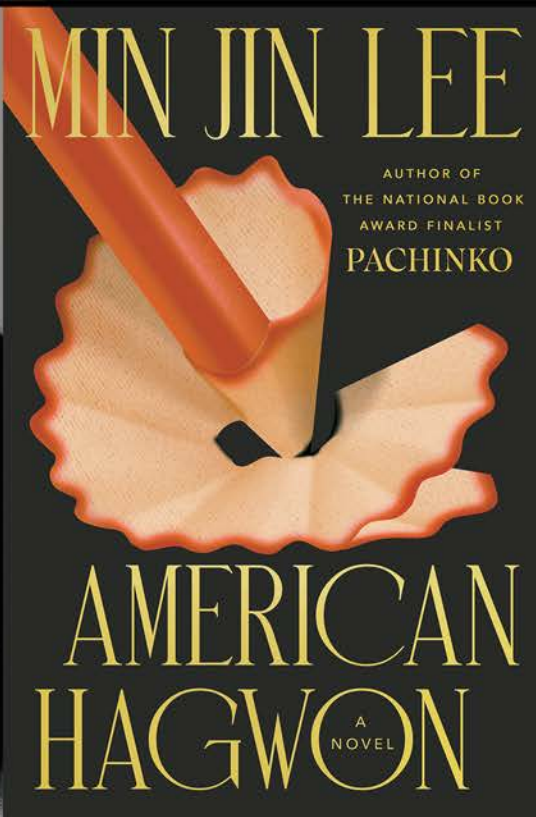


FAN



American Hagwon: An Evening with Min Jin Lee

Min Jin Lee

Bestselling author of *Free Food for Millionaires* and *Pachinko*.

Megan Bang, Ph.D.

James E. Johnson Professor of the Learning Sciences at Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy.

Friday, October 2, 2026, 7:00 PM CT
Evanston Township High School Auditorium
1600 Dodge Ave., Door 6, Evanston, IL 60201

BOOK GIVEAWAY of *American Hagwon* at the event, while supplies last.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.

No registration required. Suitable for youth 12+

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MIN JIN LEE – IN PERSON

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

Friday, October 2, 2026 | 7:00 PM CT

American Hagwon: An Evening with Min Jin Lee

A FAN in-person program featuring Min Jin Lee, in conversation with Megan Bang, Ph.D.

Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Door 6, Evanston, IL 60201

No registration required.

Book Giveaway: FAN is giving away copies of *American Hagwon* at the event, while supplies last.

Min Jin Lee, National Book Award finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Pachinko*, returns with *American Hagwon*, a contemporary epic, by turns sweeping and intimate, that reckons with ambition and moderation, personal dreams and familial duty.

Once comfortably middle class in Seoul, John and Helen Koh and their three children find their lives upended, first by a shocking betrayal and then by the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Striving to regain their footing, they leave Korea for Sydney and eventually settle in Southern California, where new vistas open for the children even as their parents, strangers in a strange land, must build a life in which their own education and experience count for little. Across schools and churches, law firms and nail salons, cramped apartments and gated communities, the Kohs and those around them navigate the years sustained by an almost all-consuming faith that education will carry the next generation to security.

Part of Lee's planned quartet on the Korean diaspora, *American Hagwon* is a panoramic novel in which the smallest gesture can have enormous repercussions, where the bonds of family and memory twist and fray but rarely break, and where self-sacrifice becomes a kind of prayer. It is both a classic in the making and a novel of our moment, one that asks a most basic question: how do we care for one another?

Lee is the author of the novels *Free Food for Millionaires* and *Pachinko*, which was a National Book Award finalist, a *New York Times* bestseller in more than 35 languages, and the basis for the Apple TV+ series. She's the current New York State Author Laureate, a Guggenheim fellow, and an inductee of the New York State Writers Hall of Fame.

Lee will be in conversation with **Megan Bang, Ph.D.** (Ojibwe and Italian), the James E. Johnson Professor of the Learning Sciences at Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy and former Director of its Center for Native American and Indigenous Research.

This event is suitable for youth ages 12 and up. It will be recorded but not live streamed and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Alliance for Early Childhood, The Ancona School, The Avery Coonley School, Avoca D37, Baker Demonstration School, Barrington D220, Beacon Academy, Bennett Day School, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, British International School of Chicago, Catherine Cook School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Compass Health Center, Connections Health, Countryside Day School, Evanston Township HS D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, Foundation 65, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glenbrook HS D225, Glenview Public Library, Gorton Center, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Josephinum Academy, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Lycée Français de Chicago, Magnetar Capital, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Oakton College, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Sacred Heart Schools, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson HS D125, Township High School D113, Township High School D214, Wilmette Public Library, Wintrust Bank, Woodlands Academy, Youth & Opportunity United.