

## READ 2018

Lifetime Learning is busy planning for the 10<sup>th</sup> Washington County READ on October 18, 2018. The event is even more exciting this year as the members get ready to celebrate 10 years of good reading for the residents of this county and surrounding area. If you don't know about it, join us for a wonderful evening that is free and includes a reception, dramatic reading by the actors at Unity Theatre, and a presentation by the author.

As you enter the summer months and look for books to add to your summer reading list, add the ten books that have been selected but start with the 2018 selection. The title is *The Train to Crystal City* by Jan Jarboe Russell and is an important book that tells the history of the family internment camp in Crystal City, Texas during World War II. From 1942 to 1945, German, Japanese, and Italian immigrants and their American-born children were imprisoned and some were then used for prisoner of war exchanges. The program was secret and not well known and happened right here in Texas and is an important part of the history of this country and state.

The book has been carefully researched by Russell. She interviewed more than fifty living internees from the camp and read numerous journals, diaries, FBI files, camp administration records, and other documents. Along with the information, she gives the reader a look at the effect on the families and highlights a German and Japanese family and their journey through this nightmare that became their life.

As you read this book, you will encounter complex issues that the United States is still debating and trying to grapple with. The book is not about immigration but does cause the reader to think about those issues. The residents of Crystal City were not here illegally, they were just deemed suspect because of the country of their birth. The hysteria that followed Pearl Harbor and the atmosphere of the time was a factor in allowing this to happen during this turbulent period of U.S. history.

After you read this book, you can read the other nine to catch up. *Final Salute* by Jim Sheeler, *Twelve Mighty Orphans* by Jim Dent, *One Ranger, A Memoir* by Joaqui Jackson and David M. Wilkinson, *The Time It Never Rained* by Elmer Kelton, *The Personal History of Rachel Duprey* by Ann Weisgarber, *One Amazing Thing* by Chita Divakaruni, *My Boys and Girls Are In There* by Ron Rozelle, *City of Refuge* by Tom Piazza, and *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles.

Mark October 18, 2018 on your calendar! The event will start at 5:30 pm in the lobby of the Unity Theatre in Brenham. Come prepared for an interesting evening. Please take the time to read this book and learn about this important history lesson.