

Award-winning author to speak at Spring Valley Public Library

Teresa Wilhelm Waldof reveals untold story of the man who saved the Manhattan Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teresa Wilhelm Waldof will be speaking at the Spring Valley Public Library on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. She will share the captivating story of Dr. Harley Wilhelm, the Iowa chemist who saved the Manhattan Project. This event is free and open to the public.

Wilhelm Waldof is the world's leading expert on the Ames Project section of the Manhattan Project, and a recipient of the 2023 Minnesota Book Award, and the Excellence in Iowa History Award. Her recent publication, "Wilhelm's Way," is the first-ever published account of the scientific breakthrough needed to prove a controlled self-sustained nuclear chain reaction was possible.

All ages are welcome to hear Wilhelm Waldof speak on the fascinating history behind the Ames and Manhattan Projects, Dr. Harley Wilhelm's life and scientific contributions, and the founding of the Ames Laboratory.

Prior to his work on the Manhattan Project, Wilhelm, whose education began in a one-room schoolhouse in southern Iowa, was known for his athletic prowess, having served as the captain on the Drake University basketball team and as a pitching ace for the Ames Merchants semi-pro baseball team.

Waldof stated, "'Wilhelm's Way' introduces a man whose pivotal life events led him to be where the nation, and the world, needed him to be — at just the right moment."

Cynthia Kelly, president of the Atomic Heritage Foundation, added, "'Wilhelm's Way' is a delightful and important addition to the annals of the Manhattan Project."

This event is a part of the 2024 Minnesota Author Tour. Organized by SELCO (Southeastern Library Cooperating) and funded through Minnesota's Legacy Amendment Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, this tour brings Minnesota authors to Southeast Minnesota to inspire readers and writers of all ages. For more information on Legacy funding in SELCO libraries, as well as a complete schedule of Legacy-funded events in the region, visit legacy.selco.info

About SELCO:

SELCO, Southeastern Libraries Cooperating, is a regional library system based in Rochester, MN. Covering an 11-county region, its membership is made up of 37 public libraries. For more information visit www.selco.info

About Library Legacy Funding:

Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund is a state fund dedicated to arts, historical, and cultural programs. This fund is one of four "legacy" funds created by the Legacy Amendment, which was approved by voters in 2008.

Contacts: Melissa Vander Plas
Library Director
507-346-2100
mvanderplas@selco.info

Claire Heins
SELCO Legacy Program Librarian
507-288-5513
legacy@selco.info

