

Get reading — The Big Read kicks off next week

NORTHEAST OREGON — Wallowa and Union counties are joining together in The Big Read, a nation-wide event in which everyone reads the same book between Feb. 19 and March 19.

The National Endowment for the Arts Big Read “broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.”

This year’s selection is “When the Emperor was Divine” by Julie Otsuka. The story follows one Japanese family uprooted from its Berkeley, California, home after the start of World War II. The family is taken to a racetrack in Utah then forcibly relocated to an internment camp. They spend two harrowing years there before returning to a home far less welcoming than it was before the war.

Events are planned for readers in Union and Wallowa counties. Organized by Fishtrap and Art Center East, most events are free and all are open to the public.

The Big Read kickoff is “A Day of Remembrance” with Chisao Hata at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Enterprise Christian Church.

Community book discussions are set for 4-6 p.m. Feb. 22 and Feb. 29 at JaxDog Cafe and Books in La Grande. Additional discussions will be held March 7 and 14.

On Feb. 23, there will be a Japanese Tea Ceremony with Kiyomi Oliver at 2 p.m. at the Joseph Center in Joseph.

An OPB documentary about Oregon’s Japanese Americans will be screened at 6 p.m. Feb. 25 at Fishtrap.

On Feb. 29, a haiku poetry workshop with Whitney Chandler will be held 9-10:30 a.m. at Fishtrap. This is free, although registration is required at www.fishtrap.org.

On March 3 at noon, the Brown Bag lunch at the Joseph Center will address “How do we deal with difference?”

A Wallowa County book discussion will happen at 10:30 a.m. March 4 at The Blythe Cricket in Joseph.

A “Big Read Youth Day” is set for 2-4 p.m. March 7 at Art Center East in La Grande. This free event will include activities for K-12 readers inspired by the companion titles “So Far From the Sea,” “Write to Me” and “Paper Wishes,” featured in La Grande school library curriculum during the Big Read. Youth will create art inspired by the books’ illustrations, see names written in Japanese characters and make onigiri, a popular Japanese snack food. This event is sponsored by Mountain Valleys Reading Council.

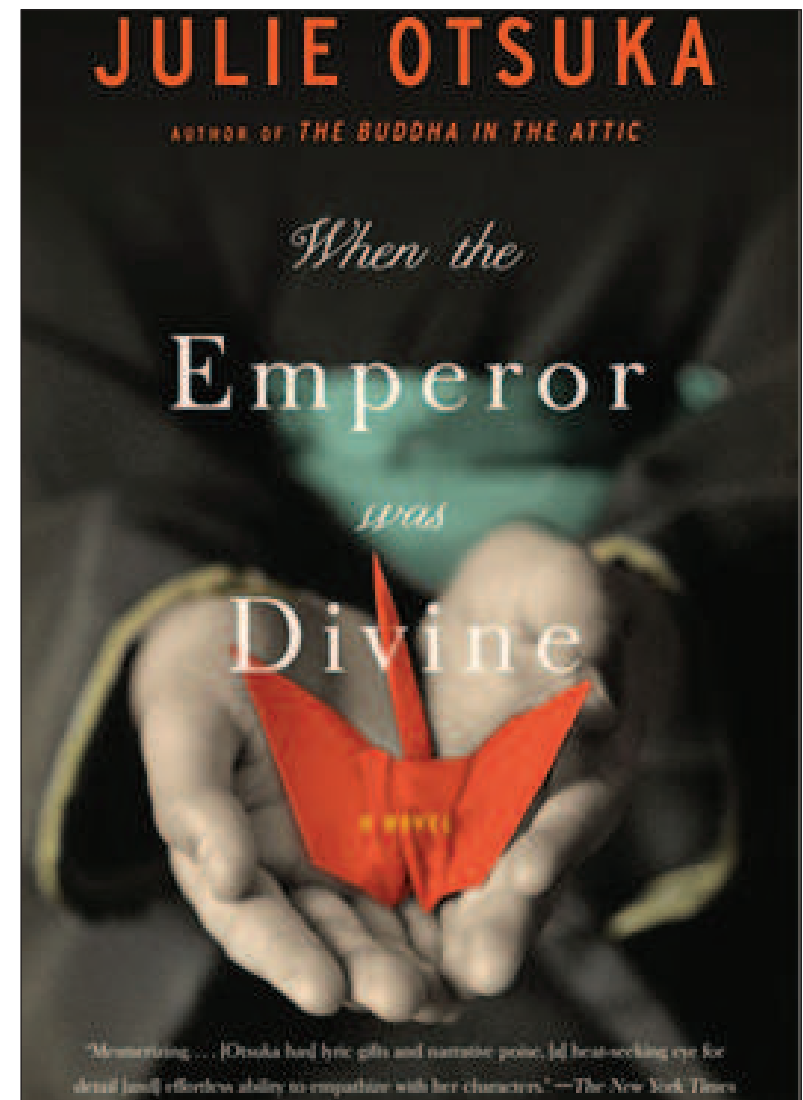
On March 10, a second discussion centered on “How do we deal with difference?” will be held at the Wallowa City Hall at 7 p.m. with David Bruce.

The next day, March 11, brings a book discussion at Fishtrap at 10:30 a.m.

On March 15, a “tea in the gallery” event will feature a tasting of Japanese teas at Art Center East in La Grande. Participants will also learn about the Japanese tea tradition. Space is limited. This is a paid event, and registration may be completed at www.artcentereast.org. Cost is \$20 members or \$25 nonmembers. The teaching artist is Sarah West, owner of Teahouse, a small business in La Grande that specializes in premium teas.

Art Center East will offer a workshop on “Snow Dye Shibori & Sake” 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 20. Participants will create unique scarves using shibori, a traditional Japanese dye technique using indigo to create blue and white patterns on silk. Space is limited. This is a paid event, and registration may be completed at www.artcentereast.org. Cost is \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers.

Final events for the Big Read



include a performance by Portland Taiko, a Japanese drum performance group, on March 19 at the OK Theatre in Enterprise. Cost is \$15, free for ages 18 and younger. The group will give an evening

performance, a school assembly and teach a drum workshop. The workshop costs \$15 and is limited to 12 participants.

Go to www.fishtrap.org or www.artcentereast.org for more details.

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Eastern Oregon University's SAGE, Mountain Queers, SHAG presents...

The Vagina Monologues

by Eve Ensler

Featuring an ensemble cast of students and community members.

Directed by Beckie Juarez.

February 28th @ 7 PM
EOU Hoke Union Building RM 339

February 29th @ *7PM
HQ 112 Depot St. *Doors open at 6:15PM

Admissions
\$6 for Students
\$12 General Admission
*Cash or check only
at the door.



Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments,
and dessert will be provided.

Purchase tickets at EOU Bookstore, EOU Box Office, or at the door.

All proceeds will be donated to shelter from the storm. Disclaimer: This show contains mature themes and language.

