



JULIE OTSUKA

WHEN THE
EMPEROR

WAS
Divine

THE NEA BIG READ 2018

PROGRAM AND EVENT GUIDE



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



AN EVENING WITH JULIE OTSUKA

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library

Friday, March 16 · 6:00 p.m.

Welcome Julie Otsuka, award-winning author of the NEA Big Read 2018 Selection *When the Emperor Was Divine* and keynote speaker for this year's NEA Big Read programming.

When the Emperor Was Divine is based on the experiences of Otsuka's family. The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed by Japanese Imperial forces, the FBI arrested her grandfather as a suspected spy. Her grandmother, uncle and mother spent three years in an internment camp located in Topaz, Utah, where part of the book is set.

Refreshments will be served.

IN COLLABORATION: ROGER SHIMOMURA AND THE LAWRENCE LITHOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Swope Art Museum

February 2 – March 25

The Swope Art Museum kicks off its 2018 exhibition schedule with a collection of lithographs by Roger Shimomura in collaboration with The Lawrence Lithography Workshop. Shimomura uses his art to explore his Japanese American identity and addresses issues of ethnicity. Born in Seattle, Shimomura spent two years of his childhood interned at Camp Minidoka in Hunt, Idaho.

ASHES OF WAR WITH MICHAEL MURPHY

Marshall Public Library

Thursday, February 8 · 6:30 p.m. CST

Author Michael Murphy will discuss his book *Ashes of War*.

SECOND SATURDAY STUDIO: GRAPHIC ZINE WITH ARTIST AND SWOPE REGISTRAR ED TROVER

Swope Art Museum

Saturday, February 10 · 1:00 p.m.

Be inspired by Roger Shimomura's work on view.

SINFONIETTA POPS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS: WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE

Cecilian Auditorium · Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Sunday, February 11 · 2:00 p.m.

The Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra will present the concert "When the Emperor was Divine" as part of the county wide celebration of the Vigo County Public Library's 2018 Big Read. Guest conductor and narrator for the concert will be Hidetaka Niiyama who has conducted concerts around the world. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$5 for students; children 10 years and under are free.

NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN: BLACKOUT POETRY

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library

Saturday, February 24 · 10:00 a.m.

Nancy Nichols-Pethick, Associate Professor of Painting at Indiana State University will help you create "found poems" from discarded books. Use colored pens, markers and pencils to draw abstract patterns and designs to fill the space around the chosen words. All materials will be provided.

VIDEO CHAT WITH ROGER SHIMOMURA AND MIKE SIMS

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library

Saturday, February 24 · 2:00 p.m.

Chat with artists Roger Shimomura and Mike Sims from Lawrence Lithography Workshop about their exhibit displayed at the Swope Art Museum.

BIG READ KICK-OFF

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library & West Branch

Thursday, March 1 · All Day

Pick up your free copy of *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka beginning Thursday, March 1, and learn more about the upcoming programs inspired by the National Endowment of the Arts' Big Read.

TABLESCAPES TEA

Indiana Theatre

Thursday, March 1 · 2:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy a cup of tea and listen to Zenshin Florence Caplow and Sherri Dailey recount Caplow's experiences visiting the Manzanar Japanese internment camp in California. Attendance costs \$10.00. Reserve your place by calling 812.235.5007. Public viewings of the Tablescapes displays will be available from Thursday, March 1 to Sunday March 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for \$5.00 at the door.

CREATE ORIGAMI CRANES

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library
Monday, March 5 · 5:00 p.m.

Create origami cranes using traditional means, apps and the 3D printer. While visiting, pick up a copy of the NEA Big Read 2018 selection *When the Emperor was Divine*.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT HONEY CREEK MALL

Honey Creek Mall
Thursday, March 8 · 5:30 p.m.

Experience the NEA Big Read 2018 selection *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka while exploring new forms of technology with the Vigo County Public Library Tech Team.

AMY GUESS: ART OF INTERNMENT CAMPS

Swope Art Museum
Sunday, March 18 · 2:00 p.m.

The urge to make art persists even during inhumane persecution. Art made in such harsh circumstances vividly displays the depth and resilience of human creativity. Art Historian and CANDLES' Program Director Amy Guess will host a discussion on art created by Japanese Americans while held captive in internment camps during World War II and how, through art, music and performance, they continued their traditions of creativity and recorded their lives both before and during internment.

LOCAL WOMEN'S HISTORY BREAKFAST: PHUNG LY

Clabber Girl
Wednesday, March 21 · 8:00 a.m.

Celebrate women who are making history in the Wabash Valley and honor Phung Ly, local small business owner, chef and former refugee from the People's Republic of China. Mrs. Ly will discuss her and her husband's escape from China during the economic reform period and their subsequent flight from Vietnam during the Sino-Vietnamese War. A complimentary breakfast will be served.

DON LAYTON AT WESTMINSTER VILLAGE

Westminster Village
Wednesday, March 21 · 1:30 p.m.

Join Don Layton as he discusses the NEA Big Read 2018 selection *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka. In this novel, Otsuka tells a story from five points of view and conveys the exact emotional texture of their experiences in a United States internment camp during World War II. Don Layton will provide further historical context to understand the history around these characters and the impact that this period has had on the United States.

WORLD WAR II MOVIE NIGHT

Marshall Public Library
Wednesday, March 21 · 3:30 p.m. CST

The Teen Advisory Board will meet to watch the movie *The Book Thief*, which takes place during World War II.

DISCOVER JAPANESE CULTURE

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library
Friday, March 23 · 4:00 p.m.

Explore Japanese culture with Minori Abel from the Japan-America Society of Indiana through an interactive presentation perfect for both kids and adults. Try your hand at calligraphy, origami and kirie paper art.

SPRING BREAK AT WEST: EXPLORE THE BIG READ

Vigo County Public Library · West Branch
Monday, March 26 to Thursday, March 29 · 2:00 p.m.

You and your family can explore aspects of the NEA Big Read 2018 selection and Japanese culture during West Branch's Spring Break. Create a family portrait using a wide variety of materials, experiment with origami and letter writing and make rice balls in the West Branch kitchen. A new activity will be featured everyday.

BIG READ ART EXHIBIT RECEPTION

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library
Monday, March 26 · 6:00 p.m.

Join us for refreshments and captivating conversation as we enjoy a taste of the artistry in our community and present awards. Prizes will be awarded to the Best of Show and People's Choice as voted by Library customers.

ERIN OKAMOTO PROTSMAN'S WITHOUT DUE PROCESS

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library
Wednesday, March 28 · 6:00 p.m.

Erin Okamoto Protsman will share her family's unique connection to World War II and Japanese internment camps through her documentary *Without Due Process*. A question and answer session will follow.

WRITING THE NEXT CHAPTER: THE BIG READ PARTY

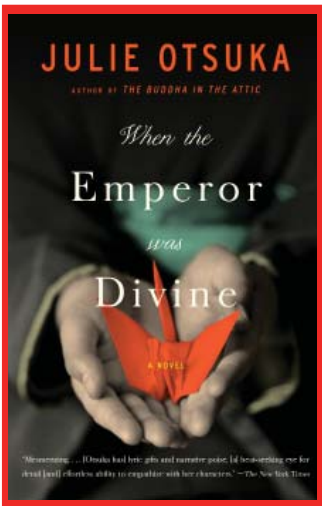
Vigo County Public Library · Main Library
Thursday, March 29 · 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate the Big Read program with a party honoring the diversity of the Wabash Valley. This event will focus on our similarities as individuals and honor our differences. Join us to enjoy food, music and activities from around the globe.

ERIN OKAMOTO PROTSMAN'S WITHOUT DUE PROCESS

Marshall Public Library
Thursday, March 29 · 6:30 p.m.

Erin Okamoto Protsman from Purdue University Northwest will speak and show her documentary *Without Due Process*, which focuses on the Japanese American internment camps of World War II.



ABOUT WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE

Beginning in 1942, the United States government forcibly relocated over one hundred thousand Japanese Americans from the West Coast to ten internment camps located throughout the western states. In the NEA Big Read 2018 selection, *When the Emperor Was Divine* (2002), author Julie Otsuka explores the ramifications of internment on one family. Loosely based on the experiences of Otsuka's mother's family, the novel follows the lives of "the woman", "the girl" and "the boy" as they are moved from their home in Berkley, California to a camp in Utah and later their struggles to rebuild their lives after World War II has ended.

Known for her historical fiction, Julie Otsuka is an award-winning Japanese American author whose works focus on the hardships and discrimination faced by Japanese Americans in the United States during the early and mid-20th century. Her debut novel *When the Emperor Was Divine* won the Asian American Literary Award and the Alex Award in 2003.

ABOUT THE NEA BIG READ

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to broaden our understanding of our world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. Vigo County Public Library is one of 75 not-for-profit organizations to receive a grant to host an NEA Big Read project between September 2017 and June 2018. The NEA presents NEA Big Read in partnership with Arts Midwest.

BOOK CLUBS & DISCUSSIONS

"You can pay me later," he said. Then he began to wipe the side of the register with a rag. There was a dark stain there that would not go away.

—*When the Emperor Was Divine* (2002)
Julie Otsuka

With the signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the groundwork for one of the largest mass internments of United States citizens in history. The NEA Big Read 2018 selection, *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka, looks at this period of mid-20th century history through the eyes of one Japanese American family as they cope with the loss of their home, livelihood and freedom during World War II. Discuss the themes and motifs of the NEA Big Read 2018 selection with your local library's book club or discussion group.

Sullivan County Public Library
Wednesday, March 7 • 6:30 p.m.

Rockville Public Library
Tuesday, March 13 • 6:30 p.m.

Vigo County Public Library · Main Library
Wednesday, March 14 • 1:30 p.m.

Vigo County Public Library · West Branch
Thursday, March 15 • 2:00 p.m.

Paris Public Library
Thursday, March 15 • 6:15 p.m. CST

Marshall Public Library
Wednesday, March 21 • 10:30 a.m. CST

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