Plan Ahead for a Fun and Festive Year End Meeting

I know it is only the beginning of September but December will be here before we know it. It’s a very busy time of year for most of us and some groups do not even meet in December as it difficult to read when there are so many demands for our time. However, with a little planning ahead, your group might prepare for one of your very best meetings ever!

Not Reading a Book for December? Even if your book club chooses not to read a book for December you can still involve reading for this meeting. Members can simply reminisce and share their own good reading experiences of the past year. Picking just one short story for all to read is another idea. Or everyone can pick a poem to read to the others in the group.

Have an Awards Ceremony Create a list of categories for your group to vote on: Best/Worst book discussion, Favorite/Least favorite character, Best Book/Food Pairing, Best Food Prepared for a Meeting – or other categories specific to your group. Vote prior to your year end meeting and prepare to give out award ribbons or small loving cups. Members can even wear formal evening attire.

Gift Giving Many people give gifts at this time of year; your group can have a “Bookish” grab bag. All can agree to give a book that they think the other members might like. Just wrap them up and leave the giver anonymous. Or the gifts can be other book related items: bookmarks, book lights, items with books quotes on them, etc.

Take it Outside Go out to a restaurant for your holiday meeting. Or if your book club members live close to each other, have a “Dessert Crawl” : go from house to house to sample a dessert and beverage in each, with each serving connected in some way to the books you have read in the past.

Whether or not you use any of my ideas, I hope your book club has a very fun and very festive year end meeting!

- Sonia Grgas, Readers’ Services Librarian
WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS ACROSS THE POND ARE READING

Ever wonder what types of books people are reading in other countries? Here is a look at the bestselling fiction and non-fiction books in the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United States for August 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
<th>Non-Fiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn</td>
<td>The Fast Diet: Lose Weight, Stay Healthy, &amp; Live Longer with the Simple Secrets of Intermittent Fasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Inferno by Dan Brown</td>
<td>1913: The Year Before the Storm by Florian Iles (US release 10/29/13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini</td>
<td>The Light of Faith: Encyclical on Faith by Pope Francis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair* by Joel Dicker</td>
<td>The Enzyme Factor: Diet for the Future That Will Prevent Heart Disease, Cure Cancer And Stop Type 2 Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>The Cuckoo’s Calling by Robert Galbraith</td>
<td>Zealot: The Life and Times Of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Azlan</td>
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</tbody>
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*to be published in UK May 2014 no planned US date.

Sources: Publisher’s Weekly and New York Times Book Review

Author Spotlight: Brenda Janowitz

On Wednesday, August 14th we were fortunate enough to have a visit from local author Brenda Janowitz to help us “Wrap-Up” our 4th annual Adult Summer Reading Program. Ms. Janowitz is the author of three novels: Scot on the Rocks (2007), Jack with a Twist (2008), Recipe for a Happy Life (2013). All three titles are available at the Library.

Her most recent novel, Recipe for a Happy Life, was published just two months ago in July by St. Martin’s Press. Ms. Janowitz did a short reading from her book, as well as entertained the crowd with anecdotes from her writing life.

Ms. Janowitz is a Long Island author and expressed much interest in meeting with local book clubs. She mentioned how much she loves the atmosphere of a book club discussion and how exciting it is to meet with her readers.

Patrons can contact Brenda Janowitz through her website http://www.brendajanowitz.com/. She is available to meet local book groups in person, over the phone or via Skype.

Recipe for a Happy Life

“Raised by her grandmother, Hannah, daughter of a photojournalist, seeks solace at her grandmother’s Hamptons estate after her own life as a New York City lawyer falls apart, a loss that helps her consider other paths to happiness.” (From the Publisher)

- Jackie Ranaldo, Head of Readers’ Services

“In a very real sense, people who have read good literature have lived more than people who cannot or will not read.”

- S. I. Hayakawa

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.