

OBC LIBRARY 2017 SUMMER READING LIST

What Oakhurst Members & Friends Are Reading

FICTION

A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles [Margaret Thigpen]
A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman [Leah Lonsbury]
All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr [Terry Fletcher]
Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett [Terry Fletcher]
Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, by Gail Honeyman [Steve Vellines]
Exit West, by Mohsin Hamid [Donna Goddard]
Homegoing, by Yan Gyasi [Steve Vellines]
Just Fly Away, by Andrew McCarthy [Jennifer Hornbuckle]
Loon Lake, by E. L. Doctorow [Buddy Gill]
Nineteen Minutes, by Jodi Picoult [Terry Fletcher]
Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult [Donna Woolf & Mark Reeve]
The Alchemy Wars: The Mechanical/The Rising/The Liberation, by Ian Tregillis [Paul Ficklin-Alred]
The Chaperone, by Laura Moriarty [Paula Buford]
The Keeper of Lost Causes: Department Q, Book 1, by Jussi Adler-Olsen. [Bob Duvall]
The Last Days of Night, by Graham Moore [Steve Vellines]
The Last Policeman Trilogy: The Last Policeman/Countdown City/World of Trouble, by Ben H. Winters [Paul Ficklin-Alred]
The MaddAddam Trilogy: Oryx and Crake/The Year of the Flood/MaddAddam, by Margaret Atwood [Paul Ficklin-Alred]
The Nix, by Nathan Hill [Terry Fletcher]
The Rook/Stiletto, by Daniel O'Malley [Paul Ficklin-Alred]
The Timothy Wilde series: The Gods of Gotham/Seven for a Secret/The Fatal Flame, by Lyndsay Faye [Paul Ficklin-Alred]
To the Bright Edge of the World, by Eowyn Ivey. [Bob Duvall]
The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead [Donna Goddard]
The Wonder, by Emma Donohue [Michelle Jones, *Sharlyn Menard's sister*]

NONFICTION

American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper, by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson [Carolyn Copenhaver]
An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back, by Elisabeth Rosenthal [Steve Vellines]
Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World, by Cal Newport [Steve Vellines]

Hallelujah, Anyway! Rediscovering Mercy, by Anne Lamott [Jennifer Hornbuckle, Donna Goddard]

My Southern Journey: True Stories from the Heart of the South, by Rick Bragg [Terry Fletcher]

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother, by James McBride [Myra Tucker]

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot [Lou Clymore]

The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain, by Bill Bryson [Jennifer Hornbuckle]

The Sunflower, by Simon Wiesenthal [Buddy Gill]

Trouble the Water: A Christian Resource for the Work of Racial Justice, edited by Michel-Ray Matthews, Marie Clare P Onwubuariri, and Cody Sanders. [See Comment by Mark Reeve. Mark, Leslie, and Jon Spencer authored Chapter 23.]

Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right--and How We Can, Too, by George Lakey [Mark Reeve]

White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America, by Nancy Isenberg [Steve Vellines]

Younger Next Year: Live Strong, Fit, and Sexy--Until You're 80 and Beyond, by Chris Crowley and Henry Lodge, M.D. [Myra Tucker]

Younger Next Year for Women, by Chris Crowley and Henry Lodge, M.D. [Myra Tucker]

OBC COMMENTS BY READER'S FIRST NAME:

BOB DUVALL

To the Bright Edge of the World by Eowyn Ivey. This is a novel touching on several of my favorite subjects: Alaska, exploring the wilderness in previous centuries, women and men living against the prevailing culture, and Native American mysticism.

The Keeper of Lost Causes: Department Q, Book 1, by Jussi Adler-Olsen. Denmark's premier crime writer produces a good who-done-it about an unlikely team of detectives working well together. Also check out Norwegian author Jon Nesbo and his Harry Hole novels.

BUDDY GILL

Loon Lake, by E. L. Doctorow. This is like no other Doctorow book you have ever read. Take a deep breath and be prepared for abrupt changes in writing styles. And if you have to go back and re-read a sentence or paragraph or even chapter to understand what it says, as I did, approach it as you would wonderful poetry, as it often is.

The Sunflower, by Simon Wiesenthal. This holocaust memoir is worth reading and thinking about again, even if you have read it before.

CAROLYN COPENHAVER

From the *Washington Post*: Two political scientists (Yale & Berkeley) “explain why and how the mixed economy became so unloved and its successes forgotten.” Writes another reviewer: If Bernie Sanders were an economist, this would be HIS book. **American Amnesia: How the War on Government Led Us to Forget What Made America Prosper, by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson** is the most important political book I’ve read this year.

BOB DUVALL

To the Bright Edge of the World: A Novel, by Eowyn is a novel to subjects—Alaska, exploring the wilderness in previous centuries, the prevailing culture, and native American mysticism.

DONNA WOOLF

Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult, a novel about power and prejudice, is based on a true story of an African American labor and delivery nurse. One critic claims that this is the most important book Picoult has ever written.

JENNIFER HORNBUCKLE

On the way to/from The Alliance gathering, Donna Goddard and I read **Hallelujah, Anyway! Rediscovering Mercy by Anne Lamott**. It was deeply reflective, meaningful and refreshing. In my opinion, one of the best she’s written, and I’ve read a lot of Anne.

I also recently read **The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain, by Bill Bryson**. It is a little long, which is my only criticism, but it is filled with his trademark wit and knowledge.

I am currently reading, **Just Fly Away, by Andrew McCarthy** (yes, the actor Andrew McCarthy of *St. Elmo's Fire* and *Pretty in Pink* fame). It is classified as young adult fiction. I was intrigued by the story outline, as the main character who finds out a family secret. There are some similarities to my own story, and I recommend it, not only for young adults, but teenagers through older adults.

LEAH LONSBURY

A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman is the story of a lonely, older man who tries his best to convince those he encounters that he is nasty, misanthrope, but nobody buys it, and the truth comes to light. I never wanted it to end!

MARGARET THIGPEN

I just finished **A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles**. I loved it. The ‘old language’ used was spell binding and the vocabulary used was grand--words that I recognized but seldom see used in today’s speech. It is not meant to be a ‘fast’ read: you don’t want to skip paragraphs or even phrases should you inadvertently then miss some special nuance. It has a wonderful cast of characters, lovely, gentle humor on every page. The book begins in 1922, in Russia, when a Count is deemed too aristocratic & non-apologetic for it and thus sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol Hotel directly across from the Kremlin.

MARK REEVE

Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult. A nurse finds herself on trial after she attempts to save the life of a baby after the child's white-supremacist parents demand that no African-American nurses care for the child.

Trouble the Water: A Christian Resource for the Work of Racial Justice, edited by Michael-Ray Mathews, Marie Clare P. Onwubuariri, and Cody Sanders. Chapter 23, "Racism—*Oakhurst Baptist Church Responds—Decatur GA*—was written by me, Leslie, and Jon Spencer.

Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right--and How We Can, Too, by George Lakey. Lakey explores economies that boast the world's happiest, most productive workers, and makes a plausible case that we, too, can embrace equality in our economic system.

MYRA TUCKER

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother, by James McBride.

Contemporary musician and author, James McBride, tells the story of his mother in his own and his mother's words. She was a Polish immigrant and the daughter of a rabbi. She lived in the south but as soon as she came of age she moved to NYC where she married a black man and raised 12 accomplished children. When her son asked her what color God was, she said, "God is the color of water".

Younger Next Year: Live Strong, Fit, and Sexy—Until You're 80 and Beyond /Younger Next Year for women by Chris Crowley and Henry Lodge, M.D. Chris was Dr. Lodge's patient and enthusiastically adopted Dr. Lodge's recommendations about how to become functionally younger. Dr. Lodge is a physician who is well versed in the science of aging and a huge proponent of exercise to keep our minds and bodies vigorous for much longer than "the norm". Worth reading and following. (Chris shows his cultural age in the book for women but I recommend reading it anyway. Just skip to the good parts.)

PAUL FICKLIN-ALRED

The MaddAddam Trilogy: Oryx and Crake/The Year of the Flood/MaddAddam, by Margaret Atwood. It's Margaret Atwood! What else do you need to know?

The Timothy Wilde series: The Gods of Gotham/Seven for a Secret/The Fatal Flame, by Lyndsay Faye. Timothy Wilde is a copper star officer in the newly formed NYPD in 1845. An abolitionist and supporter of immigrant and women's rights, Wilde often feels at odds with the world in which he lives, but he uses his keen mind and passion for justice as an advocate for the people in his small sliver of New York City.

The Rook/Stiletto, by Daniel O'Malley. Myfanwy Thomas is an agent for The Checquy---a centuries-old covert British organization that protects society from supernatural threats. This series combines the best elements of the Harry Potter universe, the X-Men, The X-Files, and

the Jason Bourne series, with a female protagonist who is incredible (in the paranormal sense) but also incredibly human.

The Alchemy Wars: The Mechanical/The Rising/The Liberation, by Ian Tregillis. From the introduction to the series: My name is Jax. That is the name granted to me by my human masters. I am a clakker: a mechanical man, powered by alchemy. I am a faithful servant. I am beholden to the wishes of my human masters. I am a slave. But I shall be free.

The Last Policeman Trilogy: The Last Policeman/Countdown City/World of Trouble, by Ben H. Winters. It's the end of the world as they know it, but that's not going to stop Detective Hank Palace from solving one (or more) last crime as the world descends into chaos around him. Unsure whether he's driven by a sense of duty, OCD, or a last-ditch hope to save his sister, Palace won't rest until the job is done or the asteroid obliterates his world.

PAULA BUFORD

The Chaperone, by Laura Moriarty, a “captivating and wise novel (*Washington Post*), tells the story of the woman who chaperoned the “irreverent” teenager Louise Brooks to New York City during the summer of 1922. Rated 4 stars by Goodreads. I really enjoyed this book.

STEVE VELLINES

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, by Gail Honeyman. A funny and touching book that is also very well written.

Homegoing, by Yan Gyasi. Multi-generational story of Ghanaian families dealing with issues such as African Tribalism, British Colonization, Slavery, African American Jazz

The Last Days of Night, by Graham Moore. Historical fiction dealing with the electricity battles between Edison, Westinghouse and Tesla. “A superb legal thriller,” says Amazon