



Thursday Evening Book Discussions 2021-22

Nevins Memorial Library



Book discussions will be held at the Library on Thursday evenings 7-9pm. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on ZOOM. Books are available approximately one month prior to the discussion. You may pick up books at the Main Desk any time the Library is open or call to make an arrangement for Curbside Pickup. Some books are available as downloadable e-books, or in Large Print or Audio. If you wish to join this Book Group you may attend any meeting. Additional Book Discussion information is available on our website at 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 2nd – Reading Round-Up!

This last year of pandemic and quarantine has, for some of us, been a year of compulsive reading. Some of us have needed light fiction, others have found new genres to interest us. Some have had trouble getting into books and are looking for inspiration. Wherever you are, join us for our annual book-review-fest of the books we read this year that we loved and hated! Be prepared to talk about at least one or two books you have read recently.

Out of the Shadow: Stories of great women who stood behind famous men

The proverb “Behind every great man is a great woman” has countless iterations and attributions, but the meaning to us as we read these books is that women’s stories, so long ignored, have been brought to the forefront in fiction and non-fiction in the last few decades. We will read five stories about women who stood in shadow, but who are now emerging into the light.

October 7th– The Aviator’s Wife by Melanie Benjamin

Despite her own major achievements--she becomes the first licensed female glider pilot in the United States--Anne Morrow Lindbergh is viewed merely as Charles Lindbergh's wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for will bring heartbreak and hardships, ultimately pushing her to reconcile her need for love and her desire for independence.

November 4th -- Jefferson’s Daughters by Catherine Kerrison

Thomas Jefferson fathered three girls: two white and free, one black and enslaved. This well-researched history about Martha, Maria, and Harriet tells the fascinating story of their very different lives at Monticello and beyond, as daughters of one of our most brilliant and complicated Founding Fathers.

December 2nd -- Lady Clementine – by Marie Benedict

Lady Clementine is the ferocious story of the ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill, the story of a partner who did not flinch through the sweeping darkness of war--and who would not surrender either to the expectations of others, or to enemies of her husband.

January 6th – The Wife by Meg Wolitzer

This novel spins the tale of the long and stormy marriage between a world-famous novelist, who has reached the pinnacle of his profession, and his talented, frustrated wife. They have a secret they have kept for decades...

February 3rd – Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Mamah and Edwin Cheney commissioned the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright to design a new home for them. During the construction of the house, a powerful attraction developed between Mamah and Frank, and in time the lovers, each married with children, embarked on a course that would shock Chicago society and forever change their lives. Fact & fiction blend in this historical novel.

Massachusetts Stories

The Bay State has stories galore, and talented writers to tell them. Here are just four books out of hundreds that tell Massachusetts stories, both fact & fiction...or a mix of both.

March 3rd – The Last Days of Dogtown by Anita Diamant

Dogtown was a real community on the high ground of Cape Ann, Massachusetts, populated by the downtrodden in 1800s society--widows, orphans, freed slaves, spinsters, drunks, whores, a witch or two, and, of course, dogs. This is a work of fiction loosely based on some of the stories that have been passed down the generations about life in this isolated and outcast community.

April 7th -- Dark Tide by Stephen Puleo

Around noon on January 15, 1919 a group of firefighters was playing cards in Boston's North End when they heard a tremendous crash. It was like roaring surf, one of them said later. Like a runaway two-horse team smashing through a fence, said another. What it was, in fact, was a deadly tide of molasses sweeping through the crowded neighborhood and destroying everything in its path. Narrative non-fiction at its best.

May 5th – The Daring Ladies of Lowell by Kate Alcott

One of the more recent entries into the canon of books about the famous Lowell Mill Girls. This is a moving historical novel about a bold young woman drawn to the looms of Lowell, Massachusetts -- and what happens when she arrives there...

June 2nd – The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent

Another recent take on a well-worn Massachusetts story. Martha Carrier was one of the first women to be accused, tried and hanged as a witch in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. Like her mother, young Sarah Carrier is bright and willful, openly challenging the small, brutal world in which they live. Often at odds with one another, mother and daughter are forced to stand together against their community. This is the story of Martha's courageous defiance and ultimate death, as told by the daughter who survived.