



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 24, 2026
Contact: Amber Kleefeld, Public Services Librarian
360-417-8500 x7749; AKleefeld@NOLS.org
Re: Author shares history of whiskey in Washington at free library talk
Attached: *HW-Becky-Garrison.png; DistilledinWashington.jpg*

Join the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) and Humanities Washington for “[How Whiskey Won Washington](#),” a free presentation by author and journalist Becky Garrison.

Presentation Schedule

- **Thursday, Aug. 6**, 5:30 p.m., at the Port Angeles Main Library, 2210 S. Peabody St.
- **Friday, Aug. 7**, 1:30 p.m., at the Clallam Bay Branch Library,
- **Friday, Aug. 7**, 5:30 p.m., at the Forks Branch Library, 171 S. Forks Ave.

Attendees will learn about Washington’s mixed history with liquor. Efforts to ban or restrict it date back to 1854, before the region even attained statehood, and “blue laws” remained on the books well into the 20th century. Yet a modern craft distilling boom is happening in the Evergreen State, and local distillers have emerged as forerunners in the burgeoning American Single Malt revolution.

How did whiskey inspire both trouble and innovation? How did its import by settlers affect Indigenous communities and other groups? And how did whiskey play a role in the very

creation of Washington state? Garrison will distill the history of the barrel and the bottle in our state and provide an introduction to fascinating figures who turned to the business of liquor.

Information about the event can be found at [NOLS.org/HW](https://nols.org/HW).

About the Presenter

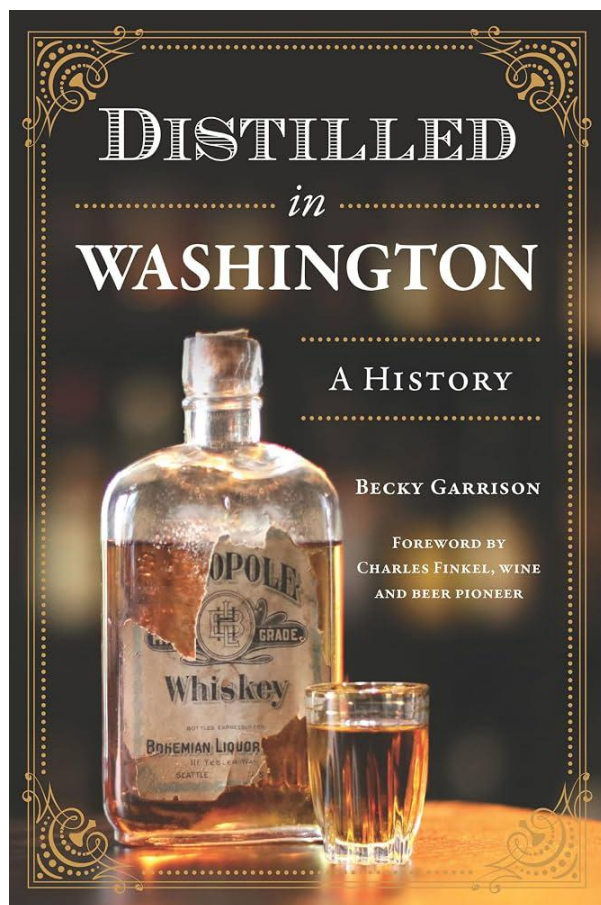
A graduate of Yale Divinity School and Columbia University School of Social Work, Becky Garrison has been covering this region's food, beer and liquor culture for over a decade. Garrison's nine books include "[Distilled in Washington: A History](#)," the first book that documents the history of distilling in our state. The book was selected as a Top Ten Spirited Awards 2025 Nominee by the Tales of the Cocktail Foundation. In her work, Garrison seeks to explore the intersections of craft culture, sustainability, spirituality and community building.

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.



Author and journalist Becky Garrison to present "How Whiskey Won Washington," Aug. 6 and 7 at NOLS branches.



“Distilled in Washington: A History” by Becky Garrison is available for checkout through NOLS.

About the Summer Reading Program

This event is part of the “Plant a Seed, Read” Summer Reading Program, running through Aug. 22. Sign up for the all-ages reading challenge, win prizes and participate in fun events.

For more information about the Summer Reading Program, visit [NOLS.org/srp](https://nols.org/srp), call 360-374-6402 or email discover@nols.org. The Summer Reading Program is generously supported by local Friends of the Library groups.

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