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Spend an Afternoon with Novelist Kirstin Chen in Hartford!

***Soy Sauce for Beginners* Author Will Discuss Her New Book at January 25 Library Event**



HARTFORD, Connecticut (December 27, 2013) – **The Hartford Public Library** will host an inspiring afternoon with **author Kirstin Chen**, who will discuss her new book ***Soy Sauce for Beginners***, a funny and heartfelt novel exploring the intersections of food, family, and culture. **Free and open to the public, the event will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 25, at the Downtown Library's Center for Contemporary Culture.**

When Gretchen Lin left her foundering marriage in San Francisco and moved back home to Singapore, she found herself face to face with her mother's drinking problem and her father's struggling artisanal soy sauce business. Torn between personal ambition and family obligation, Gretchen reluctantly agrees to work with her father at the soy sauce brewery, and finds escape in a new romance with a client's son. But when an old American friend comes to town, the two of them are pulled into the controversy

surrounding Gretchen's cousin, the only male grandchild and the heir apparent to Lin's Soy Sauce. In the midst of increasing pressure from her father to remain permanently in Singapore—and pressure from her mother to do just the opposite—Gretchen must decide whether she will return to her marriage and her graduate studies at the San Francisco Conservatory, or sacrifice everything and join her family's crusade to spread artisanal soy sauce to the world. Join the author at this special event, and learn the unexpected art and tradition behind the brewing of a much-used but unsung condiment.

Copies of *Soy Sauce for Beginners* will be available for purchase, and a book signing with the author will follow. A portion of all sales will benefit Hartford Public Library. Presented by Sneha, Inc.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kirstin Chen was born and raised in Singapore. A former Steinbeck Fellow in Creative Writing, she holds an MFA from Emerson College and a BA from Stanford University. She currently lives in San Francisco. Said author Kevin Kwan, "Kirstin Chen's debut is a delicious page-turning treat. Chen captures the zeitgeist of Singapore's new generation in an engrossing, intimately layered tale of love, family, and the discovery of one's true calling. It will also turn every reader into an artisanal soy sauce aficionado willing to settle for nothing but the best."

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org.

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