

## Youngstown Free Library

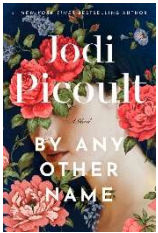
240 Lockport St. Youngstown, NY 14174

(716) 745-3555

[www.youngstownfreelibrary.org](http://www.youngstownfreelibrary.org)

## Afternoon Book Club's reading choices for 2026

Here are the books we will be discussing at these meeting dates:

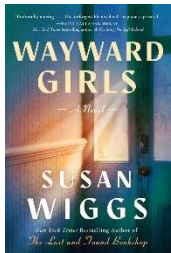


### Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult

"Young playwright Melina Green has just written a new work inspired by the life of her Elizabethan ancestor Emilia Bassano. [...] [Then] her best friend [...] submits the play to a festival under a male pseudonym.

In 1581, young Emilia Bassano is a ward of English aristocrats. [...] She begins to form a plan to secretly bring a play of her own to the stage—by paying an actor named William Shakespeare to front her work.

Told in intertwining timelines, *By Any Other Name*, a sweeping tale of ambition, courage, and desire centers two women who are determined to create something beautiful despite the prejudices they face. Should a writer do whatever it takes to see her story live on . . . no matter the cost? This remarkable novel, rooted in primary historical sources, ensures the name Emilia Bassano will no longer be forgotten."



### Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *Wayward Girls* by Susan Wiggs

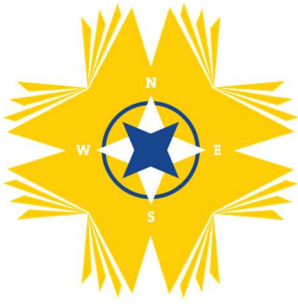
"In 1968 we meet six teens confined at the Good Shepherd -- a dark and secretive institution controlled by Sisters of Charity nuns -- locked away merely for being gay, pregnant, or simply unruly. [...] *Wayward Girls* is a haunting but thrilling tale of hope, solidarity, and the enduring strength of young women who find the courage to break free and find redemption...and justice."



### Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *A Marriage at Sea: a true story of love, obsession, and shipwreck* by Sophie Elmhirst

"The electrifying true story of a young couple shipwrecked at sea: a mind-blowing tale of obsession, survival, and partnership stretched to its limits. Maurice and Maralyn make an odd couple. He's a loner, awkward and obsessive; she's charismatic and ambitious. But they share a horror of wasting their lives. And they dream - as we all dream - of running away from it all. What if they quit their jobs, sold their house, bought a boat, and sailed away? [...] And in June 1972, they set sail. For nearly a year all went well, until deep in the

Pacific, a breaching whale knocked a hole in their boat and it sank beneath the waves. What ensues is a jaw-dropping fight to survive on the wild ocean, with little hope of rescue. [...] Taut, propulsive, and dazzling, *A Marriage at Sea* pairs adrenaline-fueled high seas adventure with a gutting love story that asks why we love difficult people, and who we become under the most extreme conditions imaginable."



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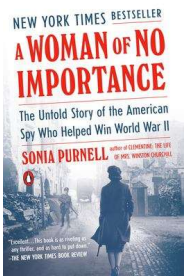
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### **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 pm: *The Last Chance Library* by Freya Sampson**

"June Jones emerges from her shell to fight for her beloved local library, and through the efforts and support of an eclectic group of library patrons, she discovers life-changing friendships along the way. Lonely librarian June Jones has never left the sleepy English village where she grew up. Shy and reclusive, the thirty-year-old would rather spend her time buried in books than venture out into the world. But when her library is threatened with closure, June is forced to emerge from behind the shelves to save the heart of her community and the place that holds the dearest memories of her mother. Joining a band

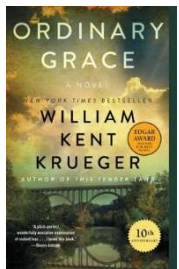
of eccentric yet dedicated locals in a campaign to keep the library, June opens herself up to other people for the first time since her mother died."



### **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *A Woman of No Importance: the untold story of the American spy who helped win WWII* by Sonia Purnell**

"The never-before-told story of one woman's heroism that changed the course of the Second World War In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: 'She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her.' This spy was Virginia Hall, a young American woman--rejected from the foreign service because of her gender and her prosthetic leg--who talked her way into the spy organization dubbed Churchill's 'ministry of ungentlemanly warfare,' and, before the United States had even entered the

war, became the first woman to deploy to occupied France. Virginia Hall was one of the greatest spies in American history, yet her story remains untold."



### **Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger**

"New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. [...] It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. [...] Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family--which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother--he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly

called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years."

When you are ready to read, please contact the Library and request the book title you'd like. Please plan to request your book(s) 1-2 weeks before you plan to start reading.

We meet at the Lewiston Senior Center the third Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email Sonora at 716-745-3555 or [smiller@nioga.org](mailto:smiller@nioga.org)