**Celebrating Nurses and Caregivers**

The Week of May 6th through May 12th (Florence Nightingale’s Birthday) celebrates National Nurses Week. Nurses are the backbone of our healthcare environment and as President Obama stated “America’s nurses are the beating heart of our medical system”. In honor of nurses and caregivers who give so selflessly of themselves, here are some novels your book club may wish to explore:

**We Are All Welcome Here** by Elizabeth Berg

It is the summer of 1964 in Tupelo, Mississippi. Challenged by the effects of the polio she contracted during her last month of pregnancy, Paige is nonetheless determined to live as normal a life as possible with the support of her tough-talking black caregiver, Peacie.

**Midwives** by Chris Bohjalian

The pastoral community of Reddington, Vermont, during the harsh winter of 1981, Sibyl Danforth makes a life-or-death decision based on fifteen years of experience as a respected midwife -- a decision intended to save a child, a decision that will change her life forever.

**The Last Midwife** by Sandra Dallas

It is 1880 and Gracy Brookens is the only midwife in a small Colorado mining town where she has delivered hundreds, maybe thousands, of babies in her lifetime. But everything changes when a baby is found dead...and the evidence points to Gracy as the killer. Gracy knows she didn’t commit the crime. But her innocence isn’t quite that simple, either. Gracy must decide whether it’s worth risking everything to prove her innocence.

**The Daughters of Mars** by Thomas Keneally

Joining the war effort as nurses in 1915, two spirited Australian sisters, carrying a guilty secret, become the friends they never were at home and find themselves courageous in the face of extreme danger as they serve alongside remarkable women during World War I.

**The Hummingbird** by Stephen P. Kiernan

Deborah Birch is a seasoned hospice nurse whose daily work requires courage and compassion. But her skills and experience are tested in new and dramatic ways when her easygoing husband, Michael, returns from his third deployment to Iraq haunted by nightmares, anxiety, and rage. At the same time, Deborah’s primary patient is Barclay Reed, a retired history professor who is alone and dying.

**Bittersweet** by Colleen McCullough

The four Latimer sisters, two sets of twins famed throughout 1920s New South Wales for their beauty, train as nurses and become immersed in hospital experiences that spark maturity, independence and respective ambitions that involve complicated choices.

*All summaries courtesy of the publisher

–Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian
Sibling Relationships in Fiction

After reading *At the Edge of the Orchard* by Tracy Chevalier, I was struck by the close bond between the brother and the sister in the novel. This relationship displayed a genuine love and respect, which caused me to reflect on other books with brothers and sisters as central characters. For your next book discussion, it may be of interest to explore this novel or other books dealing with the complexity of relationships between siblings.

*At the Edge of the Orchard* by Tracy Chevalier

Settling in the swamps of early 19th-century northwest Ohio, the Goodenough family works relentlessly to establish an apple orchard that reflects respective dreams before their youngest child heads to Gold Rush California to collect seeds for a naturalist.

*The Children's Crusade* by Ann Packer

When their younger sibling returns, the three oldest Blair children find their lives disrupted in ways they could have never imagined as they each tell their story in interwoven portraits at crucial points in their history.

*The Green Road* by Anne Enright

When Christmas day reunites the Madigan children under one roof in County Clare, Ireland, years after leaving their mother Rosaleen behind to follow their dreams, they each must confront the terrible weight of family ties and the journey that brought them home.

*The Nest* by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney

Gathering to confront an older sibling who has been recently released from rehab after a drunk driving accident, the Plum siblings watch as the trust fund left by their father rises and falls according to self-inflicted problems.

*The Past* by Tessa Hadley

Assembling at their country house one final time before it is sold, four siblings and their children share past memories, hidden passions and devastating secrets that threaten to overwhelm them.

All summaries from the publishers. —Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

### 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winners

On Monday April 25, 2016 the 2016 Pulitzer Prize winners were announced. Here are some of the winners:

**Fiction:** *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

“A profound, startling, and beautifully crafted debut novel, *The Sympathizer* is the story of a man of two minds, someone whose political beliefs clash with his individual loyalties.”

**History:** *Custer’s Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America* by T.J. Stiles.

“A biography of the iconic Civil War commander examines his contributions to politics and the Industrial Revolution, sharing insights into his turbulent relationships, perspectives on Native Americans, and conflicts with the military.” Stiles also won the Pulitzer Prize in 2010 for *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*.

**Biography/Autobiography:** *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life* by William Finnegan.

“Describes the author’s experiences as a lifelong surfer, from his early years in Honolulu through his culturally sophisticated pursuits of perfect waves in some of the world’s most exotic locales.”

**General Non Fiction:** *Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS* by Joby Warrick.

“Traces how the strain of militant Islam behind ISIS first arose under the leadership of terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and spread through the strategic mistakes of Presidents Bush and Obama.” Joby Warrick has won multiple Pulitzer Prizes.

**Drama:** *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Hamilton is based on the book *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow. The full-text of the play is now available in print and also on audiobook.

All the 2016 Pulitzer Prize winners can be found at the following website: [http://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-year/2016](http://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-year/2016)

All summaries are from the publisher. —Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian