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IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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2017 Yakima Valley Reads: “Hidden Figures”

Yakima Valley Reads, the annual community read event hosted by Yakima Valley Libraries is in full swing! This year’s selected title is “Hidden Figures,” by Margot Lee Shetterly, which is a New York Times bestseller, and also the basis for an Academy Award-nominated film.

Described as “the phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America’s greatest achievements in space.”

Thanks to the generous support of the Yakima Valley Libraries Foundation, free copies of the book are being distributed in all 17 of YVL’s community libraries; in addition, the e-book is available for download from the Library’s digital Overdrive collection--and until October 31st, there’s no wait-list for the e-book!

Throughout the month of October and early November, several community libraries are hosting events and activities that tie in with the book. Programming will conclude Wed., November 1, with a keynote address by Nathalia Holt, Ph.D., best-selling author of “Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon, to Mars.”

Other scheduled events include:

TRIVIA NIGHTS

Fun, general science/NASA trivia, as well as 1960s pop culture, and other topics; not specific to the book.

Yakima Central Library

102 N. Third St, Yakima, WA 98901
Tues., October 10th @ 5:30pm

Sunnyside Community Library

621 Grant Ave, Sunnyside, WA 98944
Mon., October 23rd @ 6pm

West Valley Community Library

223 S. 72nd Ave, Yakima, WA 98908
Thurs., October 26th @ 6:30pm

Selah Community Library
106 S. 2nd St., Selah, WA 98942
Mon., October 30th @ 5:30pm

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Sunnyside Community Library
621 Grant Ave, Sunnyside, WA 98944
Sun., October 15th @ 2pm

Naches Community Library
303 Naches Ave, Naches, WA 98937
Tues., October 24th @ 5:30pm

West Valley Community Library
223 S. 72nd Ave, Yakima, WA 98908
Wed., October 25th @ 6:30pm
Sun., October 29th @ 2pm

Selah Community Library
106 S. 2nd St., Selah, WA 98942
Thurs., November 2nd @ 6pm
Fri., November 3rd @ 10am

FILM SCREENINGS

Hidden Figures

Join us to watch the Academy Award-nominated film based on the book! The movie tells the little-known story of a team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe, Kirsten Dunst, and Kevin Costner.

West Valley Community Library
223 S. 72nd Ave, Yakima, WA 98908
Tues., October 17th @ 6pm

Yakima Central Library
102 N. Third St, Yakima, WA 98901
Sat., October 21st @ 3pm

Sunnyside Community Library
621 Grant Ave, Sunnyside, WA 98944
Sat., October 28th @ 3pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nathalia Holt, Ph.D.
Wed., November 1st @ 6:30pm
Yakima Central Library
102 N. Third St, Yakima, WA 98901

Event includes time for Q&A, and book signing.
Inklings Bookshop will be on-hand to sell books.

The 2017 Yakima Valley Reads keynote speaker is best-selling author Nathalia Holt, Ph. D. Ms. Holt is a science writer and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us from Missiles to the Moon to Mars*. In her presentation, “Rocket Girls: The Unsung Heroes of NASA,” Ms. Holt will discuss the fact that women have long been left out of history books, and will highlight how an elite group of young women broke the boundaries of both gender and science at NASA in the mid-twentieth century.

For decades, the story of how these women transformed rocket design and made space exploration possible—with little more than paper, pencil, and mathematical prowess at their disposal—has remained little known and rarely told; as such, her book, and presentation are a perfect tie-in with the topics and history detailed in “Hidden Figures.”

Her talk will include time for audience questions, and a book signing, with books available for purchase on-site from Inklings Bookshop.

We’re very excited to get to host Ms. Holt; her work has appeared in numerous publications including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Atlantic, Slate, Popular Science, and Time. She has trained at the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard University, the University of Southern California, and Tulane University.

For more information about the Yakima Valley Reads program, visit www.yvl.org/valleyreads, call (509) 452-8541, or contact your local community library.

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