

## WEF raises money for 29 Waukesha School District grants

WAUKESHA — The Waukesha Education Foundation presented the School District of Waukesha with a check for \$30,434.99 that will go towards 29 grants that were requested by teachers to fund projects and programs in their classrooms.

Each year, WEF raises funds through community events and business partnerships to fund grants that would not be normally covered in school budgets.



From left: Lynnette Kalmadge, executive director of the Waukesha Education Foundation; Joe Como, president of the Waukesha School District Board of Education; and Melissa Baxter, foundation board member and chair of the WEF Finance and Grant Allocation Committee.

Submitted photo

## Waukesha Reads selection explores complex themes

**By Shawn Reilly**

Waukesha Reads fosters a love of reading and it brings us together as a community. It has been a Waukesha literary celebration since 2007.

“Everything I Never Told You,” by Celeste Ng, is a phenomenal novel. It is the story of a 16-year-old girl who died tragically. The story mainly looks backward, examining the family’s life prior to the girl’s death. The reader becomes part of this tragic story. The reader is privy to the innermost thoughts and secrets of a mother, a father and three children who live in a small Ohio suburb in the late 1970s. Central to the story is that the father is Chinese American and the mother is Caucasian. Today, most would not consider this unusual. In the middle of America during the late 1970s, this was “different” and not always accepted or understood by the community.

The overriding theme is that miscommunications or the absence of communication can easily change family dynamics and lives forever. When I finished the novel, I realized that this theme can be expanded to include miscommunications or absence of communication within communities, within a country and even between

and parents and children. It is, however, easier to accept the complex and tragic themes since the story explores the themes of loss, grief, regret, racism, sexism, anger, and confusion from the perspective of the family dynamics. The topics and themes explored are complex and could be polarizing, however, the reader is not asked to take sides or make decisions. The reader is brought along with the family and experiences these difficult topics through the eyes of the father, mother, daughters and son.

For example, the book explores racism in the early part of the 20th century. I grew up in the 1970s and I recognized that the father and the family, living at that time in a small Midwest city, would be subject to racism. I also recognize that the history of our country is such that only certain immigrants were really welcomed into the United States. One story line is that immigration into the United States has generally been controversial if those immigrating were not Caucasian. A sentence in the book that hit me hard was: “America was a melting pot, but Congress, terrified that the molten mixture was becoming a shade too yellow, had banned all immigrants from China.”

always wanted her to do.

The youngest daughter struggled to be seen and recognized. The oldest son struggled to escape the dysfunction of the family.

I am asking you to read this book and participate in the Waukesha Reads events, while describing what appears to be a very sad and controversial book. This is not true, though. I truly enjoyed this book. I read it in two nights and stayed up late the second night because I could not put it down. Read this novel. You will not be disappointed. This is one of those novels that opens your eyes to different perspectives and gives you a clearer vision and understanding.

Please be a part of this great community event.

Information can be obtained at our award-winning library, where you can pick up a flier with all the events and possibly even a free book. If you cannot make it to the library, visit [www.waukeshareads.org](http://www.waukeshareads.org) to read about the events and programs.

*(Shawn Reilly is mayor of Waukesha.)*







Ashley Haynes/Freeman Staff

## Heyer students celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with author visit

**WAUKESHA** — The Children's Department at the Waukesha Public Library held a special event on Monday. The School District of Waukesha and Bridges Library System, WPL hosted bilingual children's author and illustrator Angela Dominguez. Here, Dominguez shares her sketchbook that holds ideas from one of her first children's books on Monday.

**Waukesha's Big Read:** This week's events to delve deep into the past **By Ashley Haynes** [ahaynes@conleynet.com](mailto:ahaynes@conleynet.com) 262-513-2681

WAUKESHA — This year's Waukesha Reads event is more than halfway over, but there are still numerous chances to reflect on the book selection "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Ng. Memories tie together several of the events that will take place this week.

"Everything I Never Told You" is written from the point of view of several family members who share their own memories during the 1970s, both before and after the passing of their teenage family member. To tie into the theme of memories, the event "Brown Bag Conversation Reflections" will encourage attendees to reminisce about the 70s.

A group will gather today and bring their own lunch, as well as their own short, anecdotal memories.

"(The title) 'Reflections' comes from the first three words of the book. The first three words are 'Lydia is dead,'" said Program Coordinator Joanie Vehlow.

The program, which is sponsored by the city's Senior Advisory Board, will have three sessions. The first involves a discussion of the book, the second will look back at the 1970s and the third will allow guests to share their own memories of the time period.

"This is the eleventh partnership that the Senior Advisory Board has with the Waukesha Public Library's Big Read," said Vehlow.

She explained that the point of the program is to keep people up to date on issues and topics in their community. "Everything I Never Told You" tackles issues including prejudice, individuality, family, secrets, gender and loneliness.

"We felt that the wide range of themes in this book would engage a diverse group of readers in our community," said Waukesha Public Library Head of Program Development and Community Engagement Kori Hall.

"Brown Bag Conversation Reflections" is scheduled for today at noon at the Frame Park Rotary Building, 1150 Baxter St. Dessert will be served from Sweet Perfections bakery.

### **Finding family stories**

Also happening this week is the event "Finding Your Family Stories: A Genealogical Journey." Guests will learn how to research their family history and look into the paper trails and oral history.

Lori Bessler, genealogy and local history specialist in the Wisconsin Historical Society's Library, Archives and Museum Collection division, will take attendees through the process.

The research is appropriate for people new to the process and more advanced researchers as well.

Bessler can assist guests with everything from online research using popular websites like Ancestry. com and [Family-Search.org](http://Family-Search.org).

She can also provide direction for searching through old newspapers and evaluating

reputable sources of historical information.

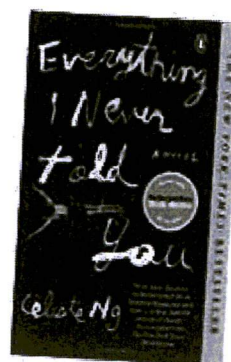
[http://waukeshafreeman.wi.newsmemory.com/ee/\\_nmum/\\_default...](http://waukeshafreeman.wi.newsmemory.com/ee/_nmum/_default...)

"Finding Your Family Stories" is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday at the Waukesha Public Library, 321 Wisconsin Ave.

For a full list of Waukesha's Big Read events that span the coming weeks, visit online at [waukeshareads.org/calendar/](http://waukeshareads.org/calendar/).

## BIG READ

## WAUKESHA





**IN BRIEF****Elm Grove library to host discussion on Wisconsin migrants**

ELM GROVE — The Elm Grove Public Library will host the “Three Generations of Migrants: A Family History” program and discussion on the Wisconsin migrant experience at 7 p.m. today.

Jesús Salas, migrant workers activist and former member of the University Wisconsin Board of Regents, will be the key speaker.

He will share stories of his upbringing as well as the migrant legacy in Wisconsin and changes in the agriculture industry.

The program is free to attend and no registration

is required. Visit [www.elmgrovelibrary.org](http://www.elmgrovelibrary.org) or call 262-782-6717 for more information.

**Genealogical journey explored at library**

WAUKESHA — Waukesha Reads and the Waukesha Public Library will present “Discovering Family Stories Through Genealogy” at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Lori Bessler, a genealogy and local history specialist from the Wisconsin Historical Society, will demonstrate how to find and follow the paper trail and oral history of families.

For more information, visit [waukeshareads.org](http://waukeshareads.org) or call 262-524-3682.

**Maximizing Medicare benefits to slated**

MUKWONAGO — The Mukwonago Community Library, 511 Division St., will host an information seminar on Medicare and its benefits at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Tracy Lipinski of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources will lead the discussion. Topics will include savings plans, prescription drug coverage, how to use the Medicare website and how to choose a Medicare plan.

The program is free to attend and no registration is required. For more information, call 262-363-6411 or visit [mukwonagolibrary.org](http://mukwonagolibrary.org).

## Secrets laid bare in 'Everything I Never Told You'

### Museum program ties into Waukesha Reads book

By Bonnie Byrd

Secrets, like truth, have power. We can alter and contort the world to fit their unspoken narratives.

This year's Waukesha Reads novel, "Everything I Never Told You," by Celeste Ng, lays bare how secrets large and small, explicit and omissive, affect even our most familiar relationships. And so, my neighbors and Freeman readers, I lay before you a secret: Like the Lee family, I'm from Ohio.

I offer this up not only to explain why I still get confused about what a bubbler is or stumble over saying "pop" on my way to "soda," but because place is a powerful force in our lives. Place influences not only what we say but also what we do, for work and leisure. Place can also inform what we learn and why. Learning more about a place can go a long way to informing our shared experiences in it.

As a curator for the Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum, I have the immense privilege

to care for the tangible objects of this place that I've come to call home. Those objects, including artifacts, documents, and photographs, combine to tell our varied and shared histories. Exhibits, programs, and partnering in community events like Waukesha Reads let us share these artifacts and their stories. My want to learn more about this place inspires me every day to understand the objects in the historical society's care as they relate to our community.

Each year Waukesha Reads provides the WCHSM with an opportunity to explore Waukesha County history in new ways. Like any reader, we find connections in the novels we read. From the beautiful and macabre works of Poe inspiring an aesthetic cemetery tour to women protagonists inviting an investigation of their historic contexts in time and place, each book opens a new avenue of historic inquiry.

This year our program is "Doctor, Nurse, Healer, Woman." Examining the complex roles of women in medicine throughout American history, the program will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday in our

newly renovated building at 101 W. Main St., Waukesha. Drawing inspiration from female characters in "Everything I Never Told You," the program aims to give context to how time and place influence how women participate in the medical field.

The program is open to the public, though registration is requested. Visit [www.wchsm.org](http://www.wchsm.org) or call 262521-2859.

*(Bonnie Byrd is the curator of Collections & Exhibits at the Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum.)*

WAUKESHA  
Reads



Byrd



## Grief shared is a burden lessened

### Library chat tonight about 'Everything I Never Told You'

By Chris Beck

"Lydia is dead." And the grief begins. Celeste Ng, in her novel "Everything I Never Told You," takes us along on the heartbreaking journey the Lee family must endure.

Ng writes, "Any act of writing is an act of empathy: you try to imagine yourself into another person's mind and skin." So, too, is

reading. We see ourselves in the characters. We ache for a family that has lost a child. We shudder that this not happen to us. And, because Ng is skillful, we understand how this all happened. "How had it begun? Like everything: with mothers and fathers." And so, this is also a story of abandonment, both physical and emotional.

Marilyn, Lydia's mother, packed a suitcase, walked out without a word, left the family for nine weeks.

Lydia was 5 and she vowed that if her mother should ever return, she would always say "yes."

A cycle repeated. Marilyn's father abandoned her when she was 3. He never returned. Marilyn and her mother never talked about this. Now, 10-year-old Hannah, Lydia's sister, moves specter-like, observing her mother, father, brother. She's only 10, but she understands that when there is a death, "These are the new rules, which no one has outlined but which she already knows: Don't talk about Lydia. Don't talk about the lake. Don't ask questions."

Ng understands grief. She understands the importance of talking about it. "The summer Lydia fell in the lake, the summer Marilyn went missing; all of them had tried to forget it. They did not talk about it; they never mentioned it. But it lingered, like a bad smell. It had suffused them so deeply it could never wash out."

At Healing Hearts we understand the importance of "talking about it." We offer peer-to-peer group support for children ages 4 through 18 who are suffering a loss due to death, divorce,

incarceration, abandonment or other lifealtering event.

We are not therapists. We are not counselors. We are companions. We are trained to help grieving children (and the adults who care for them) talk. We listen.

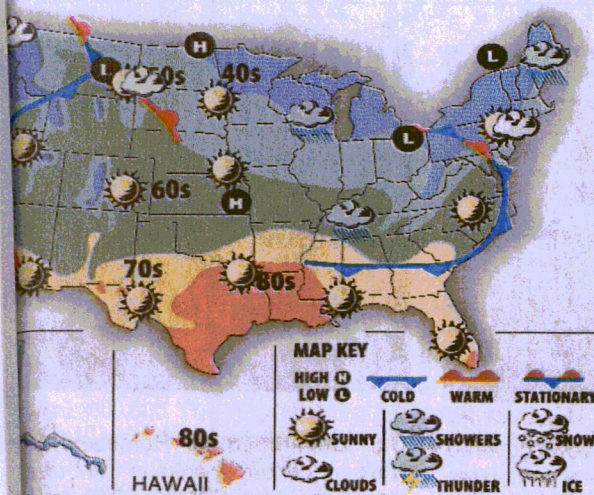
Let's talk. Let's talk about the grief you've experienced, and the role grief plays in Celeste Ng's novel "Everything I Never Told You." Please, join me at the Waukesha Public Library at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

*(Chris Beck is executive director of Healing Hearts of Waukesha County.)*





Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018



## NSIN

owers likely after midnight. Lows  
percent. Sunday: Cloudy. Light  
ance of light rain showers in the

becoming east late in the  
midnight.

32 degrees.

## PRECAST

age: 0-2 low risk, 3-5 moderate  
extreme risk.

ata provided by  
2018

## TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TOMORROW

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>ATLANTA</b><br>High: 89<br>Low: 46     | <b>CHICAGO</b><br>High: 54<br>Low: 40     | <b>DALLAS</b><br>High: 64<br>Low: 55     |
| <b>DENVER</b><br>High: 58<br>Low: 41      | <b>LOS ANGELES</b><br>High: 75<br>Low: 52 | <b>MIAMI</b><br>High: 61<br>Low: 66      |
| <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b><br>High: 51<br>Low: 35 | <b>NEW YORK</b><br>High: 57<br>Low: 47    | <b>PHOENIX</b><br>High: 92<br>Low: 66    |
| <b>SEATTLE</b><br>High: 55<br>Low: 46     | <b>ST. LOUIS</b><br>High: 64<br>Low: 41   | <b>WASHINGTON</b><br>High: 59<br>Low: 47 |

## Heighs hearing first se with Kavanaugh

right to kneel in prayer on  
the field at the end of a  
game.

How the court deals with  
the appeals may give an  
early clue about whether  
Chief Justice John G.  
Roberts Jr., with a new,  
more solidly conservative  
majority, is ready to move  
the law to the right, or  
instead will seek to steer  
away from cases that pro-  
duce sharp ideological  
splits.

The justices announced  
no action on these appeals  
Friday.

On all three subjects —  
Planned Parenthood, the  
cross and the praying  
coach — the attorneys for  
12 or more states joined  
briefs urging the justices  
to grant the appeals and  
reverse liberal rulings by  
lower courts.

Since 2012, lawmakers in  
Indiana, Arizona and other

## Crash

From Page 1A

Medina was pronounced  
dead at the hospital while  
Dischler and Deal were trans-  
ported to the hospital and  
later released, according to  
the complaint.

Dischler told authorities  
his family was celebrating  
Medina's birthday, and he  
slept very little over the  
weekend. He also said he fell  
asleep at the wheel just before  
the accident, according to the  
criminal complaint.

Dischler had been charged  
with homicide by intoxicated  
use of vehicle, operating  
while intoxicated causing  
injury and operating while  
intoxicated with a minor  
child in the vehicle, accord-  
ing to a previous Waukesha  
County criminal complaint.  
But after a toxicology report  
produced negative results for  
intoxicants, Dischler was  
only charged with homicide  
by negligent operation of a  
motor vehicle.

The complaint says Dis-

## Philip Chard

Columnist/Therapist

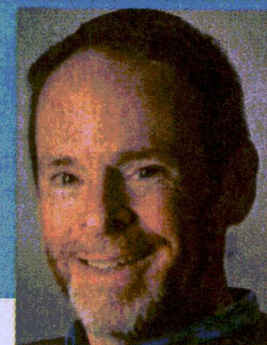
Waukesha Civic Theatre

October 30

6:30 PM Cabaret

7:30 PM

The Divided Self  
FREE Presentation



Resolve conflict and find  
greater inner peace!



WAUKESHA  
Reads

WaukeshaReads.org



son out of the car seat and  
placed him in the back seat  
and thought he went to  
sleep," according to the com-  
plaint.

However, emergency medi-  
cal services staff said they  
located Medina "on the back  
seat of the vehicle with only  
the lap portion of a regular  
seat belt on him with the  
strap behind him," according  
to the complaint. The com-  
plaint also says when EMS  
arrived on scene, "the car  
seat was on the left side of the  
rear passenger seat and was  
not secured to the vehicle,"  
according to the complaint.

Doctors with the Waukesha