



## Brookfield Public Library

2019 Calendar

Books are available at the Circulation Desk one month before the meeting date.

Please see bookmark insert each month for that title's selected stories.

**Thursday, January 10, 2019****1:00pm****Harnischfeger Room***Birds of a Lesser Paradise*

Megan Mayhew Bergman

Bergman's stellar debut is set among the dense forests and swamps of her native North Carolina and rooted firmly in a crumbling and economically troubled post-crash America. These short stories may be tethered to familiar Southern gothic tropes, but Bergman deftly sidesteps cliché and sentimentality, using honest autobiographical moments to make her work unique. (*Publishers Weekly*)

**Thursday, February 14, 2019****1:00pm****Harnischfeger Room***The Graybar Hotel: Stories*

Curtis Dawkins

Written by an inmate currently serving life in prison, this first collection is a powerful and closely observed depiction of life behind bars. What's freshest and most surprising here is Dawkins's absolute focus on the humanity of those behind bars—of how inmates survive, or don't, as they struggle to maintain self and sanity in the face of the tedium, deprivation, and loneliness of incarceration. A fully realized debut. (*Library Journal*)

**Thursday, March 14, 2019****1:00pm****Harnischfeger Room***Delicate Edible Birds*

Lauren Groff

Nine wildly unique, exquisitely symphonic tales, full of beauty, tragedy, and the sudden horror of shocking images—this is Groff's gift to readers. Shotgun teen marriages, mental illness, a promiscuous woman journalist in a war zone, childhood sweethearts who reconnect, a dictator's wife—Groff moves among these wholly unrelated worlds with a vision that happily traps the reader. Highly recommended. (*Library Journal*)

**Thursday, April 11, 2019****1:00pm****Harnischfeger Room***You Are Not a Stranger Here*

Adam Haslett

In his bestselling and lavishly praised first book of stories, Adam Haslett explores lives that appear shuttered by loss and discovers entire worlds hidden inside them. The impact is at once harrowing and thrilling. Told with Chekhovian restraint and compassion, and conveying both the sorrow of life and the courage with which people rise to meet it, *You Are Not a Stranger Here* is a triumph of storytelling. (*Baker & Taylor*)

**Thursday, May 9, 2019****1:00pm****Harnischfeger Room***Sleep No More: Six Murderous Tales*

P.D. James

Here's a treat for fans of the late P. D. James' crime fiction: a collection of six short stories, polished gems that spotlight her skills at plotting, building realistic characters, and conveying the subtlest hints of subtext through dialogue. Every one of these stories is first-rate, and every one of them is vintage James. A must-read for fans of one of the most influential crime-fiction authors of the twentieth century. (*Booklist*)

**Thursday, June 13, 2019****1:00pm****Harnischfeger Room***Thunderstruck*

Elizabeth McCracken

McCracken examines the connections among human beings and what happens when they lose one another. Through death, medical trauma, or some other mystery or disappearance, life changes for the individuals in these stories, not only for those who are left behind to live with the memory of their loved ones but for neighbors, acquaintances, and even strangers. Anyone who enjoys short fiction will find pleasure and substance in McCracken's witty, world-wise collection. (*Library Journal*)

**Thursday, July 11, 2019**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*Paris for One and Other Stories*

Jojo Moyes

Even those who think they don't like short stories will be charmed by this volume. The tone is light throughout, held together by a general theme of women finding themselves, either through leaving relationships, discovering new ones, or appreciating the ones they have. This brief but entertaining anthology, told with Moyes's patented mix of romance and gentle social commentary, sticks closely to the feel of her previous works, so current fans will be greatly satisfied. (*Library Journal*)

**Thursday, August 8, 2019**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Refugees*

Viet Thanh Nguyen

Each searing tale in Nguyen's follow-up to the Pulitzer-winning *The Sympathizer* is a pressure cooker of unease, simmering with unresolved issues of memory and identity for the Vietnamese whose lives were disrupted by the "American War." Nguyen is not here to sympathize—"always resent, never relent," as the anti-Communist exiles proclaimed in *The Sympathizer*—but to challenge the experience of white America as the invisible norm (*Publishers Weekly*)

**Thursday, September 12, 2019**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*

ZZ Packer

The clear-voiced humanity of Packer's characters, mostly black teenage girls, resonates unforgettably through the stories of this accomplished debut collection. Several tales are set in black communities in the South and explore the identity crises of God-fearing, economically disenfranchised teens and young women. Packer knows how to keep the tone provocative and tense at the close of each tale, doing justice to the complexity and dignity of the characters and their difficult choices. (*Publishers Weekly*)

**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*Anything Is Possible*

Elizabeth Strout

Strout achieves new levels of masterful storytelling. Damaged lives can be redeemed but, as she eloquently demonstrates in this powerful, sometimes shocking, often emotionally wrenching novel, the emotional scars can last forever. Here Strout reveals specific details of the horrible circumstances in which the title character from her previous novel, *My Name Is Lucy Barton*, and her siblings were raised, proving Tolstoy's observation that each family is unhappy in its own way. (*Publishers Weekly*)

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*Last Stories*

William Trevor

The situations behind Trevor's beautifully composed stories revolve around themes of personal cruelty, romantic and marital heartbreak, lover betrayal, and even violent death, and he has long established himself as a writer of great charity for the ordinary person and sympathy for the hard knocks of unheralded lives. Trevor's characterizations step to the fore as the major aspect of his writerly genius. Trevor will long reign as a literary master. (*Booklist*)

**Thursday, December 12, 2019**

**1:00pm**

**Harnischfeger Room**

*The Water Museum: Stories*

Luis Alberto Urrea

Urrea's collection of darkly funny stories explores racial politics and amorphous cultural lines, set primarily in the Southwest. Urrea has a wonderful eye for details and captures each story's context with wonderfully sharp observations. These stories are vibrant, tender, and invoke a strong sense of place. (*Publishers Weekly*)

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