

YPBC LIFE GROUP **BOOK CLUB**

Are you a reader? Do you like to discuss books that you have read? Then this group is for you. For more information and to register, please contact the church office at office@yorkminsterpark.com

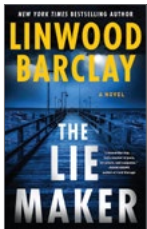
When: Third Tuesday of each month from September 2023 to June 2024 (no December meeting)

Where: by Zoom | **Time:** 7:30– 8:30 p.m.



Sept. 19, 2023 - Run Towards the Danger: Confrontations with a Body of Memory - By Sarah Polley

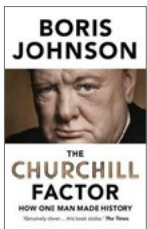
In this intimate collection of autobiographical essays, Canadian Oscar-nominated screenwriter, director, and actor Sarah Polley delves into her past to illuminate powerful truths about post-traumatic memory, our relationship to the body, and how we tell our stories. Each of the literary essays in Run Towards the Danger captures a piece of Sarah's life, as she remembers it, while at the same time examining the fallibility of memory, the mutability of reality as it is constructed in the mind, and the possibility of experiencing the past anew, as the person you are now but were not then. By turning to her own past, Sarah draws out questions of individual morality and of structural violence that affect and implicate us all. Woven into this devastating and uplifting story of trauma, love, and survival is a reminder not to succumb to the familiar pain and fear when it threatens to overcome you. When you think you've reached your threshold, when the danger feels close: run towards it.



Oct. 17, 2023 - The Lie Maker - By Linwood Barclay

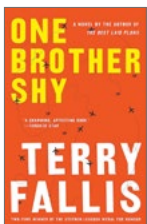
In this twisty, fast-paced thriller a man desperately tries to track down his father—who was taken into witness protection years ago – before his enemies can get to him. “Your dad’s not a good person. Your dad killed people, son.” These are some of the last words Jack Givins’ father spoke to him before he was whisked away by witness protection. Years later, Jack is a grown man with problems of his own. He’s a talented but struggling author, barely scraping by on the royalties from his moderately successful first book. When the U.S. Marshals start recruiting writers like Jack to create false histories for people in witness protection – people like Jack’s father, he’s in no position to turn them down.

The coincidence is astonishing to Jack at first, but he soon realizes this may be a chance to find his dad. Only there’s one problem – Jack’s father hasn’t made contact with his handlers recently, and they have no idea where he is. He could be in serious danger, and Jack may be the only one who can find him.



Nov. 21, 2023 - The Churchill Factor - By Boris Johnson

Taking on the myths and misconceptions along with the outsized reality, Johnson portrays, a man of contagious bravery, breathtaking eloquence, matchless strategizing, and deep humanity. Fearless on the battlefield, Churchill had to be ordered by the king to stay out of action on D-day; he pioneered aerial bombing and few could match his experience in organizing violence on a colossal scale, yet he hated war and scorned politicians who had not experienced its horrors. His open-mindedness made him a trailblazer in health care, education, and social welfare, though he remained incorrigibly politically incorrect. Most of all, he was a rebuttal to the idea that history is the story of vast and impersonal forces; he is proof that one person can make all the difference.



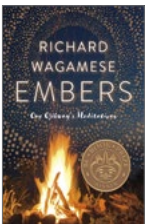
Jan. 16, 2024 - One Brother Shy - By Terry Fallis - NOTE the author will be joining us.

Few people know the real Alex MacAskill. Most of the world sees a painfully shy software engineer in his mid-20s, soft-spoken, a bit of a loner, and someone easy to escape notice wherever possible – and that’s just the way Alex wants it. Because no matter how many years have passed, the incident known only as “Gabriel” in the MacAskill family is something that still haunts him. But when his mother, one of the only people in the world who Alex felt comfortable as himself around, dies after a long illness, he suddenly has no choice but to face the very thing that he’s been avoiding since that night in high school. In an instant, Alex finds himself trying to piece together the mystery of his identity, and on a search for parts of his family he never knew existed – a search that takes him from Ottawa to London to Moscow, encountering along the way echoes of the Cold War, painful memories from his past, and even the 1972 Russian hockey team – a search that ultimately helps Alex discover himself.



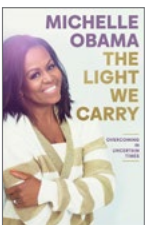
Feb. 20, 2024 - My Seven Black Fathers: A Young Activist's Memoir of Race, Family, and the Mentors Who Made Him Whole - By Will Jawando

Will Jawando tells a deeply affirmative story of hope and respect for men of color at a time when Black men are routinely stigmatized. As a boy growing up outside DC, Will, who went by his Nigerian name, Yemi, was shunted from school to school, never quite fitting in. He was a Black kid with a divorced white mother, a frayed relationship with his biological father, and teachers who scolded him for being disruptive in class and on the playground. Eventually, he became close to Kalfani, a kid he looked up to on the basketball court. Years after he got the call telling him that Kalfani was dead, another sickening casualty of gun violence, Will looks back on the relationships with an extraordinary series of mentors that enabled him to thrive. Among them were Mr. Williams, the rare Black male grade school teacher; Jay Fletcher, the openly gay colleague of his mother; Mr. Holmes, the high school coach and chorus director; Deen Sanwoola, the businessman who helped him bridge the gap between his American upbringing and his Nigerian heritage; and President Barack Obama, who made Will his associate director of public engagement at the White House. Without the influence of these men, Will knows he would not be who he is today: a civil rights and education policy attorney, a civic leader, a husband, and a father.



Mar. 19, 2024 - Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations - By Richard Wagamese

In this carefully curated selection of everyday reflections, Wagamese finds lessons in both the mundane and sublime as he muses on the universe, drawing inspiration from working in the bush – sawing and cutting and stacking wood for winter as well as the smudge ceremony to bring him closer to the Creator. Embers is perhaps his most personal volume to date. Honest, evocative and articulate, he explores the various manifestations of grief, joy, recovery, beauty, gratitude, physicality and spirituality – concepts many find hard to express. But for Wagamese, spirituality is multifaceted. Within these pages, readers will find hard-won wisdom on how to feel the joy in the everyday things.



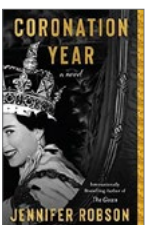
Apr. 16, 2024 - The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times - By Michelle Obama

There may be no tidy solutions or pithy answers to life's big challenges, but Michelle Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux. In *The Light We Carry*, she opens a frank and honest dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much? Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress. Drawing from her experiences as a mother, daughter, spouse, friend, and First Lady, she shares the habits and principles she has developed to successfully adapt to change and overcome various obstacles – the wisdom that helps her continue to “become.”



May 21, 2024 - Old Filth - By Jane Gardam

Sir Edward Feathers has had a brilliant career, from his early days as a lawyer in Southeast Asia, where he earned the nickname Old Filth (FILTH being an acronym for Failed In London Try Hong Kong) to his final working days as a respected judge at the English bar. Yet through it all he has carried with him the wounds of a difficult and emotionally hollow childhood. Now an eighty-year-old widower living in comfortable seclusion in Dorset, Feathers is finally free from the regimen of work and the sentimental scaffolding that has sustained him throughout his life. He slips back into the past with ever mounting frequency and intensity, and on the tide of these vivid, lyrical musings, Feathers approaches a reckoning with his own history. Not all the old filth, it seems, can be cleaned away.



Jun. 18, 2024 - Coronation Year - By Jennifer Robson

It is Coronation Year, 1953, and a new queen is about to be crowned. The people of London are in a mood to celebrate, none more so than the residents of the Blue Lion hotel. Edie Howard, owner and operator of the floundering Blue Lion, has found the miracle she needs: on Coronation Day, Queen Elizabeth in her gold coach will pass by the hotel's front door, allowing Edie to charge a fortune for rooms and, barring disaster, save her beloved home from financial ruin. Edie's luck might just be turning, all thanks to a young queen about her own age.

When anonymous threats focused on Coronation Day, the Blue Lion, and even the queen herself disrupt their mood of happy optimism, Edie and her friends must race to uncover the truth, save their home, and expose those who seek to erase the joy and promise of Coronation Year.