

# Nevins Memorial Library

## Thursday Evening Book Discussions

### 2019-20



Book discussions are held at the Library on Thursday evenings 7-9pm. Books are available one month prior to the discussion. You may pick up books at the previous meeting, or you may get them at the Main Desk any time the Library is open. Please bring your library card to the meeting to check books out. In the case of cancellation for bad weather or any other reason, the meeting will be held on the next available date. Cancellation information is posted on the Library's web site. Additional Book Discussion information is available on our website at [www.nevinslibrary.org](http://www.nevinslibrary.org). All books announced in this flyer are tentative, based on availability of multiple copies. To confirm dates, book selections, or for more information call the Library at 978-686-4080 ext. 10.

#### **September 5 – Summer Reading Round-Up!**

Join us for our annual book-review-fest of all the books we read this summer that we loved and hated! Come prepared to talk about at least one or two books you read this summer, and armed with a pencil to jot down suggestions from group members.

#### **Fall Series: *Start the Revolution Without Me: Resistance and the human experience***

Resistance comes in many forms, social resistance, political resistance, a struggle with ourselves, and resistance against family or culture. In this series we will explore many facets of revolution and resistance, including the story of a young woman with severe depression, struggling with the strictures of a 1950's upbringing; the growing awareness of a black man on death row for a crime he did not commit, fighting to retain his humanity; the importance of art in strengthening people to fight against evil; and a manual on revolutionizing the way our culture thinks about food. Change is in the air, and we will talk about it this fall and winter!

#### **October 3 – A Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**

A novel of such power that the reader will be unable to forget its images and its forecast. Set in the near future, it describes life in our country, now called the Republic of Gilead, a mono-theocracy that has reacted to social unrest and a sharply declining birthrate by enslaving women.

#### **November 7<sup>th</sup> – Symphony for the City of the Dead by MT Anderson**

In the midst of WWII, composer Dmitri Shostakovich wrote the *Leningrad* Symphony to rouse, rally, eulogize, and commemorate his fellow Russians. This is the true story of a city under siege, the triumph of bravery and defiance, and is a look at the power and meaning of music.

#### **December 5<sup>th</sup> – The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan**

The book that launched a national conversation about what we eat and the consequences that our food choices have on ourselves and the world. Ten years after publication, this book continues to transform the way Americans think about the politics, perils, and pleasures of eating.

## **January 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath**

An American classic. Plath's autobiographical novel about how one young woman slides into deep depression and suicidal action. Sometimes the thing we must resist most is our own power of self-destruction.

## **February 6<sup>th</sup> – The Dog Stars by Peter Heller**

A truthful, simple and beautiful story set in a post-apocalyptic world, where one man resists his fate.

## **March 5<sup>th</sup> – A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines**

From the author of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* comes a deep and compassionate novel about a young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country and visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting.

**Spring Series: Aloha: Hawaiian Stories** Our 50<sup>th</sup> state is a tropical paradise, and a mystery to many of us. We will read three stories of Hawaii, and learn more about this place and its people -- part of America, but also apart from it.

## **April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Molokai by Alan Brennert**

A richly imagined novel, set in Hawaii more than a century ago. A spirited 7-year-old girl dreams of visiting far-off lands. Those dreams are stolen when she is quarantined on the famous Molokai Island – the home of Hawaii's Leper Colony.

## **May 7<sup>th</sup> – Unfamiliar Fishes by Sarah Vowell**

In 1898, the United States annexed the Hawaiian Islands. The history before and after that event is intriguing, bizarre, and obscure to us mainlanders. With her trademark wit and wise-cracking, Sarah Vowell tells us all we should know about the tales and traditions of our 50<sup>th</sup> state.

## **June 4<sup>th</sup> – The Descendants by Kauai Hart Hemmings**

Narrated in a bold, unforgettable voice, and set against the lush, panoramic backdrop of Hawaii, this is a debut novel about an unconventional family forced to come together and re-create its own identity.

*Nevins Memorial Library 305 Broadway Methuen, MA. 01844 978-686-4080*

