SMPC FOOD FOR THOUGHT BOOK GROUP, 2016-2017

We meet the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
in Room 206 in the Chapel Building. Join us!

Questions? Contact Kathy Paquette, khesspaquette@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 Welcome to the 8th year of SMPC Food for Thought Book Group!

The Storied Life Of A.J. Fikry
by Gabrielle Zevin (Fiction)
A. J. Fikry’s life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. When a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over—and see everything anew. This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all the love of books and bookish people.

OCTOBER 6, 2016 Celebrating Our Friends and Family

The Two-Family House
by Lynda Cohen Loigman (Fiction)
Brooklyn, 1947: In the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone, two babies are born, minutes apart. The mothers are sisters by marriage: Rose, who wants nothing more than to please her difficult husband; and Helen, the mother of four rambunctious boys. Raising their families side by side, supporting one another, Rose and Helen share a bond from one dramatic winter night. When the storm passes, life seems to return to normal; but as years progress, cracks start to appear and the deep friendship between the two women begins to unravel.

NOVEMBER 3, 2016 Justice Awareness Month

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
by Bryan Stevenson (Nonfiction)
Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a murder he
insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy and politics and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice.

DECEMBER 1, 2016

Christmas Love and Forgiveness

_Mistletoe Promise_

by Richard Paul Evans  (Fiction)

Richard Paul Evans gives readers a great Christmas story. In this offering, he creates a love story that feeds the soul and offers inspiration to those who need to forgive and those who need to be forgiven...

JANUARY 5, 2017

Happy New Year - 2017!!

_Find the Good : Unexpected Life Lessons From a Small Town Obituary Writer_

by Heather Lende  (Nonfiction)

Short Chapters help us unlearn the habit of seeing only negatives. Lende, an Alaskan obituary writer, reminds us that we can choose to see any event as an opportunity to find the good...."We are all writing our own obituary every day by how we live. The best news is that there’s still time for additions and revisions before it goes to press."

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Celebrating Black History

_The Outskirts of Hope: A Memoir_

by Jo Ivester  (Nonfiction)

In 1967, when Jo Ivester was ten years old, her father transplanted his family from a suburb of Boston to a small town in Mississippi where he became the medical director of a clinic that served the poor population for miles around. It was her stay-at-home mother of three who became a high school English teacher who made the most enduring mark on the town. Ivester uses journals left by her mother, as well as writings of her own, to tell of her family living and working in an all-black town during the civil rights movement.

MARCH 2, 2017

Deaf History Month/National Disabilities Month

_Finding Zoe: A Deaf Woman’s Journey of Love, Identity, and Adoption_

by Brandi Rarus, Gail Harris  (Nonfiction)

Brandi lost her hearing at the age of 6 from Spinal Meningitis, and today lives in Austin, Texas with her husband and four children. This is her
story of finding Zoe. "At just a few months old, Zoe was gradually losing her hearing. Her adoptive parents loved her—yet agonized—feeling they couldn’t handle raising a deaf child. Would Zoe go back into the welfare system and spend her childhood hoping to find parents willing to adopt her? Or, would she be the long-sought answer to a mother’s prayers?"

APRIL 6, 2017

My Name Is Thank-You: A Novel
by Kaizen Love  
(Fiction)
This story weaves together the lives of two different thirteen-year-old girls. We follow them into a world of chaos, contrasting continuously from light to dark. To Thank-You, the world is full of promise. Despite being raised an orphan, she carries within her the ability to find the beauty in any situation. To Josephine, the world is a sad and lonely place. Although born into wealth, she is plagued by a life of abuse. You will follow their journeys into self-discovery, forgiveness, and redemption.

MAY 4, 2017

All Girls Filling Station
by Fanny Flagg  
(Fiction)
Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. Lenore is an overbearing presence for her daughter. Sookie discovers a secret about her mother’s past that calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, and she begins a search for answers that takes her to California, the Midwest, and the 1940s, when a woman named Fritzi takes on the job of running her family’s filling station. As Sookie learns about the adventures of the girls at the All-Girl Filling Station, she finds herself with new inspiration for her own life.

JUNE 1, 2017

Defending Jacob
by William Landay  
(Fiction)
Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney for two decades. He is respected and admired in the courtroom. Happy at home with the loves of his life: his wife, Laurie, and their teenage son, Jacob. Then Andy’s quiet suburb is stunned by a shocking crime: a young boy stabbed to death in a
leafy park. And an even greater shock: The accused is Andy’s own son—shy, awkward, mysterious Jacob. Andy believes in Jacob’s innocence. Any parent would. But the pressure mounts. This is a murder trial that threatens to obliterate Andy’s family.

**JULY NO MEETING**

**AUGUST 4, 2017**  The Anniversary of the First Atomic Bomb, August 6, 1945

*The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*

by Denise Kiernan (Nonfiction)

The story of the young women of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who played a crucial role in a significant moment in U.S. history. The Tennessee town of Oak Ridge was created from scratch in 1942. One of the Manhattan Project’s secret cities, it didn’t appear on any maps until 1949, and at the height of World War II, it was using more electricity than New York City and home to 75,000 people, many of them women recruited from towns across the South. Their jobs were shrouded in mystery, but they had a sense of shared purpose, close friendships—and a surplus of handsome scientists and Army men.