



PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION SETS

*Ackerman, Diane **THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE (NF)**

The true story of Warsaw Zoo keepers and resistance activists Jan and Antonina Zabinski, who in the aftermath of Germany's invasion of Poland, saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish citizens by smuggling them into empty cages and their home villa. Nonfiction.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi **AMERICANAH**

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.

Alexander, Eben **PROOF OF HEAVEN**

A remarkable account of miraculous recovery from bacterial meningitis and a transformative near death experience. Alexander uses his medical credentials to substantiate the belief that his reconstructed memories offer conclusive proof of his current religious beliefs. Nonfiction.

Alvarez, Julia **IN THE TIME OF THE BUTTERFLIES**

In 1960 the bodies of three sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. El Caribe, the official newspaper, reports their deaths as an accident. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that they were among the leading opponents of Gen. Trujillo's dictatorship.

*Andrews, Andy **THE NOTICER (NF)**

The Noticer is part auto-biographical, part fiction, and all inspiring. It is the story of "Jones," a mysterious old man who has a knack for showing up at just the right time in people's lives. He notices stuff, stuff that they miss and he gives them the one thing we all so often need: perspective. Nonfiction. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club**.

Atkinson, Kate **LIFE AFTER LIFE**

Ursula Todd is born on a cold snowy night in 1910, twice. As she grows up during the first half of the twentieth century in Britain, Ursula dies and is brought back to life again and again. With a seemingly infinite number of lives it appears as though Ursula has the ability to alter the history of the world, should she so choose.

Backman, Fredrik **A MAN CALLED OVE**

A curmudgeon hides a terrible personal loss beneath a cranky and short-tempered exterior while clashing with new neighbors, a boisterous family whose chattiness and habits lead to unexpected friendship.

Benjamin, Melanie **THE AVIATOR'S WIFE**

Despite her own major achievements, Anne Morrow Lindbergh is viewed merely as Charles Lindbergh's wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for will bring heartbreak and hardships, ultimately pushing her to reconcile her need for love and her desire for independence, and to embrace, at last, life's infinite possibilities for change and happiness. Generously donated by the **Courtland Avenue Ladies Book Club**.

Bohjalian, Chris **THE DOUBLE BIND**

Working at a homeless shelter, student Laurel Estabrook encounters Bobbie Crocker, a man with a history of mental illness and a box of secret photos, but when Bobbie dies suddenly, Laurel embarks on an obsessive search for the truth behind the photos.

Boyle, T. C. **TORTILLA CURTAIN**

The story of illegal aliens in California, told through the eyes of two very different couples, one well-off Anglos, the other illegal Mexicans living in a canyon. The novel chronicles their relationship against the background of growing hostility between immigrants and natives.

Boyle, T. C. **SAN MIGUEL**

The lives of three women on turn-of-the-20th-century San Miguel are shaped by ambition and circumstance, including the wife of a Civil War veteran who hopes to recover her health, her rebellious aspiring actress daughter and a librarian who wonders if the island's peace will endure in the face of looming war.

Generously donated by the ***Presbyterian Women of the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church.***

Brennert, Alan **MOLOKA'I**

Rachel Kalama, growing up in 1890s Honolulu, is part of a big, loving Hawaiian family, and dreams of seeing the far-off lands that her father often visits. But at age seven, Rachel's dreams are shattered by leprosy. Forcibly removed from her family, she is sent to Kalaupapa, the isolated leper colony on the island of Moloka'i.

Brennert, Alan **HONOLULU**

A young "picture bride" leaves her native Korea, where girls are so little valued that she is known as Regret, and journeys to Hawaii in 1914 in search of a better life. Jin is quickly married off to a poor, embittered laborer who takes his disappointments out on his new wife, forcing her to make her own way in a strange land.

Brown, Daniel **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT (NF)**

This robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. Nonfiction.

Brunt, Carol Rifka **TELL THE WOLVES I'M HOME**

A moving story of an adolescent girl's struggle to comprehend love in 1987 and a culture under strain as it comes to terms with a complicated disease.

Bryson, Bill **AT HOME**

Bryson takes readers on a tour of his house, a rural English parsonage, showing how each room has figured in the evolution of private life.

Chamberlain, Diane **NECESSARY LIES**

Caring for her family on their mid-20th-century tobacco farm after the loss of her parents, 15-year-old Ivy connects with Grace County social worker Jane, who strains her personal and professional relationships with her advocacy of Ivy's family, whose dark secrets test Jane's resolve against racial tensions and state-mandated sterilizations.

Chast, Roz **CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT? (NF)**

Spanning the last several years of their lives and told through four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents, and a narrative as rife with laughs as it is with tears, Chast's memoir is both comfort and comic relief for anyone experiencing the life-altering loss of elderly parents. Nonfiction. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Cisneros, Sandra **HOUSE ON MANGO STREET**

Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, *The House on Mango Street* tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose Chicago neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl inventing for herself what she will become.

Conklin, Tara **THE HOUSE GIRL**

A novel of love, family, and justice follows Lina Sparrow, an ambitious first-year associate in a Manhattan law firm, as she searches for the "perfect plaintiff" to lead a historic class-action lawsuit worth trillions of dollars in reparations for descendants of American slaves.

Daniel, Susanna **STILTSVILLE**

Miami, 1969. Frances is captivated by the community of houses built on pilings in the middle of Biscayne Bay. On the dock of one stilt house, she meets Dennis, and turns away from her predictable life. Stiltsville becomes their island oasis, until suddenly it's gone, and Francis is forced to figure out how to make her family work on dry land. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Dedman, Bill **EMPTY MANSIONS (NF)**

A cousin of Huguette Clark and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist trace the life of the reclusive American heiress against a backdrop of the now-infamous W. A. Clark family and include coverage of the internet sensation and elder-abuse investigation that occurred at the end of her life. Nonfiction. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Diamant, Anita **THE RED TENT**

The ancient world of biblical times comes alive with the fictional story of Dinah, as do stories and traditions of the women of the red tent.

Diffenbaugh, Vanessa **THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS**

A mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable young woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past.

Dilloway, Margaret **HOW TO BE AN AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE**

Entreated to visit her ancestral family in Japan in place of her ailing mother, Sue uncovers family secrets that influence her life in unforeseen ways, offer insight into her mother's marriage to an American GI, and reveal the role of tradition in shaping personal choice.

Doerr, Anthony **ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE**

Set during World War II, the novel expertly interweaves the lives of a blind French girl, Marie-Laure, and an orphaned German boy, Werner, whose paths collide as they try to survive the physical and emotional destruction of the war. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Ebershoff, David **THE DANISH GIRL**

The remarkable story of Lili Elbe, a pioneer in transgender history, and the woman torn between loyalty to her marriage and her own ambitions and desires. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Eggers, Dave **THE CIRCLE**

Hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful Internet company, Mae Holland begins to question her luck as life beyond her job grows distant, a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, and her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Eggers, Dave **ZEITOUN (NF)**

Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, passing on supplies and helping those he could. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Nonfiction.

Erdrich, Louise **THE ROUND HOUSE**

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, 14-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family.

*Faye, Lyndsay **JANE STEELE**

Suffering at the hands of cruel family members and brutal school administrators, sensitive orphan Jane Steele murderously retaliates against her abusers and takes a job as a governess working with mysterious servants while falling in love with her employer, in a serial-killer reimagining of Jane Eyre.

Ferrante, Elena **MY BRILLIANT FRIEND**

Beginning in the 1950s Elena and Lila grow up in Naples, Italy, mirroring two different aspects of their nation. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Ford, Jamie **HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF BITTER AND SWEET**

Set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II and Japanese American internment camps, this debut novel tells the story of widower Henry Lee, his father, and his first love Keiko.

Fowler, Karen Joy **WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY BESIDE OURSELVES**

Coming of age in middle America, eighteen-year-old Rosemary evaluates how her entire youth was defined by the presence and forced removal of an endearing chimpanzee who was secretly regarded as a family member and who Rosemary loved as a sister.

Genova, Lisa **STILL ALICE**

Feeling at the top of her game when she is suddenly diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, Harvard psychologist Alice Howland struggles to find meaning and purpose in her life as her concept of self gradually slips away.

Goolrick, Robert **A RELIABLE WIFE**

Ralph Truitt, a wealthy businessman who lives in a remote 19th century Wisconsin town, has advertised for a reliable wife; and his ad is answered by Catherine Land, a woman hiding dark secrets.

Green, John **THE FAULT IN OUR STARS**

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

Grissom, Kathleen **THE KITCHEN HOUSE**

Working as an indentured servant alongside slaves on a tobacco plantation, Lavinia, a seven-year-old Irish orphan with no memory of her past, finds her light skin and situation placing her between two very different worlds that test her loyalties.

Hainey, Michael **AFTER VISITING FRIENDS (NF)**

A nonfiction story that traces Michael's decade-long investigation into the mystery of his father's sudden death, describing his father's achievements as a dynamic reporter, the author's examination of inconsistencies in his father's medical records and the honor code of secrecy that challenged his research. Nonfiction.

Hannah, Kristin **THE NIGHTINGALE**

Reunited when the elder's husband is sent to fight in World War II, French sisters Vianne and Isabelle find their bond as well as their respective beliefs tested by a world that changes in horrific ways.

Harrison, A.S.A. **THE SILENT WIFE**

Told in alternating voices, this gripping debut exposes the 20-year relationship of Jodi and Todd; it's a comfortable, stable union marred only by Todd's infidelities. When his last one goes too far, Jodi learns the lengths she's willing to go when she's got nothing left to lose. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club**.

Haruf, Kent **OUR SOULS AT NIGHT**

In Holt, Colorado, widower Louis Waters is initially thrown when the widowed Addie Moore suggests that they spend time together, in bed, to stave off loneliness, but soon they are exchanging confidences and memories. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Hawkins, Paula **THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN**

After witnessing something shocking, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good? Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Hellmann, Libby Fischer **A BITTER VEIL**

After moving in together, Nouri and Anna planned a life in Nouri's native Iran, never imagining how circumstances there were about to change into violent dissent. The two find the tumultuous times dividing them and even endangering them.

Hodgman, George **BETTYVILLE (NF)**

When George Hodgman leaves Manhattan for his hometown of Paris, Missouri, he finds himself in a head-on collision with his aging mother, Betty, a woman of wit and will. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Hoffman, Beth **SAVING CEECEE HONEYCUTT**

Relegated to the care of an eccentric great-aunt after her mentally unbalanced mother's accidental death, 12-year-old CeeCee is quickly surrounded by the strong women and cultural elements of her new Savannah community.

Hosseini, Khaled **AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED**

A novel about how people love, how they take care of each other, and how choices made today can resonate through future generations. Author Khaled Hosseini gives listeners a multi-generational family story revolving around siblings and how they love, betray, hurt, honor, and would do anything for one another.

Ivey, Eowyn **THE SNOW CHILD**

A childless couple working a farm in the brutal landscape of 1920 Alaska discover a little girl living in the wilderness, with a red fox as a companion, and begin to love the strange, almost-supernatural child as their own.

Johnson, Diane **FLYOVER LIVES (NF)**

Growing up in the small river town of Moline, Illinois, Diane Johnson always dreamed of floating down the Mississippi and seeing the world. Her own family seemed always to have been in the Midwest. While digging through letters and memoirs, she discovers her Midwestern family's complex pioneer heritage. Nonfiction. Generously donated by the **Hodges Park Book Club**.

Johnson, Julia Claiborne **BE FRANK WITH ME**

Meet Frank. Frank is an odd 9-year-old boy who has a higher IQ than Einstein's and dresses as if he were on a movie set in the early 1920s—and he is someone with whom you are sure to fall in love. Frank's reclusive mother is an author whose publisher has just sent Alice Whitley to serve as an assistant and ensure the next book is completed.

Jordan, Hillary **MUDBOUND**

In 1946, city girl Laura McAllan tries to adjust after moving with her husband and two children to an isolated cotton farm in Mississippi. Tensions rise when her brother-in-law and the son of sharecroppers return from World War II as men changed by the scars of combat.

Joyce, Rachel **UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY**

Harold Fry is convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old love in order to save her, meeting various characters along the way and reminiscing about the events of his past and people he has

*Kalanithi, Paul **WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR**

A profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir by a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis who attempts to answer the question What makes a life worth living? At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books** book club.

Kent, Hannah **BURIAL RITES**

Set against Iceland's stark landscape, this is the story of Agnes, who, charged with the brutal murder of her former master, is sent to an isolated farm to await execution. As Agnes's death looms, the farmer's wife and their daughters learn there is another side to the sensational story they've heard. Generously donated as a gift from **The Max C. Mielecki Trust**.

Kidd, Sue Monk **THE INVENTION OF WINGS**

The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid, and continues for the next thirty-five years of their lives. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, a feminist, suffragist and an abolitionist. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

King, Lily **EUPHORIA**

Frustrated by his research efforts and depressed over the death of his brothers, Andre Banson runs into two fellow anthropologists, a married couple, in 1930s New Guinea and begins a tumultuous relationship with them. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Kingsolver, Barbara **FLIGHT BEHAVIOR**

Dellarobia Turnbow is a discontent farmwife engaging in a flirtatious relationship with a younger man when she discovers an unusual fire in a forested valley behind her house. This curiosity causes a stir in the scientific and local communities, garnering a great deal of media attention and leads to Dellarobia confronting and questioning everything she thought she believed in.

Kline, Christina Baker **ORPHAN TRAIN**

Close to aging out of the foster care system, Molly Ayer takes a position helping an elderly woman named Vivian and discovers that they are more alike than different as she helps Vivian solve a mystery from her past.

Koch, Herman **THE DINNER**

It's a summer's evening in Amsterdam, and two couples meet at a fashionable restaurant for dinner. What starts off as friendly conversation quickly changes. Both couples have teenage sons, and those two boys are linked together through a tragic act. Soon, both sets of parents reveal just what they are willing to do to protect their children. Generously donated by the **Book Marques Book Club**.

Korelitz, Jean Hanff **YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN**

A successful New York City therapist with the perfect family she always wanted has her life turned upside after her husband goes missing and a chain of horrible revelations send her reeling. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.

Krueger, William Kent **ORDINARY GRACE**

Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his 13th year, a man explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota community.

Kwok, Jean **GIRL IN TRANSLATION**

Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly Chang begins a secret double life as an exceptional schoolgirl during the day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by her first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty.

Lahiri, Jhumpa **THE LOWLAND**

Brothers Subhash and Udayan Mitra pursue vastly different lives; Udayan in rebellion-torn Calcutta, Subhash in a quiet corner of America, until a shattering tragedy compels Subhash to return to India, where he endeavors to heal family wounds.

Lamb, Wally **WE ARE WATER**

Anna Oh, a middle-aged wife, mother and artist, divorces her husband after 27 years of marriage to marry Viveca, the Manhattan art dealer who orchestrated her professional success.

Landay, William **DEFENDING JACOB**

Andy Barber, an assistant district attorney, is respected in his community, tenacious in the courtroom, and happy at home with his wife, Laurie, and son, Jacob. But when a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided by what happens next. His fourteen-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student.

Larson, Erik **DEAD WAKE (NF)**

A 100th-anniversary chronicle of the sinking of the Lusitania that discusses the factors that led to the tragedy and the contributions of such figures as President Wilson, bookseller Charles Lauriat and architect Theodate Pope Riddle. Nonfiction.

Lee, Harper **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**

Growing up in the 1930's, a six-year-old experiences Southern prejudice when her father, a lawyer, is asked to represent a black man accused of beating and raping a white girl.

Lee, Harper **GO SET A WATCHMAN**

Twenty years after the trial of Tom Robinson, Scout Finch returns home to Maycomb to visit her father Atticus and struggles with personal and political issues as her small Alabama town adjusts to the turbulent events beginning to transform the United States in the mid-1950s.

Lipman, Elinor **THE INN AT LAKE DEVINE**

It's 1962 and all across America barriers are collapsing. But when Natalie Marx's mother inquires about summer accommodations in Vermont in 1962, she is told accommodations are for Gentiles only. For twelve-year-old Natalie, who has a stubborn sense of justice, the words are not a rebuff but an infuriating, irresistible challenge.

Lockhart, E.L. **WE WERE LIARS**

Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer. Generously donated by *The Friends of the Park Ridge Library*.

Mandel, Emily St. John **STATION ELEVEN**

One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Generously donated by *The Friends of the Park Ridge Library*.

Manning, Molly Guptill **WHEN BOOKS WENT TO WAR (NF)**

Chronicles the joint effort of the U.S. government, the publishing industry, and the nation's librarians to boost troop morale during World War II by shipping more than one hundred million books to the front lines for soldiers to read during what little downtime they had. Nonfiction.

McBride, James **THE GOOD LORD BIRD**

Fleeing his violent master at the side of abolitionist John Brown at the height of the slavery debate in mid-nineteenth-century Kansas Territory, Henry pretends to be a girl to hide his identity throughout the raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859.

McCall Smith, Alexander **NO. 1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY**

Working in Botswana, Precious Ramotswe investigates several local mysteries, including a search for a missing boy and the case of the clinic doctor with different personalities for different days of the week.

McCann, Colum **LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN**

This novel follows the fortunes of a menagerie of New Yorkers through a day in 1974, the day of Philippe Petit's death defying tightrope walk between the newly built Twin Towers.

*McCracken, Elizabeth **THE GIANT'S HOUSE**

Befriending an adolescent boy who is ostracized for his unusual height, bereft Cape Cod librarian Peggy Cort finds a soulmate in James and comes to love him as he grows into a man of eight feet.

McLain, Paula **THE PARIS WIFE**

Meeting through mutual friends in Chicago, Hadley is intrigued by brash "beautiful boy" Ernest Hemingway, and after a brief courtship and small wedding, they take off for Paris, where Hadley makes a convincing transformation from an overprotected child to a brave young woman.

*McLain, Paula **CIRCLING THE SUN**

Beryl broke all the rules for a proper young lady as she grew up in colonial Kenya, then broke ground for women everywhere, first as a horse trainer and then as an aviator. This is a story that weaves together a novelized biography of the first half of Beryl's unique life that takes her from childhood to her attempt at age 34 to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic from Europe to Canada.

McCullough, David **THE WRIGHT BROTHERS (NF)**

On December 17, 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur and Orville Wright's Wright Flyer became the first powered, heavier-than-air machine to achieve controlled, sustained flight with a pilot aboard. The Age of Flight had begun. How did they do it? And why? David McCullough tells the extraordinary and truly American story of the two brothers who changed the world. Nonfiction

Mehran, Marsha **POMEGRANATE SOUP**

Three Iranian sisters, Marjan, Layla, and Bahar Aminpour, flee the turmoil of the Islamic Revolution in their native country to seek refuge in Ireland, where they open the exotic Babylon Café amongst the quirky inhabitants of a colorful Irish town.

Millard, Candice **DESTINY OF THE REPUBLIC (NF)**

This fascinating true account of President James A. Garfield reveals how he rose from poverty to become a scholar, Civil War hero, and renowned congressman before being nominated for president against his will. Nonfiction.

Moore, Edward Kelsey **THE SUPREMES AT EARL'S ALL YOU CAN EAT**

Forging a friendship at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Odette, Clarice and Barbara Jean meet regularly at the first diner owned by black proprietors in their Indiana city and are watched throughout the years by a big-hearted man who observes their struggles with school, marriage, parenthood and beyond. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Moore, Liz **HEFT**

Arthur weighs 550 pounds and hasn't left his rambling Brooklyn home in a decade. Kel navigates life as a poor kid in a rich school, and pins his hopes on what seems like a promising baseball career. An unexpected connection transforms both their lives as they find sustenance and friendship in the most surprising places.

Morgenstern, Erin **THE NIGHT CIRCUS**

A fierce competition is underway, a contest between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood to compete in "a game," in which each must use their powers of illusion to best the other. Unbeknownst to them, this game is a duel to the death, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will.

Moriarty, Liane **THE HUSBAND'S SECRET**

Discovering a tattered letter that says she is to open it only in the event of her husband's death, Cecelia, a successful family woman, is unable to resist reading the letter and discovers a secret that shatters her life and the lives of two other women. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Moriarty, Liane **BIG LITTLE LIES**

A horrible act of violence occurs at the Pirriwee Public School's trivia night fundraiser for parents, but what happened and who was involved? The novel begins six months before that fateful evening and lets us in on the lives of single mother Jane, twice-married Madeline, and Celeste, who secretly suffers from domestic abuse.

Moriarty, Laura **THE CHAPERONE**

A novel about the friendship between an adolescent, pre-movie-star Louise Brooks, and the 36-year-old woman who chaperones her to New York City for a summer, in 1922, and how it changes both their lives. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Morton, Kate **THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN**

Abandoned on a 1913 voyage to Australia, Nell is raised by a dock master and his wife who do not tell her until she is an adult that she is not their child, leading Nell to return to England and eventually hand down her quest for answers to her granddaughter.

Moyes, JoJo **AFTER YOU**

For Louisa Clark, life after Will Traynor means learning to fall in love again, with all the risks that brings. But here Jojo Moyes gives us two families, as real as our own, whose joys and sorrows will touch you deeply, and where both changes and surprises await.

Moyes, JoJo **ME BEFORE YOU**

Taking a job as an assistant to extreme sports enthusiast Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, Louisa struggles with her employer's acerbic moods and learns of his shocking plans before demonstrating to him that life is still worth living.

Moyes, JoJo **ONE PLUS ONE**

A single mom, her math genius daughter, her eye-shadow-wearing stepson, a wealthy computer geek and a smelly dog all get into a car...it sounds like the start of a bad joke, but it's actually another charming novel from Jojo Moyes. Generously donated by ***The Friends of the Park Ridge Library.***

Munro, Alice **DEAR LIFE**

A collection of stories illuminating the moments that shape a life, whether a dream or a sexual act or simple twists of fate, set in the countryside and towns of Lake Huron.

Palacio, R.J. **WONDER**

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which requires enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Patchett Ann **RUN**

Struggling with single parenthood and a scandal that cost him his political career, Bernard Doyle fights his disappointment with his adopted sons' career choices before a violent event forces the members of his family to reconsider their priorities.

Patchett, Ann **STATE OF WONDER**

When her research partner dies in the Amazon, Dr. Marina Singh agrees to go find out what happened. Her purpose is to find out for her boss what progress her former teacher is making on the drug under development. Marina finds that she has more strength and ability, as a doctor, friend, and human being, than she knew as she navigates the hazardous waters of the Amazon and her own psyche.

Phillips, Jayne Anne **QUIET DELL**

In 1931, Emily Thornhill, one of the few women in the Chicago press, covers the murders of Asta Eicher and her three children and, obsessed with finding out what happened to this beautiful family, allies herself with the man funding the investigation. Generously donated by the *Happy Bookers Book Club*.

Polonsky, Ami **GRACEFULLY GRAYSON**

Grayson, a transgender twelve-year-old, learns to accept her true identity and share it with the world. Generously donated by *The Friends of the Park Ridge Library*.

Rash, Ron **SERENA**

Traveling to the mountains of 1929 North Carolina to forge a timber business with her new husband, Serena Pemberton champions her mastery of harsh natural and working conditions but turns murderous when she learns she cannot bear children. Generously donated by *The Friends of the Park Ridge Library*.

Ratner, Vaddey **IN THE SHADOW OF THE BANYAN**

Set in Khmer Rouge-era Cambodia, this story follows seven-year-old Raami and her family as civil war forces them from their beloved home in Phnom Penh. With starvation, labor camps, and death now part of her everyday life, Raami finds comfort only in the beauty and hope of her father's mythical tales and poems.

Riggs, Ransom **MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN**

After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering disturbing facts about the children who were kept there.

Rogan, Charlotte **LIFEBOAT**

Forced into an overcrowded lifeboat after a mysterious explosion on their trans-Atlantic ocean liner, newly widowed Grace Winter battles the elements and her fellow survivors and remembers her husband, Henry, who set his own safety aside to ensure Grace's.

Rosnay, Tatiana de **SARAH'S KEY**

On the sixtieth anniversary of the 1942 roundup of Jews by the French police in Paris, American journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article on this dark episode during World War II and embarks on investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets.

Ruiz Zafon, Carlos **THE SHADOW OF THE WIND**

In 1945 Barcelona, Daniel is taken to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books by his father, a secondhand book merchant. Here under the auspices of his father and of Sr. Isaac, the guardian of the Cemetery, Daniel chooses a book, *The Shadow of the Wind*, written by an unknown author. Daniel embarks on a search to find out more about the book, its mysterious author and his life story.

Schroff, Laura **AN INVISIBLE THREAD: the true story of an 11-year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and an unlikely meeting with destiny (NF)**

He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But something made her turn around and go back. They met nearly every week for years, and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades. Nonfiction. Generously donated by the *Washington School Book Club*.

See, Lisa **SHANGHAI GIRLS**

In the mid 1930's two well-educated sisters from Shanghai go to Los Angeles to become brides of the "Gold Mountain men" when their family is on the verge of bankruptcy. When they get there they are detained, interrogated, and humiliated for months. When one of the sisters becomes pregnant they vow that no one will ever know.

Semple, Maria **WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE?**

When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.

*Septeys, Ruta **SALT TO THE SEA**

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

Shapiro, Barbara **THE ART FORGER**

On March 18, 1990, thirteen works of art worth today over \$500 million were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. It remains the largest unsolved art heist in history, and Claire Roth, a struggling young artist, is about to discover that there's more to this crime than meets the eye.

Shors, John **BENEATH A MARBLE SKY**

The eldest daughter of the 17th century emperor who built the Taj Mahal recounts her childhood, her parents, and the events of war, rebellion, and religious fundamentalism that occurred during the construction of the mausoleum.

Shreve, Anita **STELLA BAIN**

Suffering from shell shock and memory loss from her time spent as a nurse's aide on a French battlefield during World War I, American Stella Bain is taken in by London surgeon August Bridge and his wife.

Shriver, Lionel **WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN**

A tormented mother grapples with feelings of accountability and intense grief after her troubled 15-year-old son commits an act of violence that shakes their community to its very core.

Simonson, Helen **MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND**

Major Pettigrew leads a quiet life in a small English village until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by a shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship on the cusp of blossoming into something more.

Simsion, Graeme **THE ROSIE PROJECT**

Don Tillman, a professor of genetics, sets up a project designed to find him the perfect wife, starting with a questionnaire that has to be adjusted a little as he goes along. Then he meets Rosie, who is everything he's not looking for in a wife, but she ends up his friend as he helps her try and find her biological father. Generously donated by the *2nd Friday Book Club*.

Sittenfeld, Curtis **SISTERLAND**

When the strongest earthquake in U.S. history occurs just north of their St. Louis home, Kate and Jeremy find the disaster further complicated by Kate's self-proclaimed-medium twin's prediction about a more powerful earthquake, a situation that places Kate under public scrutiny and reveals her own psychic abilities.

Skloot, Rebecca **IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS (NF)**

Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping. Nonfiction.

Smith, Lee **GUESTS ON EARTH**

It is 1936 when orphaned thirteen-year-old Evalina Toussaint is admitted to Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, a mental institution known for its innovative treatments for nervous disorders and addictions. Taken under the wing of the hospital's most notable patient, Zelda Fitzgerald, Evalina witnesses the cascading events leading up to the tragic fire of 1948 that killed nine women in a locked ward, Zelda among them. Generously donated by *The Friends of the Park Ridge Library*.

Stedman, M. I. **THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS**

Tom is a young lighthouse keeper on a remote island in Australia in 1926. The only inhabitants of Janus Rock, he and his wife Isabel live a quiet life, cocooned from the rest of the world. Then one April morning a boat washes ashore carrying a dead man and a crying infant and the path of the couple's lives hits an unthinkable crossroads.

Stevenson, Bryan **JUST MERCY (NF)**

The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. Nonfiction.

Strayed, Cheryl **WILD (NF)**

A powerful, blazingly honest, inspiring memoir: the story of a 1,100 mile solo hike on the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert to Washington State that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe and built her back up again. Nonfiction.

Strout, Elizabeth **MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON**

Set in the mid-1980s, Lucy Barton, hospitalized for nine weeks, is surprised when her estranged mother shows up at her bedside. Her mother talks of local gossip, but underneath the banalities, Lucy senses the love that cannot be expressed. This is the story that Lucy must write about, the one story that has shaped her entire life. A beautiful lyrical story of a mother and daughter and the love they share.

Strout, Elizabeth **OLIVE KITTERIDGE**

At the edge of the continent, in the small town of Crosby, Maine, lives Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher who deplores the changes in her town and in the world at large but doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her. In these linked short stories, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life.

Swanson, Cynthia **THE BOOKSELLER**

Kitty Miller has come to terms with her unconventional single life. She loves the bookshop she runs with her best friend, Frieda, and enjoys complete control over her day-to-day existence. Then the dreams begin. Convinced that these dreams are simply due to her overactive imagination, Kitty enjoys her nighttime forays into this alternate world. But with each visit, the more real the dream life becomes. As the lines between her worlds begin to blur, Kitty must figure out what is real and what is imagined.

*Swanson, Peter **THE KIND WORTH KILLING**

Lily Kitner and Ted Severson meet in a London Airport bar and then share several more drinks on an overnight flight to Boston. You tell strangers personal details you wouldn't even share with your shrink. The more they drink the more they reveal. Ted confides that his wife, Miranda is having an affair with the contractor working on their mega mansion. When Lily asks Ted what he's going to do about his wife's infidelity, Ted, replies, with a grin, that what he really wants to do is kill her.

Sweeney, Cynthia D'Aprix **THE NEST**

If you think your family is dysfunctional, move over, because here come the Plumbs. Suddenly faced with the dismantling of the nest egg they've counted on to solve their financial woes, the four Plumb siblings have to grow up, and fast. But though they all do some terrible things in the name of ambition, there's something lovable about the Plumbs.

Tan, Amy **THE BONESETTER'S DAUGHTER**

The deterioration of Ruth's romantic relationship renders Ruth unable to speak. Her Chinese mother, LuLing, who has Alzheimer's, is another factor in her life, but the diary she kept as a young woman still exists, and when Ruth reads it she comes to an understanding of her family's history, her mother's sadness, and her own problems.

Tartt, Donna **THE SECRET HISTORY**

A transfer student from a small town in California, Richard Papen is determined to affect the ways of his Hampden College peers, and he begins his intense studies under the tutelage of eccentric Julian Morrow.

Tartt, Donna **THE GOLDFINCH**

A young boy in New York City miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life. In the years that follow, he becomes entranced by one of the few things that reminds him of his mother: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the art underworld. It is a story of loss and obsession, survival and self-invention, and the enormous power of art. Generously donated by *The Friends of the Park Ridge Library*.

Tóibín, Colm **BROOKLYN**

Eilis Lacey is unable to find a job in Ireland in the years following World War II. An Irish priest from Brooklyn, New York offers to sponsor her to live and work in America, so she decides she must go leaving her mother and sister behind. She adapts to her new life by working in a department store and the pain of parting has subsided until she receives devastating news from home that threatens the promise of her future. Generously donated by *The Friends of the Park Ridge Library*.

Towles, Amor **RULES OF CIVILITY**

A chance encounter with a handsome banker in a jazz bar on New Year's Eve 1938 catapults Wall Street secretary Katey Kontent into the upper echelons of New York society, where she befriends a shy multi-millionaire, an Upper East Side ne'er-do-well, and a single-minded widow.

Tropper, Jonathan **THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU**

Shortly after Judd's wife leaves him for his boss, Judd's father Mort passes away, bringing the entire family together in mourning. During this week of "sitting shiva," Judd realizes his siblings are even more dysfunctional than he is, and the confrontations that ensue are full of raw emotion and humorous consequences.

Tsukiyama, Gail **THE SAMURAI'S GARDEN**

Stephen leaves his home in Hong Kong just as the Japanese are poised to invade China. He is sent to a small Japanese village to recuperate from tuberculosis. There, he meets and develops friendships with adults Matsu, Kenzo, and Sachi, and a young woman, Keiko, his own age. The unwinding stories of his new friends bring him to the beginnings of wisdom, love, honor, and loss.

Turow, Scott **ORDINARY HEROES**

Stewart Dubinsky plunges into the mystery of his family's secret history when he discovers his deceased father's wartime letters to his former fiancée, revealing his court-martial and imprisonment during World War II.

Tyler, Anne **A SPOOL OF BLUE THREAD**

The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate togetherness, but they are also like all families, in that the stories they tell themselves reveal only part of the picture. Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets.

Waldman, Amy **THE SUBMISSION**

When a Muslim architect wins a blind contest to design a Ground Zero Memorial, a city of eleven million people takes notice.

Walter, Jess **BEAUTIFUL RUINS**

A romantic and enjoyable novel that follows a young Italian innkeeper and his almost-love affair with a beautiful American starlet, which draws him into a glittering world filled with unforgettable characters.

Watson, S. J. **BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP**

Without her husband's knowledge, Christine, whose memory is damaged by a long-ago accident, is treated by a neurologist who helps her to remember her former self through journal entries until inconsistencies begin to emerge, raising disturbing questions.

Weir, Andy **THE MARTIAN**

After a bad storm cuts his team's Mars mission short, injured astronaut Mark Watley is stranded. Now he's got to figure out how to survive without air, shelter, food, or water on the harsh Martian landscape until the next manned mission in four years.

Generously donated by *I'll Have What She's Reading Book Club*.

*Whitehead, Colson **THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. Their first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels.

Zevin, Gabrielle **THE STORIED LIFE OF A. J. FIKRY**

A middle-aged bookseller mourning his lost wife, a feisty publisher's rep, and a charmingly precocious abandoned child come together on a small island off the New England coast in this utterly delightful novel of love and second chances.

Zusak, Markus **THE BOOK THIEF**

In World War II Germany, Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich who scratches out a meager existence by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist – books. With the help of her foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

***indicated newest additions – updated 4/2017**