



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: Oakland Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2014

War Comes Home to Oakland – Oakland Public Library Leading Readings and Discussions about the Veteran Experience

Oakland, CA – How do we come together to talk about things that matter to us all? California Reads is an initiative that invites all Californians to share in reading and discussion programs across the state. This year's theme is the veteran experience, with the goal of promoting greater understanding of our veterans and explore the impact of war on our communities. Oakland Public Library is one of 43 libraries selected throughout California to participate in the California Reads program, and will promote a statewide read of Karl Marlantes' book *What It Is Like to Go to War* and to participate in a number of programs during the months of October and November. More details are available here: www.oaklandlibrary.org/warcomeshome.

Our first programs, both at the Main Library, 125 14th Street, are two Theater of the Oppressed workshops: (1) for teens on Saturday, October 4 at 10 AM; and (2) for adults on Saturday, October 18 from 1 to 4 PM. Led by Jiwon Chung, professional actor and director, professor at Starr King School/GTU, and a key theorist of Theater of the Oppressed, these workshops will use art and theater as method for engaging with the issue of war, while developing creativity, insight, and critical intelligence in dealing with this crucial issue.

We are also hosting a recording and informational session, "Tell Your Homecoming Story: For African American Veterans" with Unsung Heroes, on Friday, October 10 from 3 to 5 PM at the Main Library.

To promote the selected book, *What It Is Like to Go to War* by Karl Marlantes, we will host a community discussion with select text from the book at the Main Library on Saturday, November 15, from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. You don't have to read the entire book to participate in this discussion.

We also have an essay contest planned for teens and adults on the theme of "War in Your Life". The grand prize for each age group is a iPad Mini. You can download the guidelines and judging criteria from our website. We've set up a Writing Workshop on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, at the Main Library's Bradley Walters Community Room, to help you get started, or to get some feedback on your draft.

On Saturday, November 1, from 2 to 4 PM at the Chavez Branch, 3301 East 12th Street, you'll have the opportunity to hear from three veterans on their homecoming experiences. Moderated by a veteran, various experiences and viewpoints will be represented.

We'll also hear readings by Maxine Hong Kingston and veterans from their

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anthology, *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace*, on Saturday, November 22, from 12 to 3:30 PM.

We end our programming with a film screening at the New Parkway Theater, 474 24th Street, on Sunday, November 30, at 12:30 PM. (Film title to be announced soon.) The essay contest winners will also be announced at this event.

Formal program partners include the Veterans for Peace East Bay and the Unsung Heroes Oral History Project.

California Reads is a program of Cal Humanities in partnership with the California Center for the Book. It is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of Cal Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For additional information, please contact Mana Tominaga, Supervising Librarian at the Main Library, at 510-238-6611 or mtominaga@oaklandlibrary.org.