

Shrub Oak Book Groups – 2017 Reading List

First Tuesday and Wednesday of each Month

<p>Tues, Jan. 3 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Jan. 4 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry</u> - by <i>Gabrielle Zevin</i></p> <p>The irascible A. J. Fikry, owner of Island Books, has already lost his wife. Now his most prized possession, a rare book, has been stolen from right under his nose. One night upon closing, he discovers a toddler in his children's section with a note from her mother saying she can no longer raise her. It doesn't take long for the locals and especially the lovely yet eccentric sales rep, Amelia Loman, to notice the transformation of both bookstore and owner.</p>
<p>Tues, Feb. 7 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Feb. 1 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Boys in the Boat</u> – by <i>Daniel James Brown</i></p> <p>This is the remarkable story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers and farmers, these boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936. This vastly popular book is witty and entertaining storytelling at its best!</p>
<p>Tues, March 7 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, March 1 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Little Paris Bookshop</u> – by <i>Nina George</i></p> <p>Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life, and mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can't seem to heal through literature is himself; he's still haunted by heartbreak after his great love disappeared. She left him with only a letter, which he has never opened, until now.</p>
<p>Tues, April 4 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, April 5 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Nightingale</u> – by <i>Kristin Hannah</i></p> <p>FRANCE, 1939. In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France but they do. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive.</p>
<p>Tues, May 2 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, May 3 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Everything I Never Told You</u> – by <i>Celeste Ng</i></p> <p>Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet. So begins the story of this exquisite debut novel, about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee. When Lydia's body is found in the local lake, Lydia's brother Nathan, is certain that the neighborhood bad boy Jack is involved, but it's Hannah, the youngest of the family, who observes far more than anyone realizes. A profoundly moving story, a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait.</p>
<p>Tues, June 6 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, June 7 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Summer Before the War</u> – by <i>Helen Simonson</i></p> <p>Helen Simonson (<i>Major Pettigrew's Last Stand</i>,) returns with a splendid historical novel full of wit, romance and insight into the manners and morals of small-town British life. Agatha Kent is expecting an unusual candidate to be the school's Latin teacher: Beatrice Nash, a young woman of good breeding in search of a position after the death of her father. Agatha's nephews, meanwhile, have come to spend the summer months, as always, both with dreams of their own. It's the summer of 1914 and life in the sleepy village of Rye, England is about to take an interesting turn.</p>

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<p>Wed, July 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, July 5 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Washington Square</u> – by <i>Henry James</i></p> <p>In the Washington Square area of New York City in the late nineteenth century, Dr. Austin Sloper raises his daughter Catharine with privilege and comfort but without love or regard. Dr. Sloper blames her for the death of her beautiful and talented mother at childbirth, which leaves Catharine shy and fragile. So when handsome Morris Townsend charms her, she falls deeply in love. Does he only care about her fortune, as her father is convinced?</p>
<p>Tues, August 1 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, August 2 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>North River</u> – by <i>Pete Hamill</i></p> <p>One snowy New Year's Day in the midst of the Great Depression, Dr. James Delaney -- haunted by the slaughters of the Great War, and abandoned by his wife and daughter -- returns home to find his three-year-old grandson on his doorstep. Coping with this unexpected arrival, Delaney hires Rose, a tough, decent Sicilian woman with a secret in her past. Slowly, as Rose and the boy begin to care for the good doctor, the numbness in Delaney begins to melt.</p>
<p>Tues, Sept. 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Sept. 6 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Lisette's List</u> – by <i>Susan Vreeland</i></p> <p>In 1937 young Lisette Roux and her husband Andre, move from Paris to a village in Provence to care for Pascal, Andre's grandfather. Lisette regrets having to give up her dream of becoming a gallery apprentice and longs for the comforts and sophistication of Paris. But Pascal once worked in the ochre mines and later became a pigment salesman and frame maker; he befriended Pissarro and Cézanne, some of whose paintings he received in trade for his frames. Pascal begins to tutor Lisette in both art and life.</p>
<p>Tues, Oct. 3 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Oct. 4 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Round House</u> – by <i>Louise Erdrich</i></p> <p>When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, 14-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family. Riveting, suspenseful and arguably the most accessible novel to date from Erdrich, <u>The Round House</u> is a page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction.</p>
<p>Wed, Nov. 1 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Nov. 1 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Marriage of Opposites</u> – <i>Alice Hoffman</i></p> <p>Growing up on St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel dreams of life in faraway Paris. But to save her father's business, she is married off to a widower with three children. When her husband dies suddenly and his handsome, younger nephew Frédéric arrives from France to settle the estate, Rachel seizes her own life story and sparks a scandal that affects all of her family, including her favorite son, Camille Pissarro.</p>
<p>Tues. Dec. 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed. Dec. 6 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>What Alice Forgot</u> – by <i>Liane Moriarty</i></p> <p>Alice Love is 29, crazy about her husband, and pregnant with her first child. So imagine her surprise when she comes to on the floor of a gym and is whisked off to the hospital where she discovers the honeymoon is truly over—she's getting divorced, she has three kids, she's actually 39 years old. Also, she barely speaks with her sister. Is forgetting a curse, or a blessing?</p>

