

The Niagara Reads committee is pleased to announce that we have selected Julie Otsuka's [*When the Emperor Was Divine*](#) for our 2009 program. This book poignantly depicts how one family is irrevocably affected by the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

This work of historical fiction has been used for summer reading programs at a number of colleges including Gustavus Adolphus College, Simmons College, Utah State University, the University of South Carolina, California Lutheran University, and Champlain College. It was also the "City Reads" book in many American cities, including Concord, New Hampshire; Seattle Washington; Topeka, Kansas; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Santa Barbara, California.

All incoming freshmen will receive a copy of *When the Emperor Was Divine* as a gift from the university. They will read it during the summer and discuss it in their NUS 102 classes. We encourage faculty and others on campus to read this novel. We also encourage you to consider integrating it in your fall courses, if appropriate. At just 160 pages, it would be easy for non-freshmen who won't have read it during the summer to read it on their own.

Sharon Green
Chair, Niagara Reads