



Good Reads 2018

July 11, August 8, September 12,
October 10, November 14, December 12

Readers'
Choice
Book
Group

Meets Monthly at 2 pm on Second Wednesday at Norwalk Senior Center

July 11, 2018

Lilac Girls by **Martha Hall Kelly**


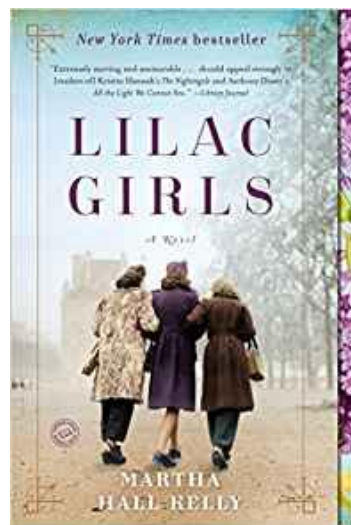
For readers of *The Nightingale* and *Sarah's Key*, inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this remarkable debut novel reveals the power of unsung women to change history in their quest for love, freedom, and second chances.

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France.

An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.

For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.



Cynde Bloom Lahey, Director of Library Information Services, Norwalk Public Library, brings books and leads the Readers' Choice Book Group at the Norwalk Senior Center, 11 Allen Road, Norwalk, CT monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 2 pm.

Books are available at the Senior Center prior to each discussion. Free and open to the public.



August 8, 2018

The Dry

by **Jane Harper**

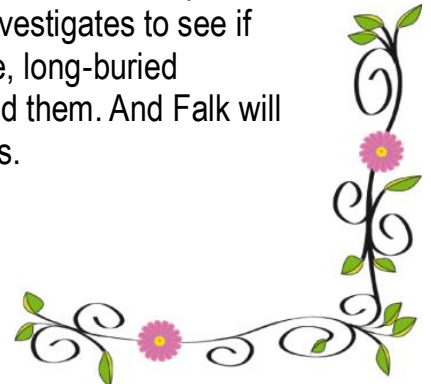
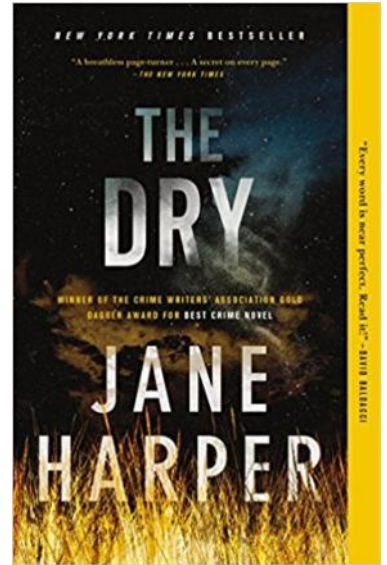
“A breathless page-turner, driven by the many revelations Ms. Harper dreams up...You’ll love [her] sleight of hand...A secret on every page.”
— *The New York Times*

“One of the most stunning debuts I've ever read... Every word is near perfect.” —David Baldacci

A small town hides big secrets in *The Dry*, an atmospheric, page-turning debut mystery by award-winning author Jane Harper.

After getting a note demanding his presence, Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his hometown for the first time in decades to attend the funeral of his best friend, Luke. Twenty years ago when Falk was accused of murder, Luke was his alibi. Falk and his father fled under a cloud of suspicion, saved from prosecution only because of Luke’s steadfast claim that the boys had been together at the time of the crime. But now more than one person knows they didn’t tell the truth back then, and Luke is dead.

Amid the worst drought in a century, Falk and the local detective question what really happened to Luke. As Falk reluctantly investigates to see if there’s more to Luke’s death than there seems to be, long-buried mysteries resurface, as do the lies that have haunted them. And Falk will find that small towns have *always* hidden big secrets.



September 12, 2018

The Flight Attendant

by **Chris Bohjalian**

From the author of *The Guest Room*, a powerful story about the ways an entire life can change in one night: A flight attendant wakes up in the wrong hotel, in the wrong bed, with a dead man - and no idea what happened.

Cassandra Bowden is no stranger to hungover mornings. She's a binge drinker, her job with the airline making it easy to find adventure, and the occasional blackouts seem to be inevitable.

She lives with them, and the accompanying self-loathing. When she awakes in a Dubai hotel room, she tries to piece the previous night back together, counting the minutes until she has to catch her crew shuttle to the airport. She quietly slides out of bed, careful not to aggravate her already pounding head, and looks at the man she spent the night with. She sees his dark hair. His utter stillness. And blood, a slick, still wet pool on the crisp white sheets.

Afraid to call the police - she's a single woman alone in a hotel room far from home - Cassie begins to lie. She lies as she joins the other flight attendants and pilots in the van. She lies on the way to Paris as she works the first class cabin. She lies to the FBI agents in New York who meet her at the gate. Soon it's too late to come clean-or face the truth about what really happened back in Dubai. Could she have killed him? If not, who did?

Set amid the captivating world of those whose lives unfold at forty thousand feet, *The Flight Attendant* unveils a spellbinding story of memory, of the giddy pleasures of alcohol and the devastating consequences of addiction, and of murder far from home.





October 10, 2018

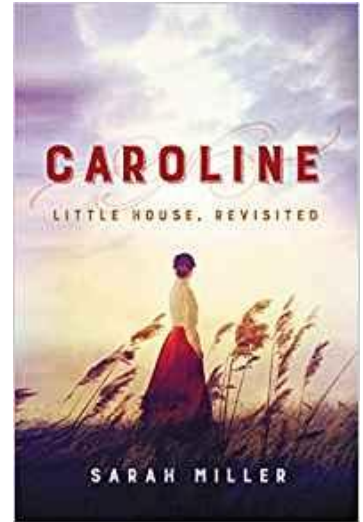
Caroline: Little House Revisited
by **Sarah Miller**

In this novel authorized by the Little House Heritage Trust, Sarah Miller vividly recreates the beauty, hardship, and joys of the frontier in a dazzling work of historical fiction, a captivating story that illuminates one courageous, resilient, and loving pioneer woman as never before—Caroline Ingalls, "Ma" in Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved Little House books.

In the frigid days of February, 1870, Caroline Ingalls and her family leave the familiar comforts of the Big Woods of Wisconsin and the warm bosom of her family, for a new life in Kansas Indian Territory. Packing what they can carry in their wagon, Caroline, her husband Charles, and their little girls, Mary and Laura, head west to settle in a beautiful, unpredictable land full of promise and peril.

The pioneer life is a hard one, especially for a pregnant woman with no friends or kin to turn to for comfort or help. The burden of work must be shouldered alone, sickness tended without the aid of doctors, and babies birthed without the accustomed hands of mothers or sisters. But Caroline's new world is also full of tender joys. In adapting to this strange new place and transforming a rough log house built by Charles' hands into a home, Caroline must draw on untapped wells of strength she does not know she possesses.

For more than eighty years, generations of readers have been enchanted by the adventures of the American frontier's most famous child, Laura Ingalls Wilder, in the Little House books. Now, that familiar story is retold in this captivating tale of family, fidelity, hardship, love, and survival that vividly reimagines our past.



November 14, 2018

Enemies in Love
by Alexis Clark

“Alexis Clark illuminates a whole corner of unknown World War II history.”

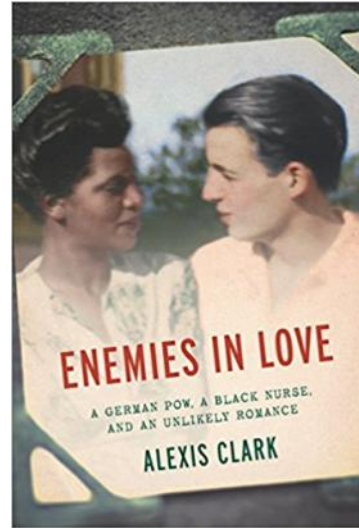
—Walter Isaacson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Leonardo da Vinci*

A true and deeply moving narrative of forbidden love during World War II and a shocking, hidden history of race on the home front

This is a love story like no other: Elinor Powell was an African American nurse in the U.S. military during World War II; Frederick Albert was a soldier in Hitler’s army, captured by the Allies and shipped to a prisoner-of-war camp in the Arizona desert. Like most other black nurses, Eleanor pulled a second-class assignment, in a dusty, sun-baked—and segregated—Western town. The army figured that the risk of fraternization between black nurses and white German POWs was almost nil.

Brought together by unlikely circumstances and racist assumptions, Elinor and Frederick should have been bitter enemies; but instead, at the height of World War II, they fell in love. Their dramatic story was unearthed by journalist Alexis Clark, who through years of interviews and historical research has pieced together an astounding narrative of race and true love in the cauldron of war.

Based on a *New York Times* story by Clark that drew national attention, *Enemies in Love* paints a tableau of dreams deferred and of love struggling to survive, twenty-five years before the Supreme Court’s *Loving* decision legalizing mixed-race marriage—revealing the surprising possibilities for human connection in one of history’s most violent conflicts.





December 12, 2018

The Lady in Gold
by **Anne-Marie O'Connor**

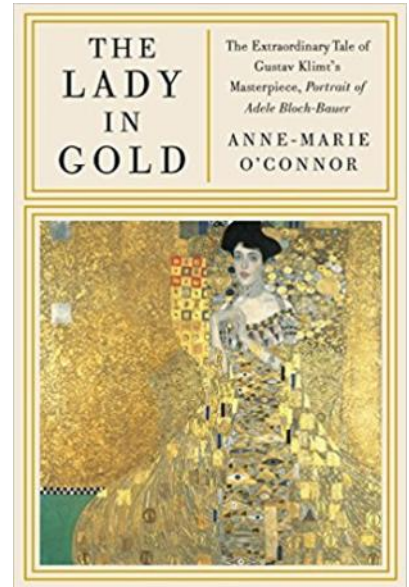
**The true story that inspired the movie
Woman in Gold starring Helen Mirren
and Ryan Reynolds.**

Contributor to the *Washington Post* Anne-Marie O'Connor brilliantly regales us with the galvanizing story of Gustav Klimt's 1907 masterpiece—the breathtaking portrait of a Viennese Jewish socialite, Adele Bloch-Bauer. The celebrated painting, stolen by Nazis during World War II, subsequently became the subject of a decade-long dispute between her heirs and the Austrian government.

When the U.S. Supreme Court became involved in the case, its decision had profound ramifications in the art world. Expertly researched, masterfully told, *The Lady in Gold* is at once a stunning depiction of fin-de siècle Vienna, a riveting tale of Nazi war crimes, and a fascinating glimpse into the high-stakes workings of the contemporary art world.

One of the Best Books of the Year: *The Huffington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Winner of the Marfield National Award for Arts Writing. Winner of a California Book Award.





Previous Selections

A Spool of Blue Thread
by Anne Tyler

The Bridge Ladies
by Betsy Lerner

Frozen in Time
by Mitchell Zuckoff

Just Mercy
by Bryan Stevenson

The Madwoman Upstairs
by Catherine Lowell

South of Superior
by Ellen Airgood

Writing Our Way Out: Memoirs From Jail
by David Coogan

Solder Girls: The Battles of Three Woman
At Home and At War by Helen Thorpe

The Daylight Marriage
by Heidi Pitlor

The Little Old Lady Who Broke
All The Rules by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg

The Readers of Broken Wheel
Recommend by Katarina Bivald

The Muralist
by B. A. Shapiro

The Turner House
by Angela Flournoy

The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper
by Phaedra Patrick

Wonder Women: 25 Innovators, Inventors, and
Trailblazers Who Changed History by Sam Magg

Our Souls at Night
by Alan Kent Haruf

Waking Up White and Finding
Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving

A Piece of the World
by Christina Baker Kline

The Mountain Between Us
by Charles Martin

Tulip Fever
by Deborah Moggach

With You There is Light
by Alexandra Lehmann



Readers' Choice Book Group

Norwalk Public Library,
1 Belden Avenue, Norwalk CT

www.norwalkpubliclibrary.org

