

Shrub Oak Book Groups – 2018 Reading List

First Tuesday and Wednesday of each Month

<p>Tues, Jan. 2 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Jan. 3 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>A Man Called Ove</u> - by <i>Fredrik Backman</i> Meet Ove, a curmudgeon, with staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But behind the cranky exterior there is a story and sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two talkative young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unexpected friendship.</p>
<p>Tues, Feb. 6 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Feb. 7 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>When Breath Becomes Air</u> – by <i>Paul Kalanithi</i> At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor guiding patients toward a deeper understanding of death and illness, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. Just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. This memoir chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student to a young neurosurgeon and finally, into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.</p>
<p>Tues, March 6 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, March 7 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Born on a Blue Day</u> – by <i>Daniel Tammet</i> This bestselling author is unique among those with severe autistic disorders because he is capable of living an independent life and can explain what happens inside his head. He sees numbers as shapes, colors, and textures and can instantly perform extraordinary calculations. He can learn a brand new language fluently in a week. He set a record memorizing 22,000 digits of pi. He has extremely rare 'savant syndrome.' Fascinating and inspiring, this memoir explores being special and gives insight into what makes us human—our minds.</p>
<p>Tues, April 3 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, April 4 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Lilac Girls</u> – by <i>Martha Hall Kelly</i> An arresting, powerful debut inspired by the life of debutante turned unlikely WWII hero, Caroline Ferriday. Meanwhile Polish Catholic teenager Kasia Kuzmerick is nervously anticipating changes that are sure to come since Germany has declared war on Poland. As tensions rise abroad and in her personal life, Caroline's interest in aiding the war effort grows. She eventually hears of the dire situation at the all-female concentration camp Ravensbruck. The two women's lives will converge in unprecedented ways and a novel of redemption and hope emerges.</p>
<p>Tues, May 1 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, May 2 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Two-Family House</u> – by <i>Lynda Cohen Loigman</i> Brooklyn, 1947: in the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone two babies are born minutes apart to two women. They are sisters by marriage with an impenetrable bond forged before and during that dramatic night. But as the years progress, small cracks appear and their once deep friendship begins to unravel. No one knows why, and no one can stop it. Heartbreak wars with happiness and almost but not quite wins. A debut family saga filled with heart, longing, love, and mystery.</p>
<p>Tues, June 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, June 6 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Girl Before</u> – by <i>J.P. Delaney</i> A psychological thriller soon to be a movie directed by Ron Howard. Reeling from a traumatic break-in, Emma wants a new place to live. But none of the apartments she sees are affordable or feel safe, until One Folgate Street. Awhiel later after a personal tragedy, Jane needs a fresh start. When she finds One Folgate Street she is instantly drawn to the space. Moving in, she soon learns about the untimely death of the home's previous tenant, a woman similar to Jane in age and appearance.</p>

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<p>Note: day change Tues, July 3 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Tues, July 3 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Fahrenheit 451</u> – by Ray Bradbury</p> <p>In Bradbury's futuristic novel, the knowledge gained from books is forbidden and television replaces thought with vapid information. Fireman 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 whether to continue his stale existence or abscond with his newfound knowledge.</p>
<p>Wed, August 1 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Tues, August 7 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>A Gentleman in Moscow</u> – by Amor Towles</p> <p>The story of Count Alexander Rostov. When in 1922 he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life and must now live in an attic room during of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery.</p>
<p>Tues, Sept. 4 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Sept. 5 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Japanese Lover</u> – by Isabel Allende</p> <p>From this bestselling author, an exquisite love story and multigenerational epic from present day San Francisco back to Poland and the U. S. during World War II. As Poland falls under the shadow of the Nazis, young Alma Belasco's parents send her to safety with an aunt and uncle in their opulent San Francisco mansion. While the rest of the world goes to war, she encounters Ichimei, the quiet and gentle son of the family's Japanese gardener, but theirs is a love that they are forced to hide from the world.</p>
<p>Tues, Oct. 2 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Oct. 3 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Little Bee</u> – by Chris Cleave</p> <p>Sarah Summers is enjoying a holiday on a Nigerian beach when a young girl named Little Bee crashes into her life. All it takes is a brief and horrifying moment of crisis — a terrifying scene that no reader will forget. Afterwards, Little Bee finds Sarah's husband's wallet in the sand and smuggles herself on board a cargo vessel with his address in mind. This novel teaches us what it is like to live through experiences many of us see only in the news.</p>
<p>Note: day change Wed, Nov. 7 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Nov. 7 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Address</u> – by Fiona Davis</p> <p>1884: When British housekeeper Sara Smythe has a chance encounter with one of the architects of the grand Dakota in New York City it leads to a job offer and great possibility. One century later Bailey Camden is desperate for new opportunities. Fresh out of rehab she is homeless, jobless, and penniless. Then she discovers a secret that turns everything around. Compulsively readable.</p>
<p>Tues. Dec. 4 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed. Dec. 5 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Lighthouse</u> – by P.D. James</p> <p>A secure, secluded and peaceful retreat for the rich and powerful becomes the setting for a series of murders. With the first, Commander Adam Dalgliesh is called in to handle the sensitive case but it is at a difficult time for him and his depleted team. After a second brutal killing, the whole investigation is jeopardized, and Dalgliesh is faced with a danger worse than murder.</p>