

Featured Book Group: Women Reading Women

Who are we?

Women Reading Women is a group of ten women who read almost exclusively books written by women, an offshoot of a group from the 70's where the emphasis was feminism. To encourage discussions where everyone participates, it has always been a small group. Originally, the group met in public places such as restaurants, then in homes, but, we now meet in a retirement home where one of our members lives.

Our members are dedicated; and rarely miss. Each member is important, and we want to hear others' opinions. Usually, but not always, everyone has read the book, but sometimes life gets in the way; we come anyway to hear what others have to say.

When the group began, the books chosen were almost all fiction, but, we now read and enjoy more non-fiction. The diversity of the members and the books we choose is one of the strengths of the group.

How do we choose our books?

We choose our books once a year, usually in August. Generally each person brings at least one book suggestion, and after discussion, we choose ten books. The person who recommended the book leads the discussion. We usually distribute discussion questions, but we often don't use them; we have plenty to talk about! Nobody dominates the discussions.

How do we keep track of our books and discussions?

After the books for the year are chosen, one of the members makes a

schedule for the year – an easy job, because choosing the month when we want to facilitate is part of the book selection discussion. We make no attempt to record our discussions, although from time to time we may send notes to a member who wasn't able to attend.

Which books have we liked and why?

After so many years, it would be hard to choose favorites. One of our favorite authors is Barbara Kingsolver, whose *Poisonwood Bible* was generally liked and which generated a wonderful discussion. Sandra Dallas is another favorite and we have read many of her books. Perhaps *Alice's Tulips* and *Mattie Spencer's Diary* would top the list. We have read several of Geraldine Brooks' books, both fiction and non-fiction and our loyalties seem to be divided between *People of the Book* and *Year of Wonders*. Ursula Heigel and Susan Vreeland are also favorites. Two individual fiction titles that were favorites are *Madonnas of Leningrad* and *The Dovekeepers*.

Some of the non-fiction books we have enjoyed are *Alice Roosevelt Longworth: From White House Princess to Washington Power Broker* and *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour*. A recent non-fiction favorite was *God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine*.

Which books did we not like so much?

At some point, we got burned out on dysfunctional families, but

we're still more interested in whether a book is a good book than what it's about. We thought we were tired of books about The Middle East but then we read *A Bed Of Red Flowers*. We try to read a few classics. *Wuthering Heights* was well-received, but most of us just didn't "get" Virginia Wolfe's *Mrs. Dalloway*.

We read *Wolf Hall* because it's so critically acclaimed. We agreed that it's not an easy book, but we learned from it and we had a good discussion.

We have concluded that the popularity of a book with our members doesn't determine the quality of discussion. Some of our best discussions have come from books we don't agree on.

If your group would like to be featured in the newsletter, drop us an email at: cedarfallslibrary@gmail.com, and tell us about your group.



New Book Club Title

Sisterland: a Novel by Curtis Sittenfeld

MEET AUTHOR

LETITIA L. MOFFITT

FINAL THURSDAY

READING SERIES

MARCH 27, 7 PM, AT

THE HEARST CENTER

FOR THE ARTS.

OPEN TO ALL.

Maria Gurney Peth, PhD will visit the Cedar Falls Public Library on March 9th from 2-4pm to discuss her book, [Angel Decoding: Secret Keys to Communicating with Your Angels](#). Copies of the book will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing following the event.



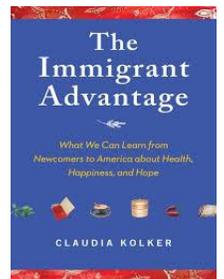
This newsletter is compiled by Cedar Falls Public Library and Friends of Cedar Falls Public Library. Contact us at: cedarfallslibrary@gmail.com

Join Us to Hear & Meet Visiting Author Claudia Kolker



The Cedar Falls Public Library and the Cedar Falls Chapter of AAUW Discuss and Discover Diversity (CV3D) are pleased to co-sponsor author Claudia Kolker on Thursday, March 13, at 7 pm.

Kolker is an award-winning reporter and the author of [The Immigrant Advantage: What We Can Learn from Newcomers to American about Health, Happiness, and Hope](#). Her book has been featured in O (Oprah) Magazine's "Top Ten Titles to Pick Up Now," the New York Times, and PBS NewsHour. A Harvard graduate, Kolker has worked as a journalist in many countries, and has written extensively on democracy and diversity. Copies of her book will be available for purchase. In addition to discussing her experiences and writing, Kolker will also sign copies of her book. The title is also available in the CFPL Book Discussion Collection.



This event is open to the public, and free of charge. It is sponsored by the Robert & Shirley Berg Fund for use by the Library at the Cedar Falls Community Foundation.

Open Book Discussions

Friends of the Cedar Falls Public Library will sponsor a discussion on [The Elegance of the Hedgehog](#) by Muriel Barbery on March 25, at 10 am. and [Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Bronte on April 1, at 7 pm.

Location: Cedar Falls Public Library Conference Room

The Cedar Falls Public Library will be discussing [The Goldfinch](#) by Donna Tartt on Goodreads throughout the month of March.

Waterloo Public Library Facebook online book club, SoMe, will discuss [The Rosie Project](#) by Graeme Simsion in March.

The Waterloo Public Library will be discussing [Salvage the Bones](#), by Jesmyn Ward on Thursday, March 6, 6pm

These groups are open to all.

Great Books for both Teens & Adults

The Hunger Games & Twilight phenomena made librarians aware that many adults are discovering some great teen books. They are often part of a series, so we can look forward to future installments! Here's a list of some of our favorites:

Marissa Meyer's [Lunar Chronicles](#) series: Think fairytales with cyborgs.

Veronica Roth's [Divergent](#) series: Strong female character, dystopian (like the Hunger Games).

Rachel Hartman's [Seraphina](#) series: Dragons, humans, and magic.

Leigh Bardugo's [Grisha](#) trilogy : Fantasy, dystopian.

Lauren Oliver's [Delirium](#) series : Dystopian rebellion.

Jennifer Nielsen's [Ascendance](#) trilogy: Discontented kingdom, with civil war brewing.

Laini Taylor's [Daughter of Smoke and Bone](#) series: Magic, star-crossed love.

Holly Black's [The Coldest Girl in Coldtown](#): Dystopian thriller.

Samantha Shannon's [The Bone Season](#): Dystopian, magic, 1st in series of seven.

Rick Yancey's [The 5th Wave](#) series: Alien invasion page-turner.