



News Release

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Chinese American Author, Storyteller Cathy Bao Bean To Discuss Diversity Oct. 26

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—Cathy Bao Bean, a Chinese American storyteller and author of *The Chopstick-Fork Principle: A Memoir and a Manual*, will speak at Keuka College Wednesday, Oct. 26.

Bean will participate in “Chat and Chew” at Our Place, Keuka College’s Women’s Center, from 12:30-1:30 p.m., where she will read from her book and sign autographs.

She will deliver a presentation titled “A Setting for Diversity” at 7 p.m. in the Gannett Room of Lightner Library.

Both the afternoon discussion and evening presentation are free and open to the public.

Bean’s book tells about her bicultural family (she is married to a Caucasian artist and they have a son). It also serves as a manual, suggesting how people can benefit from greater awareness of diversity.

“With good humor, I encourage people to revel in the playgrounds and minefields of being *at least* bicultural—by ethnicity, gender, generation, etcetera,” said Bean. “In doing so, I shatter stereotypes, but explain the generalizations through personal stories about ordinary events which raise extraordinary cultural questions.

“The politically correct may have thrown out the ‘melting pot,’ and replaced it with ‘tossed salad and dressing’ or ‘smorgasbord,’” said Bean, “but in their recommendations for society’s diet, the menus never explain how we individual ingredients are to be grown and prepared.”

Bean has delivered keynote addresses at The Diversity Leadership Forum Annual Conference (Miami, Fla.), George Mason University’s (Fairfax, Va.) Vision Awards Banquet, Ramapo College’s (Mahwah, N.J.) Asian Pacific American Celebration, and St. Lawrence University’s (Canton, N.Y.) Visiting Writer Series.

She has given readings and held workshops at more than two-dozen colleges and universities, and dozens of bookstores, libraries, and book clubs nationwide. Bean has been interviewed on *CNN* and *WYPL* radio, as well as *NBC*, *ABC*, and *Fox* television affiliates. Her advice column, “Ask Cathy,” runs in *Asiance*, a magazine for Asian-American women.



(more)

DISCUSSION ON DIVERSITY 2

Barry Qualls, dean of humanities at Rutgers University, wrote to Bean: “You were fabulous—to hear someone actually talk about the use of stereotypes, about the ways we live, about *real* multiculturalism.”

“I have never seen an audience so transfixed,” said Deborah Rood Goldman, programming manager for Randolph (N.J.) Township Free Public Library. “Cathy was the most riveting, intelligent, hilarious, professional author we have hosted. It’s obvious that she loves what she does. The response of the crowd was true exhilaration, and they swarmed up to her afterward.”

Bean’s visit is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs in collaboration with the Women’s Center.

For more information on the discussion hour or presentation, contact Montrose A. Streeter, assistant dean of students, at (315) 279-5655.