

Book Club Books



Below are this winter's Book Club selections. Chosen to represent a range of interests, it is hoped these books will stimulate thought and discussion among our diverse group of readers. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Winter 2002

A Bend In the River by V. S. Naipaul

Naipaul won the 2001 Nobel Prize in Literature. This 1979 work explores the complex inner turmoil of a man caught between the dangerously alluring modern world and the tenacious hold of past traditions.

The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood

Winner of the Booker Prize, this novel entwines the stories of two sisters. One of them dies early on, and the surviving sister, Iris, gradually reveals the mystery of Laura's death. The story also includes Laura's novel-within-the-novel, a science fiction work, and many family secrets are revealed as the big conflicts of the twentieth century unfold.

Founding Brothers: the revolutionary generation by Joseph J. Ellis

Ellis focuses on six crucial moments in the early days of the republic, each illustrating the personal, intimate nature of politics at the time, and the ongoing debate over the meaning of the American Revolution.

How I Came Into My Inheritance by Dorothy Gallagher

"No memoir about caring for elderly parents is quite like this one, a piercingly funny book ... Gallagher opens with the sickroom of Bella and Izzy, her Russian-Jewish mother and father, then takes their stories backward in time through the chapters of the American immigrant experience." Time, December 24, 2001.

Lying Awake by Mark Salzman

"The life of a modern nun is often misjudged, mysterious, and quizzical. When a nun is the recipient of mystical visions and ecstasies, and the fame that results from them, her life is all the more fascinating." Booklist, September 15, 2000.

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult

"Two worlds collide when high-profile Philadelphia attorney Ellie Hathaway decides to reevaluate her life and travel to ... Amish country. She stays with relatives, hoping to find the tranquility that she knew as a child, but instead she becomes entwined in the murder trial of her relative's niece." Booklist, April 15, 2000.