



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 12, 2026
Contact: Corrina Desmarais, Public Services Librarian
360-683-1161 x2 or CDesmarais@nols.org
Re: NOLS to host virtual talk on women's undergarments and gender equality
Attached: *HW_Diane_Johnston.png*

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) and Humanities Washington will host a free virtual presentation "Hidden Layers: Women's Undergarments and How They've Shaped Ladies' Liberties" on Wednesday, March 18, at 6 p.m. Register in advance at NOLS.org/HW to receive the Zoom link for the talk by costume designer Diane Johnston.

Women's underwear has long reflected society's views on modesty, femininity and beauty. From historic styles that restricted the female form to the more liberating fashions of today, women's undergarments have been symbols of both oppression and empowerment.

In this talk, explore how comfort, freedom and function in women's undergarments has mirrored broader social changes. Johnston will pull back the layers of satin and silk to show how the evolution of women's underwear parallels the ongoing struggle for gender equality.

About the Presenter

Diane Johnston is a theatrical costume designer who has spent the past 35 years creating

costumes for a variety of productions throughout the region. She holds an MFA in costume design and is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

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](https://www.humanities.org).



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