

2012 Book Discussions:

Lodi Public Library



February 27, 7 pm – *Environmental nonfiction, Lodi Reads Leopold community tie-in discussion*

o **No Impact Man:**

The Adventure of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life In the Process by Colin Beavan

What does it really take to live eco-effectively? Beavan swore off plastic and toxins, turned off his electricity, went organic, became a bicycle nut, and tried to save the planet from environmental catastrophe ... dragging his daughter and Prada-wearing wife along too.

March 26, 7 pm – *Literary historical fiction, discussion led by Peter Berthold*

o **People of the Book** by Geraldine Brooks

Offered a coveted job to analyze and conserve a priceless Sarajevo Haggadah, a rare-book expert discovers tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins.

Looking for more great reading lists?

A few recommendations from our discussion group:

FICTION –

- Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns
- Cutting For Stone by Abraham Verghese
- The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford
- Into the Forest by Jean Hegland
- The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane by Katherine Howe

NONFICTION –

- The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon
- Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal by Conor Grennan
- A Walk In The Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson

You also can find book lists, award winners, and even customized recommendations on the library's website. Databases, past discussion lists, and links to cool sites can all be found at www.LodiPublicLibrary.org

April 23, 7 pm – *Culture & history nonfiction, discussion led by Anne Frihart*

o **Slaves in the Family**

by Edward Ball

Journalist Ball conceived the idea to recount the family histories of his plantation-owning ancestors and, with more difficulty due to the paucity of records, the people they owned. This resulting microcosm of America's original sin of slavery is an innovative package of historical narrative and oral history and even modern reconciliation.

May 21, 7 pm – *Historical fiction, discussion led by Trisha Frankland*

o **22 Britannia Road** by

Amanda Hodgkinson

By the end of World War II, Silvana is a ghost of the Polish wife Janusz once had. As the past unfolds from multiple points of view, it becomes clear that despite their determination to make a fresh start in England, the hidden secrets of the past threaten to destroy Silvana and Janusz's dreams of becoming a family once again.

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June 25, 7 pm – *Contemporary fiction*

o **Secret Daughter** by **Shilpi Somaya Gowda**

A deeply moving and timeless story of an adopted daughter's long distance search for cultural identity and acceptance; first with the mother who raised her, and ultimately with the mother who gave her up.

July 23, 7 pm – *Young adult fiction, Summer Library Program tie-in, all-ages discussion led by Kristine Millard*

o **The Fault in Our Stars** by **John Green**

Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, 'The Fault in Our Stars' is award-winning author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

August 27, 7 pm – *Parenting & culture nonfiction, discussion led by Lisa Yeh*

o **Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother** by **Amy Chua**

An awe-inspiring, often hilarious, and unerringly honest story of one mother's exercise in extreme parenting, revealing the rewards-and the costs-of raising her children the Chinese way.

September 24, 7 pm – *Historical nonfiction, discussion led by Mary Ellen Ruesch*

o **The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America** by **Erik Larson**

Bringing Chicago circa 1893 to vivid life, Larson intertwines the true tale of two men: the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

October 22, 7 pm – *Pop culture nonfiction, discussion led by Jan Price*

o **The 101 Most Influential People Who Never Lived:**

How Characters of Fiction, Myth, Legends, Television, and Movies Have Shaped Our Society, Changed Our Behavior, and Set the Course of History by **Allan Lazar, Dan Karlan, and Jeremy Salter**

From Santa Claus to Buffy the Vampire Slayer, from Uncle Sam to Uncle Tom, this is a compelling, eye-opening, and endlessly entertaining compendium of fictional trendsetters who have helped shape our culture and lives.

November 26, 7 pm – *Literary thriller fiction, discussion led by Laurie Pfiffner*

o **Turn of Mind** by **Alice LaPlante**

Implicated in the murder of her best friend, a retired surgeon with dementia struggles to remember if she actually did commit the crime.

Everyone is welcome!
Come once or join in regularly

*No discussion in December
due to the holidays*

Mark your calendar:
Bring your book nominations
January 28, 2013
at 7pm for the
SELECTION NIGHT PARTY
to help choose the
2013 discussion list!

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