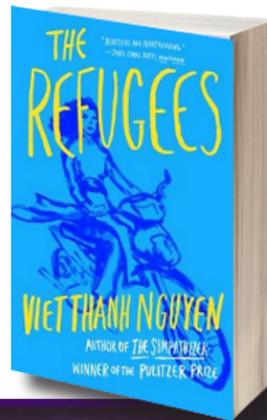


The Refugees

Viet Thanh Nguyen

In his first short story collection, writer Viet Thanh Nguyen, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2016 for his novel *The Sympathizer*, takes a look at how it feels and what it means to be a refugee. The characters in his stories are mainly Vietnamese citizens and their families, forced out of their country at the end of the Vietnam War, trying to make a home in a strange new land.

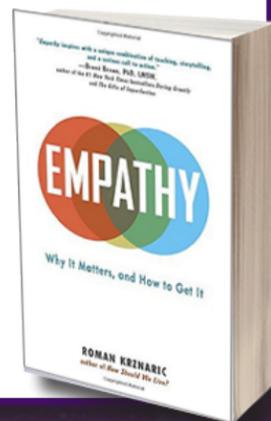


It's a beautiful collection that deftly illustrates the experiences of the kinds of people our country has, until recently, welcomed with open arms.

Empathy

Why it matters and how to get it
Roman Krznaric

Empathy, writes the author, is "an ideal that has the power both to transform our own lives and to bring about fundamental social change. Empathy can create...a revolution of human relationships." Using scientific research and his own observations, Krznaric identifies six effective approaches that enable a person to increase his or her empathy which moves beyond being sympathetic or compassionate and into the deeper realm of truly feeling what another person experiences.



Krznaric gives straightforward, helpful tips on how to develop this ability into a daily habit. Once established as routine, one expands outward to work this new pattern into other relationships.

Summary

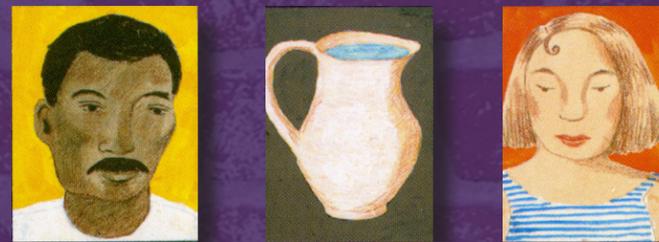
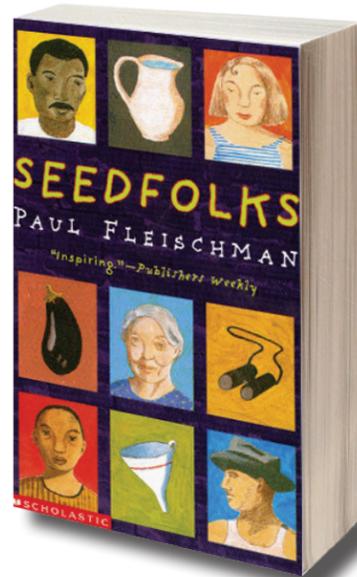
Get ready for a veggie-filled journey across one single year. Yep, this book takes place within one year, and it all starts on a cold April day in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kim, this little Vietnamese girl, plants some lima beans in a vacant lot on Gibb Street. And these beans have a ripple effect like you wouldn't believe.

And then things get interesting. The weather starts to warm up and we meet more folks who come out to garden. It looks like we've got quite the friendly community garden on our hands. While all these good things are happening in the garden, we have a couple bumps in the road as well. Things get a bit dicey when people put up fences between their own patches of land. Plus, some of our gardeners are having a tough time with their plants.

Over time, the good stuff starts outweighing the bad. In fact, everyone starts to become friends. When winter comes, it wipes out the garden and everyone has to abandon their plants for a while. But don't worry: when it's April again, we see Kim back out with her lima beans. We're crossing our fingers that she'll start the community garden up again...and again... and again... and again.

Special thanks to the
Three Rivers
Education Foundation



SEEDFOLKS

PAUL FLEISCHMAN



On Common Ground



On Common Ground SEEDFOLKS

SEEDFOLKS has been staged, used with English-language learners, and chosen for a "one book" community read program for over 22 communities, two counties and one state.

In *Seedfolks*, Newbery Medalist Paul Fleischman creates an urban garden that brings a new sense of hope and community to a bleak Cleveland neighborhood. *Seedfolks* consists of a series of first person vignettes, each told by a different character.

As perspectives, dispositions, and backgrounds shift with the narratives, the reader comes to understand the personal reasons that bring these thirteen very different individuals one by one to a vacant lot to plant and nourish seeds.

Despite prejudices, hesitation, and language differences, the isolated neighbors begin to find ways of overlooking these barriers to develop new relationships with one another. Before long the multiethnic *seedfolks* have developed a sense of pride and fellowship.

The distinct voices of each character show the reader the vast differences and similarities that can exist simultaneously among diverse people, and how these differences can actually help those people form a community as vibrant and rich as the garden they have created.

"The size of this slim volume belies the profound message of hope it contains."

--Christian Science Monitor

On Common Ground:
Seedfolks
Speaker Series



Paul Fleischman

Monday April 24, 6:30 pm
On Common Ground: Seedfolks
Meet the Author

Paul grew up in Santa Monica, California, hearing his father, Sid Fleischman, read his books aloud chapter by chapter, as they were written. Both he and his dad have won the Newbery Medal. His father won for *The Whipping Boy* in 1987, and Paul won for *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* in 1989. Words have always been in Paul's world. He grew up setting type for the family's hand printing press. After graduating from the University of New Mexico, he worked as a bookstore clerk, library shelver, and proofreader. Paul has two "sterling sons and a book-devouring stepdaughter," all grown. After sojourns in Vermont, Nebraska, New Mexico, France, North Carolina, and Maine, he's back in California.

"Community gardens are places where people rediscover not only generosity, but the pleasure of coming together."
--Paul Fleischman

Immigrant Stories from our Neighborhood

Monday, April 3, 6:30 pm

In our neighborhoods, everyone has a story. Some of us were born in the US and some of us immigrated to the US at a very young age or recently. The challenges we face today are not new. Only the stories are, and they help us to find common ground.

Meet our Panelists

Alka Kavshik hails from India, where she was a dentist by trade. Alka was the first girl from her village to go to school. Her goal is to be able to work in her chosen profession in the United States.

Josephine (Josey) Foo was born in Malaysia. An immigrant and at one time an undocumented alien, this Ivy League attorney is also a carpenter, artist and poet. She is Executive Director of Navajo United Methodist Center, New Beginnings Program.

Luwil Aligarbes was born in Iloilo City, Philippines. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and works for the City of Farmington as Senior Distribution Engineer. He and his wife have two children, both college students.

Olena Erikson and her two children came from one of the former Soviet Union Republic countries – Ukraine. Olena holds a master's degree in finance from a major Ukraine University, and works for the City of Farmington.

Lourdes Valencia came to the United States in 1988 with her husband, Jesus, "crossing the river," a euphemism for illegal entry, when she was six months pregnant. Lourdes passed her citizenship exam through Project Read's English as a Second Language program in 2000, and works for ENLACE, ENGaging LATino Communities for Education Welcome.



Mark Lautman



Mark Lautman is a founding director of the Community Economics Lab, a think tank that innovates economic development approaches, to work in a labor and capital constrained economy. Mark wrote a monthly column for the New Mexico Business Weekly, and is the author of a new book, *When the Boomers Bail*.

Thursday, April 6, 6:30 pm
The Future of Work and Community

How we work is changing almost on a daily basis. How do you determine a career path in this environment? Will your community weather the storm? How well does your community face adversity or plan for the future? It's all connected. Whether you are trying to figure out your life's work or trying to reinvent yourself, what we do is directly connected to who we are, and the community we live in.

Phillip Crump



A proud New Mexican and a professional mediator, Philip is known throughout the state for his skill, integrity, empathy and calm professionalism. Philip teaches from his own varied life experiences and presents ways to approach diverse perspectives and issues, in a balanced manner.

Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 pm
Honoring our Community Garden

What about *Seedfolks*? What lessons can we learn, as a community, about diversity? What do we want our community to be known for?

Thursday, April 13, 10:00 am
**Flourishing through Change
Free Non-Profit Agency Workshop**

Learn how to survive during unpredictable times. Registration is open to local nonprofit organizations and their board members. Register at www.infoway.org

Ryan Schwochert

Ryan has been a Helena's Community Gardens board member since 2012, and has managed Bausch Community Garden since 2011, working with both new and experienced gardeners. Ryan was previously involved with the Garden City Harvest in Missoula.

Thursday April 20, 6:30 pm
Preserving Lands for Community Gardens

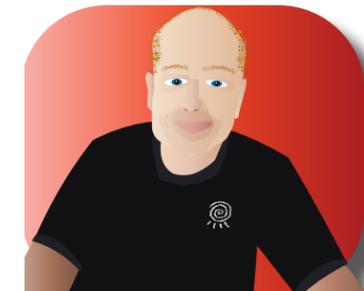
Hear about the lessons learned by the Helena Community Gardens: maintaining, managing and growing community garden space in Helena, Montana



Friday, April 21, 10:00 am
**Garden Activism
Free Workshop**

Learn how to grow and improve garden space in your community, as Ryan shares best practices for engaging your community to support public garden space: who they serve, how they can work, volunteer recruitment and beyond. Register at www.infoway.org

Keith McPheeters



Keith has lived in Farmington for the last 25 years, where he recently retired as the Deputy Chief of Police of the FPD. His investigative skills and police background have served him well in discovering hidden

clues and evidence in his passion for genealogy and family history. The stories he has discovered from his ancestors' lives form a rich tapestry of pioneering spirit, military service, hardship, tragedy, and success, all of which motivates and inspires him.

Thursday, April 27, 6:30 pm
**Strengthening Your Roots:
Discovering Your Family Tree**

Whether you are a beginner or the family historian, today's technologies make it easier than ever to research the family tree. More than birthdates and photos, it's the stories that put our ancestors' lives in context; the decisions, the trials and opportunities, the choices - all that and more.