Honoring Abraham Lincoln

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s assassination and the end of the Civil War, Syosset Public Library’s Evening Book Club will be discussing *Manhunt: The Twelve Day Chase for Lincoln’s Killer* by James L. Swanson on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 7:30 pm. Here are some additional noteworthy titles (both fiction and non-fiction) that you may wish to explore for your next book club:

*Lincoln’s Gamble: The Tumultuous Six Months that Gave America the Emancipation Proclamation and Changed the Course of the Civil War* by Todd Brewster

A brilliant, authoritative and riveting account of the most critical six months in Abraham Lincoln’s presidency, when he penned the Emancipation Proclamation and changed the course of the Civil War.

*I am Abraham* by Jerome Charyn

Traces the historic arc of Lincoln’s life from his days as a gangly young lawyer in Illinois through his improbable marriage to Mary Todd to his 1865 visit to war-shattered Richmond only days before his assassination.

*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier

Inman, an injured and disillusioned Confederate Soldier, embarks on a harrowing journey through the disintegrating South on an odyssey home to his sweetheart, Ada, who herself is struggling to run the farm left to her after her father’s sudden death.

*Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

This multiple biography is centered on Lincoln’s mastery of men and how it shaped the most significant presidency in the nation’s history.

*Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer* by Fred Kaplan

An analysis of the literary life of the sixteenth president explores the ways in which his views were shaped by classic literature and how he used language as a vehicle for complex ideas and an instrument of change in both political and personal arenas.

*Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever* by Bill O’Reilly

Describes the events surrounding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the hunt to track down John Wilkes Booth and his accomplices.

*Lincoln* by Gore Vidal

A portrait of America’s great president that is both intimate and public.

*Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America* by Garry Wills

Wills lays bare the true meaning and intent of Lincoln’s historic speech – 272 words that changed the future of our country.

(Summaries from the publishers)

-Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian

In addition to the Monthly Evening Book Discussion, Syosset Public Library will be showing the film *Lincoln* starring Daniel Day-Lewis on Thursday, Feb 12th @ 2:00 pm.
Spring Releases I Cannot Wait to Read!

As publishers begin announcing their anticipated Spring releases, I am happy (and relieved) to see so many promising new titles. A handful are novels by authors who have previously published, while quite a few are new names to the literary world. Below are just a sampling of the titles I can’t wait to get my hands on .... Place your reserve today!

The Book of Aron by Jim Shepard (5/12/15)
“From the hugely acclaimed National Book Award finalist, a novel that will join the shortlist of classics about the Holocaust and the children caught up in it.”

The Bookseller by Cynthia Swanson (3/03/15)
“Loving her unconventional single life in 1962 Denver, a bookshop owner begins experiencing powerful, reality-challenging dreams of an alternate life where she is a wife and mother.”

Inside the O’Briens by Lisa Genova (4/07/15)
“From bestselling author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova comes a powerful new novel that does for Huntington’s Disease what her debut Still Alice did for Alzheimer’s.”

The Mountain Story by Lori Lansens (5/12/15)
“A harrowing survival story about four strangers who spend five days lost in the mountain wilderness above Palm Springs.”

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson (3/10/15)
“From the master of “narrative nonfiction comes the enthralling story of the sinking of the Lusitania, published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the disaster.”

The Children’s Crusade by Ann Packer (4/07/15)
“A sweeping, masterful new novel that explores the secrets and desires, the remnant wounds and saving graces of one California family, over the course of five decades.”

Oscars - 2015

Did you read the book before you saw the movie? Many of the movies that have been nominated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for Oscars are based on books.

- Best Picture nominees based on books are American Sniper by Chris Kyle, The Theory of Everything adapted from Travelling to Infinity by Jane Hawking, and The Imitation Game based on the biography, Alan Turing: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges.

- There are three Best Actress Nominations that are based on books of the same name: Reese Witherspoon for Wild by Cheryl Strayed, Rosamund Pike for Gone Girl written by Gillian Flynn and Julianne Moore for Still Alice by Lisa Genova. Felicity Jones is also nominated for her portrayal of Jane Hawking in The Theory of Everything based on Travelling to Infinity.

- Laura Dern was nominated for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Cheryl Strayed’s mother in Wild.

- Inherent Vice by Thomas Pynchon was nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay.

The Oscar’s will be presented on February 22, 2015 on ABC. A complete listing of all nominations can be found at http://oscars.go.com.

Which did you like better the book or the movie? Let us know.

-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian