“He Said, She Said” Book Discussion Recap

On December 17th SPL’s annual “He Said, She Said” book discussion was held. Adult Services Librarians Sonia Grgas, Ralph Guitèau, Ed Goldberg and Lisa Jones discussed the National Book Award winning novel The Round House by Louise Erdrich.

Most of the group enjoyed The Round House and a lively discussion of the book ensued. The group most identified and felt a connection to the character Joe. Some of the characters that appeared in Erdrich’s The Plague of Doves reappear in this novel. A third novel to complete the trilogy is in the works. For more information regarding Louise Erdrich and her novels, please visit www.Birchbarkbooks.com. If your book group would like to use The Round House for a book discussion, Readers’ Services will arrange for enough copies and assist with all information you might need.

We then went through the list of all the SPL book discussions, both afternoon and evening, that were held during 2013. Some of the group’s favorite book discussions were In The Shadow of the Banyan by Vaddey Ratner, Me Before You by Jojo Moyes, and The World We Found by Thrity Umrigar. It was truly a year of great books and great book discussions.

Syosset Public Library’s Book Discussions in 2013

- The Widower’s Tale by Julia Glass
- Next to Love by Ellen Feldman
- The Swerve: How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt
- The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach
- And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
- The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce
- Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo
- Sutton by J.R. Moehringer
- Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk by Ben Fountain
- The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
- In the Shadow of the Banyan by Vaddey Ratner
- The Lotus Eaters by Tatjana Soli
- The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman
- The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho
- A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
- The World We Found by Thrity Umrigar
- The Ghost Writer by Philip Roth
- Me Before You by Jojo Moyes
- The Aviator’s Wife by Melanie Benjamin
- The Round House by Louise Erdrich

- Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian
Title Swap with Librarians Recap

On Tuesday, December 10th the Readers’ Services Department hosted our quarterly Title Swap with Librarians. We had a wonderful discussion with our attendees, compiling a total of 39 titles for our “Suggested Reading” Bibliography for the Winter 2013-2014 season. The complete bibliography can be found at the Readers’ Services Desk, as well as on our website: www.syossetlibrary.org. This listing is a compilation of titles read and enjoyed by both the Readers’ Services Librarians and our Library members. Our next Title Swap with Librarians will be held on Tuesday, March 4th at 1:30 PM. We hope you can join us and bring your Book Club members. See below for a sampling of the December suggested titles we feel Book Clubs might enjoy.

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker
When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter has any idea where he might be—until they find a love letter he wrote many years before, to a Burmese woman who is unknown to them.

The Burgess Boys by Elizabeth Strout
Catalyzed by a nephew's thoughtless prank, two brothers confront painful issues surrounding the freak accident that killed their father when they were boys, a loss linked to a heartbreaking deception that shaped their lives.

The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri
Brothers Subhash and Udayan Mitra pursue vastly different lives--Udayan in rebellion-torn Calcutta, Subhash in a quiet corner of America--until a shattering tragedy compels Subhash to return to India, where he endeavors to heal family wounds.

Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini
Presents a fictionalized account of the friendship between Mary Todd Lincoln and her dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley, a former slave.

Necessary Lies by Diane Chamberlain
Caring for her family on their mid-twentieth-century tobacco farm after the loss of her parents, fifteen-year-old Ivy connects with Grace County social worker Jane Forrester, who strains her personal and professional relationships with her advocacy of Ivy's family.

All of the above titles are available at the Library.
Summaries are provided by the publishers.

“My best friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read”
Abraham Lincoln

New to Book Club in a Bag

Readers’ Services has added the following book to our Book Club in a Bag collection:

And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini
The best-selling author of The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns presents a story inspired by human love, how people take care of one another and how choices resonate through subsequent generations.

Also, these books have been added by the Book Club in a Bag Consortium:

Defending Jacob by William Landay
The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker
Me Before You by Jojo Moyes
The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger
The Round House by Louise Erdrich
The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce

Let us provide everything you need for a successful book discussion. We can supply you with 10 copies (or more if needed) of the book and a discussion binder. The binder contains discussion questions, biographical information and critical material. Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 or 241 to reserve a book for your Book Club.

-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian