

Hart Book Group – 2021 Reading List

First Tuesday and Wednesday of each Month

<p>Classic Tues, July 6 - 7 p.m. Wed, July 7 - 2 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Good Earth</u> by Pearl Buck The Good Earth is Buck’s classic story of Wang Lung, a Chinese peasant farmer, and his wife, O-lan, a former slave. With luck and hard work, the couple’s fortunes improve over the years. But success brings with it a new set of problems. Wang soon finds himself the target of jealousy, and as good harvests come and go, so does the social order. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the William Dean Howells Award, The Good Earth was an Oprah’s Book Club choice in 2004.</p>
<p>Tues, August 3 - 7 p.m. Wed, August 4 - 2 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Deacon King Kong: A Novel</u> by James McBride In 1969, a cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of a housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket and in front of everybody, shoots the project’s drug dealer. The reasons for this and the consequences lie at the heart of this funny, moving novel. McBride brings to life the people affected by the shooting and as the story deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters overlap in unexpected ways. From the author of <u>The Color of Water</u>.</p>
<p>Wed, Sept. 1 - 2 p.m. Tues, Sept. 7 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Guest List: a Novel</u> by Lucy Foley On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate a wedding. The cell phone service may be spotty and the waves may be rough, but every detail has been expertly planned. As the champagne is popped and the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes, and then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why? “Evokes the great Agatha Christie.”</p>
<p>Tues, Oct. 5 - 7 p.m. Wed, Oct. 6 - 2 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Caste : the origins of our discontents</u> by Isabel Wilkerson Pulitzer Prize–winning author of <u>The Warmth of Other Suns</u> examines the caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by this hierarchy. In this brilliant book, the author explores this phenomenon in America through a narrative about real people. Using stories about real people she shows the ways caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews and discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung. She points forward to ways America can move beyond the destructive separations and toward hope.</p>
<p>Note: day change Wed, Nov. 3 - 2 p.m. Wed, Nov. 3 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Giver of Stars: A Novel</u> by JoJo Moyes When Alice Wright agrees to marry handsome American Bennett Van Cleve and leave behind her stifling life in England for a new adventure in Kentucky, she's soon disenchanted by her newlywed status and overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.</p>
<p>Wed, Dec. 1 - 2 p.m. Tues, Dec. 7 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Anxious People</u> by Fredrik Backman A poignant and charming novel about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined. From the author of <u>A Man Called Ove</u>.</p>

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<p>Tues., Jan. 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed., Jan. 6 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Love, Anthony</u> by Lisa Genova</p> <p>From bestselling author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova (<i>Still Alice</i>, <i>Inside the O'Briens</i>) comes a novel about autism, friendship, and unconditional love. In a deeply human story Lisa Genova offers a unique perspective - the extraordinary voice of Anthony, a nonverbal boy with autism. Anthony reveals why he hates pronouns, loves swinging and the number three, and how he experiences routine, joy, and love. Powerful, insightful and unforgettable truths that connect us all.</p>
<p>Tues, Feb. 2 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, Feb. 3 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Outlander</u> by Diana Gabaldan</p> <p>Scottish Highlands, 1945. Claire Randall, a former British combat nurse, is just back from the war and reunited with her husband on a second honeymoon when she walks through a standing stone in one of the ancient circles that dot the British Isles. Suddenly she is a Sassenach—an “outlander”—in a Scotland torn by war and raiding clans in the year of Our Lord . . . 1743. Claire finds herself torn between two very different men, in two irreconcilable lives. Made into a Starz hit series.</p>
<p>Tues, March 2 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, March 3 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</u> by Agatha Christie</p> <p>In 2013, the British Crime Writers' Association voted this the best crime novel ever! Considered to be one of Agatha Christie's most controversial mysteries, <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> breaks all the rules of traditional mystery writing. A widow's suicide has stirred rumors of blackmail, and of a secret lover named Roger Ackroyd, who was found stabbed to death in his study. The case is so unconventional that not even crack detective Hercule Poirot has a clue as to how to solve it.</p>
<p>Tues, April 6 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, April 7 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>City of Girls: A Novel</u> by Elizabeth Gilbert</p> <p>Nineteen-year-old Vivian Morris has just been kicked out of Vassar College in 1940, and her parents send her to Manhattan to live with her Aunt Peg, who owns a flamboyant, crumbling midtown theater called the Lily Playhouse. There Vivian is introduced to an entire cosmos of unconventional and charismatic characters. Now eighty-nine years old she tells her story at last. "At some point in a woman's life, she just gets tired of being ashamed all the time," Vivian muses. "After that, she is free to become whoever she truly is."</p>
<p>Tues, May 4 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed., May 5 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Dutch House</u> by Ann Patchett</p> <p>Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and called by many as one of the best books of 2019. A richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. <i>The Dutch House</i> is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love and forgiveness.</p>
<p>Tues, June 1 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, June 2 - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><u>The Book of Lost Friends: A Novel</u> by Lisa Wingate</p> <p>This is the dramatic story of three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who learns of their story and its vital connection to her students' lives. Lisa Wingate brings to life startling stories from actual “Lost Friends” advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves desperately searched for loved ones who had been sold away. By the author of <i>Before We Were Yours</i>.</p>