

Book
Club

Book Discussion: November 28 Pat Cheesman

One Summer by David Baldacci

Not his usual mystery; a wonderful family story

It's All Back to Me
The Room

Berry, Steve

AUTHOR

The Emperor's Tomb

TITLE

Rock notes

DATE
LOANED

BORROWER'S NAME

DATE
RETURNED



Mr. Franklin E. Griffin

8113 State Route 21

Hornell NY 14843

ROCHESTER NY 144

02 SEP 2011 PM 2 L



Eric + Val Ewald
1724 Karr valley Rd.
Almond New York
14904

14804\$9660



- Mary Alusen #12 case
mailed 10/24

Fortnightly Book Club Members 2010-11

Mary Allison	391 Canisteo St. Hornell, NY	324-3082 368-8071 (cell)
Barbara Bernstein	Alfred Station, NY	587-8330
Marjorie Bernreuther	6928 Twin Valley Terrace Almond, NY 14804	276-6490
Pat Cheesman	4020 County Rd 108 Andover, NY 14806	478-8621
Josie Ciancaglini	10 Rural Ave. Hornell, NY 14843	324-2167
Lorraine Crandall	55 Locust St. 1190 Cty. Rd 66 Hornell, NY 14843	324-1181
Rachel Donavon	126 Thacher St. Hornell, NY 14843	324-6346
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Christine Thomas	95 Greenwood St. Canisteo, NY 14823	698-4047
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Natalie Weyand	PO Box 94 Hornell, NY 14843	324-2495
Madeleine Wilder	9 Cook St. Hornell, NY 14843	324-1934

Jan Boehm

4019 County Rte
408
Andover, NY 14806

607-478-
8651

fd
memberships

Kyle Boyle
43 Chestnut Avenue
Danzville N.Y. 14437-1619
928-242-5809
rt - byl @ yahoo. com

17 people

Max / Pat

Oct. 11th - Dear John by Nicholas Sparks

Dec - make sure we are here no sooner than 1:15

Pat / Josie

Oct. 25th - poetry

Pat / Jan

Nov. 8th - Sue Babbitt - Doing Frank

Rachel / Polly

Nov. 22nd - Linda Underhill

Not / Josie

Dec. 6th - My Love Affair w/ Louis & Maura

Jan 3rd

Barbara - program

Books

King Tut - James Patterson (nonfiction)

Her ~~Two~~ Fearful Symmetry - twins / mother was also twin
Audrey Niffenegger (Time Traveler's Wife) ^{inherit home from her}

Sworn to Silence - Linda Castillo (mystery) ^{husb}

Angels Peak - Robyn Carr (love story)

Peace Like a River - Jeff Egen

* Birth of Venus - Sarah ~~Donati~~ ^{Dunant} ^{was Historical fiction} ^{man (man cherele)}

The Other Family - Joanna Trollope ^(parents were never married / had 2 families)

Cloud Chamber - Michael Dorris (Indian)

Rooms -

(Christian story)

Keys of the Earth (remnescent of farms in 30's in area)
for Cheryl

Now You See Him - Eli Gottlieb

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand
by Helen Simonson

(Chris)
April

11/8/10

Sue Rabbit - book discussion

Opening Frank by Nancy Hoan

New member - Jane Jernison

Maame
Chaney
& Frank
& Lloyd Wright

Next meeting - Linda Underhill

~~At Hill~~
The Way of the Woods

Jarica - Love Affair with Miss Astor
1916 (pick one of his books)

members - 16

{ Listen to the stories of the powerless
and tell them to the powerful

"See How They Shine" - 2011

(co-author w/ Greg Montensen - 3 Cups of Tea)

David Oliver Rawa

Fortnightly - Nov. 18th due to Veteran's Day

Jan. 3

6 members
Matt - review

shared New Year's note from Marge

shared book review from Hannel Trieb - Cleopatra by Stacey Schupp
then reviewed the book on her own
Writer has tremendous sense of humor

Jan 17

10 members, 1 guest
+ presenter Terri Pullman former librarian

Sarah's Key

history, 1940 story, 2000 story
Tatiana de Rosnay (has never book)

Feb. 7

10 members

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Mar. 7 - In the Company of Others - Jan Kara

Joyce
2/21 Book
rented

Feb. 28 (originally scheduled 2/21)

Beverly Crowell - program - Going Home to Glory by Eisenhower
Matt - hostess
10 members
Eisenhower ↓ David Eisenhower w/ John Nease Eisenhower
Gettysburg (farm)

April 4, 2011
Chris Thomas - book review
Members - ~~10~~

Meyji Pettigrews
Last Stand
by Helen Simonson

Tea is Monday April 18th 2pm
Business Meeting - ~~April 25th~~

bring cookies

Very endearing story
Characters that you come to love
a little slow to start
differences in cultures
age groups

* humor *

Apr. 25

members - 13
business meeting
- hostess
- programs

Tea

money → fruit, decorations, etc.
Was \$6 left over → put in library fund

Meeting dates (15) → Sept. 19
Treasurer's Report \$ 350 to library
Invite new members (203.25)

Pat + Mercedes
Oct 24

Nov. 14 - Mercedes
Nov. 26 - Mercedes

HORNELL FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

2011-2012

GENERAL MEETINGS

Sept. 8, 2011

"OLD TIME PHOTOS OF HORNELL"

(Guest Nite)

Kirk House shares some old photos with us from his collection. Hornell natives will enjoy recalling some of the old days in Hornell and newcomers will also be interested in what Hornell looked like in bygone days.

Oct. 13, 2011

"STEBEN COUNTY WILD LIFE: THEN AND NOW"

Tom Tomas, Director of Cooperative Extension in Steuben County, will be our guest speaker addressing such questions as "What was it like in the days when wolves and mountain lions ranged by what are now our doorsteps?" and "What will it be like in the days to come?"

Nov. 10, 2011

"FAMILIAR TUNES FROM BROADWAY MUSICALS"

William Locke, retired Superintendent of Arkport Central School entertains us with a musical program vocalizing some familiar show tunes from many Broadway musicals. Aside from his career his passion is music and theatrical production and he encouraged many students in his 20 years in Arkport to develop themselves in these areas.

Jan 12, 2012

"RURAL MINISTRIES"

Sister Susan Cain will fill us in on rural ministries and programs that are available to the needy.

Feb. 9, 2012

"COLONIAL CRAFTSMAN"

Paul Stillman will take on the role of a colonial craftman and show us the tools of the trade. A free quill pen will be given to each person present.

Mar. 8, 2012

"THE ROLE OF NURSES IN THE CIVIL WAR"

Roxanne Rice impersonates Clara Barton and describes the role of nurses in the Civil War.

April 19, 2012

"CAUSES LEADING UP TO THE CIVIL WAR"

Craig Braak, well known historian in this area, will describe the circumstances which brought on the Civil War.

FORTNIGHTLY CLUB OF HORNELL

September 2011

Dear Members & Friends:

Summer is winding down and Autumn's almost here. It is time once again to renew your membership in Fortnightly for the approaching season. The first of our lecture series begins on September 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hornell High School.

Due to renovations in the library, we will not be able to use that area for our meetings until January. Using the entrance to the right of our usual entry (the new Junior High addition), someone will be on duty to direct you to the classroom where we will be meeting.

The Program Committee has again come up with seven lectures which we are sure you will enjoy. As always, your membership in Fortnightly allows you to join the Book Club which meets twice monthly on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. You can also join the Garden Club which meets every second Wednesday of the month at noon for a Pot Luck luncheon with a program to follow.

We urge you to invite your friends to join us this year. We are looking forward to seeing our old friends as well as a few new faces.

Sincerely,



Frank Griffin, President

FG/ds

encl.

10/11/10

14 members present
hostess - Pat + Mercedes
Program - Pat

- Showed update on Ellen we will send a note
- collect dues
- Pat buys pt.

Nicholas Sparks

Has new book → Sage Haven
(how she escaped abusive situation)

Dear John
The Secret Song

Next book
Falling from the sky by Nancy Horner
for Nov. 8th

- How characters relate?
- Key events in story

3/22

Josie/Chico/dominique
no 5:00

write deal

~~program~~
program - A Best Jim Skel
17 (15 + 2 guests)

Steve Crowderell is coming for tea on April 12th - host + music program
Please take notepad to invite people to tea
Arlene - Barb's SIL

Program - Bales were Read + Skied - Quarmintended

The Hour of First Believed - Wally Darns
+ hotel, + nurse on staff @ Columbian

The Quinman Swindle - Glen Beck
The Rig Bird Man - Fannie Fray

Blue Badger - Baldacci

Barbara Kingsolver - The Paperman

Kitlun - Shakti - The Wild
Stones into Scholars - Greg Mortenson

Jeffrey Archer

The Beech House

Precious - (true story)

The Captives of Normandy (explicit)

Saving Gender
Chamber of Bones

The Novel Apparitions - Alice Munro

Fortnightly Book Club Members 2009-10

Name	Address	Phone #	Pd.
Bartua Bernstein	Alfred Station, N.Y.	587 8330	5.
Joyce Howe		607 295 7467	5.
Valerie Ewald	1724 Karr Valley Rd. Almond	216-2037	5.
Margaret Berner	6928 Twin Valley Ter. Almond, N.Y. 14804		5.
Rachel Donovan	176 Thatcher St. Hornell, NY	148435-	
LORRAINE CRANDALL	55 LOCUST ST. 1190 CITY RD 60 HORNELL NY 14843	607-324-6346	
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Mercedes Hankach	23 Mays Ave. Hornell	324-4260	
Janice Weyand		324-5571	427 Clearland Ave. N. Hornell
Terry Rucker		661-4409	40 Maple St. Hornell
Natalie Weyand		324-2495	P.O. Box 94
Pauline Hollbrook		324-6181	Talbot Pl.
Jat Cheesman		478-8621	4020 County Rt 148 Andover, NY 14806
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 Alfred Station, NY 14803
 Martha Ann Meller 58 1/2 S. Main, ALFRED, NY 14802
 Madeleine Wilder
 Madeleine
 Lois Elsenheimer
 Christine Thomas 95 GREENWOOD ST. CANISTEO 14823 698-4047
 Josie Ciancaglini 10 Rural Ave. Hornell 324-2167

17
5
85

85

Loyce Kowal

7 East Oak Bay 128

Outport ny

14807

Books read during the past year

Emily Hudson - by Melissa Jones October 2021

Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls

A Sister's Secret by Wanda Brunstetter

Solar by Ian McEwan

Twenties Girl by Sophie Kinsella

Back Roads by Tawnie O'Dell

Fever Dream by Preston and Child

Worth Dying For by Child

Faith of a Spider by Chrystal Dodge - a treasure

Faithful Place by Tania French

Skylight Confessions- Alice Hoffman

The Yellow House by Patrick Falvey

The Disturbing Hours by Kate Morton

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

First Family Abigail and John Adams by Joseph J. Ellis

The Tomb of Zeus- Barbara Cleverly

A Secret Kept by Tatiana DeRsnay

Cross Fire by James Patterson

The Athena Project by Brad Thor

Port Mortuary - by Patricia Cornwell - Kay Scarpetta novel

The Paris Vendetta by Steve Berry

The Red Garden by Alice Hoffman

Queen Hereafter by Susan Fraser King

Private Life by Jane Smiley Good

The Sum of our Day by Isabelle Allende

Lake of Dreams by Kim Edwards

The Linen Queen by Patricia Falvey

Larkspur C by Lisa Wingate

What Alicia Knew by Paula Marantz Cohen-Jack the Ripper

Information Affair by Mark Mills

E.L. Doctorro - Collyer Brothers NYC

The Gathering by Anne Enright

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout - depressing

Caleb's Crossing - Geraldine Brooks - native of Martha's Vineyard - 1st to graduate from Harvard to live as Indian or White Man?

The Lion - Nelson DeMille

Winter Garden - Kristan Hannah - very good

Maya Angelou - The Heart of a Woman - autobiography

State of Wonder by Anne Patchet - medical/pharmacology thriller

The Emperors Tomb Steve Berry

Adam and Eve- Sena Jeter Naslund - woman married to evolutionist (evolution v creationism)

Rock Bottom by Erin Brockovitch - coal mining, environmental, legal battles

The Help by Kathryn Stockett - excellent book, great movie

Running With Scissors by Augusten Burroughs

Barbara Bernstein

Steve Berry → mystery (Historical) main
Cotton Malone is character in all his books

Burnt Mountain → camp for kids, set in early times
mother is villain

Silver Owl → Elin Hiltbrand - wife of man who
pyramid scheme → what should she do?
turns to best friend

The Paris Wife → Hemingway's wife

Fortnightly Book Club Meeting Minutes

The Fortnightly Book Club met on April 25, 2011. It was our annual business meeting. There were 13 members present.

Sign up sheets for hostess duties and program chairs were passed around.

Maijorie will call absent club members and try to fill any vacancies.

We have fifteen meetings scheduled for next season. The first meeting will be held on September 19th.

Last week was our annual Sibiany Tea. A big thank you to Josie, Marge & Chris for making all the arrangements, and to all members who contributed towards making this lovely event a success. We collected \$203.25 for the Hornell Library. We will add from our account and send a total of \$350. One thing we need to work on next year is remembering to invite people!!

Josie & Marge have agreed to co-chair the Book Club for one more year. Josie stated she will be stepping down after next season. Valerie & Chris will continue in their positions as secretary & treasurer respectively.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Ewald

Val
March 26, 2009

Val
Jossie
Mercedes
Christi

10 members present

Pat Cheeseman Refreshments
Marge provided

next meeting April 6

speaker Crystal Dodge - her
book is "Fifth of a Spider:
Memoir of a Pet Sitter"

Book Club Tea April 20

Speaker Steve Crandall. - "~~Big~~
~~of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea~~" by
Gary Kinder, 1998

We signed up for food and money
donations for the Tea.

Barb asked: have book sale that
day? Group agreed. Barbara
will take charge of book sale.

Reports on sick members.

Cards to Ellen Hardy and Joyce Howe

Barbara Bernstein reviewed several
books including:

"My Husband's Sweethearts" - Asha
Remember Me? Sophie Kinsella - Kinsella

Collected

\$2 books } 11/14
\$2 tea }

\$3.50 tea } 12/7
\$.25 books }


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Readers guide / discussion questions

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Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

Lisa See, 2005
Random House
 269 pp.

In Brief

Lily is haunted by memories of who she once was, and of a person, long gone, who defined her existence. She has nothing but time now, as she recounts the tale of Snow Flower, and asks the gods for forgiveness.

In nineteenth-century China, when wives and daughters were foot-bound and lived in almost total seclusion, the women in one remote Hunan county developed their own secret code for communication: nu shu ("women's writing"). Some girls were paired with laotongs, "old sames," in emotional matches that lasted throughout their lives. They painted letters on fans, embroidered messages on handkerchiefs, and composed stories, thereby reaching out of their isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments.

With the arrival of a silk fan on which Snow Flower has composed for Lily a poem of introduction in nu shu, their friendship is sealed and they become "old sames" at the tender age of seven. As the years pass, through famine and rebellion, they reflect upon their arranged marriages, loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. The two find solace, developing a bond that keeps their spirits alive. But when a misunderstanding arises, their lifelong friendship suddenly threatens to tear apart.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan is a brilliantly realistic journey back to an era of Chinese history that is as deeply moving as it is sorrowful. With the period detail and deep resonance of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, this lyrical and emotionally charged novel delves into one of the most mysterious of human relationships: female friendship. *(From the publisher.)*

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About the Author

- Birth—February 18, 1955
- Where—Paris, France
- Reared—Los Angeles, California, USA
- Education—B.A., Loyola Marymount University
- Currently—lives in Los Angeles, California


[Buy the book](#)

Lisa See is the author of *Flower Net* (an Edgar Award nominee), *The Interior*, and *Dragon Bones*, as well as the critically acclaimed memoir *On Gold Mountain*. The Organization of Chinese American Women named her the 2001 National Woman of the Year. She lives in Los Angeles.

More

At first glance, Lisa See would not seem to be a likely candidate for literary voice of Chinese-American women. With her flaming red hair and freckled complexion, she hardly adheres to any stereotypical conceptions of what an Asian-American woman should look like, however, her familial background has given her roots in Chinese culture that have fueled her eloquent, elegant, and exciting body of work.

See grew up in the Chinatown section of Los Angeles. Although she is only 1/8 Chinese, her upbringing provided her with a powerful connection to that fraction of herself. "I really grew up in this very traditional, old Chinese family," she revealed in an interview with Barnes & Noble.com. "It was very traditional, but also quite magical in a lot of ways, because I really was in a very different culture than how I looked."

See's Chinese background was not the only aspect of her family that affected the course her life has taken. She also comes from a long line of writers and novelists. Her somewhat morose relatives initially led her to believe that writing must be the result of suffering and pain, which turned her off from literary pursuits at first. Ironically, despite her strong family roots, See only decided to try her hand at writing as a means of embarking on a lifestyle without roots. "I knew three things," See said, "I never wanted to get married, I never wanted to have children, and I only wanted to live out of a suitcase. How am I gonna do it? And I was really thinking about it, and then one morning, I woke up, and it was truly like a light bulb went off -- 'Oh, I could be a writer!' Many, many years later, here I am, married, I have children, [and] I am a writer."

In the wake of this unexpected epiphany, Lisa See began work on her first book *On Gold Mountain: The One-Hundred-Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family*. This highly detailed family history charted the events that led her great-grandfather Fong See to become the godfather of her Chinatown neighborhood and the 100-year-old patriarch of her family. See interviewed close to 100 of her relatives while researching the book that both gave her a clearer portrait of how her racially mixed family developed and broke her into the publishing business.

See then went on to explore other aspects of both Chinese and American culture via fiction. She followed her debut with a series of popular political thrillers set in China and featuring American attorney David Stark. Her novel *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* abandons Stark and his pursuit of justice for the time being with a tale that reaches much further back into Chinese culture, and more specifically, the subordinate role women have traditionally played in that culture. This more personal novel scored See accolades from *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *The School Library Journal*, while also further solidifying her role as a significant Chinese-American writer. And See's *Peony in Love* (2007) is a jarring historical novel set against the backdrop of an early-17th-

century Chinese opera.

See's position in the Chinese-American community has also extended beyond her writing. She was honored by the Organization of Chinese American Women as National Woman of the Year in 2001 and is also responsible for designing a walking tour of her Chinatown home in L.A. Her devotion to that apparently-small, but actually-vast, 1/8 of her ethnicity proves that well-worn adage about never judging a book by looking at its cover.

Extras

The following are excerpts from a 2005 Barnes & Noble interview:

"I never wanted to be a writer. My mother and my grandfather were both writers. When I was a kid, they both took the position that writing was about suffering and pain, so you can see why I didn't want to be a writer. There came a time when I was about twenty and living in Greece, and I knew three things: I didn't want to get married, I didn't want to have children, and I only wanted to live out of a suitcase. But how was I going to support myself and how was this ever going to happen? One morning I woke up and it was like a light bulb went off: 'Ah, I could be a writer.' Within twenty-four hours of returning back to the States I had my first two magazine assignments. But if you've been reading this at all closely, you know that I got married and had children."

"I think one of the strangest things about me is the way I read books. This dates back to when I started reading chapter books as a kid and continues to this day. I read the first 20 pages, then the last 20 pages. After that, the second 20 pages and the penultimate 20 pages. I read from front to back and from back to front until I meet in the middle. Why? I can't stand not knowing what happens to the characters. Will they be okay? Will they live? Will they get together? It doesn't take away from the suspense or ruin the story for me in any way. Not doing it would ruin the story because I would have to rush and I'd be so anxious that I wouldn't be able to do anything else until I was done."

"I'm a movie fanatic. I see more than 100 movies a year.

"I like to eat, but I don't like to cook. I'll eat anything and have — a low point would have to be the stir-fried pig penis in China — but there are only three things I won't eat: lima beans, brains, and kidneys."

When asked what book influenced her the most, this is what Lisa See said:

Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner. I read this novel just before I started writing *On Gold Mountain*. I loved the way Stegner combined family story with history. I know that this book has come under severe criticism in recent years for possible plagiarism. Nevertheless, it inspired and continues to inspire me. In fact, I used a quote from the book as the epigraph for *On Gold Mountain*. "Fooling around in the papers my grandparents, especially my grandmother, left behind, I get glimpses of lives close to mine, related to mine in ways I recognize but don't completely comprehend. I'd like to live in their clothes a while..." Even now, those words resonate with

me, since I too spent many years in the papers and photographs that my grandmother left behind.

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Critics Say. . .

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan is written with a stately but unremarkable prettiness; it is not a book that will make its mark for reasons of style. But Ms. See has worked enough joy, pain and dramatic weepiness ("Oh, how I wanted to dip a doth into that water and wipe away the cares that played across my laotong's features") to give it a quiet staying power. It's liable to be read by women's groups and valued for its quaintness. ("All people cherish the hair on their moles, but Uncle Lu's were splendid.") But what will work best for this book is its own secret message: cultures vary, but old sames and same-olds don't change.

Janet Maslin - The New York Times

The wonder of this book is that it takes readers to a place at once foreign and familiar -- foreign because of its time and setting, yet familiar because this landscape of love and sorrow is inhabited by us all. *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* is a triumph on every level, a beautiful, heartbreaking story.

Judy Fong Bates - The Washington Post

See's engrossing novel set in remote 19th-century China details the deeply affecting story of lifelong, intimate friends (laotong, or "old sames") Lily and Snow Flower, their imprisonment by rigid codes of conduct for women and their betrayal by pride and love. While granting immediacy to Lily's voice, See (Flower Net) adroitly transmits historical background in graceful prose. Her in-depth research into women's ceremonies and duties in China's rural interior brings fascinating revelations about arranged marriages, women's inferior status in both their natal and married homes, and the Confucian proverbs and myriad superstitions that informed daily life. Beginning with a detailed and heartbreaking description of Lily and her sisters' foot binding ("Only through pain will you have beauty. Only through suffering will you have peace"), the story widens to a vivid portrait of family and village life. Most impressive is See's incorporation of nu shu, a secret written phonetic code among women-here between Lily and Snow Flower-that dates back 1,000 years in the southwestern Hunan province ("My writing is soaked with the tears of my heart,/ An invisible rebellion that no man can see"). As both a suspenseful and poignant story and an absorbing historical chronicle, this novel has bestseller potential and should become a reading group favorite as well. Agent, Sandra Dijkstra. Author tour. (July) Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Publishers Weekly

Foot binding; nu shu, a secret language used exclusively by the women of Hunan Province for 1000 years; and laotong, the arranged friendship between little girls meant to last a lifetime, provide the framework for See's (Dragon Bones) riveting look at a little-known chapter in 19th-century Chinese history. In 1903, 80-year-old Lily looks back on her life, which was anchored by her laotong relationship with the beautiful Snow Flower. As little girls, the two communicated in nu shu, writing of their mutual devotion on a fan they passed between each other over the

years. Raised according to the traditional restrictions of the times, they lived most of their lives confined to the upstairs women's chamber in their homes, enduring the relentless societal insistence that women are worthless except for their value in producing sons. The laotong bonds of Lily and Snow Flower endure through family tragedies, a typhoid-fever epidemic, and the Taiping Rebellion of 1851-64, but it is a misunderstood message in nu shu, the language that held them together for decades, that ultimately tears them apart. See's meticulous research and exquisite language deliver a story that is haunting, powerful, and, at times, almost too painful to bear. Highly recommended. [See Prepub Alert, LJ 3/1/05.]-Beth E. Andersen, Ann Arbor Dist. Lib., MI Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Library Journal

A nuanced exploration of women's friendship and women's writing in a remote corner of Imperial China. At the end of her life, Lady Lily Lu, the 80-year-old matriarch of Tongkou village, sits down to write her final memoir-one that will be burned at her death. Using nu shu, a secret script designed and kept by women, Lily spends her final years recounting her training as a woman, her longing for love and the central friendship of her life. Born, in 1823, into an ordinary farming family, Lily might not have ended up as a wealthy matriarch. Her earliest memories are of running through the fields outside with her cousin Beautiful Moon in the last days before her foot-binding. But in childhood, Lily's middle-class fate changed dramatically when the local diviner suggested that her well-formed feet made her eligible for a high-status marriage and for a special ceremonial friendship with a laotong (sworn bosom friend). Accordingly, Lily became laotong with Snow Flower, a charming girl from an upper-class household. Together, the two begin a friendship and intimate nu shu correspondence that develops with them through years of house training, marriages, childbirths and changes in social status. See (Dragon Bones, 2003, etc.) is fascinated by imagining how women with constrained existences might have found solace-and poetry-within the unexpected, little known writing form that is nu shu. Occasionally, in the midst of notes about childbirth and marriages, Lily and Snow Flower wonder how to understand the value of their secret writing in relation to the men's "outside world." The question is left delicately open. As the Taiping Rebellion (1851-64) approaches the villages around them, threatening to disrupt the social order, Lily and Snow Flower's private intimacy changes, stretches and is strained. Taut and vibrant, the story offers a delicately painted view of a sequestered world and provides a richly textured account of how women might understand their own lives. A keenly imagined journey into the women's quarters.

Kirkus Reviews

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Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Lily endures excruciating pain in order to have her feet bound. What reasons are given for this dangerous practice?

2. Did See's descriptions of footbinding remind you of any Western traditions?
3. If some men in 19th-century China knew about nushu and "old same" friendships, why do you think they allowed these traditions to persist?
4. Reflecting on her first few decades, Lily seems to think her friendship with Snow Flower brought her more good than harm. Do you agree?
5. Lily's adherence to social customs can seem controversial to us today. Pick a scene where you would have acted differently. Why?
6. Lily defies the wishes of her son in order to pair her grandson with Peony. Does she fully justify her behavior?
7. Lily sometimes pulls us out of the present moment to reflect--as an old woman--on her youthful decisions. What does this device add to the story?
8. How would you film these moments of reflection?
9. If Lily is writing her story to Snow Flower in the afterworld, what do you think Snow Flower's response would or should be?
10. Did you recognize any aspects of your own friendships in the bond between Lily and Snow Flower?
(*Questions issued by publisher.*)

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Bev White
Lois
Martha Cardman
Eloise Hopkins

FORTNIGHTLY BOOK CLUB PROGRAMS 2011- 2012

September 19 Barbara Bernstein Book Talk

October 3 Janice Weyand - Book Review

**24 Author Megan Staffel discusses her own book,
 LESSONS IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE**

November 14 Mary Allison - Book Review

*Miss Peregrine's
Home for Peculiar
Children
by Ransom
Riggs*

28 Pat Cheesman - Book Discussion -TBA

One Summer - Baldacci

December 12 Christine Thomas

- Book Review

January 9 Mary Allison - Book Review

23 Martha Mueller - Book Review

February 13 Josie Ciancaglini - Book Discussion -TBA

27 Beverly Crowell - Book Review

- March** **12** **Josie Ciancaglino Bok Discussion - TBA**
 26 **Barbara Bernstein - Book Review**
- April** **4** **Janice Weyand - Book Discussion --TBA**
- 23** **ANNUAL TEA**
 Book Review
 THE RISING TIDE by John M. Barry
 Steve Crandall, Presenter
- 30** **Business Meeting**

**All meetings are held at the United Presbyterian Church in Hornell.
Tea is served at 2:00 Pm. The program follows at 2:30 PM.**

BOOK CLUB TEA HOSTESSES -2011-2012

September 19 Janice Weyand/Natalie Weyand

October 3 Pat Cheesman/ Janet Boehm

24 Mercedes Hanbach/Pat Cheesman

November 14 Mary Allison /Valerie Ewald

28 Lois Elsenheimer/Lorraine Crandall

December 12 Joyce Howe/Pat Cheesman

January 9 Mary Allison /Josie Ciancaglini

23 TBA

February 13 Martha Mueller

27 TBA

March 12 Terry Rucker/Natalie Weyand

26 Valerie Ewald/Mercedes Hanbach

April 4 Marjorie Bernreuther/Martha Mueller

23 Annual Tea

Marjorie Bernreuther/Josie Ciancaglini

30 Business Meeting

Club Members

Fortnightly Book Club Members 2010-11

email

Mary Allison	391 Canisteo St. Hornell, NY	324-3082 368-8071 (cell)
Barbara Bernstein	Alfred Station, NY	587-8330
Marjorie Bernreuther	6928 Twin Valley Terrace Almond, NY 14804	276-6490
Pat Cheesman	4020 County Rd 108 Andover, NY 14806	478-8621
Josie Ciancaglini	10 Rural Ave. Hornell, NY 14843	324-2167
Lorraine Crandall	55 Locust St. 1190 Cty. Rd 66 Hornell, NY 14843	324-1181
Rachel Donavon	126 Thacher St. Hornell, NY 14843	324-6346
Lois Elsenheimer	1243 Maple Ct. Hornell, NY 14843	324-2835
Valerie Ewald	1724 Karr Valley Rd. Almond, NY 14804	276-2037
Mercedes Hanbach	23 Mayo Ave. Hornell, NY 14843	324-4260
Pauline Holbrook	7 Adsit Pl. Hornell, NY 14843	324-6181
Eloise Hopkins	95 Maple St. Canisteo, NY 14823	698-4161
Joyce Howe	7 East Ave., Box 128 Arkport, NY 14807	295-7467
Jane Jamison	5587 County Route 14 Canisteo, NY 14823	698-9033 368-0083 (cell)

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Terry Rucker	40 Maple St., Apt. 101 Hornell, NY 14843	661-4409
Christine Thomas	95 Greenwood St. Canisteo, NY 14823	698-4047
Janice Weyand	427 Cleveland Ave. N. Hornell, NY 14843	324-5571
Natalie Weyand	PO Box 94 Hornell, NY 14843	324-2495
Madeleine Wilder	9 Cook St. Hornell, NY 14843	324-1934
Jan Boehm	4019 Cty Rte 108 Andover, NY 14806	478-8651
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Bev Lorie	433 Cleveland Ave. N. Hornell, NY 14843	324-0846

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**BOOK CLUB PROGRAMS
2010**

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|------------------|-----------|--|
| September | 27 | Barbara Bernstein
Book Talk/Collection Overview |
| October | 11 | Pat Cheesman - Book Discussion
DEAR JOHN by Nicholas Sparks |
| | 25 | Readings of Original Poems by Terry Rucker |
| November | 8 | Sue Babbitt-Book Discussion
LOVING FRANK by Nancy Horan,
a novel about Frank Lloyd Wright |
| | 22 | Linda Underhill-Discusses her own book-
THE WAY OF THE WOODS: A journey through
America's forests |
| December | 6 | Janice Weyand
Book Discussion-TBA |
| 2011 | | |
| January | 3 | Martha Mueller - Book Review |
| | 17 | Terry Pullman-Book Review |
| February | 7 | Mary Allison-Book Discussion
THE BOOK THIEF by Markus Zusak |
| | 21 | Mercedes Hanbach-Book Review
by Beverly Crowell |
| March | 7 | Josie Ciancaglini
Book Discussion-TBA |
| | 21 | Janice Weyand-Book Discussion
TBA |
| April | 4 | Christine Thomas-Book Discussion
TBA |
| | 18 | Annual Benefit Tea
Marjorie Bernreuther/Josie Ciancaglini |
| | 25 | Business Meeting |

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50 Banned Books Everyone Should Read

As long as there have been books, there have been people opposed to what is said in some of those books. Authors who challenge the accepted norms in their literature are often the target of angry people who do not understand or appreciate their literature. The following books are excellent examples of great literature that has become banned or challenged in an attempt to shield the public from what some see as inappropriate.

Protect the Children

These books have all been at the heart of controversy over their appropriateness for children and youth to read.

1. **Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger.** Frequently a target of censorship, this classic coming-of-age story of a teenage boy in New York is often banned due to the language and sexuality—particularly a scene with a prostitute.
2. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain.** Offensive language, in particular, one very racially-charged word, is the usual reason given for banning this book, which has been controversial since it was published in 1884. Twain's famous story highlights the friendship between a white boy and a black man in a book that attempted to challenge the racism Twain saw around him.
3. **Forever by Judy Blume.** Blume is frequently the target of censorship as many of her books deal with teen issues revolving around becoming a sexual being. Forever documents a high school girl's loss of virginity and delves into the emotional aspects of her choice.
4. **The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman.** This fantasy novel says much about friendship and loyalty, but it also says plenty about not following a religion blindly. Many have seen the book as anti-religion and have banned the book.
5. **Lord of the Flies by William Golding.** Most who oppose this book claim the violence, language, and the implication that man is little more than an animal as the reasons. The book depicts a microcosm of society played out on an island populated by young boys stranded there and trying to survive. The struggle between good and evil and the exploration of human nature can force readers to examine themselves in ways that may not feel comfortable.

4. **The Harry Potter series by JK Rowling.** Some parents object to the magic and wizardry that is at the heart of the Harry Potter books. Because of their objections, many schools and libraries have banned these books.
7. **Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson.** A powerful book that explores friendship, life, and death, this book is often banned due to what some feel is offensive language and scenes of witchcraft which some believe promotes disobeying authority as well as anti-religious sentiments. Oddly, the theme of death, which is a major element in the novel, is also used as a reason to ban this book.
8. **James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl.** This book depicts a child who lives under the oppression of mean caretakers and relies on his creativity and an alternate world in order to survive. Those opposed to the book dislike the violence, language, and disobedience towards adults.
9. **And Tango Makes Three by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson.** This children's story tells of two male penguins at a zoo who care for an egg together. Despite the reality that male penguins bond together to care for their eggs in nature and that the two characters in the book are based on actual penguins from the Central Park Zoo, the idea of two males creating a family has forced many to ban the book due to reasons of homosexuality and anti-family issues.
10. **A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle.** The bonds of family and friendship are at the heart of this novel, but it also highlights the battle of good and evil and brings in supernatural spirits, therefore making it a target for those worried about the religious implications they feel the novel makes.
11. **The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier.** Selling chocolates as a fundraiser at school not only sets off fictional turmoil in this book, but it also prompts parents to challenge the book. Reasons given include language, violence, resisting authority, and sexuality.
12. **The Giver by Lois Lowery.** The award-winning book that depicts a society driven to maintain an amazing amount of control over its members, including euthanasia and suicide. Some parents have reacted strongly to these themes in the book and have taken the book as an endorsement for killing.

Religion and Politics

Banned by governments, taken off shelves at libraries, and removed from schools, these books have been contested because of the way they portray religion or politics.

13. **The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie.** This book of magical realism describes a battle between God and the devil through the depiction of two men who go through fantastical journeys. This book was so reviled by several governments and religious leaders in Asia and the Middle East that a fatwa was issued against Rushdie, who had to live in hiding for many years in order to avoid being killed.
14. **A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving.** Irving's book is a powerful one that highlights the loyalty and bonds of friendship and family in a poignant and humorous manner. Some feel that the stance Irving takes on religion and opposition to US in Vietnam are reason enough to ban this incredible book.
15. **The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.** When this book was originally banned in California for obscenity. However, there is evidence that shows the censorship was lead by wealthy landowners who did not want their treatment of their workers to become highlighted from the very realistic accounts in Steinbeck's novel.
16. **Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriett Beecher Stowe.** When this book was published in 1851, it was criticized by slavery supporters and described as a false depiction of slavery. The importance and relevance of this novel has survived the censorship it has experienced to allow current generations to learn from their ancestors' mistakes.
17. **The Lorax by Dr. Seuss.** On the surface this book seems it should be included in the Protect the Children section, but the reason this Dr. Seuss book is banned has more to do with adult issues. The book is an allegorical story describing the effects of poor stewardship on the Earth. Those opposed to the book, specifically some in California, feel it shows an unfair portrayal of those in the logging industry.
18. **The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown.** This popular thriller is a work of fiction, but that doesn't mean any less to those opposed to it. Catholic leaders have banned The Da Vinci Code for what it sees as

19. 1984

published in the early part of the 20th century with a warning to society that has become eerily true. The book has been banned in the past due to pro-communist sentiment and sexuality.

- 20. **Animal Farm by George Orwell.** This satirical allegory was initially banned in the Soviet Union because of its anti-Stalinism, but has also been challenged in America by parents fearful that their children will be exposed to the communist sentiment expressed in the introduction and the text.
- 21. **Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift.** Underlying themes in this famous work include political corruption, anti-war sentiments, and the injustices of colonization. It's no wonder this book has been banned in several countries and Swift had to publish it anonymously.
- 22. **Candide by Voltaire.** Politics, war, colonialism, and religion are all sharply skewered with the satire in Candide. Since its publication in 1759 through the 20th century, this book was banned by several countries.

Sex

Perhaps the most popular reason a book is banned or challenged, the following books all portray sexuality in a way that has made some uncomfortable.

- 23. **Lady Chatterley's Lover by DH Lawrence.** Lawrence's book tells the story of an adulterous love affair and includes explicit sexual language. It was banned in the UK and Lawrence eventually published in Italy, where the first edition sold out immediately.
- 24. **Tropic of Cancer by Henry Miller.** Miller's novel was banned in Great Britain and the US due to the sexuality described in the book. Miller eventually had his autobiographical account of living in Paris published in France.
- 25. **Fanny Hill by John Cleland.** Considered the first erotic novel published in English, Fanny Hill describes the sexual exploits of a woman who begins with selling her virginity and eventually ends

up a prostitute by trade. Besides the typical sexuality described in the book, there are also instances of homosexuality (both with men and women), masturbation, and sadomasochism.

26. **Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman.** Whitman published several versions of this book filled with his poetry that often celebrates sexuality, both homosexual and heterosexual. From the late 1800's to the present day, these poems have faced challenges to be read.
27. **The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald.** New wealth, old relationships, and a society trying to find itself are at the center of this novel. Opponents of this work cite sexual references and profanity in the book.
28. **Brave New World by Aldous Huxley.** Huxley's dystopian view of society depicts adults dulling their senses with pacifying drugs and casual sex. What Huxley uses as a tool to illustrate what he felt was wrong with society is exactly what those opposed to the book latch on to when challenging it.
29. **The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.** Hosseini's beautiful book of friendship and loyalty examines the life of two boys in Afghanistan who come from two widely differing classes. Besides the Afghanistan government's upset over the content of the book, others around the world have challenged the book due to claims of offensive language and a sexually explicit scene in which a young boy is raped.
30. **Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes.** This touching story of Charlie, a mentally challenged young man who participates in a scientific experiment to raise his intelligence, portrays the awakening both intellectually and emotionally of the man. A part of this awakening includes exploration of his sexuality, which has prompted many to want the book banned.
31. **The Awakening by Kate Chopin.** Chopin's short novel tells the tale of a married woman who discovers herself and explores her newfound freedom through bucking societal expectations, having an adulterous affair, and eventually opting for suicide as a way to preserve her freedom and not become a slave to a life she detested. Opponents object to the sexuality.

32. **Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert.** Trapped in a loveless and unfulfilling marriage, Madame Bovary engages in adulterous affairs in an attempt to find happiness. The sexuality in the book prompted many countries to ban the book on the basis of its being immoral.
33. **Rabbit, Run by John Updike.** The main character, 20-something Rabbit, runs to escape the constraints of family life and becomes involved with a prostitute, an ex-girlfriend, and others as he deals with the issues surrounding his marriage. A direct result of the oppressive social atmosphere of the 1950's, Rabbit, Run includes many sexual depictions that offended quite a few people.
34. **Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank.** This classic autobiography is taught in almost every school in America, but that doesn't mean it hasn't faced its challenges. Parents have protested against this book as being too sexually charged, pornographic, and even claiming it was too depressing to be taught.
35. **Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov.** First published by a pornographic press in France, Nabokov explores the life of Humbert Humbert, a pedophile who runs away with the 12 year-old daughter of his landlady. The book was banned from many countries and still experiences challenges today.

Race and Gender Issues

Racism or the treatment of women are the driving forces behind having these books removed from the public eye.

36. **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee.** Racism, language, and a rape scene are the usual culprits when banning this book. In reality, Lee was highlighting the rampant racism of her time in this much beloved book in an attempt to change the wrongs she saw in society.
37. **Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck.** Steinbeck's portrayal of an unusual friendship between two men, one of whom is developmentally challenged, has prompted many to oppose the book due to the language, social and racial implications, and violence in the book.
38. **The Color Purple by Alice Walker.** Some of the reasons this book is challenged include the violence, profanity, and sexuality in the book, including a rape scene, but most importantly are the

race relations that Walker depict. Racism is difficult to face for many and the reaction to ban literature that depicts it is a strong one.

39. **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou.** Sexual content, racism, offensive language, violence are the most popular reasons this book is challenged and continues to be today. Angelou's autobiographical book is both shocking and beautiful as she recounts the experiences of her early life as she endured racism, abuse, and other challenges she eventually overcame.
40. **Little Women by Louisa May Alcott.** Perhaps one of the most surprising books on banned book lists, Little Women is a very wholesome depiction of a family of four sisters who struggle in poverty but are rich in love and familial ties. The reason the book is challenged may be based on what some view as punishment of the one character who has a strong feminist approach by her marriage to a boring and much older man.
41. **Catch-22 by Joseph Heller.** This anti-war satire is surprisingly not challenged due to that theme, but because of the depiction of women in the novel. The word "whore" is used frequently and there have been claims that the book promotes misogyny.

Multiple Reasons

Sometimes a book is so controversial or so powerfully written that it hits people on several different levels. These books have been banned for many different reasons, usually including profanity, violence, and sexuality.

42. **Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury.** Perhaps the most ironic banned book situation, Fahrenheit 451 deals with the issue of censorship in a dystopian society that sends firefighters out to burn down houses discovered to have books inside. Those opposed to this book claim various reasons for banning it including profanity, portrayal of smoking and drinking, and anti-religious and anti-establishment sentiments.
43. **Native Son by Richard Wright.** Violence, sex, and profanity are the reasons this book is frequently banned. The hard depiction of life in the novel highlights the hopelessness and racism suffered by one man and illustrates what happens to a man caught in a society that marginalizes him.

44. **Beloved by Toni Morrison.** Morrison's book about an escaped slave who rears her children in a world of fright and lack of freedom includes instances of violence and sexual abuse. On the surface, the book may appear to contain gratuitous scenes, Morrison ties everything together in a cautionary reminder for society to heed the mistakes of the past.
45. **As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner.** This masterpiece of American literature explores the physical and mental journey of those oppressed by a life of poverty. The reasons many feel the need to ban this book include the references Faulkner makes to masturbation, abortion, and questioning the existence of God as well as profanity.
46. **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey.** Telling the story of a group of mentally ill patients in an oppressive hospital, this story explores what happens when someone stands up to that oppression in order to create a more equanimous situation, moral choice everyone must face, and forming friendships despite hardship. Those opposed to Kesey's novel claim it glorifies criminal activity, is "garbage," includes bizarre torture, bad language, bestiality, and promotes secular humanism.
47. **The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood.** This dystopian story tells of a society run by men that remove all freedom from women and class them according to what purpose they can serve for the men. The story is told from the perspective of a handmaiden, or a woman who is used solely for providing babies to wealthy couples. Those opposed to the book claim it is anti-Christian and pornographic.
48. **In Cold Blood by Truman Capote.** This true story details the violent murder of an entire family by two criminals in search of money that they were wrongly informed existed at the family's farmhouse. This book is considered to be the first true crime book, and upon its publication, many were appalled by the violence depicted in the book for what seemed no good reason.
49. **Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut.** Vonnegut's book about a time-traveling prisoner of war who has no control of where he will end up next has faced challenges against what opponents feel is unnecessary sex, violence, language, anti-religion, torture, ethnic spurs, and misogyny.

50. **East of Eden by John Steinbeck.** The battle of good and evil in humanity is the major theme in this powerful novel that parallels the book of Genesis in the Bible. The book has been challenged as an obscenity that is ungodly.