The Cabin’s

The Ides of March

2019 Book Club & Reading List
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WELCOME TO THE CABIN!

The Cabin incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1996. Our mission is to inspire and celebrate a love of reading, writing and discourse.

The Cabin annually serves about 500 member households, more than 2,000 children and youth, and more than 16,000 people through educational and cultural programs. We serve our diverse constituencies through:

- **READINGS & CONVERSATIONS**, an annual lecture series bringing internationally-acclaimed, provocative, and inspiring writers to Boise;
- **WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS (WITS)**, placing professional writers in classrooms with 3rd-12th grade students;
- **SUMMER WRITING CAMPS AND WORKSHOPS**, writing intensives and adventures for youth and adults, one of ten model arts education programs in the U.S.;
- **WRITERS IN THE ATTIC (WITA)**, an annual publication contest and event for local writers;
- **LITERARY ACTIVITIES** such as book club meetings, writing workshops, readings by local authors, and other events that create conversation and community around literature;
- **GHOSTS & PROJECTORS** is a reading series that pairs emerging, innovative, and experimental writers with writers from the Treasure Valley.
The Cabin’s administrative offices are housed in our restored log cabin, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Four full-time staff and two part-time staff are supported by a strong membership, a talented group of professional teaching-writers, and a growing volunteer base. The Cabin is also governed by a 13-member board of directors.
JOIN THE CABIN!

The Cabin inspires and celebrates a love of reading, writing, and discourse throughout Idaho and the region. Become a member today and enjoy discounted rates on programs and events.

CONTRIBUTOR - $35 annually
- Exclusive earlybird opportunity to renew or purchase Readings & Conversations series tickets (up to two if available)
- Member pricing for two workshops, two Readings & Conversations season tickets, and two camp sessions
- The Cabin’s membership e-newsletter
- Discounted submission fees for Cabin publications
- Recognition in Annual Report

PATRON - $75 annually
- Exclusive earlybird opportunity to renew or purchase Readings & Conversations series tickets (up to four if available)
- Member pricing for all writing workshops, all Readings & Conversations season tickets, and all camp sessions
- The Cabin’s membership e-newsletter
- Discounted submission fees for Cabin publications
- Recognition in Annual Report

SUSTAINING - $120 annually (or $10/month)
- All of the benefits of a Patron membership
- Free copy of annual Writers in the Attic anthology

ADVOCATE - $300 annually (or $25/month)
- All of the benefits of a Sustaining membership
- Invitation to Readings & Conversations Reception with featured author
ASSOCIATE - $600 annually (or $50/month)
• All of the benefits of an Advocate membership
• Early announcement of Readings & Conversations series
• Free admission to an additional Readings & Conversations Cocktail Party with featured authors

LEADER - $1200 annually
• All of the benefits of an Associate membership
• Early opportunity to purchase tickets for the annual Cabin gala
• Annual access to The Cabin for a private event
• Recognition on The Cabin’s website

BENEFACTOR - $5000 annually
• All of the benefits of a Leader membership
• Table for eight at annual Cabin gala
• Recognition at Readings & Conversations events
• A personalized, signed copy of a Readings & Conversations series author book of your choice
ON READING IN COMMUNITY

STARTING A BOOK CLUB

- Make expectations clear. Common expectations include careful reading, active participation in book selection and discussion, and regular attendance.

- Decide what types of books your group wants to read. Only fiction? Prize winners? Classics? Anything and everything?

- Decide if the books should be coordinated with anything else. Bestseller lists? A local or visiting writers series? Book reviews?

- Figure out the logistics. How long should the meetings run? (We find that the best discussions last between 45 and 90 minutes.) Where will you meet? At a library? Coffee shop? Private homes? How will everyone keep in contact? Facebook? Email? Phone?

- Determine the leadership. Will you have a leader? Will the same person be in charge for each meeting, or will you rotate? Do you want to have special guests or experts visit the group? Will you have a budget set aside for visitors?

- Choose the books. Choosing what books to read is one of the hardest and most important activities the group will undertake together. Members should be prepared to read outside their regular areas of interest and go with the majority opinion. Remember that there is a big difference between "a good read" and "a good book for a discussion." Choose books well in advance so people can read ahead if they’d like.
KEEPING A BOOK CLUB GOING

What makes a book good for discussion? The most important criteria are that the book is well written, has an interesting plot, and features three-dimensional characters. Books that provoke discussion often present the author's view of an important truth, feature a difficult but necessary decision, or highlight a controversial aspect of life. These books can also be characterized by their lingering in the reader's mind long after the book has been put back on the shelf and the discussion is over. These books can be read more than once, and each time the reader can learn something new.

THOUGHTS ON GENRE

During a book discussion, people are often concerned with everything that the author hasn't said. For this reason, books that are strictly plot driven, (most mysteries, westerns, romances, and science fiction/fantasy), don't lend themselves to riveting discussions. You don’t want a book in which the author spells everything out for the reader. With those books all there is left to say is "well that was interesting."

Librarians, booksellers, literary organizations, and friends can often supply you with suggestions. In addition, this "everything that the author hasn't said" criterion is a rich argument for including poetry in your book club’s reading list.
READING CRITICALLY

The very best books provide a profound sense of kinship between reader and writer. Searching for, identifying, and discussing how a book accomplishes this kinship can deepen your appreciation of the book. Asking questions, reading carefully, imagining yourself in the story, analyzing style or structure, and searching for personal meaning in a work of literature will enhance the work's value and discussion potential.

- Make notes and mark pages as you go. Reading for a book discussion differs somewhat from reading purely for pleasure. As you read a book in preparation for a discussion, mark pages you might want to refer back to.
- Ask tough questions of yourself and the book. Obviously, asking questions means you don't know the answer yet, and sometimes you will never discover the answer. This is okay!
- Pay attention. As with any skill, critical reading improves with practice.
- Analyze the content. While summarizing a book can sometimes be useful, analysis will give you a greater understanding of the book and the relationship of its parts.
- Examine, evaluate, dissect, and read between the lines to connect the book’s content to other knowledge.
- Get to know the characters. When you meet the characters in the book, place yourself in the scene. Think of them as you do the people around you. Think about their faults, virtues and motives. Read portions aloud to get to know their voices.
- Notice the structure of the book. Sometimes an author uses the structure or form of the book to illustrate a
concept that is central to the book’s purpose. Ask questions. Are chapters prefaced with quotes? How many narrators tell the story? How does the sequence of events unfold to create the mood of the story? Is it written in flashbacks?

- Make comparisons to other books and authors. Compare the book to the author’s other work and to the work of his or her contemporaries. Often, the themes that run through an author's work are more fully realized in comparison.
LEADING THE DISCUSSION

Begin by researching the author online. Most authors have their own websites and usually their publisher’s website will also have helpful information. In addition, book reviews are readily available in publications such as *The New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly*. If you do not want to read online, you can visit your local library and look up the *Book Review Digest*, *Book Review Index*, or *The Dictionary of Literary Biography*.

- Come prepared with 10 to 15 open-ended questions. Remember, questions that can be answered with a simple *yes* or *no* tend to cut off discussion quickly.
- Questions should be used to start the discussion and keep it going, but be ready to let the discussion flow naturally. You'll often find that the questions you've prepared will come up all on their own.
- Remind participants that there are not necessarily any “right” answers.
- Don’t be afraid to criticize a book; try to go beyond strictly evaluative comments such as "I just didn't like it" or “I liked it.” Remember that many of the best book discussions center on books that many group members dislike.
- Every reader responds to a book in ways that are intimately tied to his or her background, but aim to keep a balance in the discussion between personal revelations and critical response.
EXAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What makes this book distinctive?
- Is the time period or setting of the book important to the purpose? Why? How realistic is the setting?
- Is the book written to present the author’s worldview?
- How does politics play a role in the book?
- Are the plot and the subplot believable? Are they compelling?
- How understandable are the motivations of the characters? What motivates their behavior?
- How is the book structured? Flashbacks? From one point of view? All in dialogue?
- How does the language of the book help convey its purpose?
- Does the author rely heavily on imagery and symbolism?

SUGGESTIONS FOR BOOK CLUB PARTICIPANTS

- SPEAK UP. Group discussion is a conversation; everyone needs to take part.
- LISTEN to others. Try to understand points of view other than your own.
- BE BRIEF. Share the discussion with others. A good discussion keeps everyone in the conversation.
- HAVE FUN. Enjoy having the opportunity to read books with a community or friends and to contribute to literary discussions.
2019 TREASURE VALLEY BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

The following pages contain listings of books chosen for reading and discussion in 2019 by local book clubs.

If you’re looking for a new book club to join or are simply interested to know what the Treasure Valley is reading, read on!
Melville@200: In the Wake of the Whale

The Hemingway Literary Center and Melville’s Marginalia Online of the English Department at Boise State University is celebrating 200 years since Melville’s birth with talks and events throughout the year. In Fall 2018, Lit for Lunch embarked on Moby-Dick. This Spring 2019 we will be reading works that influenced Melville, were influenced by Melville, as well as two of Melville’s shorter works.

- **Billy Budd, Sailor** by Herman Melville (February 22)
- **In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex** by Nathaniel Philbrick (March 29)
- **Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street** by Herman Melville (April 26)
- **No Country for Old Men** by Cormac McCarthy (May 10)

Book discussions are held at the Boise Public Library, 715 S. Capitol Blvd., from 12:10 to 1 p.m., in the Bingham Room (3rd floor) and are free and open to the public. Books are available at Rediscovered Books on 8th street between Main and Idaho which gives a 10% discount and at the BSU Bookstore in the SUB (208-426-1362), which gives a 25% discount.
BOISE'S OUTRAGEOUS, OUTSPoken BOOK SOciETY

Contact: Susan Reeb
Email: susanreeb@msn.com
Phone: (208)-371-6213

- Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
- For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway
- Macbeth by Jo Nesbo
- Love and Other Consolation Prizes by Jamie Ford
- The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
- Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
- The Woman in the Window by AJ Finn
- Florida by Lauren Groff
- Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke
- English Creek by Ivan Doig
- The Liar’s Club: A Memoir by Mary Karr

Most of our members are retired Boise Cascade employees, but we do have a few who are not. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 1:30 PM at the library at Cole & Ustick and have 17 members.
IDAHO WRITERS GUILD BOOK CLUB
Contact: Amanda Turner
Email: amanda@akturner.com
Phone: 208-949-4683

❖ Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward (March 14th)
❖ Look Alive Out There: Essays by Sloane Crosley (April 11th)
❖ Days of Awe by A.M. Homes (May 9th)
❖ Calypso by David Sedaris (June 13th)

The IWG Book Club is not open to the public and is for current members of the Idaho Writers Guild. Meetings take place from 6-8pm at a member’s home and include a light potluck. We do not meet in July and August. Titles for the Fall/Spring will be selected at the June meeting.
LITERARY JOURNEYS
Contact: Linda Paul
Email: lindapaul@gmail.com
Phone: 208 345-1664

* Educated by Tara Westover
* Blackberry Winter by Margaret Mead
* A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
* An American Marriage by Tayari Jones
* Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
* Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
* The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
* Idaho by Emily Ruskovich
* Kinds of Love by May Sarton

We meet once a month, on a Sunday at 2:30. We used to meet at various member's homes, but this year we are trying a new tactic of meeting at one of the centrally located libraries.

In December we celebrate good books and good holidays with a group meal at a restaurant in the valley. In August we have a luncheon during which we select books for the coming season.

Our selections come from one or more book recommendations from each member, which are pared down to 8 selections by vote. The only requirement is that the person recommending a book must have read that book before recommending it. Discussions are moderated by the member who recommended the book.
**Mondays at Marie’s**

Contact: Marie Macklin  
Email: mmckln@q.com  
Phone: (208)-841-3739

- *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks (January 21st)  
- *The Female Persuasion* by Meg Wolitzer (February 18th)  
- *Educated* by Tara Westover (March 18th)  
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens (April 15th)  
- *A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza (May 20th)  
- *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz (June 17th)  
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama (July 15th)  
- *What Alice Forgot* by Liana Moriarty (August 17th)

We meet the third Monday of each month at 11:00 for discussion of the book and lunch.
HERS BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GROUP
(Hypatia’s Eclectic Reading Society)
Contact: Beth Bogue
Email: bbogue5358@msn.com
Phone: (208)-412-4006

- *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones (January 22)
- *Educated* by Tara Westover (February 26)
- *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann (March 26)
- *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan (April 23)
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens (May 28)
- *The Woman in the Window* by AJ Finn (June 25)
- *The Dinner List* by Rebecca Serle (July 23)
- *The Latecomers* by Helen Klein Ross (August 27)
- *The Witch Elm* by Tana French (September 24)
- *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin (October 22)
- *A River of Stones* by Vanessa Hua (November 26)

Hypatia was a second-century Neoplatonist philosopher as well as the first notable woman of mathematics. She became the recognized head of the Neoplatonist School of Philosophy in Alexandria and her eloquence, modesty and beauty combined with her remarkable intellectual gifts attracted an enormous number of students.

We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4760 Rivervista Place in Garden City. All meetings begin at 7:30

Our group is limited to twelve persons. What we share is a love of reading and learning. While we do not always agree,
controversy breeds interesting discussion and thus, we respect all opinions.
THE PAPER DOLLS
Contact: Deb Holleran
Email: holl77@cableone.net
Phone: (208)-336-1760

- Beach Music by Pat Conroy
- A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
- Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
- White Houses by Amy Bloon
- Educated by Tara Westover
- Red Notice by Bill Browder
- The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee

We meet monthly (the first Wednesday of the month) from September through May at a book club member’s private home.
GREAT BOOKS CLUB OF BOISE
Contact: Linda Hurlbutt
Email: lindahurlbutt@gmail.com
Phone: 208-345-2648

Counterparts - an anthology compiled by the Great Books Foundation

- *Rappaccinis Daughter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Vivisection* by Claude Bernard
- *Lilies* by John Ruskin
- *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan
- *Ode 3.2* by Horace
- *Dulce etc Decorum est* by Wilfred Owen
- *To the Memory of My Beloved, the Author William Shakespeare* by Ben Jonson
- *What is an Author* by Michael Foucault
- *The Immoderation of Ivan* by Sara Suleri
- *Now We Are Five* by David Sedaris

The Greek Plays- Sixteen Plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides - Translations edited by Mary Lefkowitz and James Romm. Modern Library

- *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles
- *Antigone* by Sophocles
- *Oedipus at Colonus* by Sophocles
- *Electra* by Sophocles

We divided up the books and apportioned them out over five sessions.

The Great Books Club of Boise has been active for some 40 years. Its membership (currently 16) reads and discusses great literature of all ages and cultures, with emphasis on Great Books Foundation recommendations.

The group meets roughly twice a month between September and May of each year, plus another fall meeting to discuss a novel all have read over the summer. Members are responsible for hosting a group meeting and moderating a discussion each year.

Discussions are organized according to the principles of Shared Inquiry advocated by the Great Books Foundation.
NOVEL WOMEN!
Contact: Stephanie Youngerman
Email: ssyoungerman@gmail.com
Phone: (208)-343-8578

🔹 A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
🔹 Hillbilly Elegy by JD Vance
🔹 Everyone Brave is Forgiven by Chris Cleave
🔹 Lab Girl by Hope Jahren
🔹 Our Lady of the Lost and Found by Diane Schoemperlin
🔹 Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
🔹 Educated by Tara Westover
🔹 The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty by Vendela Vida

We are not adding new members at this time.
Nampa Read & Feed Book Club
Contact: Anita Svaty / Angie Wensel
Email: amscvity@speedyquick.net / wensel55@msn.com
Phone: (208)-459-0348 / (208)-467-1324

✦ Movie - 100 Year Old Man..... (January 19th)
✦ The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Leo (February 19th)
✦ Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders & Birth of FBI by David Grann (March 19th)
✦ We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgie Hunter (April 19th)
✦ The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah (May 19th)
✦ The Husband Hunters: Social Climbing in London & New York by Anne de Courcy (June 19th)
✦ Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney (July 19th)
✦ Educated by Tara Westover (August 19th)
✦ Late Harvest Green by Lois Requist (September 19th)
✦ Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate (October 19th)
✦ Astoria by Peter Stark (November 18th)
✦ A Higher Call by Adam Makos (December 19th)
BOWN BOOK CLUB
Contact: Rachael Perry
Email: rperry@cityofboise.org
Phone: (208)-972-8363

 Idaho by Emily Ruskovich (March 14)
 ✹ The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House by Kate Anderson Brower (April 11)
 ✹ The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead (May 9)
 ✹ Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in Mumbai University by Katherine Boo (June 13)
 ✹ No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters by Ursula LeGuin (July 11)
 ✹ My Favorite Thing is Monsters by Emil Ferris (August 8)
 ✹ The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven by Sherman Alexie (September 12)
 ✹ Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell (October 10)
 ✹ Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro (November 14)
 ✹ Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell (December 12)
 ✹ Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy by Karen Abbott (January 9)
 ✹ Shanghai Girls by Lisa See (February 13)

The Library! at Bown Crossing’s Bown Book Club meets monthly to discuss a diverse selection of fiction and nonfiction titles. The group welcomes new members at any time and members are not required to attend all meetings. Meetings are
held on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. The Library! at Bown Crossing is located at 2153 E. Riverwalk Dr.
BAD GIRLS BOOKCLUB
Contact: Harriet Shaklee
Email: hshaklee@cableone.net
Phone: N/A

- Beartown by Fredrik Backman
- Fly Girls by Keith O'Brien
- Everything Here is Beautiful by Mira Lee
- Island Beneath the Sea by Isabelle Allende
- Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World and Why Things are Better than You Think
- Lost Letter by Jillian Cantor
- My Dear Hamilton by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie
- Sing Them Home by Stephanie Kallos
- Small Great Things by Jody Picoult
- Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
- Warlight by Michael Ondaatje
BOOKED UP

Contact: Rhonda Marker-Hall
Email: rhondahall1950@gmail.com
Phone: 208-371-5290

✎ The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro
✎ Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng
✎ Nothing to Envy Ordinary Lives in North Korea by Barbara Demick
✎ Grandma Gatewood’s Walk by Ben Montgomery
✎ Radium Girls by Kate Moore.
✎ Soul Cage by Etsuya Honda
✎ A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
✎ I’ll Fly Away by Kelly Nielson
✎ Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
✎ Sing Unburied Sing by Jesmyn Ward

Group description: Ten women of varying ages and occupations, including two published authors. Formed in 1989. Meet 10 or 11 times a year on average. We meet at members’ homes, restaurants and parks, depending upon the time of year and our needs. The schedule of hosting is determined at the December meeting for the following year. The hostess is in charge of a dinner which can be totally her responsibility or can be any combination of potluck and hostess choice. The hostess presents 3 to 4 book choices, winner to be chosen by majority vote. The book will then be discussed two months later.

November and December are combined into one meeting in early December. All other meetings are the third Tuesday of
each month. If there is a month with no hostess available, we will meet at a restaurant or park and choose books from the “runner up” votes from previous meetings.
HUMAN RIGHTS BOOK CLUB

Contact: Debbie Sager
Email: debbie@wassmuthcenter.org
Phone: 208-345-0304

- *There There: A Novel* by Tommy Orange (March 14th)
- *My Soul is Filled with Joy* by Karen Treiger (May 9th)

7:00-8:30pm
Idaho Black History Museum
508 East Julia Davis Drive
MEMOIR BOOK CLUB
Contact: Jeri Walker
Email: jeriwb@gmail.com
Phone: N/A

✦ When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi (March 28)
✦ The Liar’s Club by Mary Karr (May 30)
✦ The Enders Hotel by Brandon R. Schrand (July 25)
✦ The Salt Path by Raynor Winn (September 26)
✦ Engineering a Life by Krishan K. Bedi (November 21)

This group is organized via the Introverts Who Aren't Total Hermits on Meetup. Those who wish to attend must RSVP via Meetup. We meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm for two hours at various Treasure Valley locations. The group alternates every other month between workshopping a piece of creative nonfiction and then discussing a memoir.
PAGE TURNERS
Contact: Carol Kotaska
Email: kotaska1969@gmail.com
Phone: N/A

- Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys (March)
- Educated by Tara Westover (April)
- We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter (May)
- The Casual Vacancy by J.R. Rowling (June)
- The Wife Between Us by Sarah Pekkanen/Greer Hendricks (July)
- Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton (August)
- Commonwealth by Ann Patchett (September)

Meet the 1st Monday of each month at 10:00 am at members homes.
JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB

Contact: Monica Van Bussem
Email: jabcidaho@gmail.com
Phone: N/A

- *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy (March 12th)
- *Jane Austen's England* by Roy and Lesley Adkins (May 14th)
- *The Mysteries of Udolpho* by Ann Radcliffe (July 9th)
- *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen (September 10th)
- *On the Sofa with Jane Austen* by Maggie Lane (November 12th)

We meet the second Tuesday or each second month (January, March, May, July, September, and November) at the Collister Library to read two works by Jane Austen, two books about Jane Austen, and two books because of Jane Austen each year.