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To register your book club and receive this newsletter straight into your inbox, contact any Readers’ Services Librarian.

Alyson Richman’s December 20th Visit to Syosset Public Library

Alyson Richman, the bestselling author of six novels, visited the Syosset Public Library on Tuesday, December 20th. It was interesting to learn about her childhood in Japan, her background as an accomplished painter, and her writing process. I enjoyed her newest novel, *The Velvet Hours* and look forward to reading all of her books. Since these books contain interesting and important themes, they are great for book discussions. Here are Richman’s six novels that your book club may be interested in reading:

*The Velvet Hours* (2016)
In the face of the German Occupation, Solange leaves her late grandmother’s treasure-filled Paris apartment, unsure if she’ll ever return, but as she sets out on a new path, her grandmother’s legacy of cultivating a life of art and beauty guides her.

When Mussolini’s Fascist regime strikes her family, cello prodigy Elodie is brought into the resistance movement, and discovers that her musical talents have the power to save lives.

*The Rhythm of Memory* (2012)
Originally falling in love as students in Chile, Octavio and Salome must escape to Sweden after their outspoken opposition to a brutal dictator puts them in grave danger.

*The Lost Wife* (2011)
During the last moments of calm in prewar Prague, Lenka an art student, and Josef, who is studying medicine, fall in love and marry, only to have their dreams shattered by the imminent Nazi invasion as they are torn apart by the currents of war.

*The Last Van Gogh* (2006)
In 1890, Van Gogh arrives at Auvers-sur-Oise, a peaceful French village, to spend the summer under the care of Doctor Gachet, a homeopathic doctor and art collector, where the painter will spend the final days of his life creating more than seventy paintings, including two portraits of young Marguerite Gachet, who finds herself drawn to the troubled artist.

*The Mask Carver’s Son* (2000)
A young Japanese artist leaves his home, family, and traditions to study painting in Paris.

All summaries are from the publishers.

Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

Upcoming Events
For Readers

Evening Book Discussion
-“Then We Came to the End” by Joshua Ferris on Tues, Jan 10, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Afternoon Book Discussion
-“A Thousand Splendid Suns” by Khaled Hosseini on Tues, Jan 31, 2017 at 1:30 PM

If your Book Club would like to recommend a book to our readers, please send us an email at Readersservices@syossetlibrary.org and we will share it in a future newsletter.

www.syossetlibrary.org

“A novel I know nothing about that I happen to stumble upon ... that’s still the best reading experience: falling in love with a book I meet by accident.” – Alice Hoffman
The American Library Association (ALA) recently announced its short list for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Non-fiction. The Carnegie Medal was established in 2012 to recognize the best fiction and non-fiction books for adult readers published in the United States in the previous year. The two medal winners will be announced at the Reference and User Services Association’s (RUSA) Book and Media Awards ceremony on Sunday, January 22, 2017, at the American Library Association’s Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. Each winner will receive $5,000 and two finalists in each category will receive $1,500.

The short list for fiction is as follows:

Moonglow by Michael Chabon
A man bears witness to his grandfather's deathbed confessions, which reveal his family's long-buried history and his involvement in a mail-order novelty company, World War II, and the space program.

Swing Time by Zadie Smith
Two dancers with different approaches to their craft share a complicated childhood friendship that ends abruptly in their early twenties, in a story that transitions from northwest London to West Africa.

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
A tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South.

The non-fiction short list is:

The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Social Justice by Patricia Bell-Scott
Describes the unlikely friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Pauli Murray, a granddaughter of a mixed race slave and a lesbian, who became a lawyer and civil rights pioneer, and the important work they each did for justice and freedom.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
A Harvard sociologist examines the challenge of eviction as a formidable cause of poverty in America, revealing how millions of people are wrongly forced from their homes and reduced to cycles of extreme disadvantage that are reinforced by dysfunctional legal systems.

Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America by Patrick Phillips
A gripping tale of racial cleansing in Forsyth County, Georgia ... testament to the deep roots of racial violence in America ... Patrick Phillips breaks the century-long silence of his hometown and uncovers a history of racial terrorism that continues to shape America in the twenty-first century.

The 2016 Carnegie Medal winner for fiction was The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen and the winner for non-fiction was Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs by Sally Mann.

All summaries from the publishers.

Good luck to all the nominees!