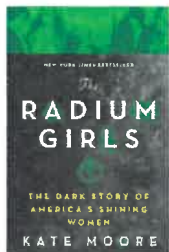


Book Discussion Group 2024

Lester Public Library • Wednesdays, 4:00 PM • Ages 18+

This group for adults meets the first Wednesday of every month. No registration is required; you may attend as few or as many meetings as you wish. Stop at the front desk to pick up current selection.



January 3: **The Radium Girls** by Kate Moore **(Meet at Casa Mexico)**

As WWI raged, hundreds of young women toiled away at the radium-dial factories, assured by their bosses that the luminous material was safe. With such a coveted job, these girls were considered lucky—until they began to fall mysteriously ill. As the fatal radium poison took hold, they found themselves embroiled in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights.



February 7: **Excavations** by Kate Myers

On a remote archeological site in Greece, the mythic home of the first Olympics, four women discover an unusual artifact. It's a piece of history that definitely shouldn't exist. And for the head archaeologist in charge, a relic himself, it means something's gone horribly wrong. To figure out what they're really digging for, and to topple the man who wants to hide their history, these dirt-crusted colleagues have to become what they've avoided for years—friends. And they might just make the discovery of a lifetime.



March 6: **What We Talk About When We Talk About Books** by Leah Price

Reports of the death of reading are greatly exaggerated. Digital-age pundits warn that as our appetite for books dwindles, so too do the virtues in which printed, bound objects once trained us: the willpower to focus on a sustained argument, the curiosity to look beyond the day's news, the willingness to be alone. The shelves of the world's great libraries, though, tell a more complicated story.



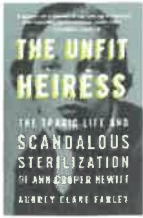
April 3: **The Latecomer** by Kao Kalia Yang

In search of a place to call home, thousands of Hmong families made the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America. Beginning in the 1970s, as the Hmong were being massacred for their collaboration with the United States during the Vietnam War, Yang recounts the harrowing story of her family's captivity, the daring rescue undertaken by her father and uncles, and their narrow escape into Thailand where Yang was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp.



May 1: **The magnificent lives of Marjorie Post** by Allison Pataki

A reimagining of the extraordinary life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, the American heiress who lived and loved on a grand scale. The tale reveals the heartbreak she endured as a wife four times over in vastly different, dramatic marriages.



June 5: **The Unfit Heiress** by Audrey Clare Farley

In 1934 the socialite Maryon Cooper Hewitt had her "promiscuous" daughter declared feeble-minded and sterilized without her knowledge. She did this to deprive Ann of millions of dollars from her father's estate, which contained a child-bearing stipulation. When a sensational court case ensued, the American public was captivated. So were eugenicists, who saw an opportunity to restrict reproductive rights in America for decades to come.



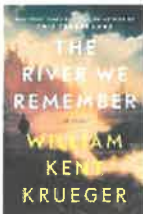
July 10: **Maniac** by Benjamín Labatut

A prodigy whose gifts terrified the people around him, John von Neumann transformed every field he touched, inventing game theory and the first programmable computer, and pioneering AI, digital life, and cellular automata. Through a chorus of family members, friends, colleagues, and rivals, see the evolution of a mind unmatched.



August 7: **Move Like Water** by Hannah Stowe

As a young girl, Hannah Stowe was raised at the tide's edge on the Pembrokeshire coast of Wales, falling asleep to the sweep of the lighthouse beam. Now in her mid-20s, working as a marine biologist and sailor, Stowe draws on her experiences sailing tens of thousands of miles to explore the human relationship with wild waters. With stories of six keystone marine creatures—the fire crow, sperm whale, wandering albatross, humpback whale, shearwater, and the barnacle—Stowe invites readers to discover the wonder and vulnerability of the underwater world.



September 4: **The River We Remember** by William Kent Krueger

When the body of a wealthy landowner is found floating in the Alabaster River on Memorial Day in 1958, Sheriff Brody Dern, a highly decorated war hero, struggles to solve this murder that has the town of Jewel, Minnesota, up in arms, while putting to rest the demons from his own past.



October 2: **Demon Copperhead : a novel** by Barbara Kingsolver

The son of an Appalachian teenager uses his good looks, wit and instincts to survive foster care, child labor, addiction, disastrous loves and crushing losses, in the new novel from the best-selling author of Unsheltered.



November 6: **The Wager** by David Grann

In this tale of shipwreck, survival and savagery, the #1 New York Times best-selling author of Killers of the Flower Moon recounts the events on His Majesty's Ship The Wager, a British vessel that left England in 1740 on a secret mission, resulting in a court martial that revealed a shocking truth.



December 4: **The Christmas Wedding** by James Patterson

Since her husband died three years ago, Gaby's four children have drifted apart and haven't celebrated Christmas together since their father's death. When Gaby announces that she's getting married—and that the groom will remain a secret until the wedding day—she may finally be able to bring them home for the holidays. But the wedding isn't Gaby's only surprise and it could change all their lives forever.