult, May 26)**
- **Casablanca: An 80th Anniversary Appreciation (June 4)**



Region Name	Libraries	Regional Manager
Alder	BO, KM, LF, RB, SH	Alice Darnton
Glacier	CA, DU, KG, KL, SK, WL	Denise Bugallo
Cascade	FC, NP, PE, PP, SA, SN	Michelle Drouot

# Future Engagement

- We plan to attend the monthly Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings more often by rotating Librarians, Operations Management (Joe), and I so we can foster a closer relationship
- Contact Information:
- Brian Candelori, Riverview Regional Manager
  - (Mercer Island, Issaquah, Newcastle, Renton, Renton Highlands, and Skyway)
  - [brcandelori@kcls.org](mailto:brcandelori@kcls.org)
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- Joe Baldwin, Operations Manager
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THANK YOU!

