

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016



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

In this issue: Recommended Reads

“Read the Book-Watch the Movie”: The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

This Month: The updated Library Website

Reading Club News and Upcoming Events

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

***A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini**

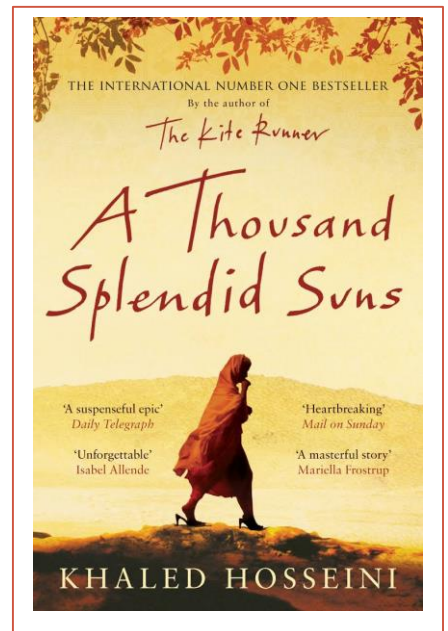
Mariam lives in a small village called Herat with her unmarried mother who tells her that the one and only thing women like them can learn is to Endure. But Mariam dreams big. She wants to be a part of her rich and handsome father’s lawful family. When she recklessly crosses the stream and goes all the way into Herat to meet him, she comes to know a bitter truth about her kind father. Maybe her mother was right. But it’s too late now.

After her father weds her to a stranger who’s three times older than her, she has to wear a burka and hide upstairs when guests visit. Following several miscarriages, her hope of getting affection from her husband goes aground. Hosseini shows what value a woman has in a society where her sole purpose is to reproduce... male children.

Mariam’s life takes a turn when it collides with the life of a young girl from the same neighborhood. When Laila loses her family and the best friend she was in love with, Mariam’s husband comes to the rescue. But no favor is untainted. What does Laila have to sacrifice for the sake of her lover’s unborn? And how would that change Mariam’s life? To find out, read Khaled Hosseini’s New York Time’s Bestseller “*A Thousand Splendid Suns*”. **Kezang Choden, Student BA Soc & Pol**

LOCATION: FIC

CALL NO.: FIC H829†



Quotes:

“One could not count the moons that shimmer on her roofs, or the thousand splendid suns that hide behind her wall.”

“Learn this now and learn it well, my daughter: Like a compass needle that points north, a man’s accusing finger always finds a woman. Always. You remember that, Mariam.”

***A Thief of Time* by Tony Hillerman**

Meet the legendary Joe Leaphorn (planning to retire in just a few days) and the younger Jim Chee, two Navajo tribal policemen, as they join forces to solve the mysterious disappearance of a noted woman anthropologist last seen leaving her quarters at Chaco Culture National Park. Their tangential searches take them across the expansive 27,000 square mile Navajo Nation, from New Mexico to Arizona and Utah.

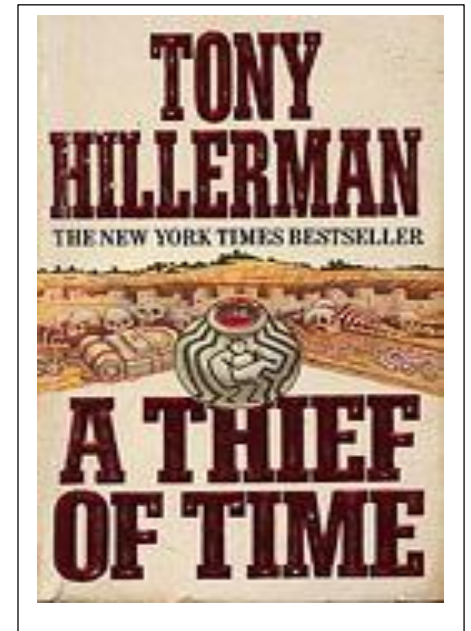
A Thief of Time is an enjoyable page turning mystery filled with interesting subplots. Hillerman brings to life his characters and the beautiful Four Corners Region of the American Southwest.

I was fortunate to live in Durango, Colorado for ten years and visited many of the places and the Anasazi ruins (including Chaco Canyon) Hillerman writes so vividly about.

If you like detective stories, you'll enjoy this one. And...we have more of his mysteries on the MSS.

Not sure about the genre? This is an excellent book to whet your appetite. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

LOCATION: MSS



Quotes:

"Why was he doing this on his day off? But he knew why. Much as Leaphorn irritated him, he wanted the man to pat him on the head. To say, 'Good job, kid.'"

"The reservation occupied more space than all of New England, but it had a population of no more than 150,000. In a lifetime of policing it, Leaphorn had met, in one way or another, a lot of its inhabitants."

Did you know?

- Some linguists claim that the language of the Athabaskan peoples (including the Navajos) originated from Tibetan.
- Anthropologists have been studying the similarities between Tibetan sand mandalas and Navajo sand paintings.

Want to read more?

[Relatives Halfway Round the World: Southern Athabascans and Southern Tarim Fugitives](#)

***Dogs at the Perimeter* by Madeleine Thien**

In *Dogs at the Perimeter*, Thien weaves a touching story that takes place in both the present and the past. The past, begins in Phenom Penh as the Khmer Rouge drive Janie and her family out from their beloved city into the countryside for what they say will only be a few days. This is only the first of the ruthless lies the Khmer soldiers tell. The city dwellers are considered the "new people" and the intelligentsia are despised by the Angkar regime. They face physical labor, starvation, separation from family, and for many torture and death. Janie's father, a translator, is one of the first to be taken into the woods, never to return.

It is interesting that as the storyteller, we never know Janie's name before she is given the name Mei by the Khmer Rouge. Mei is separated from her mother, who weakens and dies, and her ten year old brother, Sopham, who in order to survive is recruited into the Khmer Rouge. One day, during an interrogation, which ends in the prisoner's death, Sopham, now known as Rithy discovers a map that leads to a cave.

Fast forward to the present, Janie (a name she takes in the aid camps) has built a successful life in Canada. She is an accomplished scientist, married, with a ten year old son, Kiri. But too many thoughts and emotions from the past are rising to the surface.

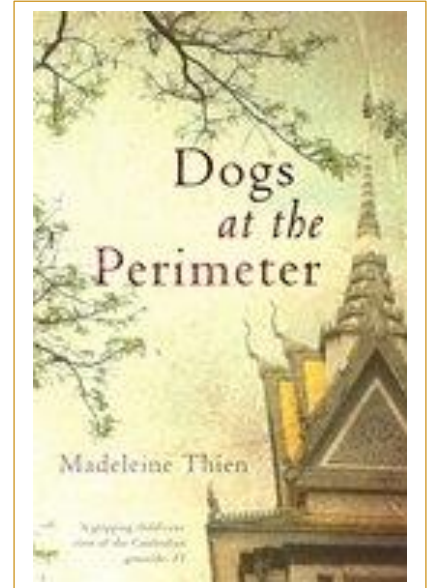
Years before, she met Hiroji, a brilliant yet sad man, whose family migrated to British Columbia after the Japanese were defeated in WWII. Hiroji has been searching for his older brother, Ichiro on and off for thirty years. After his mother dies he tells Janie, "I stopped looking. I wanted to be free of him." Although Ichiro (now known as James) survives, he never returns to Canada nor contacts Hiroji.

And yet, years later Hiroji cannot let go and is filled with the need to find James. He has kept bits of information gathered over the years, has asked Janie for help, and then one day he just disappears, leaving no trace. Janie, whose own life is unraveling, takes shelter in Hiroji's abandoned apartment. On a call made to Cambodia, in faltering Khmer, Janie discovers there are letters addressed to James from a woman named Sorya. And so... Janie goes in search of her friend.

Each chapter is named for a character - an effective way to weave their stories together over the course of many years. *Dogs at the Perimeter* is a moving account of the lasting effects on those who survived the Cambodian genocide that left up to 2 million dead in its wake. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

LOCATION: FIC

CALL NO.: FIC T434d



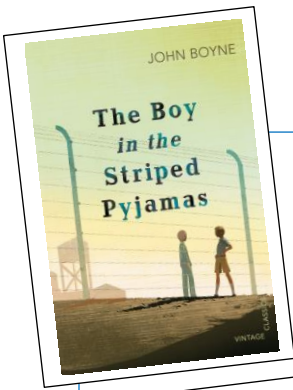
Quotes:

"Angkar had been obsessed with recording biographies... My little brother and I were only eight and ten years old but, even then, we understood that the story of one's life could not be trusted, that it could destroy you and all the people you loved."

"Night after night I tried to bring back the ones I had left behind. In the mornings, when I opened my eyes, I saw only the bare walls. Everything, the good and the selfish, the loved and the feared, had taken refuge inside me. Thirty years later and I still remembered everything."

"My body was wearing out. I was so thirsty I wanted to pour the blue sky into the palm of my hands, swallow it in great gulps."

"The war is finished, little ones. We'll gather all the sadness into a pot, pour it down the drains, and hear it rush into the sea."



Call No: FIC B7928b and on the MSS

Read the book, watch the movie!

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

by John Boyne



Available on the MSS

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne is a must read. Boyne wisely chooses to tell his story through the eyes of Bruno, an innocent nine-year old boy. And he does it wonderfully and believably so. We are pulled into Bruno's world as he and his family are leaving the comfort of their home in Berlin after his father is promoted to Commandant of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

It's hard not to smile at Bruno's pronunciation of "Out-With" for Auschwitz, and "The Fury" for the Fuhrer (Hitler), his references to his sister as a "Hopeless Case" and his father's office as "Out Of Bounds, At All Times, With No Exceptions." We can easily visualize his habitual expression – eyes wide-open, mouth in the shape of an "O", with his arms outstretched at his sides. These references lend charm to the story's telling and Bruno's character.

Bruno is an innocent - sheltered from the brutality and inhumanity occurring in the death camp his father commands. He is a curious boy, bored and lonely in his new surroundings and begins to explore the forbidden world around him. On one of his adventures (he does after all want to be an explorer when he grows up) he arrives at a barbed wire fence, where on the other side sits Shmuel, in "striped pajamas". They discover they are both born on the same day, in the same year. Thus begins an unlikely friendship.

While the movie is a close adaptation of the book, I miss "hearing" Bruno's telling of the story. For me, without that the movie is a good visual story, but it lacks the intimacy of being inside Bruno's head and heart. The movie does, however, provide us with a more in-depth portrayal of the entire family, including his grandmother and grandfather. Bruno's mother is portrayed as naïve, unaware of the atrocities happening in the camp and we watch the toll on her (and the marriage) as she learns the truth. For those unfamiliar with the time period and the Holocaust, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (especially the movie) offers an introductory glimpse into Nazi propaganda and their treatment of the Jews.

There is no "Hollywood" ending to this story. But... you'll need to Read the Book or Watch the Movie (or do both) to find out what happens. I heartedly recommend both. Although if I had to pick only one... I'd definitely choose the book.

What are your thoughts?

This month:

We're updating the Library Website

We've added:

- Information Especially for Students and Faculty/Staff
- Subject arrangement of online resources and databases
 - New links and new subjects
 - Citation tools
 - And more

Library - Home

Hours

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am – 9:00 pm

Sat. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Sun. 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Closed for RTC holidays and special events

Especially For Students

Especially For Faculty & Staff

Kuensel – daily issues of the Kuensel may be viewed on the RTC Cloud. Current and back issues are located in the folder: Library PUBLIC

The Library also has current subscriptions to these newspapers:

Bhutan Times

Bhutan Today

Business Bhutan

The Bhutanese



First stop: [RTC library catalog](#)

- Lists all the books and government reports available in the library in print. Sometimes there's a link to an online or PDF version.
- If you find a book you want in the catalog, be sure to notice whether it is available and to write down the location and the call number.



[Click here to view all Library Newsletters](#)

Online Resources by Subject

[Anthropology /Sociology/ Political Science](#)

[APA Writing and Plagiarism](#)

[Bhutan](#)

[Business](#)

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News from the Reading Club

April 19: The Reading Club was joined by three Bhutanese poets whose poems were recently published in: ***Folded into a Paper Boat: a Collection of Poetry from Bhutan***. The theme of the poems was love, sometimes love fulfilled in unexpected ways. Ustav Khatiwar read his poems "Itch" as in 'itching for freedom' but unable to take the step and "Stochasticity" a sweet short poem that brings two lovers together in an expanding universe. Tashi Pem's poem "The Message Bearer" is a poignant tale of the stranger who carries Changyul's dying message to Singye in Gasa. RTC student, Tenzin Phuntsho Namgyal, read his moving poem "The Wild Flower and the Rock" and we listened as the once charred wild flower draws closer to the lonely rock and to life even in the cold of winter. Students and faculty joined in too - asking questions and reading their poetry. The BBS broadcasted the event on 27 April.

Folded into a Paper Boat: a Collection of Poetry from Bhutan. Location: MAIN, Call No.: 895.1 B5752f 2015

May 5: Dasho Rinzin Rinzin engaged the audience as he talked about his writing and answered questions from Reading Club members and other guests, including our honorable president. It was a delightful gathering as we learned of the challenges and rewards Dasho has encountered as a writer of children's folktales and adult stories (focusing on rural Bhutanese life). Dasho, while studying for a Master's degree in Melbourne, wrote ***The Talisman of Good Fortune and Other Stories from Rural Bhutan*** to assuage his homesickness. Later, recognizing the need to preserve the tales told to him as a young boy by his mother and grandmother, Dasho began writing children's folktales as a means to preserve these stories for future generations.

The Talisman of Good Fortune and Other Stories from Rural Bhutan. Location: MAIN, Call No.: 895.1 R584t 2014

His folktales: **The eggs to the rescue / The pheasant takes the snake to court / The story of the raven and the owl / The story of the yak and the buffalo** can be found at: Location: MAIN, Call No.: 398.2095498 R584

May 10: A small group of Reading Club enthusiasts braved the rain and hail to discuss ***A Thousand Splendid Suns*** by Khaled Hosseini. The story takes place as the Russians are leaving Afghanistan and the country is a battlefield as warring tribes vie for power. All who finished the book were deeply moved by the lives of Mariam and Laila, who discover the power of love and motherhood, even under the brutal hands of Rasheed, their shared husband, and the oppressive, suffocating restrictions imposed by the Taliban.

If you missed reading it with us, the book is available in print: Location: FIC, Call No. FIC H829t or on the MSS.

Upcoming Reading Club events!

The Reading Club has selected its next book. Join us in reading: ***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd. From Afghanistan, we move to the American South. The year: 1964. We'll meet on 14 June, 4:30-5:30, in the E.C to share thoughts on the book. The book is available to download on the MSS. And in print" Location: FIC, Call No. FIC K463s.

WANTED: Book Reviews for the next Library Newsletter

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