

LITERARY ARTS

Two popular interests that Boomers enjoy more in retirement are reading and writing. We love stories and want to discover others' and express our own.

That shouldn't surprise us because we enjoy more leisure time. We want to experience new lands, worlds and even galaxies through books. We want to better understand our changing, complex world, current events, our communities and the human journey.

And thanks to ever-growing technology, new books and authors in every genre stream to us. We can instantly order, borrow and download books on any subject, direct from bookstores and libraries to our computers or readers.



On the flip side, many Boomers are fulfilling their dreams to write. Whether crafting a memoir or coming of age story, a sci-fi, romance, fantasy or time travel, Boomers are taking up their pens and keyboards to release their creativity, imagination and desire to learn and grow.

Boomer Readers

In addition to friends, library mailings, and book reviews, Boomer readers have access to other fun connections with books in Portland. Some of the most common come through book clubs, reader events at libraries, author readings, and book festivals.

Book clubs are small reader groups who select, read and discuss books. Book clubs are often formed around a genre or common interest. You'll find book clubs of every imaginable type in libraries, senior and community centers, faith-based organizations, bookstores, community organizations and many other gathering places.

Boomers also can choose from a wide selection of [Book Club Meetups](#) throughout the area.

Bookstores, libraries, and several literary organizations sponsor events such as readings, discussion groups and book festivals to bring readers, books and authors together. The best-known are:

- [NW Book Festival](#). A free outdoor book fair representing all genres held annually in July.
- [Wordstock](#). A Festival of readers and authors featuring author speakers, workshops and a book fair. Held annually in November. Sponsored by Literary Arts.

See the [Literary Arts Resources](#) page for links to organizations that that sponsor book festivals, readings and other resources to help Portland readers discover their next great read.

Boomer Writers and Authors

If writing is a bucket list item for you, Portland is a place to realize your dream. We're surrounded by a prolific and growing community of authors, poets, bloggers, screenwriters, playwrights and others who encourage and celebrate the written words of others. From beginners to published authors, fiction and non-fiction, across disparate genres and all forms of writing, like-minded people are eager to support and celebrate your success.

No matter where your writing career is aimed, there are energetic organizations to help you learn, write, get feedback, publish and socialize. There is a wide assortment of [Writing Meetups](#) throughout the area that offer more choices for authors, writers, bloggers and poets of all interests and abilities.

See the [Literary Arts Resources](#) page for links to organizations where you can attend writing workshops, participate in critique groups, attend readings, hear speakers, and share your knowledge and expertise.

Other places where aspiring and experienced writers can practice and learn their craft include several area community colleges and parks and recreation programs. Writing classes cover fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, short story, business and technical writing and many other topics.

See the [Literary Arts Resources](#) page for links to community education and parks and recreation programs that offer writing classes.

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