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COMMUNITY READ 2016

AT TIFFIN-SENECA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Community Read 2016 special events

Tiffin-Seneca Public Library has selected “Orphan Train” by Christina Baker Kline as the 2016 Community Read title. During the months of February and March, the library will encourage the Seneca County community to read the book and come together for special events and discussions celebrating it.

As the featured event of the Community Read, the bestselling author will speak on Thursday, February 25 at 7 pm at Tiffin Columbian High School’s auditorium. Copies of the book will be available for sale and for autographs.

“Orphan Train” is a novel about so-called orphan trains that ran regularly, between 1854 and 1929, from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children. Their fates would be determined by luck or chance, getting adopted or facing a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude.

According to the author’s website at www.christinabakerkline.com, the story focuses on Vivian Daly, an Irish immigrant, who was sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine, the memories of her upbringing rendered a hazy blur. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past. Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, Orphan Train is a powerful tale of upheaval and resilience, second chances, and unexpected friendship.

Christina Baker Kline is the author of five novels, including the #1 *New York Times* bestselling “Orphan Train”, “Bird in Hand,” “The Way Life Should Be,” “Desire Lines” and “Sweet Water.” Kline was born and raised in Cambridge, England, and in the American South and Maine. She is a graduate of Yale, Cambridge, and the University of Virginia. She taught fiction and nonfiction writing, poetry, English literature, literary theory, and women’s studies at Yale, NYU, and Drew University, and served as Writer-in-Residence at Fordham University for four years. She supports a number of libraries and other associations in New Jersey and Maine. Kline now lives in Montclair, New Jersey, with her husband, David Kline, and three sons.

The Library has also selected related books for children so that patrons of all ages can be part of the Community Read. “Train to Somewhere” by Eve Bunting is designated for discussion with elementary-aged children and “A Family Apart” by Joan Lowery Nixon is available for middle school-aged children. All books are available for check out for 14 day circulation now at the Check-Out Desk. Books may be ordered for purchase at Paper and Ink.

As part of the Community Read, the library is to host a series of special programs pertaining to the book.

There will be a Tween Book Discussion on “A Family Apart” and movie “Home at Last” on Saturday, February 13 at 10 am to noon.

On Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 pm, T-SPL’s cooking club, “Tales from the ‘Fridge,” will feature Depression-era cooking.

“The Orphan Trains,” an episode in the PBS American Experience series will be presented on Sunday, February 28 at 1:30 pm. It recounts how the Children’s Aid Society and other charities sent over 150,000 orphans on trains to 47 states to live with new families.

Seneca County Museum Director, Tonia Hoffert, will present “A History of the Junior Home” on Thursday, March 3 at 6:30 pm. Hoffert will tell the history and share photographs and artifacts.

On Sunday, March 6 at 1:30 pm, T-SPL will feature the film “Orphan Train,” about a social worker and a photographer who accompany a group of orphans from New York City on a orphan train to new homes out West.

Sister Pat Froning from the St. Francis Convent will host a discussion on the St. Francis Orphan’s Asylum on Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm. Froning will discuss the origins and history of the orphanage that later became St. Francis Home and Sisters of St. Francis.

On Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 pm, there will be a panel discussion about adoption and foster care, hosted by local organizations. Featured will be Michelle Miller, Recruitment Coordinator from SAFY (Specialized Alternatives for Family and Youth);

Tracie Cress, Executive Director at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates); Barbara Flood, Executive Director at Patchworks House; and Crystal Smith, Foster Care Licensing Specialist at Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services.

The Community Read is made possible through a grant from the White Family Charitable Fund, of the Tiffin Charitable Foundation and generous local donors.

All events at the library are free and open to the public. No registration is necessary, unless otherwise stated. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the T-SPL and Beeghly Library.

For more information, please call the library at (419) 447-3751.