

journal sentinel

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

9/24/2019 Online Edition

Martial arts: Re-energize your mind, body and spirit. Pat Culotti of Enhancing Balance is teaching a free, introductory tai chi class at Cutler Park. All fitness levels are welcome. The class is presented by Waukesha Reads and the Waukesha Public Library. **Details:** 10 a.m. Sept. 29. Cutler Park, 321 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha. waukeshareads.org or (262) 524-3682.

Follow a 40-year-long martial arts journey and find out what family means in traditional Chinese martial arts. SiFu Steven C. Kleppe, founder of the ShaoLin Center, will give a free talk at the ShaoLin Center, which will be followed by a traditional lion dance. **Details:** 6 p.m. Sept. 27. ShaoLin Center, 400 Travis Lane, No. 32, Waukesha. waukeshareads.org or 262-548-8824.

Breast cancer awareness: Learn risk factors, prevention strategies, screening recommendations and how to manage abnormal screenings from Kaye-lynn Collins, a volunteer nurse educator, at the Waukesha Public Library. The program is presented by GrapeVine in partnership with the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation. **Details:** 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26. Waukesha Public Library, 321 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha. waukeshapubliclibrary.org or (262) 524-3682.

Waukesha's Big Read now in full swing**Read**

This year's book selection addresses 'universal' issues, says library official

By Ashley Haynes

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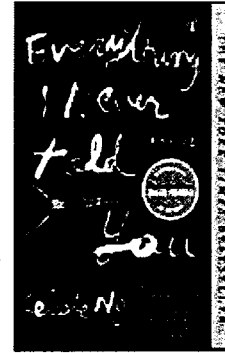
WAUKESHA — The Waukesha Public Library is now two weeks into this year's Big Read celebration, but this year's events are only just getting started. The Big Read officially started on Sept. 11 and will run through Nov. 3. This year's book selection, "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Ng, was selected by the WPL Steering Committee due to a belief that it ties into several themes in today's society.

"Whether it's prejudice, individuality, family, secrets, gender, loneliness or the 1970s, we felt that the wide range of themes in this book would engage a diverse group of readers in our community," said WPL Head of Program Development and Community Engagement Kori Hall. Ng's book tells the story of a Chinese-American family living in small-town Ohio in the 1970s when they have to deal with the unexpected death of Lydia, the middle daughter to Marilyn and James Lee and sister to Nathan.

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BIG READ

WAUKESHA



Waukesha’s Big Read now in full swing

Read

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One of the major goals of the national Big Read event is to help readers and communities shape a greater understanding of the world around them. While “Everything I Never Told You” does focus on mature themes, Hall says they are something almost everyone can relate to.

“We all have families. We all have secrets and feel lonely at times. Everyone in today’s society deals with prejudice, either directly or indirectly. We have all grieved for friends and family members. This book addresses issues that are universal to everyone,” said Hall.

She added that since there are mature themes in the book, the WPL has selected two

titles that younger readers may find suitable. For children, the library recommends the book “The Year of the Dog” by Grace Lin. For teens, the graphic novel “American Born Chinese” by Gene Luen Yang is an option for families to consider.

As usual, there is a full calendar of events for the entire family to take part in once they have finished this year’s selection. Hall says it takes a full year to plan Waukesha Reads events.

The Steering Committee chooses the title in December, applies for the NEA Big Read grant in January, and immediately starts brainstorming ideas. This year, one of the new events includes the “Food for Fines” program from Oct. 15-31. If WPL visitors donate food at the library during that time, the staff will reduce their overdue fines by \$1.00 per food item. If visitors don’t have any overdue

fines, they will receive a coupon towards purchasing items from a WPL book sale.

All food items will help the FOOD Pantry of Waukesha County.

“The library works with an enthusiastic group of partner organizations who help us design a program that targets all age groups, from kids in elementary school to older adults,” said Hall.

There are also several other events planned for this year’s Big Read, from movie showings and art classes. For the full calendar of events, visit waukeshareads.org/calendar/.

Copies of “Everything I Never Told You” are available at the Waukesha Public Library, 321 Wisconsin Ave., while supplies last.

IN BRIEF

www.waukeshareads.org.

Free antiques appraisal coming to Waukesha library

WAUKESHA — The Waukesha Public Library will host the “What’s it Worth?” antiques appraisal event on Oct. 6 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark Moran, an antiques expert and author, will appraise the heirlooms free of charge.

Only one item per person will be evaluated and registration is required beforehand.

The event is part of the 2018 Waukesha Reads/NEA Big Read program.

To register, contact the library’s reference desk at 262-524-3682. More information can be found at

Holocaust survivor to speak at Brookfield library

BROOKFIELD— Jean Yuseph, a survivor of both the Holocaust and the Soviet gulags, will talk about the Holocaust and her experiences at the Brookfield Public Library, 1900 N. Calhoun Road, on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. Yuseph is a member of the Holocaust Education Resource Center in Milwaukee.

The event is free with no registration required. More information can be found at www.brookfieldlibrary.com or by phone at 262-782-4140.

Congregation Emanu-El holds food drive

WAUKESHA — Congregation

Emanu-El of Waukesha recently completed a successful food drive to benefit the Waukesha Food Pantry.

The synagogue donated 620 pounds of non-perishable food items and \$668.

Karen Treadwell, director of the food pantry, said CEEW donations coincide with the time of year when donations lag.

“Our members have fed many people over the years through their generosity,” said Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha’s Sandy Villa, who spearheaded the food drive that is held annually in conjunction with the Jewish New Year. “Helping feed the hungry is alive and well at CEEW.”

Physics, antiques tie into this week's Big Read events By Ashley Haynes ahaynes@conleynet.com
262-513-2681

WAUKESHA — The community is now ringing in week four of the Waukesha Public Library Big Read celebration. For those that have read “Everything I Never Told You” and are hoping to delve even deeper, there are several upcoming discussions and events that examine various themes of the book.

One event that is family friendly and educational at the same time is The Physics Experience, a travelling show created by an educator with over 10 years of experience in research in areas like technology and engineering.

“I know it’s a little unusual. I used to just do the shows, but to have it linked to the book is really cool,” said Mike Randall, president of The Physics Experience LLC.

In “Everything I Never Told You,” the mother excels at physics and takes it in college, at a time when women were not necessarily welcome in such classes. She passes up her male counterparts in class and earns their respect. Later in the novel, she desperately wants her daughter to

excel as much as she did, but Lydia isn’t good at it and is failing. She lies to her mother about her physics grades.

“My show is all about creating a context for learning that leaves audience members empowered, engaged, curious and delighted,” said Randall, adding that he wouldn’t be surprised if the characters in the books held common beliefs such as science being too hard or boring.

The show includes demonstrations of how light, electricity, heat and more are all components of physics. Concepts including Newton’s Three Laws of Motion will be explained and how these laws are part of our everyday lives.

The Physics Experience will take place today at Les Paul Middle School, 325 Carroll St., at 6:30 p.m.

If you’re looking for a more historical event for your Big Read experience, author and antiques expert Mark Moran will be in town Saturday to tell you how much your family heirlooms and more are worth.

“Just like all families, the Lees have items that will become treasured heirlooms: Lydia’s locket, Nath’s telescope, the cookbook that belonged to Marilyn’s mother. It’s interesting to find out if there is

monetary, or just sentimental, value to our family heirlooms,” said WPL Head of Program Development and Community Engagement Kori Hall.

Guests must register to have an antique appraised, but attendees are also welcome to observe. Moran will appraise one item per guest. The antiques appraisal is this Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the library. To register, call 262-524-3682.

For something a little more traditional, a Waukesha Reads discussion about the book will be held at Martha Merrell’s Books, 231 W. Main St., at 10:30 a.m. on Monday.

A general discussion of some of the book’s themes will take place.

For a full list of Waukesha’s Big Read events that span the coming weeks, visit waukeshareads.org/calendar/.

BIG READ

WAUKESHA

Waukesha Reads encourages reading, which encourages success**By Bruce Gay**

This year marks the 12th year that the Waukesha Public Library is hosting “Waukesha Reads,” a communitywide reading event. Each year the library selects a book for the entire community to read. This year’s title is “Everything I Never Told You,” the first novel by best-selling author Celeste Ng. The library has more than four dozen events and book discussions planned around the novel.

It isn’t really a spoiler to let you know that the first line of the book is, “Lydia is dead.” That should catch your interest, at least! The novel tells the story of a family in small-town Ohio in the 1970s, struggling with their daughter’s mysterious death. You’ll be able to relate to each character in the novel and understand where they’re coming from. As the new director, this is my first Waukesha Reads. It’s one of the library’s biggest events. This last year I’ve been learning more about the library and Waukesha. You should be proud of your library — it’s healthier than ever. This year we had more children and teens participating in our Summer Reading Program than ever before, topping the record previously

set in 1994. Overall attendance at library programs and events has almost tripled in the last 10 years. Finally, the Waukesha Public Library is the fourth highest-circulating library in the state — behind only Madison, Milwaukee, and Green Bay, all of which have multiple locations.

Past the statistics, though, libraries continue to play a crucial role in healthy communities. With more than 250,000 books and magazines and friendly librarians ready to tell you what you should read next, the library is the community’s reading champion. You probably know that the more someone reads, the more likely they’ll do well in school. What might surprise you is that people who read more are also more likely to be economically successful. People who read more also exercise more, vote more often and volunteer more.

Waukesha Reads highlights another important role for the library. We’re a place people can meet outside your home or job. We’re free and we welcome everyone to our programs, to use library computers or connect through Wi-Fi, to study in a quiet place, or just to sit and read the paper (or “Everything I Never

Told You”).

The library is also proud to be an active part of Waukesha. This year we’re working with the Food Pantry of Waukesha County on a great event. Starting on Oct. 15, bring a nonperishable food item to the library and get \$1 off your Waukesha overdue fines. Don’t have a fine? Donate food and get 50 cents off a Friends of the Library Book Sale item.

Free copies of the book and program guides are available now at the library. I hope to see you at a Waukesha Reads event!

(Bruce Gay is the director of the Waukesha Public Library.)

Waukesha
Reads

**Gay**