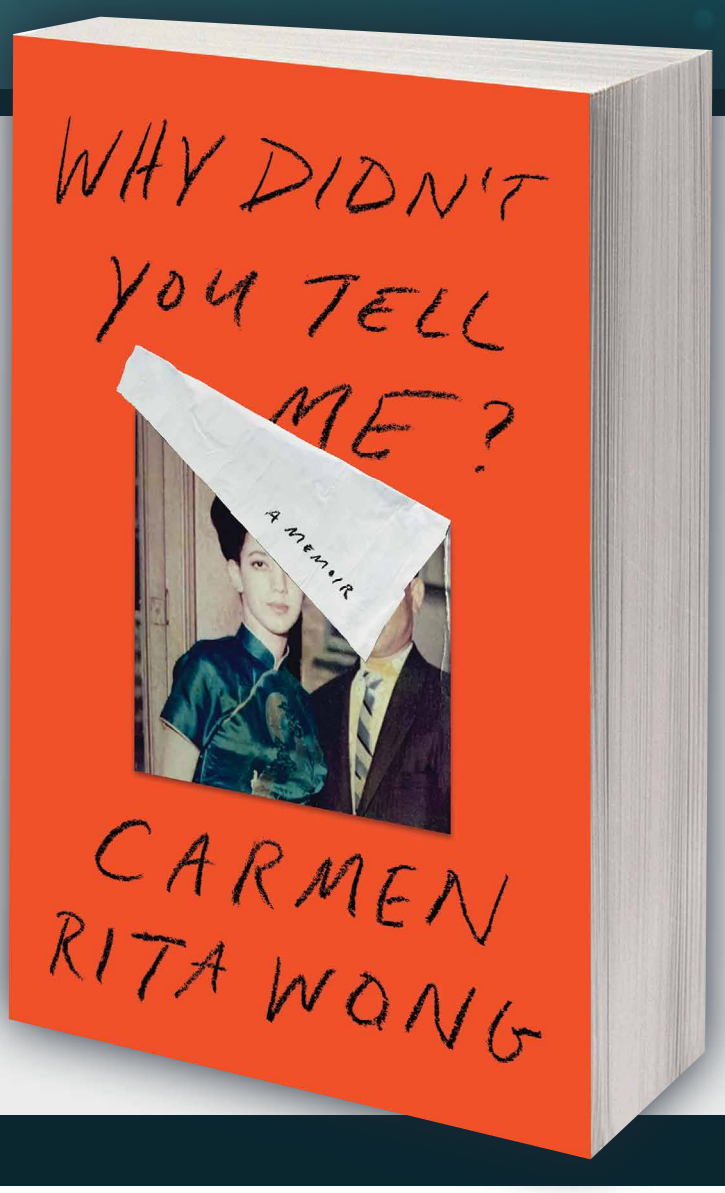
SALEM PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION *presents*

SALEM READS:

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY



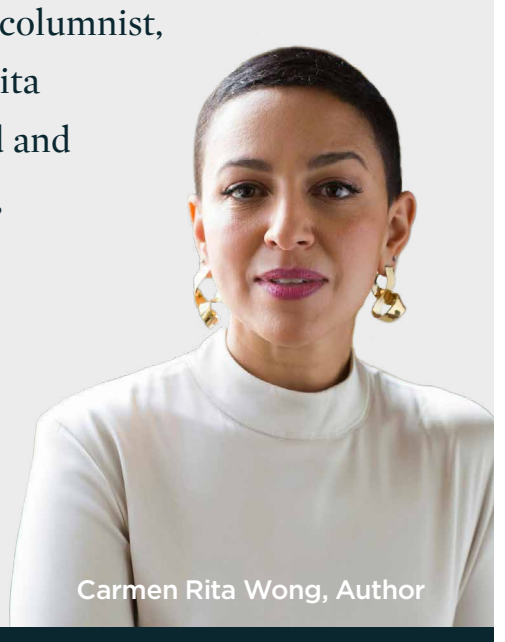
Salem Reads ninth season features:

Why Didn't You Tell Me?

by Carmen Rita Wong

Read the Book. Discuss the Topics. Enjoy the Programs.

In her memoir, *Why Didn't You Tell Me?*, columnist, television host, and professor Carmen Rita Wong delves into her difficult childhood and desperation to find a sense of belonging, leading to the revelation of the deepest of family secrets when her mother is no longer alive and it's too late to ask: Why didn't you tell me?



Carmen Rita Wong, Author

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Salem Reads
Supported by the Salem Public Library Foundation
One Book, One Community

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 4 | 10 am
Floor 1, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Why Didn't You Tell Me? Book Giveaway (Y)

Pick up a free copy to keep of *Why Didn't You Tell Me?* by Carmen Rita Wong, a memoir of family secrets and identity. Choose a print book in Spanish or English. Limit: One per visitor while supply lasts. The book can also be purchased at the Friends Bookstore, Salem Book Bin, and Reader's Guide. We hope you will join us for the 9th season of Salem Reads in February 2025.

December 15-January 15 | Entries accepted (Y)
Submit online at www.cityofsalem.net/library

I Survived DNA Testing: The Stories

The easy availability of commercial DNA testing and databases has led Carmen Rita Wong and many other people to eye-opening discoveries about themselves and their family connections, or disconnections. Stories submitted will be told by local actors at an event on February 27, 2025. We can reveal all or protect your identity. Want to share? Check the library website and social media in mid-December to learn how.

Jan. 2-Feb. 4 | Entries accepted (Y)
Contest rules and entry online at www.cityofsalem.net/library

Teen and Adult Writing Contest: Exploring Identity

In short story or personal essay form, explore how identity has impacted you. This is a writing contest for middle/high school students and adults. First, second, and third place will be awarded in both categories. First-place stories will appear in print in *Press Play Salem*; first, second, and third place stories will be featured on the Press Play Salem website. Complete contest rules will be available online in December 2024.

Tuesday, Jan. 28-Saturday, March 1 | during Library open hours
Art Hall, Floor 1, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Art Exhibit Inspired by *Why Didn't You Tell Me?*

View the work of local artists in this show curated by the Salem Art Association. Following the exhibit at the library, these works will travel to regional libraries.

Friday, January 24 | 9 am

KMUZ 100.7 Radio Show, Talking About Art

Host Joel Zak will interview guests about Salem Reads Art Exhibit on display January 28-March 1.

COMMUNITY RADIO KMUZ 100.7 & 88.5 FM

Wednesday, January 29 | 8 am

KMUZ 100.7 Radio Show, Willamette Wakeup

Host Melanie Zermer discusses Salem Reads and the book *Why Didn't You Tell Me?* with guests.

(Y) = Youth (ages 13-18) High Appeal Event

Saturday, Feb. 1-Friday, Feb. 28 | during Library open hours (Y)
Floor 1, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Salem Reads Interactive Display

View and add to an interactive display exploring community identity and connection during Salem Reads month.

Saturday, February 1 | 2-3:30 pm (Y)
Loucks Auditorium, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Live Latin Music from Pachanga

Pachanga Latín Band from the Willamette Valley brings Afro-Latin rhythms including the traditional sounds of percussion from Latin America and the Caribbean Islands such as cumbia, salsa, merengue, chachacha, boleros and classic Afro-Latin rock. Free. First-come, first-seated.

Tuesday, February 4 | 12-1 pm
Collaboration Studio, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Brown Bag Book Club Adult Book Discussion

Join a lively discussion of the themes and epic story of *Why Did You Tell Me?* by Carmen Rita Wong at a drop-in book discussion for adults. Books are available to check out at the Floor 1 Ask Here Desk.

Wednesday, February 5 | 11 am-12 pm
Anderson Rooms A&B, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Empowered Choices: Financial Literacy Through the Lens of *Why Didn't You Tell Me*?

Brenna Baucum

Explore how our personal financial history, family dynamics, and the impact of societal expectations can influence our financial decision-making. Come learn from an expert on how to get your finances back on track. Local financial planner and author Brenna Baucum will teach you how to create a personalized strategy that reflects your values and goals in order to build and maintain your financial independence. Free. First-come, first-seated.

Friday, February 7 | 11 am-12 pm (Y)
Anderson Rooms A&B, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE, and on Zoom

Carmen Rita Wong Virtual Author Talk

Why Didn't You Tell Me? author Carmen Rita Wong will be on Zoom, in conversation discussing her book, her thoughts about DNA testing, and answering your questions about her memoir and what has happened since. You can join a group to watch at the library or attend via Zoom. Free. Signup required to receive Zoom link by email.

All events are free.
Where noted, events require registration at www.cityofsalem.net/library

Saturday, February 8 | 11 am-12 pm (Y)
(Spanish language)

Saturday, February 8 | 2-3 pm
(English language)

Anderson Rooms A&B, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

O. Hm. Oregon Humanities

Preserving Our Culture and Traditions: An Oregon Humanities Conversation

Hilda Leon

Join community organizer Hilda Leon for conversations that explore the importance of cultural heritage and preserving the languages, customs, and traditions while living in new places. This conversation is for people who have emigrated from another country or people who are the descendants of immigrants up to third generation and are interested in reconnecting with their culture. Free. First-come, first seated.

Wednesday, February 12 | 7-8 pm
Xicha Brewing Norte, 2195 Hyacinth St NE, Suite 162

Book Discussion and Tasting

Enjoy Dominican-style appetizers and a lively discussion of the book *Why Didn't You Tell Me?* by Carmen Rita Wong. Food is provided by the Foundation; drinks are available to purchase by attendees. No signup needed.

Thursday, February 13 | 4-5:30 pm
Story Rooms A&B, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

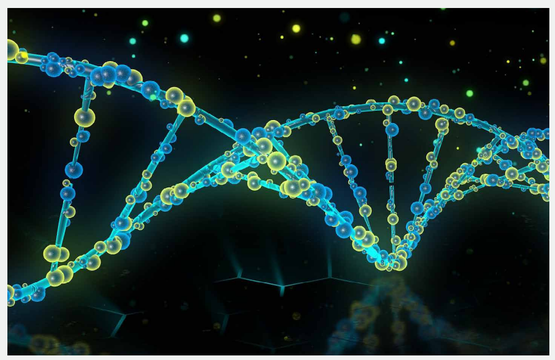
Pet Party for Kids: A Thinking Money Activity (Y)

It's a Pet Party! Kids in grades 3-5 will create their very own one-of-a-kind pet to "adopt," and play the game Pet Cents by visiting a series of "shops" to purchase what their pet will need to thrive without going broke. Free. Space is limited. Advance signup is needed.

Saturday, February 15 | 2-4 pm (Y)
Anderson Rooms A&B, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Genealogy and Genograms: Family Tree Craft Event

Make family history more colorful and exciting with this drop-in-style crafting program as a part of Salem Reads. Space and materials will be provided to help library patrons map their family trees in new and unique ways. Participants can bring in completed genealogy charts to draw from in order to create new representations of their families and the web of relationships that have helped shape them as individuals. Free.



Thursday, February 20 | 4-5 pm (Y)
Loucks Auditorium, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

Rafael Trujillo and the Dictatorships of the Caribbean

Mollie Nouwen

Rafael Trujillo, infamous dictator of the Dominican Republic, emerged from an early twentieth century environment in which the United States occupied nations in the Caribbean basin, invested in their infrastructures and militaries, and helped create the conditions for authoritarian regimes. Join us to learn more about Trujillo, the Dominican Republic, and their similarities to other Caribbean and Central American countries of the period. Free. First-come, first-seated.

Saturday, February 22 | 2-3 pm (Y)
Loucks Auditorium, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

DNA Analysis: The Science of Discovering Kinship through DNA

Tyler Nusca

How can DNA testing be used to demystify human relationships, map kinship ties, and uncover our ancestral heritage? How accurate are commercial DNA analysis kits? Are they safe to use? Join us for a deep dive into the science behind this rapidly evolving field. Free. First-come, first-seated.

Thursday, February 27 | 7-8:30 pm
Loucks Auditorium, Main Library, 585 Liberty St SE

I Survived DNA Testing: The Stories (Y)

Gasp at the eye-opening discoveries experienced by your friends and neighbors who have participated in DNA testing. Identifying details may have been changed, but the stories told by our team of local actors are true! Free. First-come, first-seated.

Friday, February 28 | 11:30 am-1 pm
Venue TBA

Finding Home in a New Culture and Country

Culture and culture shock play important roles in the 2025 Salem Reads book selection, *Why Didn't You Tell Me?* and raise an interesting question: How does it feel to be an outsider and begin life in an unfamiliar culture?

Resettlement into a new country and culture is hard, but it can be done successfully. Since 2016, Salem for Refugees has welcomed hundreds of vetted and qualified refugees, asylum seekers, and asylees from a variety of countries including Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Ukraine, and others.

Join us to hear Salem for Refugees staff and former refugees share stories of the resettlement experience and the organization's unique approach to cultural orientation and successful refugee resettlement.

For registration, please go to www.salemcityclub.com after Monday, February 10, 2025.

Salem City Club since 1967

About the Author

Carmen Rita Wong is an American radio, television, and online journalist and a personal finance expert at CNBC. She was the former host of the 2005 version of On the Money, a personal finance program, and a contributor to The Dr. Oz Show and iVillage.

Author's Website:
www.carmenritawong.com

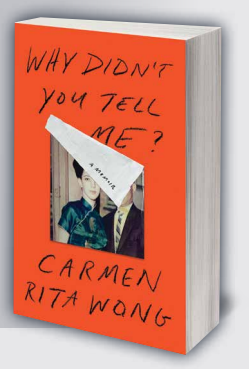
NPR author interview:
www.salemor.gov/WongNPR

My Abuela's Care Taught Me How to Love essay:
www.salemor.gov/OprahWong

Salem Reads

Salem Reads is a community reads project that invites everyone in Salem to read the same book, take part in discussions, and enjoy related programs throughout the month of February 2025. The Salem Public Library Foundation sees Salem Reads as an opportunity to increase the library's visibility, and act as a catalyst to bring the community together for discussions relevant to our time. Our selection of *Why Didn't You Tell Me?*, allows broad community engagement as we offer programs on topics of importance to our city.

Copies of *Why Didn't You Tell Me?* by Carmen Rita Wong, will be given away Wednesday, December 4 (details on page 2). Three hundred books will be distributed in a grab-and-go style pickup at the Main Library. If you miss the giveaway, we have 100 library English and Spanish print copies in circulation along with audiobooks on CD, and downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks online through cloudLibrary and Libby platforms.

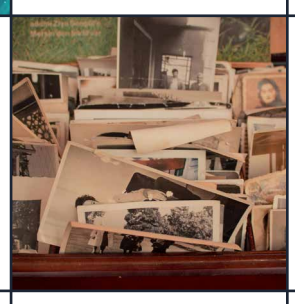
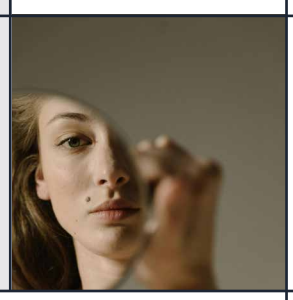


FEBRUARY 2025

Why Didn't You Tell Me?
by Carmen Rita Wong

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events are free.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
I Survived DNA Testing: The Stories Submissions accepted online December 15-January 15 ***Writing Contest: Exploring Identity*** Submission accepted online January 2-February 4 www.cityofsalem.net/library		28 ***Art Exhibit Opens*** Floor 1, Main Runs through March 1	29 ***Willamette Wakeup*** 8 a.m. KMUZ Radio 100.7 FM	30	31	1 ***Latin Music from Pachanga*** 2-3:30 p.m. Loucks Auditorium, Main
2 LIBRARY CLOSED	3 LIBRARY CLOSED	4 ***Adult Book Discussion*** 12-1 p.m. Collaboration Studio, Main	5 ***Empowered Choices: Financial Literacy*** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Anderson Rooms, Main		7 ***Carmen Rita Wong Virtual Author Talk*** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Anderson Rooms, Main, & Zoom	8 ***Preserving Our Culture and Traditions*** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (Spanish) 2-3 p.m. (English) Anderson Rooms, Main
9	10	11	12 ***Book Discussion and Tasting*** 7-8 p.m. Xicha Brewing Norte, 2195 Hyacinth St NE, Suite 162	13 ***Pet Party for Kids: Thinking Money*** 4-5:30 p.m. Story Rooms, Main		15 ***Genealogy and Genograms: Family Tree Craft Event*** 2-4 p.m. Anderson Rooms, Main
Salem Reads Supported by the Salem Public Library Foundation One Book, One Community	17		19	20 ***Rafael Trujillo and the Dictatorships of the Caribbean*** 4-5 p.m. Loucks Auditorium, Main	21	22 ***DNA Analysis: The Science of Discovering Kinship through DNA*** 2-3 p.m. Loucks Auditorium, Main
For easy access to live links, please go to our website, **splfoundation.org**, and use the dropdown Salem Reads tab.	Like **Salem (OR) Public Library** on Facebook and get Salem Reads updates.	26	27 ***I Survived DNA Testing: The Stories*** 7-8:30 p.m. Loucks Auditorium, Main	28 ***Finding Home in a New Culture and Country*** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Venue TBD		

Sponsors and Partners

Salem Reads is possible because of the amazing generosity of our sponsors and partners. Thank you for funding, programs, and in-kind services to support our goal of bringing the community together through reading and the Library. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the success of the eighth season of Salem Reads.

Find out more information at splfoundation.org or Facebook.com/spl.oregon/

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