

**Friends of the Library 2011-2012 Book Review Series**

**Second Wednesdays December 14, 2011 – May 9, 2012, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**In the Winter Haven Public Library Multi-Purpose Room**

**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 Gathering to meet and greet the reviewer  
Refreshments sponsored by Bob Ference of Ingram Financial**

**December 14: Don Ingram reviews RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT**

By Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosen

*"It's hardly news that the near meltdown of America's financial system enriched a few at the expense of the rest of us. Who's responsible? The recent report of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission blamed all the usual suspects — Wall Street banks, financial regulators, the mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and subprime lenders — which is tantamount to blaming no one. "Reckless Endangerment" concentrates on particular individuals who played key roles." —Robert Reich*

**January 11: Betty Shinn reviews CROSSING THE CREEK: The Literary  
Friendship of Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings**

**By Anna Lillios**

*One of the twentieth century's most intriguing and complicated literary friendships was between Zora Neal Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. When they met, both were at the height of their literary powers. Hurston, the daughter of an Alabama slave and Rawlings, a transplanted upper-middle-class Yankee. Crossing the Creek is the first book to examine the productive and complex relationship between these two major figures. Using interviews with individuals who knew both women, as well as incisive readings of surviving letters, Lillios examines their friendship and answers many questions.*

**February 8: Maxine Giberson reviews Jodi Picoult's works**

including CHANGE OF HEART, MY SISTER'S KEEPER, NINETEEN MINUTES, AND  
SONGS OF THE HUMPBACK WHALE

*Writing with a sharp eye for detail and a firm grasp of the complexity of human relationships, Picoult never shies away from controversial issues, such as gay rights and reproductive science. She forces us to consider both sides of hot topics with her trademark impeccable research, family dynamics, and courtroom drama.*

**March 14: Jane McGinnis reviews STILL ALICE**

a debut novel by Lisa Genova

*This novel is a compelling tale of a brilliant, fifty-year-old Harvard psychology professor, Alice Howland who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. It is well written; the story is told from the inside looking out. As readers we become a part of the discovery.*

**April 11: Matthew Curtis Sumner reviews THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA**

by Michael Pollen

*Michael Pollen explores the ecology of eating to unveil why we consume what we consume in the twenty-first century. He has divided *The Omnivore's Dilemma* into three parts, one for each of the food chains that sustain us: industrialized food, alternative or "organic" food, and food people obtain by dint of their own hunting, gathering, or gardening. We are indeed what we eat-and what we eat remakes the world. A society of voracious and increasingly confused omnivores, we are just beginning to recognize the profound consequences of the simplest everyday food choices, both for ourselves and for the natural world.*

**May 9: Charles Warren** will compare **A STOLEN LIFE** by Jaycee Dugard and **ROOM** by Emma Donoghue

*"In the summer of 1991 I was a normal kid. I did normal things. I had friends and a mother who loved me. I was just like you. Until the day my life was stolen. For eighteen years I was a prisoner. I was an object for someone to use and abuse. For eighteen years I was not allowed to speak my own name. I became a mother and was forced to be a sister. For eighteen years I survived an impossible situation. On August 26, 2009, I took my name back. My name is Jaycee Lee Dugard. I don't think of myself as a victim. I survived. **A STOLEN LIFE** is my story—in my own words, in my own way, exactly as I remember it."*

*To five-year-old Jack, *Room* is the entire world. It is where he was born and grew up; it's where he lives with his Ma as they learn and read and eat and sleep and play. Told entirely in the language of the energetic, pragmatic five-year-old Jack, **ROOM** is a celebration of resilience and the limitless bond between parent and child, a brilliantly executed novel about what it means to journey from one world to another.*