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**EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE will be topic of February 15 discussion**  
*Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus to host Bexley Community Book Club discussion of novel on which Oscar-nominated film is based*

*Bexley, Ohio, January 26, 2012*—Bexley Community Book Club, a program of the Bexley Education Foundation, will hold its second book discussion gathering for 2011-2012 at the JCC of Greater Columbus on Wednesday, February 15 at 7 p.m. The topic of discussion in this book club-style meeting will be *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, the second novel by Bexley Community Book Club's 2012 Selected Author Jonathan Safran Foer. The event will be free and open to the public.

Published in 2005, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* was a national bestseller and recipient of numerous prizes, including the "Literature for Life Award," the Victoria and Albert Museum Award, and the Prix des libraries du Quebec. It was named as a "Best Book of the Year" by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post Book World*, *Chicago Tribune*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *Rocky Mountain News*.

The book follows nine-year-old Oskar Schell on an "urgent, secret mission" to find the lock that can be opened by a key that he found in the closet of his father, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Oskar's journey introduces him to "survivors of all sorts" as he searches throughout New York's five boroughs. In a parallel, connected story line, readers learn about Oskar's grandparents, who are still rebuilding their lives after the devastating bombing of Dresden during World War II.

The book, much of which is narrated in the voice of a brilliant, quirky nine-year-old, and which incorporates photos and other images as well as innovative typography, was met with international critical acclaim. "*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is a miracle, a daybreak, a man on the moon," wrote a critic in the *Baltimore Sun*. "It's so impeccably imagined, so courageously executed, so everlastingly moving and fine." "Foer is definitely a new sort of literary warrior – virtuosic, visionary, ingenious, hilarious, heartbreaking. He brings an astonishing array of firepower to the page," according to the *Village Voice*.

The feature film based on the book, which was released in theaters across the country January 20, was

directed by Steven Soderbergh and stars Sandra Bullock, Tom Hanks and Max von Sydow, with Thomas Horn as Oskar. It has been nominated for a "Best Picture" Academy Award.

Bexley Community Book Club, a program of the Bexley Education Foundation, is a yearlong community read of the works of a selected author, culminating in the author's visit to Bexley. Jonathan Safran Foer, BCBC's fifth Selected Author, will be in Bexley on April 18, 2012 for a day that will include presentations and workshops at Bexley High School, a VIP dinner with BCBC sponsors, and a public presentation in Bexley High School's Schottenstein Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the lecture are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Student and senior discounts are available. Go to [www.bexleyeducationfoundation.org](http://www.bexleyeducationfoundation.org) or call Bexley Education Foundation at 614.338.2093.

The final event in the yearlong series leading up to the author's visit, which has included panel discussions, a film screening, and a student art exhibit at Columbus College of Art & Design, will be a **food discussion at Bexley Public Library on Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m.** The topic that evening will be Foer's nonfiction book, *Eating Animals*, an exploration of the folkloric, practical and moral implications in consuming meat. The speaker will be Michael Jones, executive director and co-founder of the organization Local Matters and owner of The Greener Grocer.

Proceeds from Bexley Community Book Club, derived from sponsorships, ticket sales and book sales, are used by the Bexley Education Foundation to support projects and programs in the Bexley City School District. 2012 BCBC sponsors are Giant Eagle, Linda and Frank Kass, AEP, Ric and Kris Butler, The First Bexley Bank and US Realty Consultants. 2012 BCBC Community Partners are Bexley Public Library, CCAD, Drexel Theatre, JCC of Greater Columbus, The Ohio State University Creative Writing Program and WBNS 10TV.

### **About the Bexley Education Foundation**

The Bexley Education Foundation (BEF) operates on the belief that excellent public schools are essential to the economic and social health of the communities they serve. To that end, BEF staff, board and volunteers seek to support educational initiatives that help enhance quality education for students in the Bexley City School District, one of the top public school districts in the nation.

BEF support is delivered through its many grants programs, which fund projects that directly enhance learning experiences for a significant number of students. On an annual basis, BEF funds are raised through the Foundation's Annual Fund Campaign, BRAVO!, the Foundation's "winter party with a purpose," Bexley Community Book Club and other programs. For more information on the Bexley Education Foundation, contact the BEF office at (614) 338-2093 or visit the BEF website: [www.bexleyeducationfoundation.org](http://www.bexleyeducationfoundation.org).

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