



Thursday Evening Book Discussions 2023-24 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.

October 5th – Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

A bank of clouds was assembling on the not-so-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. This harrowing tale of adventure and tragedy, chronicles the disastrous 1996 climbing season on Everest. A Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Fall Series: Angels & Demons

There are angels and demons in this world...some may be super-natural, or fictional, others may be human. Let's explore a few books in which we will find good and evil personified.

November 2nd – The Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry

Medieval France: Dolssa is an upper-crust city girl with a secret lover and an uncanny gift. Branded a heretic, she's on the run from the friar who condemned her mother to death by fire, and wants Dolssa executed, too.

December 7th – Women Talking by Miriam Toews

Scorching . . . a wry, freewheeling novel of ideas that touches on the nature of evil, questions of free will, collective responsibility, cultural determinism, and, above all, forgiveness. Recently made into an award-winning film.

January 4th – Angels in America – by Tony Kushner

One of the most honored American plays in history, *Angels in America* was awarded two Tony Awards for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It was made into an Emmy Award-winning HBO film directed by Mike Nichols. This two-part epic, subtitled "A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," has received hundreds of performances worldwide in more than twenty-six languages.

February 1st – Good Omens by Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett

According to *Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch*, written in 1655, the world will end on a Saturday. Next Saturday, in fact. Just before dinner. So the armies of Good and Evil are amassing, Atlantis is rising, frogs are falling, tempers are flaring. Everything appears to be going according to Divine Plan. Except a somewhat fussy angel and a fast-living demon—both of whom have lived amongst Earth's mortals since The Beginning and have grown rather fond of the lifestyle—are not actually looking forward to the coming Rapture. And someone seems to have misplaced the Antichrist...

Spring Series: A Hundred Years of the Pulitzer Prize: Part One

Let's explore some of the most lauded American books. The Pulitzer Prizes were established just after the First World War, and while our tastes have changed, and the prizes have evolved, do the prize winners stand the test of time? We will read one title from each decade of the 20th and early 21st centuries. This series will conclude in Fall 2024.

March 7th – 1919 Pulitzer: The Magnificent Ambersons by Booth Tarkington

This novel depicts Mid-Western life from the post-Civil War era to the early twentieth century. First published in 1918, and awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1919, this novel follows, through three generations, the decline of the Ambersons, an aristocratic family of the upper-class society of Indianapolis.

April 4th – 1928 Pulitzer: The Bridge of San Luis Rey by Thornton Wilder

This short novel tells the story of a religious man's spiritual quest to determine why God allows disasters to occur. Wilder sets the action in Lima, Peru, in 1714, where a Franciscan monk witnesses the collapse of a bridge that has stood for over a century, killing the five people on it. *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* has been recognized as a literary masterpiece. Its unique mixture of the spiritual with the humane has given readers throughout the decades a point of reference when considering the apparent horrors that can occur in our world.

May 2nd – 1932 Pulitzer: The Good Earth by Pearl Buck

Travel to 1920s China, a time when the last emperor still ruled and the sweeping changes of the twentieth century were distant rumblings, with this timeless, evocative classic tale of the honest farmer Wang Lung and his family as they struggle to survive in the midst of vast political and social upheavals.

June 6th – TBA

