

# Evening Book Discussion

Our 27<sup>th</sup> year!

7pm (after hours) Central Library Reference Area

## September 21, 2011

Grisham, John *The Innocent Man*

The Innocent Man chronicles the story of Ron Williamson, how he was arrested and charged with a crime he did not commit, how his case was (mis)handled and how an innocent man was sent to death row. Led by Danielle Coward, Central Youth Services Librarian.

## October 19, 2011

Grahame-Smith, Seth *Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter*

While Abraham Lincoln is widely lauded for saving a Union and freeing millions of slaves, his valiant fight against the forces of the undead has remained in the shadows for hundreds of years. Led by Meghan Haar, Central Young Adult Librarian

## November 16, 2011

Genova, Lisa *Still Alice*

Alice Howland has a career not unlike Genova's—she's an esteemed psychology professor at Harvard, living a comfortable life in Cambridge with her husband, John, arguing about the usual (making quality time together, their daughter's move to L.A.) when the first symptoms of Alzheimer's begin to emerge. First, Alice can't find her Blackberry, then she becomes hopelessly disoriented in her own town. Alice is shocked to be diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's (she had suspected a brain tumor or menopause), after which her life begins steadily to unravel. The brutal facts of Alzheimer's are heartbreaking, and it's impossible not to feel for Alice and her loved ones. Led by Janet Stoffer, Director of the Elyria Public Library System.

## December 21, 2011

Gup, Ted *A Secret Gift*

The author's grandfather, Sam Stone, placed an ad in the Canton, OH, newspaper shortly before Christmas in 1933, offering cash gifts to seventy-five families in distress. Readers were asked to send letters describing their hardships to a benefactor calling himself Mr. B. Virdot. The author investigates a suitcase full of letters responding to these ads as he learns more about his grandfather's hidden past as well as the suffering and triumphs of strangers during the Great Depression. Led by Celeste Brlas, manager of North and South Branches.



## January 18, 2012

Hannah, Kristin *Winter Garden*

Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. One stayed at home to raise her children and manage the family apple orchard: the other followed a dream and traveled the world to become a famous photojournalist. But when their beloved father falls ill, Meredith and Nina find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now offers no comfort to her daughters. Led by Mary Ann Nolan, book discussion member

## February 15, 2012

Hillenbrand, Laura *Unbroken: a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared--Lt. Louis Zamperini. Captured by the Japanese and driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor. Leader to be determined.

## March 21, 2012

Baker, Tiffany *The Little Giant of Aberdeen County*

A spellbindingly woven tale about a girl who grows physically and emotionally beyond her small town's wildest expectations. Led by Erica Mullins, West River Page and fellow book discussion participant.

## April 18, 2012

Cushman, Karen *The Midwife's Apprentice*

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world. Led by Kathy Webb, Manager of Technical Services.

## May 16, 2012

Simonson, Helen *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*

Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) leads a quiet life in the village of St. Mary, England, until 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 respective spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship blossoming into something more. Led by Sue Schillig, Central Reference Librarian.

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