

## Youngstown Free Library

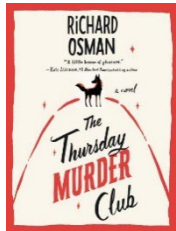
240 Lockport St. Youngstown, NY 14174

(716) 745-3555

[www.youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://www.youngstownfreelibrary.org)

## Afternoon Book Club's reading choices for 2025

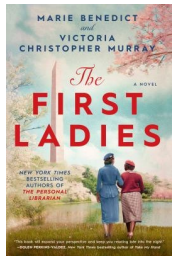
Here are the books we will be discussing at these meeting dates:



**Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman**

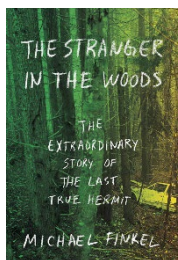
"In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before

it's too late?"



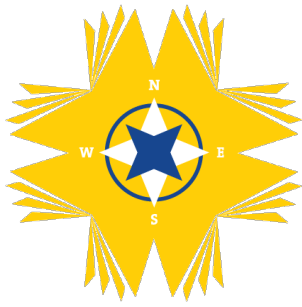
**Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray**

"A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune--an unlikely friendship that changed the world [...]. The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. She marches on as an activist and an educator, and as her reputation grows she becomes a celebrity, revered by titans of business and recognized by U.S. Presidents. Eleanor Roosevelt herself is awestruck and eager to make her acquaintance. Initially drawn together because of their shared belief in women's rights and the power of education, Mary and Eleanor become fast friends confiding their secrets, hopes and dreams--and holding each other's hands through personal and professional strife. [...] This is the story of two different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women, and the way in which their singular friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement."



**Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *The Stranger in the Woods: the extraordinary story of the last true hermit* by Michael Finkel**

"For readers of Jon Krakauer and *The Lost City of Z*, a remarkable tale of survival and solitude--the true story of a man who lived alone in a tent in the Maine woods, never talking to another person and surviving by stealing supplies from nearby cabins for twenty-seven years. In 1986, twenty-year-old Christopher Knight left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the woods. He would not have a conversation with another human being until nearly three decades later when he was arrested for stealing food. Living in a tent even in winter, he had survived by his wits and courage, developing ingenious ways to store food and water, to avoid freezing to death. He broke into nearby cottages for food, clothes, reading material, and other provisions, taking only what he needed, but terrifying a community never able to solve the mysterious burglaries. Based on extensive interviews with Knight himself, this is a vividly detailed account of the why and how of his secluded life--as well as the challenges he has faced returning to the world. A riveting story of survival that asks fundamental questions about solitude, community, and what makes a good life, and a deeply moving portrait of a man who was determined to live his own way, and succeeded."

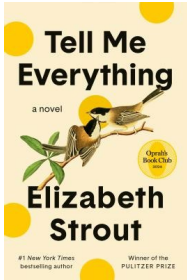


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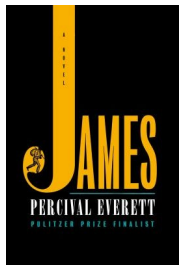
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### Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 pm: *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout

"It's autumn in Maine, and the town lawyer Bob Burgess has become enmeshed in an unfolding murder investigation, defending a lonely, isolated man accused of killing his mother. He has also fallen into a deep and abiding friendship with the acclaimed writer, Lucy Barton, who lives down the road in a house by the sea with her husband, William. Together, Lucy and Bob go on walks and talk about their lives, their fears and regrets, and what might have been. Lucy, meanwhile, is finally introduced to the iconic Olive Kitteridge, now living in a retirement community on the edge of town. Together, they spend afternoons in Olive's apartment, telling each other stories. Stories about people

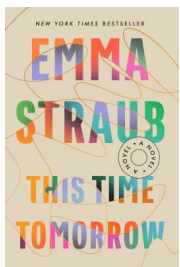
they have known - 'unrecorded lives,' Olive calls them - reanimating them, and, in the process, imbuing their lives with meaning."



### Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *James* by Percival Everett

"When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond. While many narrative set pieces of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* remain in place

(floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light."



### Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub

"What if you could take a vacation to your past, without the filter of memory? What would you give to go back in time and relive your youth, in person, with the people who shared it? On the eve of her 40th birthday, Alice's life isn't terrible. She likes her job, even if it isn't exactly the one she expected. She's happy with her apartment, her romantic status, her independence, and she adores her lifelong best friend. But something is missing. Her father, the single parent who raised her, is ailing and out of reach. [...] When Alice wakes

up the next morning somehow back in 1996, it isn't her 16-year-old body that is the biggest shock, or the possibility of romance with her adolescent crush, it's her dad: the vital, charming, 49-year-old version of her father with whom she is reunited. Now armed with a new perspective on her own life and his, is there anything that she should do differently this time around? What would she change, given the chance?"

When you are ready to read, please contact the Library and request the book title you'd like. Please plan to request your book(s) 1-2 weeks before you plan to start reading.

We usually meet at the Lewiston Senior Center. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email Sonora at 716-745-3555 or [smiller@nioga.org](mailto:smiller@nioga.org)