

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library  
2023–2024

Evening  
**BOOK DISCUSSION**

The books are selected and facilitated by the participants. Copies of the next book will be available at the Circulation Desk to check out on your way to the Vincent R. O’Leary Community Room. We meet 2nd Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45 p.m.

**September 13** **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston (219 pp)

A luminous, haunting novel about Janie Crawford, a Southern Black woman in the 1930s, whose journey from a free-spirited girl to a woman of independence and substance has inspired writers and readers for close to 70 years. This love story, rooted in Black folk traditions and steeped in mythic realism, boldly celebrates African-American culture and heritage. In a powerful, mesmerizing narrative, it pays quiet tribute to a Black woman who, though constricted by the times, still demanded to be heard. Pick up at Circ. Desk 8/16.

**October 11** **Flight** by Lynn Steger Strong (232 pp)

It's December 22nd and siblings Henry, Kate, and Martin have converged with their spouses on Henry's house in upstate New York. This is the first Christmas the siblings are without their mother, the first not at their mother's Florida house. Over the course of the next three days, old resentments and instabilities arise as the siblings, with a gaggle of children afoot, attempt to perform familiar rituals, while also trying to decide what to do with their mother's house, their sole inheritance. As tensions rise, the whole group is forced to come together unexpectedly.

**November 8** **Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury (190 pp)

In Bradbury's futuristic novel, the knowledge gained from books is forbidden, and television replaces deep thought with vapid and menial information. Firefighter Guy Montag is assigned to locate, confiscate, and burn books. He is content with his life and job until he discovers the valuable knowledge found within books. Now, Guy must decide to either continue his stale existence or abscond with his newfound knowledge.

**December 13** **The Hero of This Book** by Elizabeth McCracken (177 pp)

After her mother's death, the narrator takes a trip to London, a favorite city of her mother. As she wanders the streets, she finds herself reflecting on her mother's life and their relationship. Thoughts of the past meld with questions of the future. The woman, a writer, recalls all that made her complicated mother extraordinary--her brilliant wit, her generosity, her unbelievable obstinacy, her sheer will in seizing life despite physical difficulties--and finds herself wondering how her mother had endured. Comic and heartbreaking, prose, this novel is of such piercing love and tenderness that we are reminded that art is what remains when all else falls away.

**January 10** **A Mercy** by Toni Morrison (167 pp / Pool Book)

In exchange for a bad debt, an Anglo-Dutch trader takes on Florens, a young slave girl, who feels abandoned by her slave mother and who searches for love--first from an older servant woman at her master's new home, and then from a handsome free blacksmith.

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**February 14** Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles (576 pp / Pool Book)

In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the working farm where he has just served a year for involuntary manslaughter. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the working farm have hidden in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future.

**March 13** House of Mirth by Edith Wharton (374 pp)

The glittering yet treacherous world of New York High Society comes to life in the heartbreaking story of Lily Bart, a renowned beauty of exquisite charm who's seeking a wealthy husband in the shallow and corrupt world at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, where wealth and social status are everything.

**April 10** Trust by Hernan Diaz (402 pp)

In glamorous 1920s New York City, two characters of sophisticated taste come together. One is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; the other, the brilliant daughter of penniless aristocrats. Steeped in affluence and grandeur, their marriage excites gossip and allows a continued ascent -- all at a moment when the country is undergoing a great transformation.

**May 8** Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver (560 pp)

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer. He has no assets beyond his dead father's good looks, copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

**June 12** Spectator Bird by Wallace Stegner (204 pp)

Joe Allston is a retired literary agent who is, in his own words, "killing time before time gets around to killing me." His parents and his only son are long dead, leaving him with neither ancestors nor descendants, tradition nor ties. His job, trafficking the talent of others, had not been his choice. He passes through life as a spectator. But a postcard from a friend causes him to return to the journals of a trip he had taken years before. The memories of that trip to his mother's birthplace move through layers of time and meaning, and reveal that Joe Allston isn't quite spectator enough.



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