

Ann's Book and Film Study

2011-12 Schedule

Please join us for our 13th year for discussions focused on **humanity**. We meet on Wednesdays at 9:30am in the library of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church.

Dues are \$25.00 for the year and can be paid at the September meeting.

Sept 21st **My Name is Mary Sutter by Robin Oliviera** Led by Colleen Webster, HCC

In this stunning first novel, Mary Sutter is a brilliant, headstrong midwife from Albany, New York, who dreams of becoming a surgeon. Determined to overcome the prejudices against women in medicine-and eager to run away from her recent heartbreak- Mary leaves home and travels to Washington, D.C. to help tend the legions of Civil War wounded. Mary pursues her medical career in the desperately overwhelmed hospitals of the capital.

Oct. 19th **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson** Led by Colleen Webster, HCC

Wry, courtly, opinionated, and completely endearing, the Major leads a quiet life valuing the proper things that Englishmen have lived by for generations. But his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by their shared love of literature and the loss of their spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship blossoming into something more. But village society insists on embracing him as the quintessential local and regarding her as the permanent foreigner.

Nov. 16th **Film: Mao's Last Dancer (2011)** Led by Dr. Nan Greene Cerio

A based on the autobiography by Li Cunxin. At the age of 11, Li was plucked from a poor Chinese village by Madame Mao's cultural delegates and taken to Beijing to study ballet. In 1979, during a cultural exchange to Texas, he fell in love with an American woman.

Jan. 18th **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot** Led by Guest Scientist

Science journalist Skloot makes a remarkable debut with this multilayered story about faith, science, journalism, and grace. It is also a tale of medical wonders and medical arrogance, racism, poverty and the bond that grows, sometimes painfully, between two very different women—Skloot and Deborah Lacks—sharing an obsession to learn about Deborah's mother, Henrietta, and her magical, immortal cells. Without her knowledge, doctors treating her at Johns Hopkins took tissue samples from her cervix for research. They spawned the first viable, indeed miraculously productive, cell line—known as HeLa.

Feb 15th **Room – by Emma Donoghue** Led by Dr. Nan Greene Cerio

To five-year-old-Jack, Room is the world. . . . It's where he was born, it's where he and his Ma eat and sleep and play and learn. At night, his Ma shuts him safely in the wardrobe, where he is meant to be asleep when Old Nick visits. Room is home to Jack, but to Ma it's the prison where she has been held for seven years. Through her fierce love for her son, she has created a life for him in this eleven-by-eleven-foot space. Room is a tale at once shocking, riveting, exhilarating--a story of unconquerable love in harrowing circumstances, and of the diamond-hard bond between a mother and her child.

Mar. 21st **Film: Waiting for "Superman" (2011)** Led by Colleen Webster, HCC

From the Academy Award-winning Director of An Inconvenient Truth comes the groundbreaking feature film that provides an engaging and inspiring look at public education in the United States. Waiting For "Superman" has helped launch a movement to achieve a real and lasting change through the compelling stories of five unforgettable students such as Emily, a Silicon Valley eighth-grader who is afraid of being labeled as unfit for college and Francisco, a Bronx first-grader whose mom will do anything to give him a shot at a better life.

Apr. 18th **Cutting for Stone- by Abraham Verghese** Led by Jean Fry

Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, Cutting for Stone is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles--and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

If you have questions: Consquella Frieswyk – 410-569-3079 or cfrieswyk@comcast.net

What Makes a Good Member?

*Interested, Willing & Enthusiastic – don't twist arms to join
Conscientious Reader – read the book, see the film
Committed – attend regularly & be prompt – pretty obvious
Good Listener/Good Participant/Sense of Humor – comic relief
Focused – stay on track*

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