

2012-2013 Coffee, Books, and More Book Discussion Schedule

The Coffee, Books, and More book discussion meets the third Wednesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. in Meeting Room B

Books are available to MPPL cardholders 30 days prior to each discussion at the Fiction/AV/Teen Desk.

January 18

***People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks**

A young Australian book conservator is called to analyze a priceless six-hundred-year-old Jewish prayer book that has been salvaged from a destroyed Bosnian library. When she discovers a series of artifacts in the centuries-old binding, she unwittingly exposes an international cover-up.

February 15

***Dewey: the Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron**

When a half-frozen kitten is discovered by a librarian in the drop-box of her small-community Iowa library, the cat becomes both a beloved mascot and a source of pride for a farming town pulling its way slowly back from crisis.

March 21

***Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson**

A fascinating and vivid account of the escape of John Wilkes Booth, Abraham Lincoln's assassin, takes readers along on the intensive search from the streets of Washington, D.C., through the swamps of Maryland, into the forests of Virginia, and into the lives of the men who pursued him.

April 18

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

Many scientific and medical advances of the modern world have been made possible by cells taken from one African-American woman in 1951 without her knowledge or consent. This fascinating tale intertwines her story with that of her family's search for answers.

May 16

***Kane and Abel* by Jeffrey Archer**

William Lowell Kane, a millionaire financier, and Abel Rosnovski, a Polish immigrant and head of a hotel empire, play out their intense personal hatred for each other until its inevitable and ironic conclusion.

June 20

***In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* by Erik Larson**

In a remarkable work of narrative nonfiction, the first American ambassador to Hitler's Germany works to acclimate to an increasingly violent city where he is

forced to associate with the Nazis while his daughter pursues a relationship with Gestapo chief Rudolf Diels.

July 18

***One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd* by Jim Fergus**

An Indian request in 1854 for 1,000 white brides to ensure peace is secretly approved by the U.S. government in this alternate-history novel. Their journey west is described by May Dodd, a high-society woman released from an asylum where she was incarcerated by her family for an affair.

August 15

***Still Alice* by Lisa Genova**

Feeling at the top of her game when she is suddenly diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, Harvard psychologist Alice Howland struggles to find meaning and purpose in her life as her concept of self gradually slips away.

September 19

***The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough**

After risking the hazardous journey across the Atlantic, Americans of high aspiration embarked on a greater journey in Paris in the nineteenth century. These artists, writers, doctors, politicians, and architects fell in love with the City of Light and its people, and they changed America as a result of what they experienced.

October 17

***The Last Town on Earth* by Thomas Mullen**

Deep in the forests of the Pacific Northwest, a mill town called Commonwealth votes to quarantine itself in the wake of the 1918 flu pandemic, but a violent confrontation with a tired, hungry, and cold soldier will have devastating repercussions for the entire town.

November 21

***Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand**

The author of *Seabiscuit* chronicles the ordeal of an Olympic runner turned World War II airman whose bomber crashed in the South Pacific. Captured by the Japanese and driven to the limits of endurance, Lt. Louis Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity and suffering with hope, resolve, and humor.

December 19

No book discussed – 2013 planning session

January 16, 2013

***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

February 20, 2013

***Lost in Shangri-La: A True Story of Survival, Adventure, and the Most Incredible Rescue Mission of World War II* by Mitchell Zuckoff**

In a true story of danger, daring, and determination, an extraordinary World War II rescue mission is carried out when a plane crash in the South Pacific plunges a trio of U.S. military personnel into the jungle-clad land of New Guinea.

March 20, 2013

***A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson**

This sometimes profound, sometimes funny account traces the Big Bang through the rise of civilization, documenting observations with a host of the world's most advanced scientists and mathematicians to explain why things are the way they are.

April 17, 2013

***The Lighthouse* by P.D. James**

Already in the midst of a difficult time, Commander Adam Dalgliesh and his depleted team are called on to solve a sensitive high-profile case on Combe Island off the Cornish coast of England.