

Author Jenna Kashou creates a bucket list made for Milwaukee

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MILWAUKEE — For those looking to add to their bucket list, author and Milwaukee native Jenna Kashou recently published a second edition of "100 Things to Do in Milwaukee Before You Die."

Kashou is a lifelong resident of Milwaukee and a journalist with a specialization in lifestyle and culture. Her work has been featured in MKE Lifestyle, Milwaukee Magazine, The Business Journal, Edible Milwaukee and at ForbesTravelGuide. com.

The author said that the inspiration for her book came easily as she is currently raising a family and has centered her entire career in Milwaukee.

"I think a lot of writers find that they fall into a little niche based on their general interests," Kashou said. "And so for me, that just happened to be Milwaukee." Even though Kashou lived and studied abroad in Spain and visited Greece, Argentina, Portugal and Brazil, she only writes about Milwaukee. The author said going abroad and living in these other countries made her a better writer for Milwaukee because she was able to identify what makes Milwaukee special in comparison to these other cities.

With movements to end segregation and promote positivity within the community, Kashou said the city has really evolved economically and socially, so she wanted to showcase that in her book.

"Although the city does have its controversial problems, Milwaukee continues to persevere and evolve over time," Kashou said. "People are fiercely loyal to this city."

The author also added that developments, such as the streetcar, have given Milwaukee a higher profile image despite the debate that it sparked.

The process of writing "100 Things to Do in Milwaukee Before You Die" was difficult for Kashou as she originally started off with 160 things to do. After nearly three months of creating, building and editing her bucket list, Kashou said she was finally able to narrow it down to 100 with help from her friends.

Some of the things on Kashou's Milwaukee bucket list include visiting Menomonee Valley's new craft breweries, listening to live music at Caroline's jazz club and taking a guided city tour with the Milwaukee Kayak Company.

"I tried to look for things with a real, unique Milwaukee experience and Milwaukee flavor," Kashou said.

If interested in purchasing the novel and meeting the author, there will be a book signing and presentation on June 21 from 2-3 p.m. at the Milwaukee Public Library, 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave. There will also be another book signing with the author on June 22 from 2-4 p.m. at Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery, 917W. Juneau Ave.

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