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## ORCA'S COOPERATIVE MODEL

Orca Books Co-op will be a multi-stakeholder co-op with four membership types: **Basic Consumer, Low-Income Consumer, Worker,** and **Organization/Business.** We expect to complete this transition in October 2019.

Each member will pay a fee for membership which grants certain benefits, discounts, and voting rights. A board of directors will be composed of such members.

We are excited to join a growing number of local businesses that utilize the co-op model, including New Moon Cafe, Dumpster Values and the Olympia Food Co-op.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **BOOK TRADE** - Orca prides itself in being a community hub for book trade, resource sharing, and community re-cycling.
- **FREE EVENTS** - We host book groups and dozens of literary and political events every year, and are always open to hosting more.
- **COMMUNITY WORKSHOP & MEETING SPACE** - We are currently reorganizing our space so to allow for even more community events and meet-ups.
- **CONSIGNMENT PROGRAM** - We are always happy to consign the work of local authors and artisans.
- **& MORE-** Orca is looking for new ways to engage with and support the Olympia community. Contact us with your ideas!

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## ORCA HISTORY

**Olympia's largest independently owned bookstore for 26 years!**

It all began in the early 1990s, when Linda Berentsen bought the bookstore, then called "Counterpoint Books," from her father. The only alphabetized section was fiction, and there were no new books, no in-store trading, and no section signage. It was utter chaos!

Next, Cori Christiansen, a friend of Linda's from Evergreen, came on as a full-time partner in June of 1993. Neither Cori or Linda had any business or retail experience, but they loved books and took the leap.

The two brainstormed for weeks trying to come up with a locally resonant name. One day, Linda saw a sign with an orca on it and said "Aha!" Orca Books—A big Northwest animal to symbolize a big Northwest bookstore.

In 2003, Linda bought out Cori's half of the business. It was a difficult break, but Linda knew she wasn't ready to give up. She continued on as the sole owner for 16 years—a feat she couldn't have accomplished without her experienced, loyal, wonderful staff.

One day a former employee saw a rat in the store, and Linda quickly approved the adoption of our famous cat, Henry. Tragically, he died the very night he received the Volcano award for "Best Bookstore Cat." Orlando, the pixie bob, came into our lives soon after. He continues to work hard every day to catch mice and warm our hearts and laps.

Over the years, we've had earthquakes, blizzards, power outages, packed Harry Potter parties, Rick Riordan arriving by yacht and signing 400 books in an hour, Cheryl Strayed reading to a full house, hanging out with Matt Groening and Lynda Barry after hours, and getting to share it all with you lovely book people!

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# ORCA BOOKS COOPERATIVE

EST. 2019 | OLYMPIA, WA

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & FEES



## MEMBERSHIP PLANS & BENEFITS

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Daily 10% discount on used books
- Members-only sales on new and used books
- Coupon for \$10 off any purchase of \$50 or more
- Voting rights in board elections and other co-op matters
- Other benefits to be decided

All member benefits will go into effect when co-op transition is complete.

### MEMBERSHIP TYPES & FEES:

All membership types will be granted the general benefits listed above. Fees are one time only.

- **BASIC**
  - \$100+ member share fee
- **LOW INCOME**
  - sliding scale \$25-\$99 member share fee
- **ORGANIZATION / BUSINESS**
  - \$200+ member share fee (additional benefits to this membership type to be determined)

Membership fees may be either paid in full at sign-up, or via an installment plan over the course of our 5 month transition. Please ask for more details.

## HOW TO JOIN:

To join the co-op, talk to a friendly Orca staff member! You will be asked to fill out a membership form, select a membership type, and provide payment of your one-time membership fee.

We heartily welcome you to join the Orca Pod!



## INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH OUR CO-OP TRANSITION?

If you have skills to lend or expertise to share, we would love to hear your ideas!

Please contact: [co-op@orcabooks.com](mailto:co-op@orcabooks.com)

## WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH ORCA NEWS?

Head to [www.orcabooks.com/co-op](http://www.orcabooks.com/co-op) to sign up for our co-op newsletter.

## WHY SUPPORT US:

“Co-ops offer long-term stability to businesses that help define a community. Olympia has become a leader in the national co-op community over the last five years. Orca Books offers the community chance to keep an anchor institution downtown that helps define Olympia’s identity and continue to build a resilient cooperative economy for our community.”

-John McNamara, NW Cooperative Development Center



## DISCLAIMER:

Our successful transition to a cooperative depends on the support, financial and otherwise, of our community. If in the unlikely event Orca Books Cooperative does not come to fruition, we cannot guarantee a 100% refund of your member fees. Please see the membership agreement for more information, and don't hesitate to ask if you have additional questions.

### FIND US AT:

(360) 352-0123 | Mon-Sat: 10-8 & Sun: 11-6  
509 E. 4th Ave in downtown Olympia, WA  
on the web: [orcabooks.com](http://orcabooks.com)  
facebook.com/orcabooks  
instagram: @orcabooksoly