

**READ
GATHER
DISCUSS**

**Book Discussions
2016-2017**



Oak Lawn
Public Library

This begins the Library's third year of book discussions, and we are happy to roll out our new choices and groups. Discussions will take place from September 2016 through April 2017 (with a special program in May). All conversations are led by OLPL staff.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our programming to reflect what our patrons need and want. Your feedback is vital to the process. Please always feel free to talk to the discussion leaders and/or fill out the new "Program Evaluation Form," which will be available at all gatherings. We are also asking that you register for the discussions this year, either online, by phone or at the Library. This will also help our staff better evaluate the book discussions.

- **Books can be picked up at the Adult Services Desk on the second floor and then checked out on participants' library cards approximately four weeks before the scheduled discussion**
- **Most of the choices are available in multiple formats, including large type, audio or eBooks. Go to catalog.olpl.org for availability.**

Enjoy the stimulation and sociability of talking about books with other readers. All are welcome!

Refreshing Reads

Tuesdays, 7:30pm

Avenue Flower Shop & Wine Bar

10632 S. Cicero Ave.

Popular books brimming with character issues, moral choices and situations that are ripe for a lively discussion over a refreshing drink!

Sept. 27: “Kitchens of the Great Midwest” by J. Ryan Stradal

A big-hearted, funny and charming tale of a young woman who is gifted with a rare and discerning pallet. In an unusually-structured narrative, we glimpse her as she develops from infant to legendary chef. This is a tale of food (including recipes!), the foodie culture, the Midwest, and family.

Oct. 25: “The Silent Sister” by Diane Chamberlain

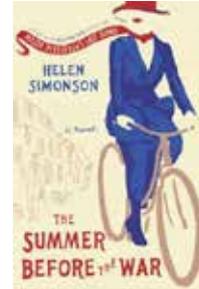
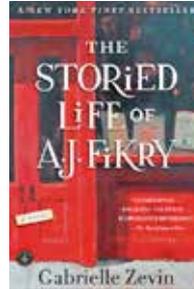
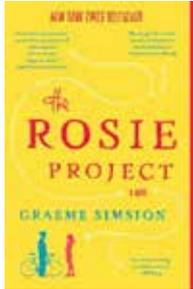
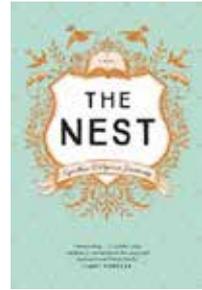
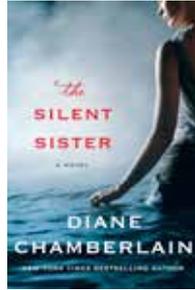
Riley MacPherson has spent her entire life believing that her older sister Lisa committed suicide as a teenager. Now, over 20 years later, her father has passed away and she’s in New Bern, North Carolina cleaning out his house when she finds evidence to the contrary. Lisa is alive and living under a new identity. But why exactly was she on the run all those years ago?

Nov. 22: “Troublemaker: Surviving Hollywood and Scientology” by Leah Remini

The outspoken actress, talk show host, and reality television star offers up a no-holds-barred memoir, including an eye-opening insider account of her tumultuous and heart-wrenching thirty-year-plus association with the Church of Scientology.

Jan. 24: “The Nest” by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney

Every family has its problems; but even among the most troubled, the Plumb family stands out as spectacularly dysfunctional. This is a story about the power of family, the possibilities of friendship, the ways we depend upon one another and the ways we let one another down.



Feb. 28: “The Rosie Project” by Graeme Simsion

Don Tillman, a professor of genetics, sets up a project designed to find him the perfect wife, starting with a questionnaire that has to be adjusted a little as he goes along. Then he meets Rosie, who is everything he is not looking for in a wife. Don finds him oddly falling for her despite his project, and learns that at times love finds you when you least expect it.

March 28: “The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin

A.J. Fikry’s life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. However when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over – seeing everything anew.

April 25: “The Summer Before the War” by Helen Simonson

It is 1914 and the end of England’s brief, beautiful Edwardian summer. When Beatrice Nash arrives with one trunk and several large crates of books, it is clear she is significantly more freethinking — and attractive — than anyone believes a Latin teacher should be. But Summer lasts only so long and the world is about to experience an even greater change than what Beatrice brings to the town of Rye.

20|30ish Book Club

Thursdays, 7:30pm

Homestead Barr | 9306 S. Central Ave.

Attention 20- and 30-somethings! Looking for a night out with drinks and a chance to discuss the books everyone is talking about? This club is for you. Held at Homestead Barr, 9306 S. Central Avenue.



Sept. 8: “Ready Player One” by Ernest Cline

It’s 2044 and the world is a mess. None of that matters inside the OASIS, the virtual reality designed by James Halliday. Inside the OASIS, gunters travel through worlds searching for a hidden Easter egg. The first player to decipher the clues wrapped in 80s pop culture and arcade games wins Halliday’s entire fortune.

ONE BOOK
ONE OAK LAWN

Oct. 13: “The Lake” by Banana Yoshimoto

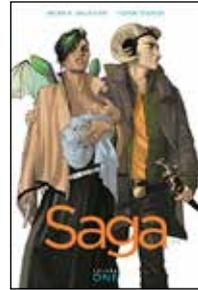
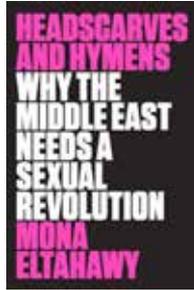
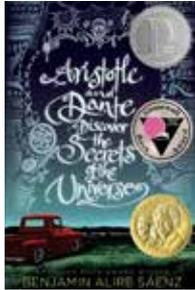
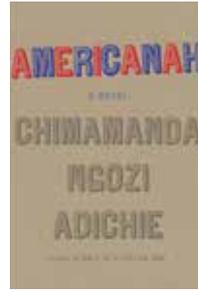
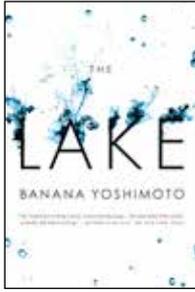
A darkly mysterious tale of two young lovers with a troubled past. Moving to Tokyo after her mother’s death, Chihiro is frustrated with her artwork and spends her time staring out her window until she notices Nakajima, the young man across the street whose story intrigues her enough to look further.

Nov. 10: “A Darker Shade of Magic” by V.E. Schwab

A fast-paced fantasy adventure set in a parallel Londons, where Kell is one of the few humans left with the ability to travel between them – or the daring. He and his uninvited companion Lila attempt to smuggle a letter and encounter unexpected trouble along the way.

Jan. 12: “Americanah” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A darkly funny, tender story of love and race centered around a young man and woman from Nigeria who face difficult choices of leaving their country for the West. Fifteen years later, the couple comes to terms with their love in the country they come to call home.



Feb. 9: “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe” by Benjamin Alire Saenz

Aristotle is an angry teen and Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. They seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship. It is through this that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

March 9: “Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution” by Mona Eltahawy

Since the Arab Spring began in 2010, women in the Arab world have had two revolutions to undertake. One has been fought alongside men against oppressive regimes, and another fought against an entire political and economic system that represses women in many nations and reduces them to second-class citizens. This is a manifesto motivated by hope and fury in equal measure.

April 13: “Saga, Volume 1” by Brian K Vaughan and Fiona Staples

When two soldiers from opposite sides of a never-ending galactic war fall in love, they risk everything to bring a fragile new life into a dangerous old universe. Part fantasy, part science fiction, it is the sweeping tale of one young family fighting to find their place in the worlds.

Paging Through History

Thursdays, 7pm / Local History Room

These are stories, the stories embedded in history, the stories that bring history to life. Both fiction and non-fiction, these books enhance what we think we know or expose us to events and people we know nothing about.

Sept. 1: “The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History” by Robert M. Edsel

The fascinating story of how a special force of American and British museum directors, curators, art historians, and others risked their lives to save the world’s great art from the Nazis during the latter part of World War II.

Oct. 6: “Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand” by Helen Simonson

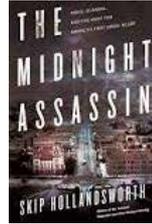
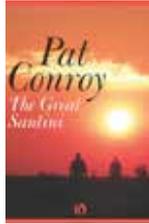
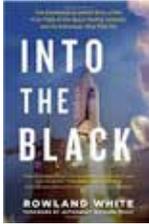
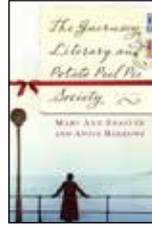
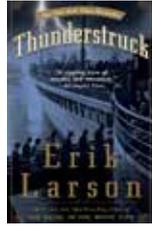
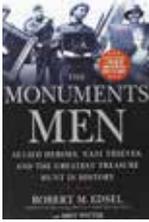
Major Pettigrew is a widower, retired army officer and pillar of the community in his small English town. He is set in his ways: tea with acquaintances, shooting parties with friends, reticence at all times. But the Major’s life starts falling into chaos when he falls in love with a most unsuitable candidate - Mrs. Ali, a charming Pakistani widow with a shared passion for Kipling.

Nov. 3: “Thunderstruck” by Erik Larson

The interwoven stories of two men whose lives intersect during one of greatest criminal chases of all time - Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of a seemingly supernatural means of communication.

Jan. 5: “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer

In January 1946, writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the recent German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.



Feb. 2: “Into the Black: The Extraordinary Untold Story of the First Flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia and the Astronauts Who Flew Her” by Rowland White

The real-life techno-thriller from a bestselling author and aviation expert that recaptures the historic moments leading up to the launch of the space shuttle Columbia and the exciting story of her daring maiden flight, the success of which demanded skill, perfect timing, and luck.

March 2: “The Great Santini” by Pat Conroy

This is the story of a boy’s determination to be himself, whatever that may be. It is violent, shocking, funny, moving, and overwhelmingly real. From the early pages, with Bull’s wife and children waiting at the airport to welcome the Great Santini back into their midst, to the bittersweet ending, the reader’s interest and emotions are fixed upon the fluctuating fortunes of the Meecham family.

April 6: “The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal and the Hunt for America’s First Serial Killer” by Skip Hollandsworth

Beginning in December 1884, Austin, Texas was terrorized by someone equally as vicious and, in some ways, far more diabolical than London’s infamous Jack the Ripper. For almost one year, the Midnight Assassin crisscrossed the entire city, striking on moonlit nights, using axes, knives, and long steel rods to rip apart women from every race and class. At the time, the concept of a serial killer was unthinkable, but the murders continued, the killer became more brazen, and the citizens’ panic reached a fever pitch.

Irish Fiction

Wednesdays, 1:30pm / Mary Nelson Room

You don't have to be Irish to enjoy these great reads that embody the rich cultural heritage of literature and storytelling in Ireland.

Sept. 21: “The Chisellers” by Brendan O’Carroll

By turns funny, wise and heartbreaking, this book features characters who are charming, and irreverent. Leading the cast of characters is Agnes Browne, a widow raising six sons and a daughter, whom she refers to collectively as the “chiselers,” in public housing in Dublin. This lively novel features a wedding, a funeral and an ending that will melt the hardest heart.

Oct. 19: “Nora Webster” by Colm Toibin

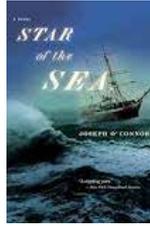
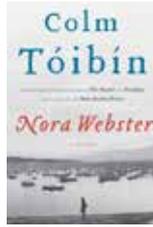
Nora Webster is widowed at 40, with four sons in her care and little money to support them. She’s desperate to retain her independence and so grief-stricken that she barely registers how much her sons need her. But gradually she returns to singing, which she had abandoned years before, and finds herself.

Nov. 16: “Love and Summer” by William Trevor

Living an unfulfilling existence at the side of a tragic husband, shy orphan Ellie Dillahan begins an affair that forces her to choose between an uncertain future with the man she loves and the desolate life she has built for herself.

Jan. 18: “Of Irish Blood” by Mary Pat Kelly

Nora Kelly is a head-strong heroine from turn of the century Chicago who flees to Paris and finally to the College des Irlandais, where an unconventional priest, a good-looking scholar and Ireland’s revolutionary women challenge Nora to honor her Irish blood and join the struggle to free Ireland.



Feb. 15: “The House on Willow Street” by Cathy Kelly

In a tiny coastal village in Ireland, four beautiful, wounded women come together, all facing life crises of one kind or another at the same time. This is a novel for and about women, a tapestry woven of romance and mystery, secrets kept and revealed, hearts broken and mended, dreams shattered and realized as destinies are rediscovered. A modern day fairy tale.

March 15: “Star of the Sea” by Joseph O’Connor

In the bitter winter of 1847, from an Ireland torn by famine and injustice, the Star of the Sea sets sail for New York. On board are hundreds of refugees, some optimistic, many more desperate. Among them are a maid with a devastating secret, the bankrupt Lord Merridith, his wife and children, and a killer stalking the decks, hungry for the vengeance that will bring absolution. A spellbinding tale of tragedy and mercy, love and healing.

April 19: “Trinity” by Leon Uris

An epic adventure that captures the “terrible beauty” of Ireland during its long and bloody struggle for freedom. It is the story of an idealistic young Catholic rebel and a beautiful Protestant girl who defied her heritage to join his cause. It is a portrait of a people divided by class, faith, and prejudice -- an unforgettable saga of the fires that devastated a majestic land . . . and the unquenchable flames that burn in the human heart.

Mysteries in the Morning

Fridays, 9:30am / Teen Room

With everything from amateur sleuths to hard-boiled detectives, these page turners represent a wide range of mystery types, perfect for a lively discussion.

Sept. 16: “The Yard” by Alex Grecian

Walter Day’s first case for the London Murder Squad sets him on a hunt for the depraved madman who killed one of their own detectives. Now, Walter’s best chance for success lies with Dr. Bernard Kingsley, the Yard’s brilliant forensic pathologist.

Oct. 21: “Dying for a Taste: A Sally Solari Mystery” by Leslie Karst

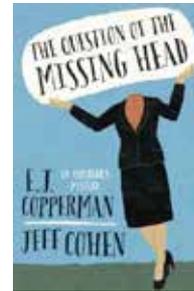
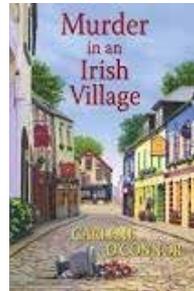
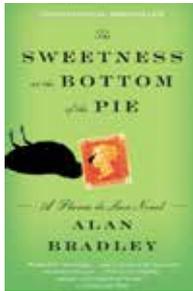
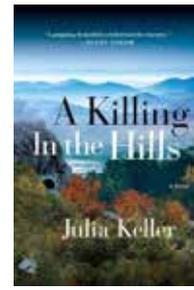
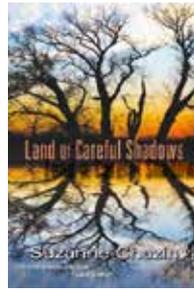
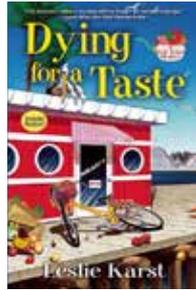
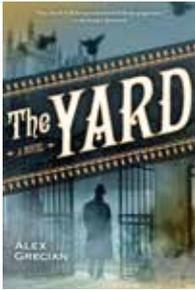
After quitting her job as a lawyer to help her father run his Italian restaurant, Sally Solari finds herself scrambling to clear the name of their sous chef, who is the prime suspect in the murder of her Aunt Letta.

Nov. 18: “Land of Careful Shadows” by Suzanne Chazin

Latino homicide detective Jimmy Vega must investigate the ethnically-charged murder of a Hispanic woman found fifty miles north of New York City, as well as locate the baby pictured in a photograph found on the dead woman.

Jan. 20: “A Killing in the Hills” by Julia Keller

Prosecuting attorney Bell Elkins and her estranged teenage daughter, Carla, try to protect their town and each other in the aftermath of a shocking triple murder committed by an unknown shooter whose identity is gradually realized by Carla.



Feb. 17: “The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie”

by Alan Bradley

Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, begins her adventure when a dead bird is found on the doorstep of her family’s mansion in the summer of 1950, thus propelling her into a mystery that involves an investigation into a man’s murder where her father is the main suspect.

March 17: “Murder in an Irish Village” by Carlene O’Connor

Twenty-two-year-old Siobhan O’Sullivan runs the family bistro along with her five siblings, after the death of their parents in a car crash almost a year ago. One morning, as they’re opening the bistro, they discover a man seated at a table, dressed in a suit as if for his own funeral, a pair of hot pink barber scissors protruding from his chest.

April 21: “The Question of the Missing Head”

by E.J. Copperman

With the help of his new colleague Janet Washburn, Samuel Hoenig uses his unique powers of deduction to investigate the disappearance of a preserved head from a cryonics institute and the murder of one of the facility’s scientists.

Read It and Eat

Wednesdays, 7pm / Mary Nelson Room

Who doesn't like to talk about food or eat? Participate in the challenge by selecting – and preparing – something from our featured cookbook, then join us at the library to share, talk and enjoy.

Sept. 28: “Back in the Day Bakery Cookbook” and “The Back in the Day Bakery Made with Love” by Cheryl and Griffith Day

A celebration of down-home cooking by the owners of the Downhome Bakery in Savannah, a local landmark. This book is filled with customers' favorite recipes and the tips, commentary, notes and irresistible full-color photographs add to the appeal.

January 25: “Good Eats 1, 2 and 3” by Alton Brown

Alton Brown is a foodie phenomenon: a great cook, a very funny guy, and—underneath it all—a science geek who's as interested in the chemistry of cooking as he is in eating. These books are loaded with photographs, illustrations, explanations of techniques, food puns, food jokes and food trivia! There is definitely something for everyone.

April 26: “Lidia’s Italy in America” and “Giada’s Everyday Italian”

The best in Italian cooking from two popular chefs, authors and TV hosts. Lidia showcases Italian-American food from across the county, visiting American cities and expanding the idea of Italian food. Giada shows you how to cook delicious, beautiful food in a flash from what you probably already have in your refrigerator. Both are entertaining reads and resources for excellent Italian cooking.



Save the Date

Whether you have participated in the discussions, have your own book club, or just enjoy reading, please join us for our year-end celebration of “Read Gather Discuss” on **Thursday, May 4 at 7pm.**

We will have light refreshments, raffles and a special program.



Oak Lawn
Public Library

**9427 S. Raymond Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-422-4990
www.olpl.org**