

FRIENDS
2012 BOOK DISCUSSION SELECTIONS

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B.

Books are available 30 days prior to each discussion. Books will be handed out to regular members at the prior month's discussion or will be available at the Circulation Desk for those who don't pick them up at the discussion.

January 18

***The Commoner* by John Burnham Schwartz**

In 1959 Haruko marries the Crown Prince of Japan, becoming the first commoner to enter the mysterious and reclusive world of Japanese royalty, and she is met with cruelty and suspicion by the court. Thirty years later, now Empress herself, she plays a crucial role in persuading another young woman to accept the marriage proposal of her son.

February 15

***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson**

Retired Major Ernest Pettigrew leads a quiet life in the village of St. Mary, England, until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village.

March 21

***The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake**

The stories of a small Cape Cod postmistress and an American radio reporter stationed in London collide on the eve of the United States' entrance into World War II, a meeting that is shaped by a broken promise to deliver a letter.

April 18

***South of Broad* by Pat Conroy**

After his brother's suicide, Leopold Bloom King struggles along with the rest of his family in Charleston, South Carolina, until he begins to gather an intimate circle of friends whose ties endure for two decades until a final, unexpected test of friendship.

May 16

***The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry**

A young woman, descended from a long line of mind readers and fortune tellers, has returned to her hometown of Salem, Massachusetts, for rest and relaxation. Any tranquility in her life is short-lived, however, when her aunt drowns under mysterious circumstances.

June 20***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

Evaluating his life on the eve of his death, atypical canine Enzo considers the sacrifices his master has made in his pursuit of becoming a professional race car driver and the dog's own efforts to preserve the family.

July 18***Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson**

A portrait of the Edwardian era recounts two parallel stories -- the case of Dr. Hawley Crippen, who murdered his wife and fled to America, and Guglielmo Marconi, the inventor of wireless communication, the new technology used to capture a killer.

August 15***City of Veils* by Zoë Ferraris**

After the body of a brutally beaten woman is found on a beach in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Detective Osama Ibrahim, along with the help of female coroner Katya and her friend Nayir, discovers that the victim was a controversial filmmaker and must discern who wanted her dead.

September 19***Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross**

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

October 17***Breakfast at Tiffany's* by Truman Capote**

In Capote's iconic novella, an aspiring writer in Manhattan narrates the story of his fascination with Holly Golightly, a fun-loving, amoral playgirl.

November 21***The Dry Grass of August* by Anna Jean Mayhew**

In 1954, 13-year-old Jubie Watts leaves Charlotte, NC, with her family and their black maid for a Florida vacation, but she cannot predict the shocking turn their trip will take. In the wake of tragedy, Jubie confronts her parents' failings, decides where her own convictions lie, and makes a leap to independence.

December 19

No book discussed – Holiday Party

January 16, 2013***The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett**

Set in twelfth-century England, this epic of kings and peasants juxtaposes the building of a magnificent church with the violence and treachery that often characterized the Middle Ages.