

JULIE OTSUKA



Julie Otsuka was born and raised in California. She is a graduate of Yale University and received her M.F.A. from Columbia. She lives in New York City. Otsuka is one of the winners of the Sixth Annual Asian American Literary Awards and was honored at the Asia Society on December 8, 2003.



"I wanted to write a novel about real people... their experience is universal not only for Japanese Americans, but for people of any ethnic group. All throughout history people have been rounded up and sent away into exile. The predicament of the family in my novel—ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances beyond their control—is a very human one."

—Julie Otsuka

Acknowledgements:

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Josh Wilber

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The *Ipswich Reads...One Book!* is funded by the Board of Trustees of the Ipswich Public Library .

Credits:

Ansel Adams's Photographs of Japanese-American Internment at Manzanar

Brochure Cover: Joyce Yuki Nakamura, bust portrait, facing front

Background Photo/2nd page: Farm, farm workers, Mt. Williamson in background

Source: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/anseladams/aamp.html>

Julie Otsuka Photo © Daryl N Long

Source: <http://my.champlain.edu/public/community.book.program>

Author's Biography & Quote

Source: <http://www.asiasource.org/arts/julieotsuka.cfm>

Praises For the Book

Source: [http://www.randomhouse.com/anchor/catalog/display.pperl?](http://www.randomhouse.com/anchor/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780385721813)

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Otsuka, Julie. *When the Emperor Was Divine*. NY: Anchor Books, 2002. Cover design by John Gall

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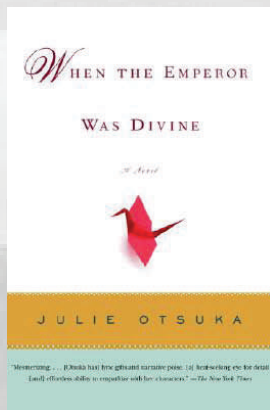
Ipswich Reads...One Book!

When the Emperor

was Divine



This is the fourth year of our town-wide reading program. Come join us in discussing this contemporary novel and learn about the internment of over 100,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II.



ABOUT THE BOOK...

“Spare, incisive. . . . The mood of the novel tensely reflects the protagonists’ emotional state: calm surfaces above, turmoil just beneath.” —*Boston Globe*

“Heartbreaking, bracingly unsentimental. . . . raises the specter of wartime injustice in bone-chilling fashion. . . . The novel’s honesty and matter-of-fact tone in the face of inconceivable injustice are the source of its power. . . . Dazzling.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Exceptional. . . . Otsuka skillfully dramatizes a world suddenly foreign. . . . [Her] incantatory, unsentimental prose is the book’s greatest strength.”

—*The New Yorker*

AWARDS

Booklist Editor’s Choice for Young Adults
New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age
ALA Alex Award

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events are free and will take place in the Collins Meeting Room

- April 3 Showing of *Rabbit in the Moon* (85 minutes). A documentary/memoir about the World War II Japanese internment camps, 4 PM
- 8 Showing of *Time of Fear* (60 minutes). This documentary is the story of 16,000 Japanese-Americans sent to two relocation camps in Arkansas, 7 PM
- 10 Discussion of *When the Emperor Was Divine* with discussion leader Martha Mauser, 7 PM
- 17 Discussion of *Journey to Topaz* by Yoshiko Uchida, ‘Book Buddies’ 3rd Grade reading group, 2:15 PM

Internment in Our Time: A Legal Perspective with Attorney Harvey Schwartz and law school graduate Mr. Carl Takei, 7 PM

- 18 Discussion of *When the Emperor Was Divine* with discussion leader Martha Mauser, 2 PM
- 23 *School and Culture in Japan*. A children’s program by Josh Wilber of the Consulate of Japan in Boston, 10:30 AM
Registration required.
- Nisei Americans Who Fought in WWII*. A talk by Mr. Susumu Ito, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 7 PM
- 25 *Women in Camps: A Panel Discussion* with Erica Harth, author of *Last Witness*, May Takayanagi, a camp prisoner as a young woman; and Margie Yamamoto, whose parents were camp prisoners, 2 PM

RELATED EVENTS

- 7 Ipswich Historical Society book discussion, 12 PM
- 11 Oak Hill Apartments book discussion
- 14 Ipswich High School Book Club book discussion
The Book Group book discussion
- 15 Cape Ann Literary Society book discussion
- 16 Sisters of Notre Dame book discussion
- 22 Ipswich Council on Aging book discussion
- 30 Ipswich Public Library Volunteers Breakfast & book discussion
East End Bookies book discussion