



# BOOKWORMS BOOK CLUB

The Bookworms Book Club is a reading group for adults that meets at 1:00 on the **third Wednesday of each month**. All are welcome to read along with us and attend our discussions in the library meeting room. No registration is required.

## 2018 BOOK CLUB READING LIST

Wednesday, January 17th

### **News of the World by Paulette Jiles F JIL**

After the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, an elderly widower, travels through Texas, giving live readings from newspapers to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. In Wichita Falls, he is offered a \$50 gold piece to deliver a young orphan girl, whose family was killed 4 years earlier by a band of Kiowa, to her relatives in San Antonio. Their 400-mile journey south through unsettled territory proves difficult and dangerous, yet, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other, forming a bond. In San Antonio the captain must hand Johanna over to an aunt and uncle she does not remember--strangers who regard her as an unwanted burden.

Captain Kidd is faced with a terrible choice.

Wednesday, February 14th

### **The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict F BEN**

Mitza Maric has always been a little different from other girls. Most twenty-year-olds are wives by now, not studying physics at an elite Zurich university with only male students trying to outdo her clever calculations. But Mitza is smart enough to know that, for her, math is an easier path than marriage. And then fellow student Albert Einstein takes an interest in her, and the world turns sideways. Theirs becomes a partnership of the mind and of the heart, but there might not be room for more than one genius in a marriage.

[The author will be joining the group for a discussion of her book via Skype.](#)

Wednesday, March 21st

### **Mary Coin by Marisa Silver F**

Author Marisa Silver takes Dorothea Lange's "Migrant Mother" photograph as inspiration for this novel. Three vibrant characters anchor the narrative of *Mary Coin*. Mary, the migrant mother herself, who emerges as a woman with deep reserves of courage and nerve, with private passions and carefully-guarded secrets. Vera Dare, the photographer wrestling with creative ambition who makes the choice to leave her children in order to pursue her work. And Walker Dodge, a present-day professor of cultural history, who discovers a family mystery embedded in the picture. In luminous, exquisitely rendered prose, Silver creates an extraordinary tale from a brief moment in history, and reminds us that although a great photograph can capture the essence of a moment, it only scratches the surface of a life.

Wednesday, April 18th

### **The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff F JEN**

Sixteen-year-old Noa has been cast out in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and being forced to give up her baby. She lives above a small rail station, which she cleans in order to earn her keep... When Noa discovers a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp, she is reminded of the child that was taken from her. And in a moment that will change the course of her life, she snatches one of the babies and flees into the snowy night. Noa finds refuge with a German circus, but she must learn the flying trapeze act so she can blend in undetected, spurning the resentment of the lead aerialist, Astrid. At first rivals, Noa and Astrid soon forge a powerful bond. But as the facade that protects them proves increasingly tenuous, Noa and Astrid must decide whether their friendship is enough to save one another--or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything.

Wednesday, May 9th

### **The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See F SEE**

Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. There is ritual and routine, and it has been ever thus for generations. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate—the first automobile any of them have seen—and a stranger arrives. In this remote Yunnan village, the stranger finds the rare tea he has been seeking and a reticent Akha people. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, translates for the stranger and is among the first to reject the rules that have shaped her existence. When she has a baby outside of wedlock, rather than stand by tradition, she wraps her daughter in a blanket, with a tea cake hidden in her swaddling, and abandons her in the nearest city. After mother and daughter have gone their separate ways, Li-yan slowly emerges from the security and insularity of her village to encounter modern life while Haley grows up a privileged and well-loved California girl. Despite Haley's happy home life, she wonders about her origins; and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They both search for and find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations.

[The author will be joining the group for a discussion of her book via Skype.](#)

**Free Public Library of Monroe Township**

**713 Marsha Avenue, Williamstown**

**856-629-1212 [www.monroetpl.org](http://www.monroetpl.org)**

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## 2018 BOOK LIST

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Wednesday, June 20th

### **Stolen Beauty by Laurie Lico Albanese F**

In the dazzling glitter of 1900 Vienna, Adele Bloch-Bauer—young, beautiful, brilliant, and Jewish—meets painter Gustav Klimt. Wealthy in everything but freedom, Adele embraces Klimt's renegade genius. Nearly forty years later, Adele's niece Maria Altmann is a newlywed when the Nazis invade Austria—and overnight, her beloved Vienna becomes a war zone. Will Maria and her family escape the Nazis' grip? And what will become of the paintings that her aunt nearly sacrificed everything for?

Wednesday, July 18th

### **Saints for All Occasions by J. Courtney Sullivan F SUL**

Nora and Theresa Flynn are twenty-one and seventeen when they leave their small village in Ireland and journey to America. When Theresa ends up pregnant, Nora is forced to come up with a plan—a decision with repercussions they are both far too young to understand. Fifty years later, Nora is the matriarch of a big Catholic family with four grown children. Estranged from her sister, Theresa is a cloistered nun, living in an abbey in rural Vermont. Until, after decades of silence, a sudden death forces Nora and Theresa to confront the choices they made so long ago.

## August - No meeting

Wednesday, September 19th

### **Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann 976.6004 GRA**

Presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy members of the Osage tribe and the law-enforcement officials investigating the murders. As the death toll climbed to more than twenty-four, the FBI took up the case. It was one of the organization's first major homicide investigations and the bureau badly bungled the case. In desperation, the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to unravel the mystery. The investigation eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

Wednesday, October 17th

### **Into the Water by Paula Hawkins F HAW**

A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged. Left behind is a lonely fifteen-year-old girl. Parentless and friendless, she now finds herself in the care of her mother's sister, a fearful stranger who has been dragged back to the place she deliberately ran from—a place to which she vowed she'd never return.

Wednesday, November 14th

### **The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck F SHA**

Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined. Amid the ashes of Nazi Germany's defeat, Marianne von Lingenfels returns to the once-grand castle of her husband's ancestors, an imposing stone fortress now fallen into ruin following years of war. The widow of a resister murdered in the failed July 20, 1944, plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, Marianne plans to uphold the promise she made to her husband's brave conspirators: to find and protect their wives, her fellow resistance widows. As Marianne assembles this makeshift family from the ruins of her husband's resistance movement, she is certain their shared pain and circumstances will hold them together. But she quickly discovers that the black-and-white, highly principled world of her privileged past has become infinitely more complicated, filled with secrets and dark passions that threaten to tear them apart. Eventually, the women must come to terms with the choices that have defined their lives before, during, and after the war—each with their own unique share of challenges.

## December - No meeting