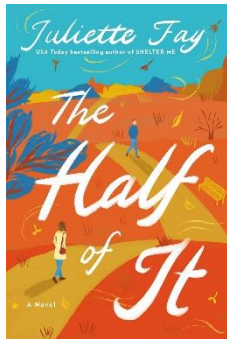


EVENING BOOK GROUP 2023-2024

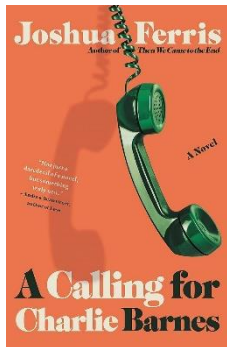
The Evening Book Group meets the first Monday of each month (with some exceptions), October through June in person and via Zoom. Titles are chosen every three months by consensus of the group. Contact Brittany Tuttle (btuttle@minlib.net) for more details. And watch this space for upcoming titles!



Monday, October 2; In-person & Zoom

The Half of It by Juliette Fay (with author)

Newly widowed Helen Spencer has moved to be closer to her new granddaughter. A chance encounter with Cal Crosby recalls for her the disastrous night decades ago that split their friendship and wiped out any vestiges of young love, setting them on different courses. Faced with the prospect of rekindling their feelings for each other, Helen and Cal must overcome their own fears, self-doubt, and family complications or be without each other again.



Monday, November 6; In-person & Zoom

A Calling for Charlie Barnes by Joshua Ferris

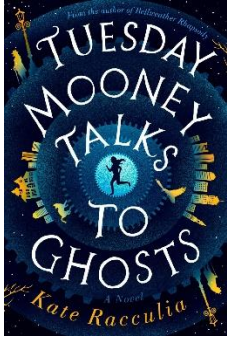
When Charlie Barnes, age 68, learns that he'll soon succumb to cancer, he takes to the telephone. He needs to let his semi-estranged family know, but he also uses the opportunity to settle a few scores with professional enemies. He ends up leaving a lot of messages. Then Charlie receives a call that suggests he jumped the gun on this fatal self-diagnosis. His tale is told by one of his children, sincerely, but just how reliably?



Monday, December 4; In-person & Zoom

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

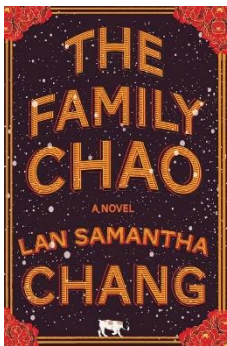
It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man, faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silence of a town controlled by the church. A story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy that was shortlisted for 2022 Booker Prize.



Monday, November 7; In-person & Zoom

***Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* by Kate Racculia**

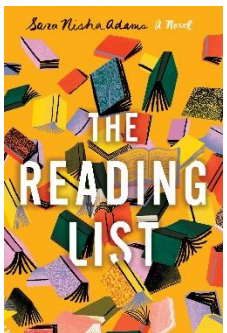
2012. Tuesday Mooney keeps to herself, begrudgingly socializes, and spends much of her time watching DVDs of old TV shows. Then Vincent Pryce, Boston's most eccentric billionaire, dies-- leaving behind an epic treasure hunt through the city, with clues inspired by his hero, Edgar Allan Poe. Teams from around the city vie for the prize: a share of Pryce's immense wealth. The clues involve knowledge, wit-- and the courage to face painful ghosts from their pasts.



Monday, December 5; In-person & Zoom

***The Family Chao* by Lan Samantha Chang**

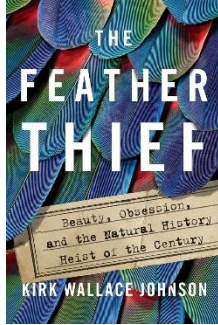
The residents of Haven, Wisconsin have dined on the Fine Chao restaurant's delicious Americanized Chinese food for thirty-five years, happy to ignore any unsavory whispers about the family owners. But when brash, charismatic, and tyrannical patriarch Leo Chao is found dead--presumed murdered--his sons find they've drawn the exacting gaze of the entire town. The ensuing trial brings to light potential motives for all three brothers: Dagou, the restaurant's reckless head chef; Ming, financially successful but personally tortured; and the youngest, gentle but lost college student James.



Monday, January 9; In-person & Zoom

***The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams**

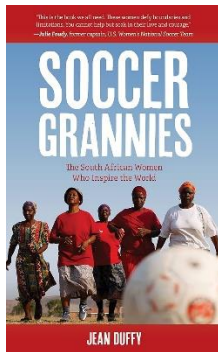
Mukesh lives a quiet life in the London Borough of Wembley after losing his beloved wife. He worries about his granddaughter, Priya, who hides in her room reading while he spends his evenings watching nature documentaries. Aleisha is a bright teenager working at the local library for the summer. She discovers a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of *To Kill a Mockingbird*; it is a list of novels that she has never heard of, and she impulsively decides to read every book on the list. When Mukesh arrives at the library seeking to forge a connection with his bookworm granddaughter, Aleisha passes along the reading list. The shared books create a connection between two lonely souls, as fiction helps them escape their grief and everyday troubles and find joy again.



Monday, April 1

***The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson**

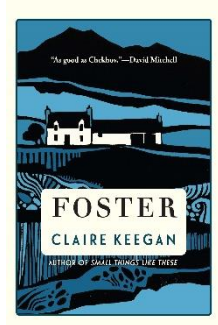
The gripping story of a bizarre and shocking crime, and one man's relentless pursuit of justice, *The Feather Thief* is also a fascinating exploration of obsession, and man's destructive instinct to harvest the beauty of nature.



Monday, May 6 with Author Visit

***Soccer Grannies* by Jean Duffy**

Jean Duffy, a soccer-playing mom herself, recounts how she and her team worked to bring the Soccer Grannies, a community team of older South African women defying social convention started by beloved humanitarian “Mama Beka,” to the U.S. after hearing their inspirational story. Despite many obstacles, the Soccer Grannies finally arrive, and Jean describes the wonderful friendships and cultural exchanges that follow, and the Grannies’ personal journeys and realities of women living in South Africa.



Monday, June 3

***Foster* by Claire Keegan**

It is a hot summer in rural Ireland. A child is taken by her father to live with relatives on a farm, not knowing when or if she will be brought home again. In the Kinsellas’ house, she finds an affection and warmth she has not known and slowly, in their care, begins to blossom. But there is something unspoken in this new household—where everything is so well tended to—and this summer must soon come to an end.