RTOERO District 11 Book Club

As this is the inaugural year of the book club, these notes include our initial brainstorming and idea sharing!

Launch Meeting - Wednesday, September 29, 10 a.m., Zoom

Attended: Susan, Cathie, Maureen, Roz, Christine, Leisa, Susan M, Elsie, Carla, Theresa

Book Suggestions

- ***Outside***, by Sean McCammon (Sean is an outdoor education specialist with the WRDSB. This is his first novel. I know Sean quite well and he has agreed to join us for a book club discussion!) ~ Susan Watt
- ***My Brilliant Friend*** by Elena Ferrante
- ***Five Little Indians*** by Michelle Good
- ***Mamaskatch*** by Darrel McCloud
- ***A Town Called Solace*** by Mary Lawson

Book by these authors: *(Please feel free to add to this)*

- Mary Lawson
- Lawrence Hill
- Canadian Authors
- Indigenous Authors
- Jodi Picoult
- Louise Penny
- Delia Owans, (Where the Crawdads Sing)
- Shilpa Somaya Gowde
- Robert Kolker, (Hidden Valley Road and Lost Girls)

Genres to Consider: *(Please feel free to add to this)*

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Biography / Autobiography
- Giller Prize winners and nominees - other contests also

Other Suggestions

- Books that are considered 'classics' but may not have been actually read. Margaret Laurence or Margaret Atwood….have always meant to read something from them - but never have - Roz (Nov 3).

- What about everyone brings a different book to talk about? - a favorite, a book you have read more than once and why, etc. (Faye)

DECISION!!

Our 3 choices to consider for our first book: *(Susan will send this info in an email along with a form for ranking your 3 choices)*

- The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
- From the Ashes by Jesse Thistle
- The Shell Collector by Nancy Naigle

Second Book Suggestion

- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Format Ideas: *(Please feel free to add to this)*

- 'Unbook Club' - everyone brings a book and shares it with the group
- Book is pre-selected and members read it ahead of time; one person hosts and plans discussion questions
- Book is pre-selected and members read it ahead of time; one person hosts; each person is invited to bring along questions or discussion points

Frequency of Meetings:

- Every 4, 5 or 6 weeks
- Books are read ahead of the meeting if possible (folks are certainly welcome to join the discussion, even if you have not finished the book)

Upcoming Dates:

- Thursday, November 4, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, December 9, 10 a.m.

Host Volunteers:

- Susan will host the November 4 meeting; everyone is invited to bring along questions or discussion points

Access to Books:

- Purchased books or audio books, borrowed books, library books, library ebooks, library audio books, online ebooks, online audiobooks
- Check into book club collections at the various libraries *(If you gather any info, please add it to this doc)*

Other Ideas:

- Invite authors to present to us or join us for a discussion
- The Handmaid's Tale walking tour in Galt

- The staff at Wordsworth Books are really insightful about books, reading tastes, etc… Maybe once we can meet in person - we could arrange a visit to the store, and have David or Mandy talk to us about new books / authors, etc??

Thursday, November 4, 10 am - The Midnight Library

- 16 people attended, great book discussion
- Confirmed Dec. 9 and The Handmaid's Tale - book draw won by Jennifer
- We will take some time at the end of our Dec. 9 to discuss plans for January and February

Thursday, December 9, 10 a.m. - The Handmaid's Tale

- 11 am - we will have a discussion about book choices and dates for winter meetings
- Faye - won a copy of Outside
- January meeting will be an 'unbook' club - everyone will bring a book they are reading or that they love, or would like to suggest and talk about it
- Trish Lockie knows the brother (art teacher from Elmira DSD) of Mary Lawson - author of A Town Called Solace - she will check to see if Mary might attend one of our meetings

Thursday, January 13, 10 a.m. - 'unbook club'

(fyi - I took these notes hurriedly; if there are spelling errors, or missed info, please add - this doc is editable - thx!)

- Susan - **Unreserved** by Jesse Wente
- Peggy - **The Heron's Cry** by Anne Cleave - part of a series - police mystery (wrote the books Vera and Shetland which have been made for TV) - here is the video of Anne Cleaves and Louise Penny > https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kv84tw8AACk
- Helen - any books by Richard Wagamese - beautiful writing
- Trish - **The Rose Code** - Kate Quinn - characters based on real people - very well researched; **A Town Called Solace** - beautiful; **Embers** by Richard Wagamese *; here is the interview with Louise and Hilary > https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bipMs5maCY (this one is from Good Morning America - there are others if you google it)
- Cathie - **I Sang you Down from the Stars** by Tasha Spillett-Sumner- **Untamed** by Glennon Doyle
- Rosemary - **The Henna Artist** by Alka Joshi * - as if you're travelling in India - the sights, sounds, tastes, smells - recommended as a book club - Sequel - **The Secret Keeper of Jaipur** - going to be on netflix; **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** ; **A Man called Ove** - how your small acts have such a huge rippling effect
- Sue Parry - **Cloud Cuckoo Land** - outstanding - theme of migrants this year - **Exit West** by Mohsin Hamid - love story of people living in a muslim state during a civil war - elements of magic - ; **What Strange Paradise** by Omar Al Akkad - Giller Prize winner - 9 year old Syrian boy - rescued by a teenage girl - great writer; **American Dirt** - Janine Cumins - very controversial - she is not latina, but writing as one
- Theresa - non-fiction, **Better than Before** - self-help - ; **The Lost Daughters of China** - story of the circumstances of adopted children from China

- Pauline - **The Children's Blizzard** * - 2 sisters who were school teachers and how they cared for their students during a blizzard; **The Party Crasher** by Sophie Kinsela - her most recent book - a lighter read; MM **The Hundred Years of Lenny and Margo** by - relationship between a 17 year old girl and an 83 year old woman - both in palliative care
- Wendy - **Wish you Were Here** - Jodi Piccoult - her latest - set in the time of covid; **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lax** - Rebecca Skloot non-fiction - and older book that has really stayed with Wendy - highly recommended
- Sue - **Anna, Child of the Poorhouse** by Pat Mestern from Fergus - being made into a movie - historical fiction - sequel - **Rachel's Legacy**; **The Fall of Giants** by Ken Follett - her mom's first book at 84!!
- Pauline - **Zorrie** - a book about moms who have spent their lives working on a farm and not really being a reader
- Jennifer - **The Chalice and the Blade** by Riane Eisler - powerful book about women; **The Alphabet versus the Goddess** - **The Conflict between Word and Image** by Leonard Shlain;
- Helen - **If I Knew Then** by Jann Arden - about finding your authentic self; **The Island of Sea Women** by Lisa See - about Korean women who were divers - feminist,
- Carla - 2 'charming books' - **The Little Paris Bookshop** by Nina George? ; **How the Penguins Saved Veronica** by Hazel Prior - about an older woman who wants to study the penguins in Antarctica; **The 3 Day Road** by Joseph Boyndon *
- Trish - **The Women they Couldn't Silence**
- Elise - **Stamped from the Beginning**

February **- A Town called Solace** by Mary Lawson (Mary Lawson joined us over zoom from ENGLAND!)

May - **Outside** by Sean McCammon (Author Visit! Meeting held at Huron Natural Area)

June - at Susan's - deck party! Talk about next year.