

2010 Food for Thought/Readers' Advisory Book Discussion Schedule

The Food for Thought book discussion meets the first Wednesday of each month from 1-2 p.m. in Meeting Room B

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

January 6

***Olive Kitteridge: Fiction* by Elizabeth Strout**

Thirteen linked tales present a heart-wrenching, penetrating portrait of ordinary coastal Mainers living lives of quiet grief intermingled with flashes of human connection. Winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

February 3

***Breakfast at Sally's* by Richard LeMieux**

A self-made man with his own successful company, Richard LeMieux lived a very comfortable life. After losing everything, he spent two years living out of his van and learning to rely on others' generosity. His uplifting story cuts through stereotypes and offers a powerful look at homelessness in society. Selected as a Suburban Mosaic Book of the Year.

March 3

***The Heretic's Daughter* by Kathleen Kent**

Young Sarah Carrier tries to cope with life in Salem, Massachusetts, after her mother, Martha Carrier, is accused, tried, and hanged as a witch.

April 7

***Sin in the Second City: Madams, Ministers, Playboys and the Battle for America's Soul* by Karen Abbott**

A history of America's most famous brothel, Chicago's Everleigh Club, which catered to some of America's leading moguls, actors, and writers from 1900 to 1911, profiles its aristocratic proprietors and their efforts to elevate the industry to new heights.

May 5

***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne**

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

June 2

***Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See**

Forced to leave Shanghai when their father sells them to California suitors, sisters May and Pearl struggle to adapt to life in 1930s Los Angeles while still bound to old customs, finding themselves facing discrimination and confronting a life-altering secret.

July 7

***Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear**

Private detective Maisie Dobbs must investigate the reappearance of a dead man who turns up at a cooperative farm called the Retreat that caters to men who are recovering their health after World War I.

August 4

***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman**

In a true story, Warsaw Zoo keepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski save the lives of hundreds of Jewish citizens in the aftermath of Germany's invasion of Poland by smuggling them into empty cages.

September 1

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett**

Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African-American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project.

October 6

***Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross**

For a thousand years men have denied her existence -- Pope Joan, the woman who disguised herself as a man and rose to rule Christianity for two years. Now this compelling novel animates the legend with a portrait of an unforgettable woman who struggles against restrictions her soul cannot accept.

November 3

***Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton**

In the troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s, Stephen Kumalo, a Zulu Christian pastor, discovers his son Absalom has been accused of murdering a white man who devoted his life to justice.

December 1

***Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil* by Deborah Rodriguez**

In this appealing oddball memoir, an impetuous Michigan hairdresser flees her miserable marriage, relocates to Kabul, and opens a beauty academy. The line between teacher and student quickly blurs as women used to ultraconservative Taliban rule share their stories, their hearts, and their strength.