

Library starts 3 new book clubs to attract readers



Turning the page A Novel Idea Book Club will discuss "Commonwealth" at 7 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Downtown Library in Boca Raton. Marci Shatzman/Staff (Marci Shatzman/Forum Publishing Group)



By **Marci Shatzman**
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

JANUARY 10, 2017

Boca Raton Public Library looking to expand readership

Looking to expand its reach for readers, the Boca Raton Public Library has added three new book clubs meeting Jan. 19 to April 20 in the Downtown Library.

"These are being offered at a different time to get a new book-club demographic," said program services librarian Oyuki Poletz. "The Young Adult and Novel Idea clubs are held at night, hopefully enticing working professionals."

(Not Too) Young Adult Book Club will focus on the young-adult genre, meeting Jan. 19 from 7 to 8 p.m. The first subject, "Eleanor & Park" by Rainbow Rowell, is described as the story of two star-crossed misfits. The club will meet again at the same time March 16 to discuss "A Court of Thorns and Roses," part of a fantasy series by Sarah J. Maas.

"'Eleanor & Park' takes place in the '80s," said Francie Devine, account services supervisor and club co-moderator with Suzanne Endruschat. "We're hoping to get late teens and up, and we did get more copies, so we're hoping to increase circulation."

"I'm avid reader of young-adult lit that gets looked down upon because of the YA title," Devine added. "But it covers the gamut of every emotional aspect of life and deserves a better spotlight."

The new A Novel Idea Book Club, moderated by Endruschat, will begin with Ann Patchett's "Commonwealth," following six siblings over 50 years, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m.. "A Piece of the World" by Christina Baker Kline, inspired by the Andrew Wyeth painting "Christina's World," will follow April 20 at 7 p.m.

"We choose authors who have been well received in the past, and Ann Patchett is my favorite author," said Endruschat, an account services supervisor. "her characters stick with you when you've finished. 'Commonwealth' has been on the best-seller list.

"The club is intended to be accessible. "We even welcome people who haven't read the book," Endruschat added. "They can take out the physical books or download them as an e-book or an audio book."

The Proust Club is a three-part guided reading and discussion of Marcel Proust's "Swann's Way." The study will include "Proust's Way: A Field Guide in Search of Lost Time." The club will meet from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on the last Friday of January, February and March. Neil Schulhoff will moderate.

"[Schulhoff] has over 30 years' experience working in bookstores and libraries and leads our literary lectures," Poletz said. "He has been working on getting this club started for a year now. ... It's a great way to tackle a literary giant like Marcel Proust."

All three book clubs are free and open to the public. Registration opens 30 days before each program. Go to (Not Too)Young Adult <http://bit.ly/2hRwbzs>; A Novel Idea at <http://bit.ly/2ivof4r>; Proust at <http://bit.ly/2iJVQhG>. The Downtown Library is at 400 NW Second Ave.

Participants don't have to be library members, Poletz said, but they need a library card if they want to check out a book. For information on how applying for a library card, go to bocalibrary.org/about.htm. Cards are free for city residents; nonresidents can pay a \$150 annual fee or get a family card (for immediate family only) for \$250 annually.

These are not the only book clubs the library offers. Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library has books clubs that meet monthly in the Downtown and Spanish River libraries. "Anyone who wants to can join in," said Cynthia Bloom, Friends president.

The Spanish River club meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.; the Downtown club meets the fourth Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Visit bocalibraryfriends.org/bkdiscussion.htm. The Spanish River Library is at 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd.

Copyright © 2017, Sun Sentinel