



Thursday Evening Book Discussions 2024-25 Nevins Memorial Library

Book discussions will be held at the Library on Thursday evenings 7-9pm. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on ZOOM. Books are available approximately one month prior to the discussion. You may pick up books at the Main Desk any time the Library is open or call to make an arrangement for Curbside Pickup. Some books are available as downloadable e-books, or in Large Print or Audio. If you wish to join this Book Group you may attend any meeting. Additional Book Discussion information is available on our website at www.nevinslibrary.org. All books announced in this flyer are tentative, based on availability of multiple copies. To confirm dates, book selections, or for more information call the Library at 978-686-4080 ext. 10.

September 5th – Annual Reading Round-Up

Fall Series: A Hundred Years of the Pulitzer Prize: Part Two

Let's explore some of the most lauded American books. The Pulitzer Prizes were established just after the First World War, and while our tastes have changed, and the prizes have evolved, do the prize winners stand the test of time? We will read one title from each decade of the 20th century. This series began in the Spring of 2024. If you would like a list of titles read in the first half of the series, please ask one of the Book Group Leaders.

October 3rd – 1952 Pulitzer: The Caine Mutiny by Herman Wouk

This dramatic and entertaining novel of life--and mutiny--on a Navy warship in the Pacific theater is a serious work of fiction which grapples with the moral complexities and the human consequences of World War II.

November 7th – 1961 Pulitzer: To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

One of the most cherished stories in the American literary canon this classic is a gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice.

December 5th – 1973 Pulitzer: The Optimist's Daughter by Eudora Welty

The story of Laurel McKelva Hand, a young woman who has left the South and returns, years later, to New Orleans, where her father is dying. After his death, she and her silly young stepmother go back still farther, to the small Mississippi town where she grew up. Alone in the old house, Laurel finally comes to an understanding of the past, herself, and her parents.

January 9th – 1988 Pulitzer: Beloved – by Toni Morrison

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened to her and her family. Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

February 6th – 1995 Pulitzer: The Stone Diaries by Carol Shields

One of the most successful and acclaimed novels of our time, this fictionalized autobiography of Daisy Goodwill Flett is a subtle but affecting portrait of an everywoman reflecting on an unconventional life.

March 6th – 2000 Pulitzer: Empire Falls by Richard Russo

Welcome to Empire Falls, a blue-collar town full of abandoned mills whose citizens surround themselves with the comforts and feuds provided by lifelong friends and neighbors and who find humor and hope in the most unlikely places.

Spring Series: Native American Stories

The stories of native tribal people, told through a contemporary lens are heart-breaking and challenging to white readers. These three books open up the history of native communities and families, and the tragedies and triumphs we can find there.

April 3rd – A Council of Dolls by Mona Susan Power

From the mid-20th-century metropolis of Chicago to the windswept ancestral lands of the Dakota people, to the bleak and brutal Indian boarding schools, this is the story of three women, told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried

May 1st – Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

An enthralling work of non-fiction that combines true crime and history to uncover a chilling and deeply disturbing chapter of American history. This impeccably researched and gripping narrative shines a light on a forgotten era and exposes a shocking conspiracy that will leave readers spellbound.

June 5th – The Plague of Doves by Louise Erdrich

The unsolved murder of a farm family still haunts the white small town of Pluto, North Dakota, generations after the vengeance exacted and the distortions of fact transformed the lives of Ojibwe living on the nearby reservation. Decades later, through the distinct voices of three unforgettable narrators, the collective stories of two interwoven communities ultimately come together to reveal a final wrenching truth.

