

**2016 GPS Family Read**



**Rebecca Skloot**

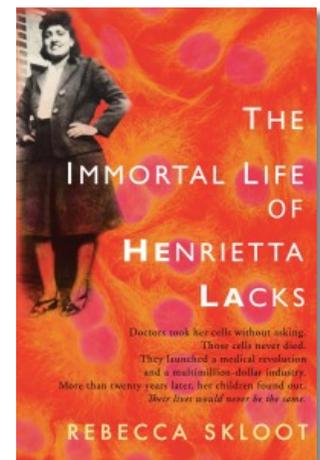
**THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS**

**August 25, 2016 / 7 pm / Glenbard West High School  
 690 Crescent Blvd / Glen Ellyn**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor tobacco farmer who died of cervical cancer and whose cells - taken without her knowledge in 1951 - became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, treatments for cancers, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she has remains virtually unknown, and her descendants struggle today to afford health insurance.

A biology instructor uttered the words "Henrietta Lacks," which set Skloot off on her ten year trajectory that would become the award winning book that has enjoyed more than three years on *The New York Times* bestseller list. It has been translated into more than 25 languages, and will soon be made into a film starring Oprah Winfrey.

The *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* tells the riveting story of the first-known human immortal cell line used for medical research, and its collision between ethics, and race. It's the story of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew, the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we're made of.



**All GPS events are free and open to the public.**



**Join us for a Library Book Discussion on Thursday, August 18, 2016 at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.**

**GPS is generously sponsored by :**



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