

BOOK GROUP—LET'S TALK



Join us **every third Thursday of the month at noon** in the Small Meeting Room at the Downtown Library - 1044 Middlefield Road - to discuss a good book or two! You can come to all or any meeting you wish. See you there!

September 17 - Mahbod Seraji's *Rooftops of Tehran*

October 15 - Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *The Mistress of Spices*

November 19 - Eugene O'Neill's *Long Days Journey Into Night*

December - No Meeting

January 21 - Jhumpa Lahiri's *Unaccustomed Earth*

February 18 - Pablo Neruda & Mary Oliver: *Selected Poems*

March 18 - Edmund Morgan's *Benjamin Franklin*

For more information, contact the Reference Desk
at 780-7026
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Sponsored by Friends of the Redwood City Public Library

1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City | www.redwoodcity.org/library | 650 780 7026

September 17 - Mahbod Seraji's *Rooftops of Tehran*

“His novel is very cinematic, not only in how it portrays the close-knit neighborhood of the main characters...but also in the way the story builds momentum.” - *San Francisco Chronicle*

And join us for a book signing with the author in the Fireplace Room at 7pm!

October 15 - Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *The Mistress of Spices*

Join in a discussion of Divakaruni's remarkable novel “about choosing between a life of special powers and one of ordinary love and compassion.” - *New York Times* **Visit www.onebookreads.com**

for more information about our County-wide month-long events!

November 19 - Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*

“Drama in four acts by Eugene O'Neill, written 1939–41 and produced and published, posthumously, in 1956. The play, which is considered an American masterpiece, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1957. O'Neill's autobiographical play is a shattering depiction of a day in the dreary life of a couple and their two sons. James Tyrone, a semiretired actor, is vain and miserly; his wife Mary feels worthless and retreats into a morphine-induced haze. Jamie, their older son, is a bitter alcoholic. James refuses to acknowledge the illness of his consumptive younger son, Edmund. As Mary sinks into hallucination and madness, father and sons confront each other in searing scenes that reveal their hidden motives and interdependence.” - *Merriam Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature*

January 21 - Jhumpa Lahiri's *Unaccustomed Earth*

“Profound . . . Powerful . . . Haunting . . . Lahiri's prose here is deceptively simple, its mechanics invisible, as she enters into her characters' innermost journeys. [In the title story,] the moment-to-moment rendering of Ruma's vulnerability and her father's rising panic at all that he's keeping secret sweeps the reader into a compelling emotional landscape. . . . Lahiri invests [her characters] with great depth. [She is] a writer working at the height of her powers.” - *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

February 18 - Pablo Neruda & Mary Oliver - *Selected Poems*

Library staff will provide selections from the poetry of:

“**Pablo Neruda**, sometimes called the Picasso of poetry, is a writer of many styles and many voices; his vast and varied work, spanning more than half a century, is central to every major development in Spanish and Spanish American poetry between the 1920s and the 1970s. Despite his humble beginnings (born into a working-class family and raised in a rough-and-tumble frontier town in the south of Chile), by the time he turned 20 he had come to occupy a pre-eminent place in the literature of his country.” - René de Costa - *Reference Guide to World Literature*

Mary Oliver - “With twenty collections of poetry, as well as two books on the craft of writing poetry, Oliver has established herself as part of the American literary scene. Furthermore, as Sue Russell points out in an article for *Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review* (Fall 1997), Oliver has a wide following among popular readers that few contemporary poets can rival. Her poetry is accessible, enjoyable, spiritual, enlivening, and refreshing; above all, Oliver's poetry draws readers in, asking them to become part of the experiences described. Following in the tradition of American transcendentalists of the nineteenth century, Oliver's poetry questions the human preference for reason over intuition, explores what can be learned from nature, and engages in metaphysical explorations about the world and humans' places within that world.” - Jeannette E. Riley - *Twentieth-Century American Nature Poets*

March 18 - Edmund Morgan's *Benjamin Franklin*

“This wonderful biography of an extraordinary man results from a perfect marriage of subject and scholar. Among the most senior of our senior historians, Yale professor emeritus Morgan (*American Slavery, American Freedom*, etc.) proves himself still at the height of his powers. While Franklin remains, as Morgan writes, elusive and hard to know because ‘it is so hard to distinguish his natural impulses from his principles,’ the author probably comes as close to understanding him as anyone can. Rather than focusing on Franklin's role as classic, representative American, Morgan instead gives us a portrait of his public life, almost a third of it spent abroad, in England and France, more than any comparable figure of his generation. In Morgan's hands, Franklin therefore turns out to be more cosmopolitan than provincial, more worldly than Pennsylvanian.” - *Publishers Weekly Reviews*