December 2018

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

Upcoming Events For Readers

Evening Book Discussion
Circe by Madeline Miller on Tues, December 11, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Year-End Celebration
Meet author Jacqueline Friedland Wed, December 19, 2018 at 2 PM

Let us provide you with everything you need for your book club. The library owns sets of books exclusively for local book clubs to check out for their discussions. Discussion questions are included in the set, along with biographical and critical material.

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The Book Club Insider

Monthly Newsletter

Best Book Club Lists for 2018

For this article and for subsequent book discussions, I began searching the best book club lists that I view periodically for current and upcoming releases. Interestingly enough, many of the same titles popped up on different websites. I have chosen six titles, three I have enjoyed reading (*) and three I am intrigued to begin, for your review:

An American Marriage by Tayari Jones*
When her husband is arrested and imprisoned for a crime she knows he did not commit, a rising artist takes comfort in a longtime friendship only to encounter unexpected challenges in resuming her life when her husband's sentence is suddenly overturned.

Girls Burn brighter by Shobha Rao
Forging a deep friendship with impoverished but passionate fellow weaver Savitha, motherless Poornima leaves behind everything she knows to search for her friend after an act of cruelty drives Savitha away.

The House of Broken Angels by Luis Alberto Urrea
Across one bittersweet weekend in their San Diego neighborhood, revelers mingle among the palm trees and cacti, celebrating the lives of family patriarch Miguel “Big Angel” De La Cruz and his mother, and recounting the many tales that have passed into family lore.

The Mars Room by Rachel Kushner*
At the beginning of her two life sentences in Stanville Women’s Correctional Facility, Romy Hall reflects on her youth and her relationship with her son, while navigating the harsh realities of prison life.

There There by Tommy Orange*
A novel that grapples with the complex history and identity of Native Americans follows twelve characters, each of whom has private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow.

Those Who Knew by Idra Novey
A young woman who suspects that a powerful senator she was involved with back in her student activist days may be guilty of murder faces the consequences of her own silence ten years previously, when she told no one about the violent incident that ended their relationship.

All Summaries are from the publishers. Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

If you can read, you don’t ever have to be lonely. - Maggie Osborne

Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian
New to Book Club in a Bag

Clock Dance by Anne Tyler

NATIONAL BEST SELLER | A charming new novel of self-discovery and second chances from the best-selling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of A Spool of Blue Thread.

“A lifetime of painful milestones and fading grandchild prospects compel a woman to help her son’s ex, whose 9-year-old daughter needs protection from violent local dynamics.” -from the publisher

Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 to reserve a book for your Book Club.

Looking ahead to 2019…Try Something New!

Is your book club getting tired of the “same old, same old” format of your meetings? Would you like to mix things up in the coming New Year? Try one of these ideas:

— Have a digital online meeting. An easy way to do this is by creating a group on Facebook and choose a date to discuss that month’s book live online. If you would like to see one another, you can use Skype video chat or Google chat videos.

— Decide to base the year’s selection on a book challenge. There are plenty of book challenges available on many book related websites at the beginning of every year. Pick any 12 tasks, assign one to each month and choose a book that fulfills each task’s criteria.

— Have a theme for the whole year. For instance, “geography” - each book must have a place name in the title or “colors” - each book must have a color in title. Your theme might be genre based - read all mysteries or historical fiction. Or, all books must have been translated from another language.

— A common book club custom is to connect your meeting’s refreshments to the book. Your book takes place in Italy? Serve Italian food and drinks.

— Choose to connect each of the year’s books to your member’s lives. Every book will have something to do with one of your member’s career or hobby and that member moderates the month’s discussion.

— “Skip” a month and just come to the meeting ready to share what you have all been reading individually with the others.

As always, the SPL Readers’ Services staff are happy to help you plan for any of these ideas or others you may have, just come in to see us on the second floor or call 516 921-7161 x 239.

Happy Holidays and a Very Bookish New Year to all!

-Sonia Grgas, Reference Librarian