



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Main Campus

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY' MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT SET FOR MARCH 27

MONROE, Mich. – Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, author of “One Amazing Thing,” the book selection for this year’s One Book, One Community of Monroe County, will host a “meet the author” session on March 27 at 7 p.m. at Monroe County Community College.

The event will be held in the La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater on MCCC’s Main Campus, which is located at 1555 S. Raisinville Rd.

“One Amazing Thing” tells the story of nine people struggling to survive together after being trapped by an earthquake. Faced with the very real possibility of death, one of them suggests that they share “One Amazing Thing” about their lives. The book brings together people from all walks of life to tell a story about the power of human expression.

Divakaruni will elaborate on the themes that inspired “One Amazing Thing.” She will also share excerpts from her newest novel, “Oleander Girl.” A book signing will follow the presentation, and limited number of Divakaruni’s books will be available for purchase.

Modeled after a program developed by the American Library Association, One Book, One Community promotes the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links community

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members in a common conversation through readings, group discussions, programs and other events.

Divakaruni is an award-winning author, poet and teacher of writing. Her work has been published in more than 50 magazines, including the Atlantic Monthly and The New Yorker. Her books have been translated into 29 languages, including Dutch, Hebrew and Japanese.

Born in Kolkata, India, Divakaruni came to the U.S. for her graduate studies, receiving a master's degree in English from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley.

Divakaruni teaches in the nationally ranked creative writing program at the University of Houston. She serves on the advisory board of Maitri in the San Francisco Bay Area and Daya in Houston – two organizations that help South Asian or South Asian American women who find themselves in abusive or domestic violence situations. She served on the board of Pratham, an organization that helps educate underprivileged children in India, and is currently on its emeritus board.

Two of her books, “The Mistress of Spices” and “Sister of My Heart,” have been made into movies.

Divakaruni lives in Houston with her husband Murthy, her two sons, Anand and Abhay (whose names she has used in her children's novels) and Juno, the family dog.

“One Amazing Thing” is available locally at any Monroe County Library System branch location in print, audio and e-book formats. It is available for purchase at Book Nook, Books-A-Million and the MCCC Bookstore.

Founding partners of One Book, One Community of Monroe County include Monroe County Community College, The Foundation at Monroe County Community College, Monroe County Library

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System and Monroe Publishing Company - Monroe Evening News.

Major sponsors for One Book, One Community 2013 are Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, Education Plus Credit Union, Books-A-Million, Eastern Michigan University and Siena Heights University.

Supporters include The Agora, The Book Nook, Dr. Dave and Judy Nixon, Dr. and Mrs. Mark Naber, Diversity Committee of Monroe County Community College, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Michigan Humanities Council, Monroe County Community College Student Government and Monroe County Historical Museum.

Educational partners include Airport High School, Meadow Montessori School, Monroe High School, Monroe County Middle College and St. Mary Catholic Central High School.

For more information on One Book One Community, visit www.monroecc.edu/onebook.

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