

The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens is this year's One Book Choice

Mechanicsburg, PA - **The Life We Bury** by Allen Eskens is the 2022 One Book, One Community: Our Region Reads! selection.

From a narrowed down list, the public was asked to help choose a book that they would like to read and discuss with the community. The public vote took place during October 2021. There were four finalists on this year's voting ballot: **The Life We Bury** by Allen Eskens, **Miracle Creek** by Angie Kim, **The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family** by Bettye Kearsse, and **They Called Us Enemy** by George Takei.

The winning title, **The Life We Bury**, tells the story of Joe Talbert, a student who had avoided doing his college English class assignment until it was almost too late. Interviewing an old person about his life didn't sound all that interesting. Who cared? Joe had enough trouble dealing with his own life and family issues, including an alcoholic, bi-polar mother and an autistic brother. But when he decided to interview a resident of a nearby nursing home, a Vietnam vet convicted of a murder 30 years ago, Joe thought maybe the assignment wouldn't be so boring after all.

Carolyn Blatchley, executive director of the Cumberland County Library System, comments, "Multiple copies of **The Life We Bury** are available from your local public library, as a paperback, e-book, or audiobook. We hope the community will enthusiastically read and discuss the book." Book discussion questions and related materials will be available on the website beginning in January, and libraries will be scheduling book talks and other events related to **The Life We Bury**.

In addition to **The Life We Bury**, Allen Eskens also wrote **The Guise of Another**, **The Heavens May Fall**, **The Deep Dark Descending**, **The Shadows We Hide**, **Nothing More Dangerous**, and **The Stolen Hours**. He is the recipient of the Barry Award, Minnesota Book Award, Rosebud Award (Left Coast Crime), and Silver Falchion Award, and he has been a finalist for the Edgar® Award, Thriller Award, and Anthony Award. His books have been translated into 26 languages.

Eskens has a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota and a law degree from Hamline University. After law school, he studied creative writing in the M.F.A. program at Minnesota State University-Mankato, as well as the Loft Literary Center and the Iowa Summer Writer's Festival. Eskens grew up in the hills of central Missouri. He now lives with his wife, Joely, in Minnesota, where he recently retired after practicing criminal law for 25 years.

This year's OBOC regional campaign represents collaboration among 40 libraries in four counties - Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, and York - and their community partners. Many individual libraries from surrounding counties also participated. Reading campaign organizers encourage residents to read the book during January in preparation to attend free programs and discussions that will be held at public libraries beginning in February.

In addition to books, ebooks, and audiobooks available from local public libraries, **The Life We Bury** will also be available for purchase at area at local booksellers. Program schedules for book discussion groups, an author talk, and other innovative activities may be accessed online at www.oboc.org or www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org/2022_One_Book_One_Community

Cumberland County's public libraries – Amelia Givin in Mt. Holly Springs, Bosler Memorial in Carlisle, Coy Public Library of Shippensburg, East Pennsboro Branch Library in Enola, Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill, John Graham Library in Newville, New Cumberland Public Library, and Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg - lead their communities with educational, cultural, and entertainment programs, as well as authoritative and interesting materials.

For more information and updates about the One Book One Community campaign, go to www.oboc.org.

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