



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUTHOR: Laura Brown, Librarian
CONTACT: Patty Roberts, Head of Marketing
PHONE: 734-475-8732 x 216
E-MAIL: proberts@chelseadistrictlibrary.org

December 26, 2019 | Chelsea, MI

Title: Washtenaw Reads 2019

For the third year running, Chelsea District Library (CDL) is partnering with neighboring libraries for **Washtenaw Reads**, a community initiative to promote reading and civic discourse through the shared experience of reading and discussing a common book. This year's choice is *Reading with Patrick: A Teacher, A Student, and Life-Changing Friendship* by Michelle Kuo. The Read runs throughout January and February with a special author appearance on January 16. Participating libraries include Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Milan, Northfield Township, Saline, and Ypsilanti.

About the book: After graduating from Harvard University, Michelle Kuo arrived in the rural town of Helena, Arkansas, as a Teach for America volunteer bursting with optimism and drive. But she soon encountered the jarring realities of life in one of the poorest counties in America, still disabled by the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow. In this stirring memoir, Kuo, the child of Taiwanese immigrants, shares the story of her complicated but rewarding mentorship of one student, Patrick Browning, and his remarkable literary and personal awakening.

Throughout January, CDL will offer several events to help promote dialogue about this year's read. These programs include: a discussion of the memoir at our Reading Glasses Book Club on Tuesday, January 8 at 7:30pm in the McKune Room, the "ABCs of Washtenaw Literacy" presented by the Washtenaw Literacy Council on Thursday, January 10 at 7pm, and a film screening of *A Raisin in the Sun*, prominently featured in the book, on Monday, January 21 at 6pm. Please visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org and click on *Events* to register for the last two programs. Readers are also invited to explore programming offered at other Washtenaw Reads participating libraries.

Michelle Kuo will read from her book during the Washtenaw Reads Author Event on Wednesday, January 16 at 7pm, at the Rackham Auditorium located at 915 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor. There is no charge for the event and it is open to the public with a suggested age of Grade 9-Adult. Q & A will follow, with the option of purchasing a book for signing.

CDL director Lori Coryell stresses the importance of the community read. "At CDL we value opportunities to build community and promote understanding. Washtenaw Reads is one such opportunity where readers all across the county are united in a shared experience. Through reading and discussion, we are informed, enriched, and enlightened and the community we live in becomes better for it," Coryell said. The library has purchased numerous copies of the Washtenaw Read to ensure patrons have the chance

to read the book and join in on the discussions. For more information on Washtenaw Reads and other related events, visit wread.org or call 734-475-8732 ext 219.

About Us: Chelsea District Library is a not for profit organization whose mission is engage, inspire, and equip through evolving services and resources. The Library currently serves 15,010 residents in the Chelsea area including the City of Chelsea plus Dexter, Lima, Lyndon and Sylvan townships. More than 16,000 individuals visit the Library each month. For more information, visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

#