

2025
WAUKESHA
Reads



THE
SEED
KEEPER

BY DIANE WILSON

WAUKESHAREADS.ORG

FREE COPIES of the book are available at **Waukesha Public Library**, and will be available at the **September 13 Farmers' Market**, while supplies last. All events are free, open to the public, and do not require registration unless otherwise indicated.

KEYNOTE EVENT

Seeds and Stories: A Night with Diane Wilson

October 23 @ 6:30 PM · Waukesha Civic Theatre

Spend the evening with acclaimed author Diane Wilson! Listen as she explores the cultural and historical importance of Indigenous oral storytelling traditions, her work with Native organizations in restoring seeds, and explains why our stories are seeds for the future. A Q&A and book signing will follow. Copies of Wilson's books and refreshments will be available for purchase. **Pick up your free tickets at the Civic Theatre box office, at waukeshacivictheatre.org, or at the door.**

Diane Wilson is a Dakota writer, educator, and environmental advocate who has published four award-winning books and is the author of this year's Waukesha Reads title.



EVENTS



Indigenous Tea Tasting with Tootsie's Tea October 1 @ 6:00 PM · Waukesha Public Library

Lizz Tsosie, founder of Tootsie's Tea, will teach us about the art of tea-making and the many benefits of drinking it. Participants will have the opportunity to sip a custom blend while learning about indigenous ingredients and the rich traditions around making tea. Register on WaukeshaReads.org.

Sketchbook Club

**October 1 @ 6:00 PM
Waukesha Public Library**

Be inspired by nature to draw a still life! Plants and flowers will be provided. A variety of drawing tools will be available. Ages 18+

The Seeds We Sow: Waukesha's Agricultural History

October 2 @ 6:30 PM · Waukesha Public Library

Dr. Thomas Schlei will take us on a journey through Waukesha County's rich agricultural and dairy farming history. From early settlers to today's modern farms, learn about the critical industries that developed Waukesha into the county we recognize today. Dr. Schlei is a Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum Board Member who worked extensively on the Museum's Agricultural Legacies of Waukesha exhibit.

Sky Tellers: The Myths, the Magic, and the Mysteries of the Universe

October 4 @ 12:00 PM

Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium

Ten Native American myths and legends investigate the reason for day and night, why we have seasons, the origin of the stars, and other wondrous phenomena of our night sky. Each narrative is accompanied by the story that scientists tell today. This is a storytelling planetarium show with few graphics.



Movie Matinee: *Bad River* October 6 @ 10:00 AM · Waukesha Public Library

In this profoundly moving documentary, tribal members of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa take on protecting Lake Superior, our largest freshwater resource, as it faces the threat of a 70-year-old pipeline on the brink of rupture. Popcorn will be served. The film is 87 minutes.

A Conversation with Dan Egan and Dr. Todd Levine

October 7 @ 6:30 PM

Carroll University Campus Center, Stackner Ballroom

Join acclaimed author and environmental journalist Dan Egan in conversation with Carroll University Associate Professor Dr. Todd Levine as they discuss the health of our fresh water. Dan is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and the author of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* and *The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World out of Balance*. Dr. Levine is the Director of Greene Field Station & Prairie Springs Environmental Education Center. Copies of Dan's books will be available for purchase after the event.



EVENTS

A Brief History of the First Nations of Wisconsin with Aaron Bird Bear **October 8 · 10:30 AM–12:00 PM · Waukesha Public Library**

Aaron Bird Bear (Mandan, Hidatsa and Diné) will join us to explore the rich history of the First Nations of Wisconsin. He will provide an overview of the Native Nations of Wisconsin and examine the profound and lasting impact of Boarding Schools on Indigenous peoples and communities - along with other US Assimilation and Termination policies that criminalized and attempted to eradicate Indigenous languages and cultures in the USA from 1870-1978.



Bus Trip: Farm WI Discovery Center – Manitowoc, WI **October 9, 7:30 AM–3:30 PM** **Registration deadline is Sept. 24.** **Cost \$89, Ages 55+**



Learn about today's agriculture, food processing, and sustainable farming methods. This self-guided tour through the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center will connect us to the book and the land, farm technologies, water, and, of course, seeds. Afterward, enjoy lunch at Cool City Brewing Company. A copy of *The Seed Keeper* and a book discussion are included. Contact Waukesha's Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department for more details and to register: 262-524-3737.

Corn Husk Flower Workshop **October 13, 6:00–8:00 PM** **Waukesha Public Library**

Becky Webster, Executive Director of Ukwakhwa, will teach us how to craft a flower from corn husks. More than just a beautiful piece of artwork, the corn husk flower serves an important purpose by marking the tops of braided corn set aside for saving seeds. Register on WaukeshaReads.org. Ages 18 +

Sprouting Seeds at Ukwakhwa **October 14 @ 6:30 PM** **Waukesha Public Library**

Becky Webster, Executive Director of Ukwakhwa, will share the journey of reclaiming Haudenosaunee agricultural traditions on the Oneida Reservation. From the 2017 land purchase to building USDA-supported infrastructure and restoring native habitats, this presentation highlights Ukwakhwa's evolution into a thriving nonprofit community farm—highlighting how planting traditional seeds is an act of resistance, an assertion of sovereignty, and a reclamation of identity.

UKWAKHWA



(Our Foods)

First Nations Cultural Landscape Walking Tours **October 11, 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM** **Cutler Park**

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and Ho-Chunk Nation member Casey Brown will discuss historic and contemporary relationships with First Nations of Wisconsin. The tour through Cutler Park will explore the history of the burial mounds, believed to be part of one of the earliest mound preservation efforts in the state. Tours will last one hour and will be held outside in any weather. Meet near the Les Paul Performance Center. Register on WaukeshaReads.org.

Mindful Nature Walk **October 14 @ 10:30 AM** **Frame Park**



Enjoy the autumn splendor of Frame Park on a guided nature walk with the United for Waukesha Resiliency Center. This one-hour walk includes mindfulness exercises inspired by the practice of forest bathing and will take place outdoors, rain or shine. Meet near the Frame Park Rotary Building.

Brown Bag Conversation: A Time for Everything **October 15 @ 12:00 PM** **Frame Park Rotary Building**

Celebrate the 19th Anniversary of Waukesha Reads with the Waukesha Civic Theatre Senior Players. Using wit and wisdom, song and scenes, the Players depict "A Time for Everything" in the seasons of life. Dessert and beverages will be served.

A Day at the Museum **The Seeds We Sow: Agricultural Legacies of Waukesha County**

October 18
10:00 AM–4:00 PM
Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum



Enjoy a free day at the museum and explore the exhibit *The Seeds We Sow: Agricultural Legacies of Waukesha County* to learn how Waukesha County led the way in establishing Wisconsin as America's Dairyland in the 20th century. Free admission all day.



EVENTS

Sips, Songs, and Cinema: Cabaret & *Green and Gold* October 24 @ 6:00 PM · Waukesha Public Library

Join us for a special after-hours event! Enjoy Wisconsin beer, wine, and snacks while enjoying the Waukesha Reads Cabaret. Then, sit back and enjoy the 2025 independent film *Green and Gold* starring Craig T. Nelson. The film will be introduced virtually by filmmakers Davin and Anders Lindwall.

The 2025 Waukesha Reads Cabaret is inspired by *The Seed Keeper* and will be performed by Candace Decker and Phil Smith.

Filmed in Door County, *Green and Gold* tells the story of a struggling dairy farmer who bets everything on the Green Bay Packers in a desperate attempt to save his farm. The film is unrated and 105 minutes.

Library doors lock at 6:00 PM. Nobody will be admitted once the doors are closed. Attendees must be 21 years old and must present an ID upon entry to the event. Register on WaukeshaReads.org.



The Choice of Voice: A Writers' Workshop

October 27, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM
Waukesha Public Library

Join Kathie Giorgio for an interactive writers' workshop exploring the powerful role of voice. Fiction and non-fiction writers are welcome. Kathie is the director and founder of the AllWriters' Workplace & Workshop and an acclaimed author.

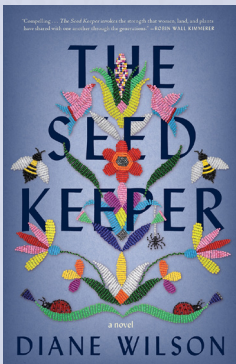
Scholar Panel

October 30 @ 6:30 PM
Waukesha Public Library

Local scholars Marin Denning (American Indian Studies), John Kasperek (History), and Ellyn Lem (English) will examine *The Seed Keeper* through the lenses of their respective academic disciplines.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Join us to discuss *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson. All discussions are open to the public.



OCTOBER 1, 5:45 PM
Martha Merrell's Bookstore

OCTOBER 13, 10:30 AM
Martha Merrell's Bookstore

OCTOBER 15, 6:30 PM
Waukesha Public Library

OCTOBER 20, 6:30 PM
Waukesha Public Library
Led by former Waukesha Mayor & County Board Supervisor Larry Nelson.

OCTOBER 27, 6:30 PM
Retzer Nature Center

Done in collaboration with the Retzer Nature Center Book Club. The discussion will be held in the Retzer Nature Center Community Room.

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IS FINANCIALLY
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Waukesha
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