

2017 - 2018

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library Evening Book Discussion

The titles are selected and facilitated by participants.

Copies of the books will be available at the Circulation Desk to check out on the date of the preceding discussion. Please check out on your way to the discussion.

*Indicates schedule aberrations. Discussions are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room, unless otherwise noted.

Wed. Sept. 27 COMMONWEALTH by Ann Patchett — 322 pp

****Meeting in Children's Program Room — Pick up Aug. 25**

Spanning five decades, this novel explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them. Told with equal measures of humor and heartbreak, *Commonwealth* is a meditation on inspiration, interpretation, and the ownership of stories. It is a brilliant and tender tale of the far-reaching ties of love and responsibility that bind us together.

Wed. Oct. 25 WASHINGTON'S SPIES by Alexander Rose (interloan) — 370 pp

Rose focuses on a small band of Americans, longtime friends (based in Setauket) who created an intelligence network known as the Culper Ring to funnel information to George Washington about the British troops in and around New York City. The author quotes extensively from their correspondence, showing how contentious the relationship between the general and his spies could get, especially when Washington thought they were underperforming. Rose also delves into technical aspects of the Culpers' spycraft, like their attempts at cryptography and invisible ink. His story is compelling in its descriptions of occupied New York, where patriots and loyalists lived together in an uneasy balance.

***Wed. Nov. 15 A SEPARATE PEACE by John Knowles (interloan) — 208 pp**

****Meeting room TBA**

The volatile world of male adolescence provides the backdrop for this engrossing tale of love, hate, war, and peace. Sharing a room at an exclusive New England prep school in the summer prior to WWII, Gene and Phineas form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and worst characteristics of each boy and leads ultimately to violence, a confession, and the betrayal of trust.

***Wed. Dec. 20 MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON by Elizabeth Strout — 193 pp**

****Meet in Board Room**

Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life. Knitting this powerful narrative together is the brilliant storytelling voice of Lucy herself: keenly observant, deeply human, and truly unforgettable.

Wed. Jan. 24 THE LAST PAINTING OF SARA DE VOS by Dominic Smith (interloan) — 290 pp

In this wonderfully engaging novel centered on the paintings of fictional seventeenth-century Dutch artist Sara de Vos, Smith immerses the reader in three vibrant time periods. Rich in historical detail, the novel explores the immense challenges faced by women in the arts (past and present), provides a glimpse into the seedy underbelly of the art world across the centuries, and illustrates the transformative power and influence of great art. An outstanding achievement, filled with flawed and fascinating characters. —*Booklist*



Emma S. Clark
Memorial Library

120 Main Street, Setauket, NY 11733
"The Heart of the Three Village Community"
Phone: 631.941.4080
Online: emmaclark.org
Email: askus@emmaclark.org



See reverse →

2017 - 2018

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library Evening Book Discussion

The titles are selected and facilitated by participants.

Copies of the books will be available at the Circulation Desk to check out on the date of the preceding discussion. Please check out on your way to the discussion.

*Indicates schedule aberrations. Discussions are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room, unless otherwise noted.

Wed. Feb. 28 THE MURALIST by B.A. Shapiro (interloan) — 337 pp

When a young American painter working for the WPA vanishes in New York City in 1940, no one knows what happened to her. Not her Jewish family living in German-occupied France. Nor her arts patron and political compatriot, Eleanor Roosevelt, or her close-knit group of friends and fellow WPA painters, including Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, and Lee Krasner. Her great-niece, Danielle Abrams, 70 years later, while working at Christie's auction house, uncovers enigmatic paintings hidden behind works by those now famous Abstract Expressionist artists. Do they hold answers to the questions surrounding her missing aunt?

Wed. Mar. 28 THE GIRLS OF ATOMIC CITY by Denise Kiernan — 416 pp

Kiernan brings a unique and personal perspective to this key part of American history—building the atomic bomb. Instead of the words of top scientists and government officials, she recounts the experiences of factory workers, secretaries, and low-level chemists in a town that housed, at its peak, 75,000 people trained not to talk about what they knew or what they did. She combines their stories with detailed reporting that provides a clear and compelling picture of this fascinating time.

Wed. Apr. 25 NEWS OF THE WORLD by Paulette Giles (interloan) — 213 pp

In the wake of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas, giving live readings from newspapers to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. He is offered gold to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people. Four years earlier, a band of Kiowa raiders had captured the little girl, raising her as one of their own. Recently rescued by the U.S. army, the ten-year-old has once again been torn away from the only home she knows. Their 400-mile journey south through unsettled territory and unforgiving terrain proves difficult and at times dangerous. Yet as the miles pass, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other, forming a bond that marks the difference between life and death in this treacherous land.

Wed. May 23 THE MARRIAGE OF OPPOSITES by Alice Hoffman — 369 pp

This novel envisions the life of the mother of Impressionist painter Camille Pissaro. Growing up on idyllic St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel dreams of life in faraway Paris. Rachel's mother, a pillar of their small refugee community of Jews who escaped the Inquisition, has never forgiven her daughter for being a difficult girl who refuses to live by the rules. But Rachel's life is not her own. To save her father's business, she is married off to a widower with three children. When her husband dies suddenly and his handsome, much younger nephew, Frédéric, arrives from France to settle the estate, Rachel seizes her own life story.

Wed. June 27 THE SWANS OF FIFTH AVENUE by Melanie Benjamin — 341 pp

The author of *The Aviator's Wife* returns with a triumphant new novel about New York's "Swans" of the 1950s—the alluring socialite Swans Slim Keith, C. Z. Guest, Gloria Guinness, and Pamela Churchill -- and the scandalous, headline-making, and enthralling friendship between literary legend Truman Capote and peerless socialite Babe Paley.



Emma S. Clark
Memorial Library

120 Main Street, Setauket, NY 11733
"The Heart of the Three Village Community"
Phone: 631.941.4080
Online: emmaclark.org
Email: askus@emmaclark.org

