

Short and Sweet



Book Club

Brookfield Public Library

2023 Calendar

Books are available at the Circulation Desk one month before the meeting date.

Please see bookmark insert each month for that title's selected stories.

Thursday, January 12, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

England and Other Stories

Graham Swift

Swift's characters, primarily male and ranging from boys to old men, offer piquant testimony about the shock of abrupt change—galvanizing moments that affirm or explode quintessentially English mores. Swift illuminates loneliness and self-sufficiency along with the complexities of family, marriage, and friendship. Swift's stories are impeccably crafted and traditional in style, some are wise celebrations of love and contentment, yet in every tale, emotional intricacies, steely critiques, honed compassion, and wily humor run hot with irony and protest. (Booklist)

Thursday, February 9, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

Florida

Lauren Groff

Groff collects her singing, stinging stories of foreboding and strangeness in the Sunshine State. These are raw, danger-riddled, linguistically potent pieces. They unsettle their readers at every pass. And Groff gets the humid, pervasive white racism that isn't her point but curdles through plenty of her characters. A literary tour de force of precariousness set in a blistering place, a state shaped like a gun. (Kirkus Reviews)

Thursday, March 9, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

That Old Country Music

Kevin Barry

Tales of love, lust, and country life by the gifted Irish writer. It's spring or summer in western Ireland in most of these 11 stories. And love appears throughout, romantic, familial, injurious, magical, morbid. Barry has the right stuff for short stories. He brings characters to life quickly and then blesses them with his uncanny ear for dialogue and prose rhythms, his compassion and wry wit. Exceptional writing and a thoroughly entertaining collection. (Kirkus Reviews)

Thursday, April 13, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

The Largesse of the Sea Maiden

Denis Johnson

This story collection from the late Johnson is a masterpiece of deep humanity and astonishing prose. This book is an instant classic. It's filled with Johnson's unparalleled ability to inject humor, profundity, and beauty into the dark and the mundane alike. These characters have been pushed toward the edge; through their searches for meaning or clawing just to hold onto life, Johnson is able to articulate what it means to be alive, and to have hope. (Publishers Weekly)

Thursday, May 11, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

Five Tuesdays in Winter

Lily King

King delivers a rich and varied collection filled with characters whose lives are transformed by old and new acquaintances, addiction, and the written word. These stories crackle and shine, and King is a master of the thumbnail portrait: she can create a fully realized life in a single paragraph and then alter it in breathtaking ways. This is a must for fans of the short story. (Publishers Weekly)

Thursday, June 8, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

The Angel of Rome and Other Stories

Jess Walter

A dozen stories spell excellent news for fans of the Bard of Spokane. These stories are so funny and almost ridiculously heartwarming, no matter how apparently depressing their topic. What one character says to defend his newfound love of country music resonates through the collection: "Life is hard, the songs seemed to say, but at least it's funny, and it rhymes." Not sure why the author is in such a good mood, but it's contagious. Prepare for delight. (Kirkus Reviews)

Thursday, July 13, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

Reader, I Buried Them and Other Stories

Peter Lovesey

Lovesey has assembled this devilishly clever collection, eighteen yarns of mystery, melancholy, and mischief, inhabiting such deadly settings as a theater, a monastery, and the book publishing industry. The collection includes that first story that launched his story-writing career as well as three exclusive new stories. (Soho Press)

Thursday, August 10, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

Filthy Animals

Brandon Taylor

Throughout these stories, Taylor spins intimate narratives of fraught relationship dynamics and demonstrates a keen sensitivity to his characters' fragile mental health. Taylor's language sparks with the tension of beauty and cruelty, conveying a sense of desire and the pleasures of food and sex complicated by capricious behavior. The author has an impressive range, and his depictions of complex characters trapped in untenable situations are hard to forget. (Publishers Weekly)

Thursday, September 14, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

Nobody Gets Out Alive: Stories

Leigh Newman

Newman's electric debut collection follows hardscrabble women in Alaska whose rough exteriors conceal myriad vulnerabilities. Newman's prose is both distinctive and efficient. The author's crisp portrayal of the Alaskan landscape and rugged culture holds the collection—and its magnetic characters—together. Newman firmly establishes herself as a talent with these stunning stories. (Publishers Weekly)

Thursday, October 12, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

The Nick Adams Stories

Ernest Hemingway

The complete collection of Ernest Hemingway's Nick Adams two dozen stories are gathered here in one volume, grouped together according to the major time periods in the protagonist's life. Based on Hemingway's own experiences as a boy and as a member of the Red Cross ambulance corps in World War I. The collection follows Nick's life as a child to parent, along with soldier, veteran, and writer and feature some of Hemingway's earliest work and some of his best-known short stories. (Scribner)

Thursday, November 9, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

The Souvenir Museum: Stories

Elizabeth McCracken

In these stories, the mysterious bonds of family are tested, transformed, fractured, and fortified. With sentences that crackle and spark and showcase her trademark wit, McCracken traces how our closely held desires—for intimacy, atonement, comfort—bloom and wither against the indifferent passing of time. Her characters embark on journeys that leave them indelibly changed—and so do her readers. (Harper Collins)

Thursday, December 14, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

Recitatif

Toni Morrison

In this short story we meet Twyla and Roberta, who have known each other since they were eight years old. They lose touch as they grow older, only later to find each other again. Seemingly at opposite ends of every problem, and at each other's throats each time they meet, the two women still cannot deny the deep bond their shared experience has forged between them. A remarkable look into what keeps us together and what keeps us apart, and how perceptions are made tangible by reality. (Knopf)

