

Emma S. Clark Memorial Library  
2024–2025

Evening  
**BOOK DISCUSSION**

The books are selected and facilitated by the participants. Copies of the next book will be available at the Circulation Desk to check out on your way to the Vincent R. O’Leary Community Room. We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45 p.m.

**September 11** Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano (387 pp)

An exquisite homage to Louisa May Alcott’s timeless classic, *Little Women*, Hello Beautiful is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it. *Pick up at Circ. Desk 8/15.*

**October 9** Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng (335 pp)

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. His mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet, left without a trace when he was nine years old. Then, one day, Bird receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, and soon is pulled into a quest to find her.

**November 13** Night by Elie Wiesel (158 pp) *Memoir*

Night offers a personal and unforgettable account of the appalling horrors of Hitler’s reign of terror. Through the eyes of 14-year-old Eliezer, we behold the tragic fate of the Jews from the little town of Sighet. Even as they are stuffed into cattle cars bound for Auschwitz, the townspeople refuse to believe rumors of anti-Semitic atrocities.

**December 11** The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy (113 pp)

Ivan Ilyich Golovin is a high court judge in St. Petersburg who lives a carefree life. One day, without warning, he is beset by pains and soon has to come to terms with the fact that he is going to die. The judge has to learn to face death without fear and yet feel compassion for the family he is leaving behind.

**January 8** The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (385 pp)

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, PA were digging the foundations for a new development, they discovered a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was, and how it got there, were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill. In this dilapidated neighborhood, immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

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## **February 12** The Yellow House by Sarah Broom (376 pp) *Memoir*

Broom tells about a hundred years of her family and their relationship to home in a neglected area of New Orleans. This story is of a mother's struggle against a house's entropy, and that of a prodigal daughter who left home only to reckon with the pull that home exerts, even after the Yellow House was wiped off the map after Hurricane Katrina. We learn the stories of New Orleans' lesser-known natives, guided deftly by one of its native daughters, to demonstrate how enduring drives of clan, pride, and familial love resist and defy erasure.

## **March 12** Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate (342 pp)

This novel is based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country. This riveting, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

## **April 9** The Librarianist by Patrick DeWitt (342 pp)

Bob Comet, a retired librarian, isolated but not lonely, lives out his quiet life in his Oregon home, surrounded by books and small comforts. One morning, on his walk, he performs an act of kindness that brings him into contact with a nearby senior center, where he soon begins volunteering. Here, as a community of peers and friends gathers around Bob, the events of his life and the details of his character are revealed.

## **May 14** Better Living Through Birding: Notes From a Black Man in the Natural World by Christian Cooper (282 pp) *Nonfiction*

The Central Park birder at the center of a racially-charged viral video reflects on his lifetime journey towards self-acceptance while offering insights into the wonderful world of birds and what they can teach us about life.

## **June 11** Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus (390 pp)

In the early 1960s, chemist and single mother Elizabeth Zott, the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, due to her revolutionary skills in the kitchen, uses this opportunity to dare women to change the status quo.



Emma S. Clark  
Memorial Library

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