



PRESS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 19, 2025
Contact: Corrina Desmarais, Public Services Librarian
360-683-1161 x2 or CDesmarais@nols.org
Re: NOLS to host virtual talk on the battle for women's clothing equality
Attached: *HW_Diane_Johnston.png*

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) and Humanities Washington will host a free virtual presentation “And It Has Pockets!” on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m. Join costume designer Diane Johnston to dig into the pockets of the past, tracing the history of the humble pocket to determine if the battle for equality may still be decided by a few inches of extremely influential fabric. Register in advance at NOLS.org/HW to receive the Zoom link.

How many times have you heard someone wearing women’s clothing exclaim, “And it has pockets!” Comparisons have shown that modern garments designed for women have about half the storage space of clothing designed for men. From their invention, pockets in women’s fashion have represented independence—so much so that in the 18th century, laws were enacted to strip women of their personal liberty by making the contents of their pockets the property of their husband. The right to have pockets went hand-in-hand with the right to vote. And people today are still speaking out about the inequality between men’s and women’s clothing based on this simple storage system.

About the Presenter

Diane Johnston is a theatrical costume designer who has spent the past 33 years creating costumes for productions large and small throughout the region. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Costume Design and is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Johnston has always been fascinated with fashion history and the historic trends that find their way into our modern closets. She is currently designing costumes for Edmonds Driftwood Players.

About Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington is a nonprofit organization dedicated to opening minds and bridging divides by creating spaces to explore different perspectives. For more about Humanities Washington, visit humanities.org.



In a free virtual talk on Oct. 1, theatrical costume designer Diane Johnston will explore the history of pockets and their role in the battle for gender equality.

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