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Sweet Thursday Author Series: book on lessons learned by Willie Mays

Submitted by Laurie Miles

The Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center are excited to end the programming year by offering John Shea, author of "#24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid" at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15 in the Don Tatzin Community Hall.

"#24" is about Willie Mays, nicknamed the "Say Hey Kid" and Baseball Hall of Famer. He is considered by many to be the greatest all-around player of all time. According to Leo Durocher, Mays' first Major League manager, "He was a superstar who could hit, hit with power, run, throw, and field. He had that other ingredient that turns a superstar into a super superstar. He lit up the room when he came in. He was a joy to be around."

The book is divided into 24 chapters, the same number Mays wore his entire baseball playing career. Each chapter is based on a "life lesson," such as "life and baseball aren't fair: the story of a game of inches" and "never give up: the story of a 16-inning classic." In each chapter, Mays makes some brief comments, and then author, Shea, fills them out with anecdotes from fellow players, friends, and even ex-presidents. His chapters on batting, hitting, fielding, and running bases are for everyone to learn from and enjoy. If you love the game of baseball, you will love this book.

This is a free event although registration is required. Register at tinyurl.com/sweet-june23. The DTCH doors will be open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and sweets before the talk. Books will be sold after the event. This program will be presented in-person or via Zoom livestream.

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