



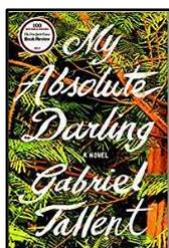
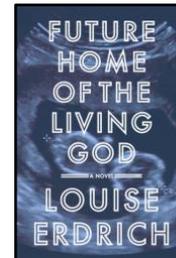
Season's Readings 2018

From the Staff of the Library at Saint Joseph's University

Anne Krakow

***Future Home of the Living God* by Louise Erdrich**

As this book tells of a dystopian future, it's not the happiest book in the crowd. However, author Erdrich portrays a quietly encroaching future in which evolution has ceased and is working in reverse. Cedar, who is four months pregnant, finds herself on the run from various factions that arise out the chaos.



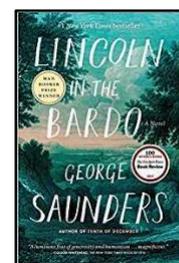
***My Absolute Darling* by Gabriel Tallent**

This book is about survival, both in the natural elements and within family structure. Turtle Alveston lives with her father, a survivalist, along the northern California coast. He teaches her about guns, foraging, and nature, but he also keeps her isolated from society. Turtle finds her outside friendships as a way out of her unlivable circumstances. A scary, psychologically chilling book.

Lesley Carey

***Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders**

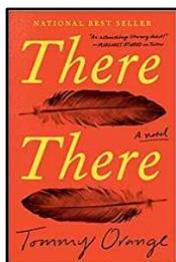
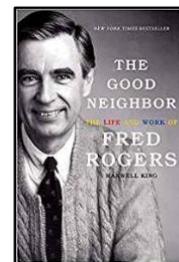
The book talks about Lincoln's grief about his son Willie's death and is in a unique style that reads like poetry though it is a novel. It made me think of poetry and re-read *The Duino Elegies* by Rainer Maria Rilke which is a beautiful book of poetry also about grief and death.



Marian Courtney

***The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers* by Maxwell King**

A well-drawn portrait of a sensitive man with creative vision and focused determination. An accomplished musician and Presbyterian minister, Fred Rogers truly embodied the kindly "neighbor" on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.



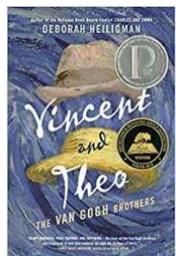
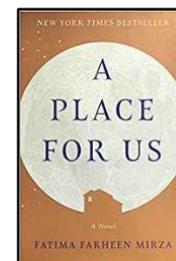
***There, There* by Tommy Orange**

Through the voices of several fictional characters, Tommy Orange shows how life can often be for urban Native Americans. Intense and honest, the loss of place is still keenly felt.

Naomi Cohen

***A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza**

An Indian-American Muslim family wrestles with faith, tradition, and cultural and individual differences. The narrative shifts back and forth in time and focuses by turns on different characters to reconsider pivotal events from multiple perspectives.



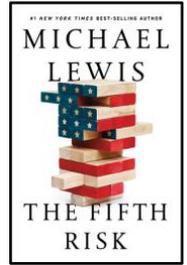
***Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers* by Deborah Heiligman**

This engrossing dual portrait based on the brothers' own correspondence sheds light on the interplay of creative genius, mental illness, and family dynamics.

Cynthia Slater

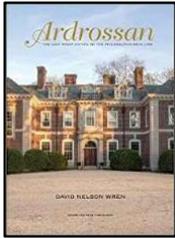
***The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis**

The latest book by the author of *Moneyball*, *Liars Poker*, and *The Big Short* takes on the changes in our federal agencies since the 2016 election.



Christopher Dixon

***Androssan: The Last Great Estate on the Philadelphia Main Line* by David Nelson Wren**

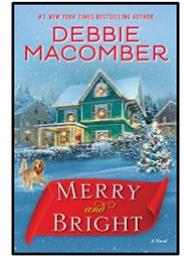


This wonderfully written and illustrated coffee table book provides a fascinating look inside the Villanova mansion of Colonel Robert Leaming Montgomery. Androssan was designed by renowned Gilded Age (1875-1915) architect, Horace Trumbauer with interiors by White Allom & Company (London). The Montgomery Family and home provided the inspiration for the Broadway play and Oscar winning movie *The Philadelphia Story* (1940).

Martha VanAuken

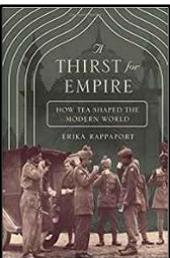
***Merry and Bright* by Debbie Macomber**

Merry Noelle Knight enjoys the decorating, baking, and giving of herself that is part of the holiday season. But working as a temp at a consulting firm for a by-the-book, ladder-climbing boss, she can't wait for the temp contract to come to an end on Christmas Eve and be done with Jayson Bright. Because of mandatory overtime, Merry doesn't have time for a social life. Signed up for a dating service without her knowledge, Merry's life is about to change when she starts chatting online with a stranger named Jay.



Daniel Holden

***A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* by Erika Rappaport**



Erika Rappaport provides an engaging look at the role of tea in world history, largely through the lens of the British Empire and global tensions between East and West. She takes up the story of tea as a plant, commodity, and cultural icon capable of providing civility, temperance, personal enjoyment, and a unifying identity crossing regional boundaries. Throughout, Rappaport demonstrates the connections between tea, empire, labor, war, science, slavery, commerce, advertising, and propaganda. Readers cannot help but realize that the content of the familiar teabag has a monumental past that has affected the lives of billions across centuries of shared history.

***Energy: A Human History* by Richard Rhodes**

Richard Rhodes traces the progression from a world fueled by wood through the adoptions of new energy sources and ways of using them for heat, lighting, and transportation. Follow along with some of the major transitions: from wood to coal, from whale oil to kerosene, from oil lamps to light bulbs, and the use of electricity derived from various fuels and sources. This book makes breakthroughs in energy and power sources accessible to those interested in the history of these developments, their notable inventors and discoverers, and the social and environmental impacts along the way. A great read for those interested in the history of technology, energy, and the things that power the modern world.

