

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2016

Welcome to the October 2016 issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

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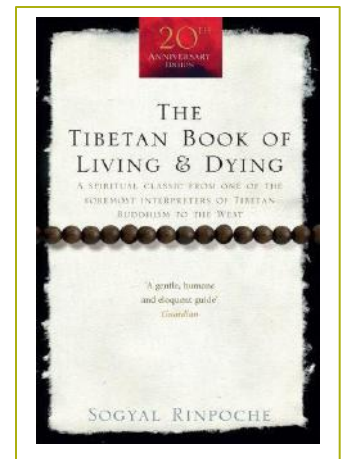
***The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* by Sogyal Rinpoche**

We are humans and we all swim in the emotions of love, hatred, anger, etc. Just in a moment we become happy and within the flicker of time we become sad. We argue, we play and within no time we become angry. Especially, we young bloods are very sensitive. Rarely do we take a moment to stop and think about life, we forget the certain fact that eventually we have to die. We have busy schedules, we have tests, assignments, relation problems and what not things. All we do is think about ourselves, we pray, we wish but do we ever pray or wish without expecting anything in return? Majority of us do good things only to benefit ourselves later.

Even I was very sensitive. There were days when I became sad without reasons, certain anxiety that ruined my mood, but after reading this philosophical book, *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* by Sogyal Rinpoche, I regained my mental peace. This book reminds us of the inevitability of death and I must say this book has positive vibes which will only make you a better person. The essence of meditation and mindfulness explained in this book will definitely change your attitude. Therefore, I recommend this book especially to immature mind like us who are all dwelling under the shelter of emotions. **Sonam Pakhi, Student BA Eng & Dzo**

Location: MAIN

Call No. : 245.321 R582t 2002



Quotes:

“The gift of learning to meditate is the greatest gift you can give yourself in this life. For it is only through meditation that you can undertake the journey to discover your true nature, and so find the stability and confidence you will need to live, and die, well. Meditation is the road to enlightenment.”

“What is it I hope for from this book? To inspire a quiet revolution in the whole way we look at death and care for the dying and the whole way we look at life, and care for the living.”

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

Memoirs of a Geisha takes place during the 1930s and 1940s in Japan, before and after World War II. This is a story of a geisha's life: the transformation of a small nine-year-old girl, Chiyo to celebrated geisha, Sayuri Nitta. After Chiyo's mother falls ill, her father, a poor fisherman, sells his two young daughters: Chiyo and Satsu, to Tanaka - a renowned business man, who later hands Chiyo to a geisha house and Satsu to a brothel.

As Sayuri enters the world of the geisha, she becomes aware of the role of beauty in her society. When Sayuri looks at Hatsumomo for the first time, Sayuri is utterly speechless and awestruck by her beauty. "Even then, amid all my fears, I couldn't help noticing how extraordinary Hatsumomo's beauty was." As Sayuri progresses through the challenging ordeal of a geisha's apprenticeship, she is amazed by her own beauty in full make-up and kimono. Sayuri becomes a successful geisha and confidently carries beauty as her integral identity.

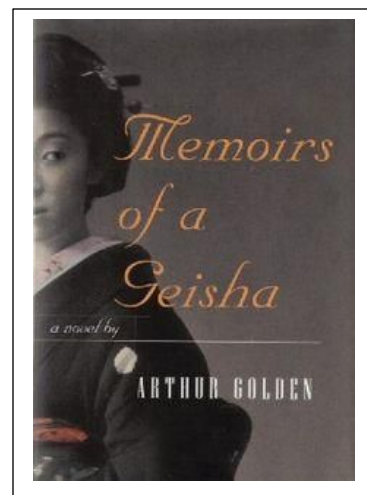
Memoirs of a Geisha is narrated from a first person's point of view through the eyes of Sayuri. The author's ability to tell the story through a geisha's eyes removes western misconceptions about geishas. He explains that "gei" of "geisha" means "arts," thus the word "geisha" refers to an "artisan" or "artist". A geisha sells her skills, not her body. She entertains audience with her songs, dances, and tea ceremonies. Bidding for *mizuage* (virginity) and choosing *danna* (patron) are entirely a geisha's choice.

At nine, Chiyo searches for her sister. She finds Satsu among a group of girls wearing a similar dress to geishas. But their *obis* are tied in the front rather than the back. Innocent Chiyo does not understand that her sister was sold into prostitution. In womanhood, Chiyo is told by Mameha (an older geisha) that prostitutes tie *obis* in the front because it is less tedious for a prostitute to take her sash off and on all night.

Memoirs of a Geisha places readers inside Japanese culture and lends a geisha's eye as we view her secret world of beauty and power. It addresses major themes like beauty, power dynamics and gender relationships as well as minor themes of deception and jealousy. Golden's extensive research on Japan: its history, language, and of course, geisha tradition often times makes us forget that *Memoirs of a Geisha* is a tale of fiction. **Ugyen Tshomo, Asst. Librarian**

Location: FIC

Call No. FIC G6185m



Quotes:

"But now I know that our world is no more permanent than a wave rising on the ocean. Whatever our struggles and triumphs, however we may suffer them, all too soon they bleed into wash, just like watery ink on paper."

"You cannot say to the sun, "More sun." Or to the rain, "Less rain." To a man, geisha can only be half a wife. We are the wives of nightfall. And yet, to learn kindness after so much unkindness, to understand that a little girl with more courage than she knew, would find her prayers were answered, can that not be called happiness? After all these are not the memoirs of an empress, or of a queen. These are memoirs of another kind..."

A Home in Tibet by Tshering Wangmo

Dhompma

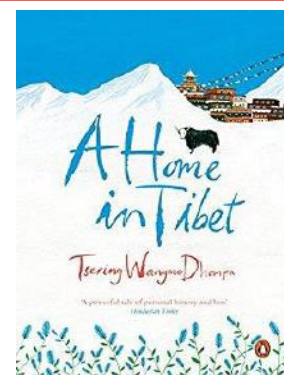
A Home in Tibet is deeply personal book that eloquently captures the reflections, longings, and occasional anger of an exiled Tibetan. Dhompma, who is also a published poet, writes about how the sudden death of her beloved mother prompted her to travel to her mother's birthplace in Eastern Tibet. The repeated trips "home" become a way for her to connect with her mother's stories about the land and her family, as well as providing Dhompma an opportunity to reflect on her own identity as a contemporary Tibetan in exile.

Dhompma is able to paint an engaging and nuanced portrayal of a land and people that she knows through her mother's stories but who she is also discovering first hand through her own travels. This is still the Tibet her mother remembers yet it is also a completely changed place, grappling with the impacts of political, economic and cultural change.

The book is partially a travelogue, partially a grief memoir, and partially a political argument against the continued occupation of Tibet but line for beautiful line, it is poetry. **Dolma Choden Roder, Social Sciences Faculty**

Location: MAIN

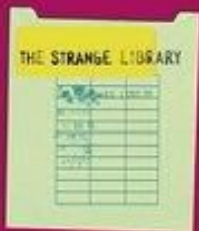
Call No.: 951.505 D53h 2014



Quote:

"Powerful deities, for all their strength, are very much like humans, they are subjects to periods of despair and are not free from the crippling consequences of emotions. For over two decades Tibetans were forbidden from holding any religious ceremonies or prayers. No prayer flags, incense or ceremonies were offered to the deities and demi-gods of the region. This neglect broke their hearts and they became bedraggled and weak."

MURAKAMI



Quotes:

"But, hey, this kind of thing's going on in libraries everywhere, you know. More or less, that is."

"If all they did was lend out knowledge for free, what would the payoff be for them?"

"The sheep man isn't bad. He has a kind heart. But the old man terrifies him."

The Strange Library by Haruki Murakami

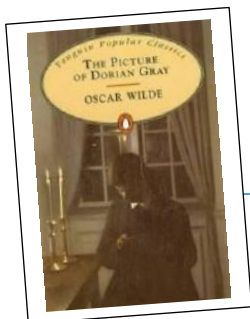
The Strange Library by Haruki Murakami is one strange little book. The illustrations (most are from books housed in the London Library) are a fun addition to the story. The picture following the librarian opening the locked door is sure to make you laugh (at least it did me).

The story: A young boy enters the city library to return his books. He tells the librarian he is looking for more books, this time on Ottoman tax collection (a subject that has just popped into this head). He is directed to door number 107. He is told these books cannot be checked out and is led downstairs to a reading room by an old male librarian. Or is it a reading room? The frightened and bewildered boy is told he has 30 days to memorize the content of each book or an awful fate awaits him. Locked into the bowels of the library, can he escape?

If you are a Murakami fan, you'll want to read this odd short story that reads like something from Kafka. It won't take you but an hour or two to finish. And... if you have ever wondered why librarians are so smart... haha - here's your answer. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: MAIN

Call No.: 895.635 M9723s 2014



Read the book, watch the movie!



The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Early in the book, Basil, who has painted Dorian's picture, says to his friend, Lord Henry, "Harry, I despise your principles but I do enjoy the way you express them."

I love this line and it nicely reflects the reason why I enjoyed the book and Harry's cynical posturing so much. Wilde's characters are quite loathsome and yet the dialogue is wonderfully executed. Wilde has skillfully taken a cast of unlikable people with repulsive ideas and opinions and has created a very entertaining, expressive novel depicting the decadence of the privileged upper class in 19th century Britain.

The character of Harry, is vital to the tale. It is Harry's cynicism that makes the story amusing and readable even though Harry is sexist, classist, and completely contemptuous of love, marriage, all things really. To Harry, pleasure in life is paramount. And yet, Harry, himself - whose hedonistic views wield such power over the mind of Dorian Gray, and indeed turn the young, innocent young man into a cold, heartless man - leads a lackluster life. One might say, Harry is all talk and no action. Whereas Dorian takes to heart and puts into action the poison that Harry expounds.

Dorian, upon gazing at the exquisite painting Basil has painted of him, says he would sell his soul if the painting would age while he kept his youth. Dorian is granted his ill-conceived wish. The painting not only ages; it shows the effects of all the unkind and harmful acts Dorian commits. Dorian, fearful that others might glimpse his soul, locks the picture in an upstairs room.

There have been numerous adaptations of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The one we have on the MSS is the B&W movie produced in 1945, a version considered by many to be the best adaptation.

There are interesting differences between the book and the film, although overall, they neither contribute nor detract from the book. Characters are added and modified and Dorian is no longer the blonde wonder boy he is in the book. The painting, the only item of color in the movie, ages in a far more disfigured and grotesque manner than the picture I had created in my mind.

I found Harry's character in the book more compelling than in the movie. My major complaint of the movie is its failure to portray Harry's eloquent, flamboyant cynicism.

The Book:

Location: MAIN

Call No.: 823.912 W671p 1994

The Movie:

Is available on the MSS

This month: Parkinson's Disease

Lyonpo: Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering's Milestones and Parkinson's Disease

Is a moving account of Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering's career and how the onset and progression of Parkinson's Disease has affected his life.

This documentary is available to copy from the MSS. It is located in the folder: MSS Documentary– Documentary Shows -- Bhutan

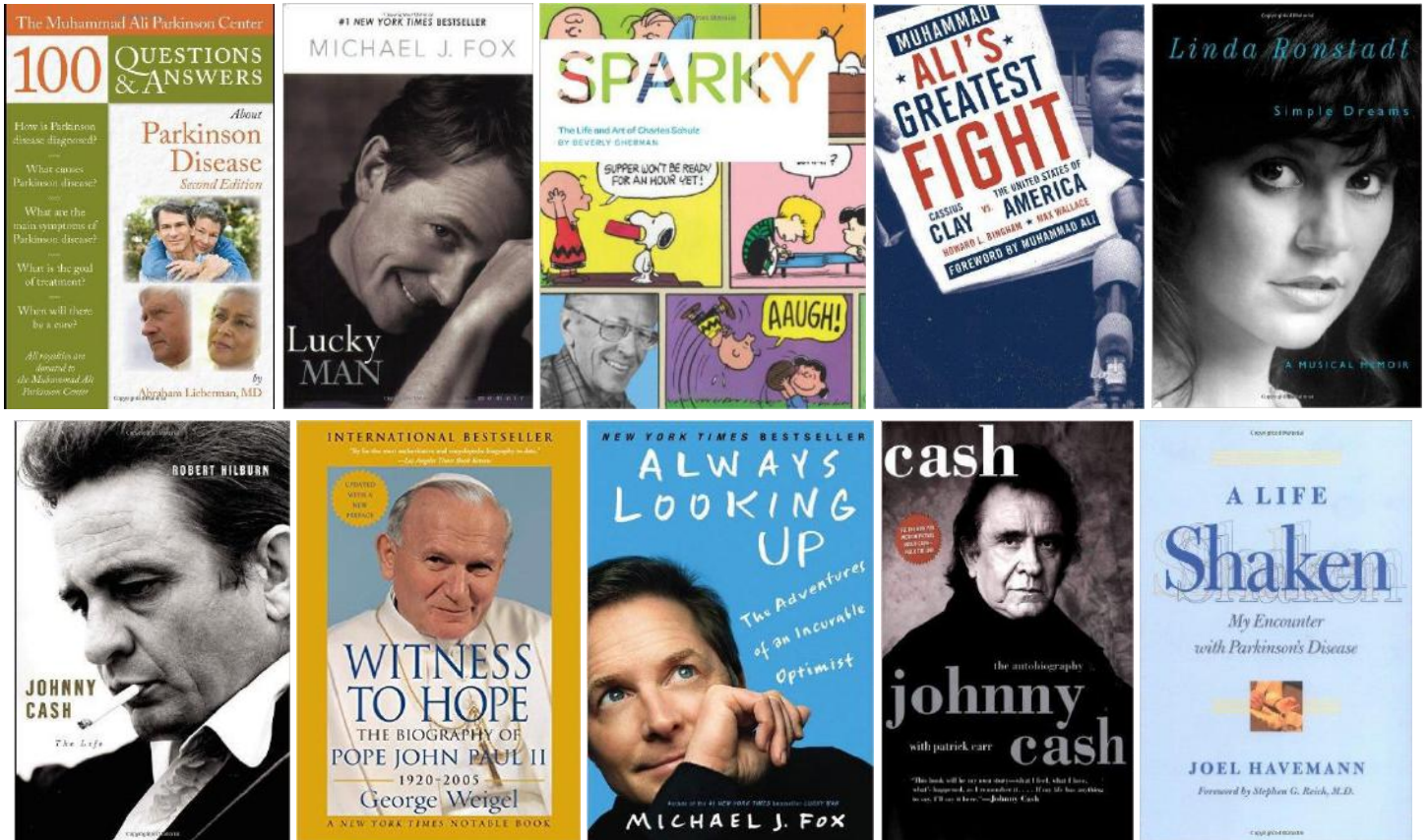
Did you know that Parkinson's Disease is one of the most common nervous system disorders?

It affects people everywhere. More men are affected by the disease than women. It is often diagnosed after the age of 50, although actor Michael J. Fox was diagnosed with Parkinson's at the age of 30, NBA star, Brian Grant at 37, and the great boxer, Muhammad Ali at 42.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disease. It often begins with a small hand tremor until it eventually affects most parts of the body. While there is currently no cure for Parkinson's Disease, research continues to make advances every day.

The cause of Parkinson's disease remains a mystery and doctors are unable to predict who will develop it and who won't. In addition to Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering, the following prominent people have also been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease: sport stars: Brian Grant and Muhammad Ali, evangelist: Billy Graham, singers and musicians: Linda Ronstadt, Johnny Cash, and Maurice White, former US Attorney General: Janet Reno, Pope John Paul II, actors: Michael J. Fox, Bob Hoskins, Estelle Getty, and Bill Connolly, Los Angeles Times senior editor: Joel Havemann, and Peanut's creator: Charles Schultz.

Interested to read more about the disease and these people? The following autobiographies and biographies are available on the MSS.



OCL STUDENTS IN THE LIBRARY



Upcoming News from the Reading Club

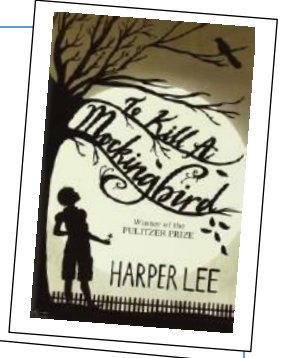
Mark your calendars!

The Reading Club will meet on October 18 to discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Come join us to discuss Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel told by Scout, as a young girl growing up in Maycomb, Alabama in the 1930s as she learns of injustice and violence when her father, a widowed lawyer, defends a black man falsely accused of rape.

Venue: Executive Centre

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Date: 18th October (Tuesday)



The book is available to download from the MSS.

Lily Wangchuk will join the Reading Club on October 25 to talk about the Status of Women in Bhutan.

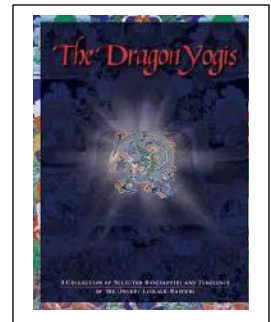
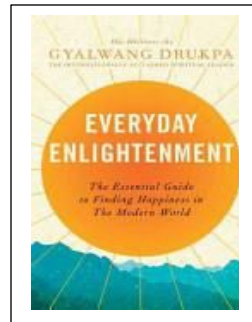
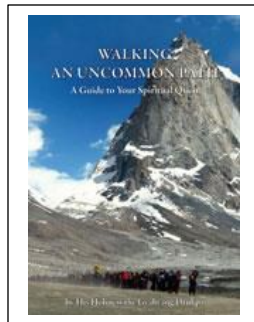
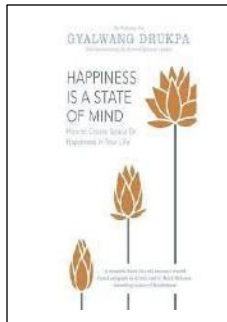
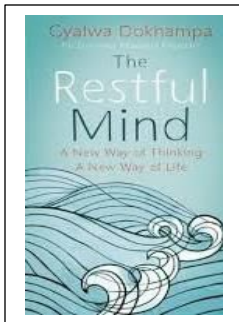
Venue: Executive Centre

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Date: 25th October (Tuesday)

On Wednesday, October 5, the College was treated to a thought provoking and practical talk by Khamtruel Rinpoche and Dr. Chencho Dorji on Anger Management. The Library has the following titles by Drukpa masters, His Eminence the Gyalwa Dokhampa (Khamtruel Rinpoche) and His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa along with the book *The Dragon Yogis: a collection of selected biographies and teachings of the Drukpa Lineage masters*.

Come check them out.



Book recommendations:

Have you read a good book recently? Want to share your recommendation with others? Send it to amckinney@rtc.bt or come by the library and see me. Thanks!