



Geauga County
Public Library

Press Release

Geauga County Public Library
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Geauga County Public Library to host author Gail Lukasik

Geauga County – January 13, 2020 – Gail Lukasik, whose book *White Like Her: My Family's Story of Race and Racial Passing*, which interweaves memoir and social history, will give a presentation at Newbury Auditorium Mon., Jan. 20, 2 p.m. This event is made possible by the generosity of the Geauga County Library Foundation. Register at www.GeaugaLibrary.net

Lukasik's presentation kicks off the Geauga Civil Rights Series, a collection of programs across the county to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his work with the Civil Rights Movement and to celebrate Black History Month in Geauga County by hosting speakers and programs that initiate community conversations about race, equality, and social freedom.

White Like Her has been optioned for a TV Series by FGW Productions and was named one of The Washington Posts most inspiring stories of 2017.

Of her book, Lukasik has this to say: "*White Like Her* tells the story of my mother's passing, my struggle with the shame of her choice, and my subsequent inner journey of self-discovery and redemption.

In the historical context of the Jim Crow South, I explore my mother's decision to pass, how she hid her secret even from my father, and the price she paid for choosing whiteness.

Haunted by my mother's fear and shame, I embark on a quest to uncover my mother's racial lineage, tracing her family back to eighteenth-century colonial Louisiana.

In coming to terms with my decision to publicly 'out' her, I changed how I look at race, racial identity, and my black heritage."

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About the Geauga County Public Library

The Geauga County Public Library includes four full-service Branches in Bainbridge, Chardon, Chesterland (Gauga West) and Middlefield, two library stations housed in schools in Newbury and Thompson, and a Mobile Services fleet that serves rural areas and community centers. Its administrative center is located in Chardon, where technical services, computer services, facilities and administrative functions reside, along with a full-service public library space with limited hours of service (Monday – Friday only). GCPL houses more than 750,000 books and digital books. The collection also contains nearly 70,000 audio / video items. About 75 research databases are available via its website. GCPL is a member of the Clevnet consortium, giving patrons access to more than 12 million items. Learn more about the Geauga County Public Library at Gaugalibrary.net

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Caption: Gail Lukasik, author of *White Like Her: My Family's Story of Race and Racial Passing*, to give a presentation at Newbury Auditorium on Mon., Jan. 20, 2 p.m.