

## OCTOBER 28th

***The Witch Elm* by Tana French** - Toby is a happy-go-lucky charmer who's dodged a scrape at work and is celebrating with friends when the night takes a turn that will change his life - he surprises two burglars who beat him and leave him for dead. Struggling to recover from his injuries, beginning to understand that he might never be the same man again, he takes refuge at his family's ancestral home to care for his dying uncle Hugo. Then a skull is found in the trunk of an elm tree in the garden - and as detectives close in, Toby is forced to face the possibility that his past may not be what he has always believed. (509 pages. Fiction)

## NOVEMBER 25th

***The Winter Soldier* by Daniel Mason** - Vienna, 1914. Lucius is a twenty-two-year-old medical student when World War I explodes across Europe. Enraptured by romantic tales of battlefield surgery, he enlists, expecting a position at a well-organized field hospital. But when he arrives, at a commandeered church tucked away high in a remote valley of the Carpathian Mountains, he finds a freezing outpost ravaged by typhus. The other doctors have fled, and only a single, mysterious nurse named Sister Margarete remains. But Lucius has never lifted a surgeon's scalpel. And as the war rages across the winter landscape, he finds himself falling in love with the woman from whom he must learn a brutal, makeshift medicine. Then one day, an unconscious soldier is brought in from the snow, his uniform stuffed with strange drawings. He seems beyond rescue, until Lucius makes a fateful decision that will change the lives of doctor, patient, and nurse forever. (336 pages. Historical Fiction)

## DECEMBER 23rd

***The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman** - A father and a son are seeing each other for the first time in years. The father has a story to share before it's too late. He tells his son about a courageous little girl lying in a hospital bed a few miles away. As he talks about this plucky little girl, the father also reveals more about himself: his triumphs in business, his failures as a parent, his past regrets, and his hopes for the future. Now, on a cold winter's night, the father has been given an unexpected chance to do something remarkable that could change the destiny of a little girl he hardly knows. But before he can make the deal of a lifetime, he must find out what his own life has actually been worth, and only his son can reveal that answer. (96 pages. Novella)

Join us! Pick up your copy from the front desk. The book is usually available in book, large print and audiobook format. The Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month.

Discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments are served.

# RIVERDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Book Discussion 2019

\* Revised March 2019 \*



93 Newark Pompton Turnpike  
Riverdale, NJ 07457  
973-835-5044; fax 973-835-2175

## **JANUARY 28th**

***The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz** - Diana Cowper – the wealthy mother of a famous actor - enters a funeral parlor. She is there to plan her own service. Six hours later she is found dead, strangled in her own home. Enter police detective Daniel Hawthorne, a brilliant, eccentric investigator who's as quick with an insult as he is to crack a case. Hawthorne needs a ghost writer to document his life; a Watson to his Holmes. He chooses Anthony Horowitz. The writer and the detective form an unusual partnership. At the same time, it soon becomes clear that Hawthorne is hiding some dark secrets of his own. (400 pages. Fiction)

## **FEBRUARY 25th**

***Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann** - In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team, including a Native American agent who infiltrated the region, and together with the Osage began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. (400 pages. Nonfiction)

## **MARCH 25th**

***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng** - In Shaker Heights everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson. Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs. (352 pages. Fiction)

## **APRIL 22nd**

***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams** - Seconds before Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together, this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by a galaxy full of fellow travelers. (224 pages. Science Fiction)

## **MAY 20th**

***Florida* by Lauren Groff** - A collection of 11 dramatic tales, all full of event and surprise, instruction, comfort loneliness, rage, family, and the passage of time. (275 pages. Short Stories)

## **JUNE 24th**

***Unsheltered* by Barbra Kingsolver** - Willa Knox has always prided herself on being the embodiment of responsibility for her family. Which is why it's so unnerving that she's arrived at middle age with nothing to show for her hard work and dedication but a stack of unpaid bills and an inherited brick home in Vineland, New Jersey, that is literally falling apart. In an act of desperation, Willa begins to investigate the history of her home, hoping that the local historical preservation society might take an interest and provide funding for its direly needed repairs. Through her research into Vineland's past she discovers a kindred spirit from the 1880s, Thatcher Greenwood. This is the story of two families, in two centuries, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum, as they navigate the challenges of surviving a world in the throes of major cultural shifts. In this mesmerizing story told in alternating chapters, Willa and Thatcher come to realize that though the future is uncertain, even unnerving, shelter can be found in the bonds of kindred—whether family or friends—and in the strength of the human spirit. (464 pages. Fiction)

## **JULY 22nd**

***EDUCATED* by Tara Westover** - Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home. (352 pages. Memoir)

## **AUGUST 26th**

***Shakespeare Play Reading*** - Play reading and performance of an adapted version of a Shakespearean play.

## **SEPTEMBER 23rd**

***The Library Book* by Susan Orlean** - After moving to Los Angeles, Susan Orlean became fascinated by a mysterious local crime that has gone unsolved since it was carried out on the morning of April 29th, 1986. Who set fire to the Los Angeles Public Library, ultimately destroying more than 400,000 books, and perhaps even more perplexing, why? (317 pages. Nonfiction)