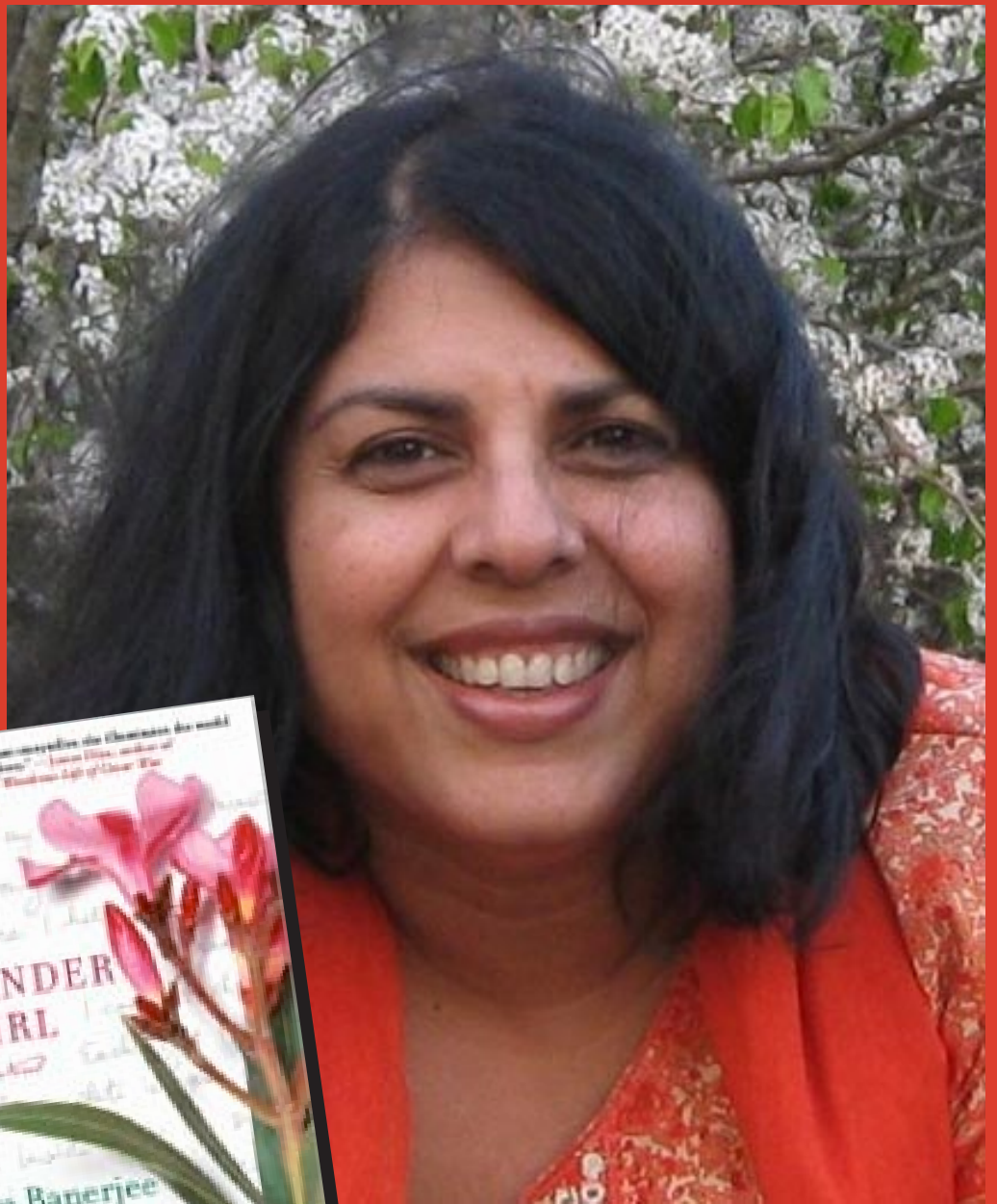
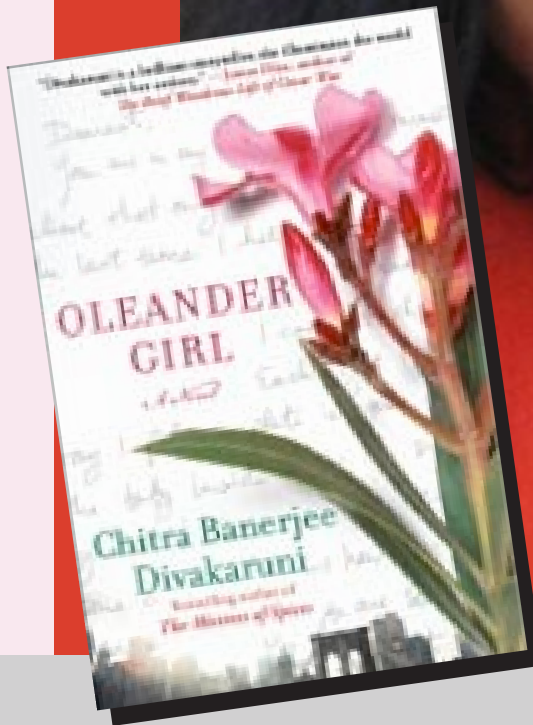


Author
Chitra
Banerjee
Divakaruni
Monday,
April 1



lowercolumbia.edu/northwestvoices

Reading, 7–8 p.m., Longview Public Library Auditorium

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an award-winning author, poet and teacher. Her honors include an American Book Award, a PEN/Josephine Miles Award, two PEN Syndicated Fiction awards, and a Distinguished Author Award from the South Asian Literary Association. Her work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *O. Henry Prize Stories*, and a Pushcart Prize anthology. Her sixteen books have been translated into 29 languages. Two novels, *The Mistress of Spices* and *Sister of My Heart*, have been made into films. A frequently sought-after op-ed commentator regarding South Asian-American culture, Divakaruni is the Betty and Gene McDavid Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Houston.

Her latest work, *Oleander Girl* is about seventeen-year-old Korobi Roy, orphaned at birth, the scion of a distinguished Kolkata family has enjoyed a privileged, sheltered childhood with her adoring grandparents. But she is troubled by the silence that surrounds her parents' death and clings fiercely to her only inheritance from them: the unfinished love note she found hidden in her mother's book of poetry. Korobi dreams of one day finding a love as powerful as her parents', and it seems her wish has come true when she meets the charming Rajat, the only son of a high-profile business family. On the night of their engagement party, Korobi's grandfather dies of a sudden heart attack. His death reveals the family's unexpected financial problems as well as a dark secret. This secret will shatter Korobi's sense of self and will thrust her—against the wishes of her fiancé and his family—out of her sheltered Kolkata life into a courageous and troubled search, in the company of an attractive stranger, across post 9/11 America, a country that she finds at once dangerous, unwelcoming and alluring. What she discovers at the end will force her to make the most difficult choice of her life.

The public is invited to these free events.



It is the policy of Lower Columbia College to provide equal opportunity in all facets of education, hiring and continued employment, regardless of sex, race, marital status, creed, color, age, national origin, sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, Vietnam era or disabled veteran status, or religious preference.

