

Sheboygan Press.

MONEY

New Sheboygan bookstore WordHaven will have its grand opening Saturday with Mayor Ryan Sorenson and other speakers



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SHEBOYGAN - Kelly D. Holstine is well known across the nation as an Equity 2.0 consultant and advocate.

In January 2020, Holstine presented a TED-Ed talk explaining how teachers need to not only be educators, but also allies and advocates for their students.

Holstine has many accomplishments, including receiving the award for Minnesota State Teacher of the Year in 20182019, the 2018 Honoree for Minnesota Women Breaking Barriers, the Minnesota Lynx Women's Spotlight Selection for Leader and Innovator in Arts and Education in 2019, and Minnesota Women's Press Favorite Leader in Education in 2019.

Now, among those accomplishments, Holstine is opening a new book shop and writing center in Sheboygan.

At 923 N. Eighth St., WordHaven BookHouse will sell new and used books, writing materials, plush toys and local art.

Writing classes, writers' workshop sessions, Equity 2.0 trainings and literary events will be offered and hosted at the location as well.

More: This popular cookie franchise will make its way to Sheboygan this summer.

More: Masters Gallery Foods scores a first in Wisconsin. Plus, two other Sheboygan business developments.

Originally from Minnesota, Holstine said she fell in love with Sheboygan 24 years ago on a camping trip.

"My plan was to retire here, but some personal changes in my life made it possible for me to move here earlier," Holstine said in a news release. "When I arrived last summer, I learned that Sheboygan didn't have an independently owned bookstore, so I decided to open a BookShop & Writing Center that will be rooted in Equity 2.0."

Equity 2.0 is a concept that moves away from everything being fair and equal, "because equality only benefits certain people and it widens the Equity 2.0 gap," Holstine's website states.

It focuses on ensuring that every individual has access to what they need to succeed, instead of giving all individuals the same amount of access to the same things. It does this by engaging in reflective, adaptable, disparate and supportive actions, according to the website.

Holstine will be hosting a grand opening for WordHaven BookHouse at the store's location starting at 10 a.m. Saturday. Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce will begin the event with a ribbon-cutting. Local writers and independent retail business owners have been invited to speak at the event.

Those speaking include Holstine, Sheboygan Mayor Ryan Sorenson and Sheboygan's poet laureate, Lisa Vihos. Local authors Charm Der, Michael Leanna, Marilyn Zelke Windau and Lisa Lehmann will also be speaking.

Owners of Honey and Ace, The GameBoard and Freaktoyz have been invited to speak as well.

Food and beverages will be provided by Slo Food Market, Whisk and Cakes by Chris.

Sheboygan Visual Artists will be sponsoring local art at the event that will also be available to purchase at the time.

Holstine has been an educator for the past 15 years, working as a high school English teacher, designing, opening and running an alternative high school, instructing undergraduate and graduate-level courses at Augsburg University in Minnesota, and training thousands of adults in Equity 2.0.

She is a published author and journalist. Her work has been featured in articles for The Independent, Minnesota Women's Press, NEA Today, AFT Voices, and Icon Newspaper as well as in published books and a play.

For more about Holstine and the grand opening of WordHaven BookHouse, visit <https://www.kellydholstine.com/wordhaven>.

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