



Sink: A Coming-of-Age Memoir Joseph Earl Thomas

Author of the forthcoming memoir *Sink* and winner of the 2020 Chautauqua Janus Prize.

Cathy Linh Che

Author of *Split*, winner of the Kundiman Poetry Prize, the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America, and the Best Poetry Book Award from the Association of Asian American Studies.

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:00 PM CT (on Zoom)

Register: www.bit.ly/JETFANWebinar

PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *Sink* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Thomas and Che.

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with

Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, Family Service Center, Family Service of Glencoe, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Country Day School, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, Leo Catholic High School, Morgan Park Academy, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Rebel Human, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, The Avery Coonley School, The Cove School, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, The Frances Xavier Warde School, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, and Wintrust Financial.

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ familyactionnetwork.net

Sponsors																	
Partners																	
Supporters		The Anderson Family Joanne & Jeff Burgess Connections for the Homeless Fusion Academy Gorton Community Center Stephanie & Roger Hochschild Maureen & Collin Kebo		Lori & Ross Laser Mammel Foundation The McCall Family New Trier Parents' Association Northwestern University/SESP Rebel Human Santa Clara University College of Law		Julene & John Stellato The Alliance for Early Childhood University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Parents' Association Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)		Community Allies Evanston Scholars Family Service Center Family Service of Glencoe Foundation 65 Haven Youth and Family Services Karen & Steven Malkin Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools (LMAIS)		Mindful Psychology Associates New Trier Multifaith Alliance Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations Cari & Michael Sacks Lonnie Stonitsch & Eric Dynowski Wilmette Public Library Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District Wintrust Financial		In-Kind Acclaim Media Deft Kirkland & Ellis The Book Stall					



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JOSEPH EARL THOMAS – ON ZOOM

CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:00-8:00 PM, [Sink: A Coming-of-Age Memoir](#), a FAN webinar featuring Joseph Earl Thomas, in conversation with Cathy Linh Che.

REGISTER: www.bit.ly/JETFANWebinar.

BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT: Attendees who purchase a copy of *Sink* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Thomas and Che that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

Stranded within an ever-shifting family's desperate but volatile attempts to love, saddled with a mercurial mother mired in crack addiction, and demeaned daily for his perceived weakness, **Joseph Earl Thomas** grew up feeling he was under constant threat. Roaches fell from the ceiling, colonizing bowls of noodles and cereal boxes. Fists and palms pounded down at school and at home, leaving welts that ached long after they disappeared. An inescapable hunger gnawed at his frequently empty stomach, and requests for food were often met with indifference if not open hostility.

With remarkable tenderness and devastating clarity, Thomas explores how toxic masculinity and violence permeated the very fabric of his environment. Deemed too unlike the other boys to ever gain the acceptance he so desperately desired, he began to escape into fantasy and virtual worlds, where even in the depths of isolation there were unexpected moments of joy carved out. While reminiscing about the afternoon PlayStation adventures of *Castlevania*, sessions of practicing his best anime battle moves on his giggling little sister, and moments spent secretly devouring his favorite vampire novels, Thomas guides readers through a series of exacting yet nostalgic vignettes, eventually culminating in the first glimpses of kinship he caught on his journey to becoming a Pokémon master.

Thomas has an MFA in prose from the University of Notre Dame and is a doctoral candidate in English at the University of Pennsylvania. An excerpt of *Sink* won the 2020 Chautauqua Janus Prize and he has received fellowships from Fulbright, VONA, Tin House, and Bread Loaf.

Thomas will be in conversation with **Cathy Linh Che**, author of *Split*, winner of the Kundiman Poetry Prize, the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America, and the Best Poetry Book Award from the Association of Asian American Studies.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on our website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, Family Service Center, Family Service of Glencoe, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Country Day School, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, Leo Catholic High School, Morgan Park Academy, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Rebel Human, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, Stevenson High School D125, The Avery Coonley School, The Cove School, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, The Frances Xavier Warde School, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, and Wintrust Financial.