Emma S. Clark Memorial Library 2025–2026 Book Discussion

We meet 2nd Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45 p.m. in the Vincent R. O'Leary Community Room. Copies of the book will be available for pick up at the Circulation Desk. Each discussion is facilitated by one of our participants, and our books are selected by annual vote. All are welcome!

September 10 Rules of Civility by Amor Towles (335 pp)

A chance encounter in a Greenwich Village jazz bar gives twenty-five-year-old secretary Katey Kontent unexpected access to the upper echelons of 1930s New York society. *Pickup starts 8/8/25*.

October 8 House on Endless Waters by Emuna Elon (309 pp)

Renowned author Yoel Blum reluctantly agrees to visit his birthplace of Amsterdam to promote his books, despite promising his late mother that he would never return to that city. While touring the Jewish Historical Museum with his wife, Yoel stumbles upon prewar footage that reveals an unsettling secret about his childhood. *Pickup starts 9/10/25*.

November 12 Lovely One: A Memoir by Ketanji Brown Jackson (405 pp)

The first Black woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court chronicles her extraordinary life story, tracing her family's ascent from segregation to her confirmation on America's highest court within the span of one generation. *Pickup starts* 10/8/25.

December 9 <u>Gilead</u> by Marilynne Robinson (247 pp) **Please note date change to Tuesday**

In 1956, as the Reverend John Ames is dying, he writes a letter to his son chronicling three previous generations of his family, a story that stretches back to the Civil War and reveals uncomfortable secrets. *Pickup starts* 11/12/25.

January 14 <u>Wuthering Heights</u> by Emily Brontë (356 pp)

When young orphan Heathcliff is adopted by a wealthy gentleman, he quickly forms a close bond with his benefactor's daughter, Cathy. But over the years, their childhood friendship morphs into a twisted, possessive love, as they wrestle with the tyrannical rule of Cathy's brother and the confines of social class that keep them apart. *Pickup starts* 12/10/25.

February 11 Agent Josephine by Damien Lewis (466 pp)

Prior to World War II, Josephine Baker was a music-hall diva and the highest-paid female performer in Europe, but when the Nazis seized Paris, she was banned from the stage, along with all "negroes and Jews." Instead of returning to America, however, she stayed in France and became a Resistance spy as told in this true account of her remarkable life. *Pickup starts* 1/14/25.

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March 11 Two Irish novellas: Foster (95 pp) and Small Things Like These (118 pp) by Claire Keegan

In *Foster*, a small girl is sent to live with loving foster parents on a farm in rural Ireland. As she slowly begins to blossom in their care, a secret is revealed and she suddenly realizes how fragile her idyll is.

In *Small Things Like These*, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man, makes a disturbing discovery while delivering an order to the local convent, forcing him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a small town controlled by the church. *Pickup starts* 2/11/26.

April 8 The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian (299 pp)

In 1915, a young American nurse falls in love with an Armenian soldier while aiding victims of the Armenian genocide. Flash forward to the present and we meet a young New Yorker who researches her Armenian heritage and discovers a terrible family secret. *Pickup starts 3/11/26*.

May 13 Crying in H Mart: A Memoir by Michelle Zauner (239 pp)

With humor and heart, singer/songwriter Michelle Zauner tells of her reckoning with her Korean-American identity in the wake of her mother's death and how she reclaimed the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her. *Pickup starts* 4/8/26.

June 10 Anxious People by Fredrik Backman (341 pp)

Taken hostage by a failed bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety-prone strangers begin opening up to one another and revealing long-hidden truths. As the tension mounts, these quirky individuals discover their unexpected common traits. *Pickup starts 5/13/26*.



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