



Evening Book Group - River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Informal discussion of recent fiction, non-fiction, and an occasional older classic. Meets September through June on the second Monday from 7:30 to 9:00pm. If Veteran's Day or Columbus Day fall on a meeting date, the meeting will be held on the second Tuesday.

April 10 **Fates and Furies**, by Lauren Groff 400 p. Amazon readers 3.5 Critics loved this book, ordinary readers had mixed responses. Lots of copies in the Libraries.

This book was scheduled for March, but the discussion was snowed out. A compelling story of a marriage.

Picked by the Amazon editors as the #1 book of 2015. "Lauren Groff is a writer of rare gifts, and *Fates and Furies* is an unabashedly ambitious novel that delivers – with comedy, tragedy, well-deployed erudition and unmistakable glimmers of brilliance throughout." —*The New York Times Book Review*

May 8 **An Officer and a Spy**, by Robert Harris 429 pages Amazon readers 4.5 stars 24 copies in County Libraries Winner of the Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction. Winner of the American Library in Paris Book Award. An Amazon Best Book of the Month, February 2014: A spy thriller and psychological examination, Robert Harris's *An Officer and a Spy* looks at the infamous Dreyfus affair through the personage of a functionary-turned-whistle-blower. It's Paris, 1895. A Jewish army officer, Alfred Dreyfus, has been convicted of treason and is imprisoned on Devil's Island; he has been publicly humiliated, bound in chains, banished to solitary confinement. But was he really a spy for Germany--or was his fate sealed because he was a Jew in an anti-Semitic time and place?

June 12 **High Dive: A Novel**, by Jonathan Lee 336 p Amazon readers 4 stars MCPL 11 copies. Available In the fall of 1984, the Grand Hotel in the seaside town of Brighton, England, became ground zero for the attempted assassination of Margaret Thatcher. Nimbly weaving together fact and fiction, comedy and tragedy, here Jonathan Lee vividly reimagines those fateful days from the perspectives of three unforgettable characters—a young IRA bomb maker, the deputy hotel manager, and his teenage daughter—whose lives will be changed forever by the Prime Minister's visit. One of the Best Books of the Year: *The Wall Street Journal* • *The Washington Post* • *San Francisco Chronicle* • *The Guardian* • *The Independent on Sunday* • *The Observer* • One of *The New York Times* "Critics' Top Books" of the Year A *Chicago Tribune* "Biblioracle Book of the Year"

Sept 11 **The Gene: An Intimate History**, by Siddhartha Mukherjee

"This is perhaps the greatest detective story ever told—a millennia-long search, led by a thousand explorers, from Aristotle to Mendel to Francis Collins, for the question marks at the center of every living cell. Like *The Emperor of All Maladies*, *The Gene* is prodigious, sweeping, and ultimately transcendent. If you're interested in what it means to be human, today and in the tomorrows to come, you must read this book." (Anthony Doerr, author of *All the Light We Cannot See*) Enthusiastically praised by many reviewers.

Oct 10 [Tuesday] **The Good Lieutenant**, by Whitney Terrell 288 p, Amazon readers 4.5 stars, mcpl 6 copies, available

"Terrell's audacious new novel begins with a literal bang as a U.S. Army patrol in Iraq goes terribly wrong for Lt. Emma Fowler, who is present as her secret lover, Lt. Dixon Pulowski, is critically wounded in an explosion while attempting to recover the corpse of a kidnapped sergeant." - starred review Publishers Weekly.

"Surprising . . . We are left to wonder about our own lies, when they became acceptable to us, whom we trust and how we've become who we are." - New York Times Book Review

"A bitter, sly, heartbreaking story of well-meant but ill-fated intentions, and of a battlefield incident that wreaks havoc on the lives that converge, or end, there." - The New Yorker

"The Bush wars' best novel" - The Guardian

Nov 13 **Wilde Lake: A Novel**, by Laura Lippman 352 p, Amazon readers 3.5 stars, mcpl 56 copies

Lippman sets her stories in Baltimore and vicinity. This one is in Columbia. Best-selling creator of Tess Monaghan.

An African-American man accused of rape by a humiliated girl. A vengeful father. A courageous attorney. A worshipful daughter. Think you know this story? Think again. Laura Lippman, the "extravagantly gifted" (*Chicago Tribune*) *New York Times* bestselling author, delivers "one of her best novels" (*Washington Post*)—a modern twist on *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scott Turow writes in the *New York Times*, "*Wilde Lake* is a real success."