

Shrub Oak Book Groups – 2019 Reading List

First Tuesday and Wednesday of each Month

<p>Wed., Jan. 2 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Tues., Jan. 8 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u><i>Nine Women, One Dress: A Novel</i></u> - by Jane L. Rosen</p> <p>A charming, hilarious, irresistible romp of a novel that brings together nine unrelated women, each touched by the same little black dress that weaves through their lives and brings a little magic with it. Natalie is a Bloomingdale's salesgirl mooning over her lawyer ex-boyfriend, Felicia has been quietly in love with her boss for seventeen years, and Andie is a private detective who specializes in gathering evidence on cheating husbands. For these women as well as half a dozen others, everything is about to change.</p>
<p>Tues, Feb. 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Feb.6 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u><i>Leonardo da Vinci</i></u> – by Walter Isaacson</p> <p>Written by the author of <u>Steve Jobs</u>, this new biography draws on da Vinci's notebooks as well as new discoveries about his life and work in a narrative portrait that connects the master's art to his science. Isaacson demonstrates how da Vinci's genius was based on ordinary qualities, including curiosity and imagination.</p>
<p>Tues, March 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, March 6 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u><i>The Great Alone</i></u> – by Kristin Hannah</p> <p>It is 1974 when Leni Allbright's impulsive father Ernt decides the family is moving to Alaska. But as winter approaches and darkness descends on Alaska, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates and the family begins to fracture. Soon the perils outside pale in comparison to threats from within, and life quickly becomes a struggle for survival.</p>
<p>Tues, April 2 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, April 3 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u><i>Hero of the Empire: the Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill</i></u> – by Candice Millard</p> <p>From bestselling author of <u>Destiny of the Republic</u> comes a thrilling narrative of Winston Churchill's extraordinary exploits during the Boer War. At age twenty-four, Churchill was utterly convinced it was his destiny to become prime minister of England one day. He believed that to achieve his goal he must do something spectacular in war. But two weeks after his arrival to South Africa Churchill was taken prisoner. Remarkably, he pulled off a daring escape--but then had to traverse hundreds of miles of enemy territory alone, with nothing but a crumpled wad of cash, some chocolate, and his wits to guide him.</p>
<p>Wed., May 1 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Tues, May 7 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u><i>March</i></u> – by Geraldine Brooks</p> <p>Winner of the Pulitzer Prize--a powerful love story set against the backdrop of the Civil War by the author of <u>The Secret Chord</u> and <u>The Year of Wonders</u>. From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic Little Women, Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father and crafted a story “filled with the ache of love ... and with the power of war upon the ...heart of one unforgettable man.” Sue Monk Kidd</p>
<p>Tues, June 4 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, June 5 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u><i>Americanah</i></u> – by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie</p> <p>A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, only to find her dreams are not all she expected. Here despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple for the first time with what it means to be black.</p>

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<p>Tues, July 2 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, July 3 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>My Antonia</u> – by Willa Cather</p> <p>After the death of his parents, Jim was sent to live with his grandparents in Black Hawk Nebraska. There he befriended Antonia, the daughter of Bohemian immigrants. Years later, Jim, now a successful lawyer in New York, returns to his childhood home and Antonia. Jim's love for Antonia has endured, much as she herself has endured tragic circumstances.</p>
<p>Tues, August 6 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, August 7 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Signature of All Things</u> – by Elizabeth Gilbert</p> <p>Spanning much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the novel follows the fortunes of the extraordinary Whittaker family as led by the enterprising Henry Whittaker, a poor-born Englishman who makes a great fortune in the South American quinine trade, eventually becoming the richest man in Philadelphia. Henry's brilliant daughter becomes a botanist of considerable gifts. Exquisitely researched and told at a galloping pace, <u>The Signature of All Things</u> soars across the globe and beyond.</p>
<p>Tues, Sept. 3 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Sept. 4 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine</u> – by Gail Honeyman</p> <p>When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.</p>
<p>Tues, Oct. 1 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Oct. 2 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Educated: a Memoir</u>– by Tara Westover</p> <p>A searing, unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, raised by Mormon survivalists in the mountains of Idaho and forbidden to go to school, defies her family and earns a PhD from Cambridge University. “A heartbreaking, heartwarming, best-in-years memoir about striding beyond the limitations of birth and environment into a better life.”—USA Today</p>
<p>Note: day change Wed, Nov. 6 - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Nov. 6 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Little Fires Everywhere</u> – by Celeste Ng</p> <p>In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned and no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, who plays by the rules. Enter enigmatic artist and single mother Mia Warren with teenage daughter Pearl, who rent a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants, but Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese American baby, a custody battle erupts. 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.</p>
<p>Tues. Dec. 3 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed. Dec. 4 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Bean Trees</u> – by Barbara Kingsolver</p> <p>When Taylor Greer hits the road she has no real destination, only to get as far from Kentucky as possible. By the time she ends up in Arizona, she has inherited a three-year-old Cherokee girl named Turtle from an Indian woman she met in a bar. Written with humor and pathos, this novel focuses on love and friendship, abandonment and belonging as Taylor begins to make a life for herself and Turtle.</p>