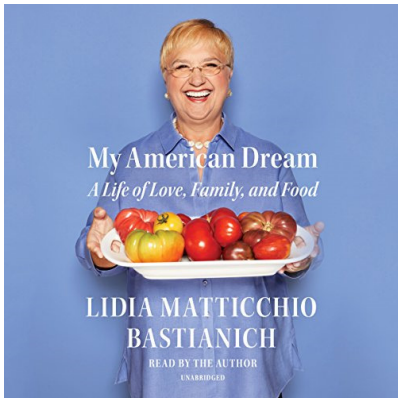


# Book Club

## Upcoming Selections

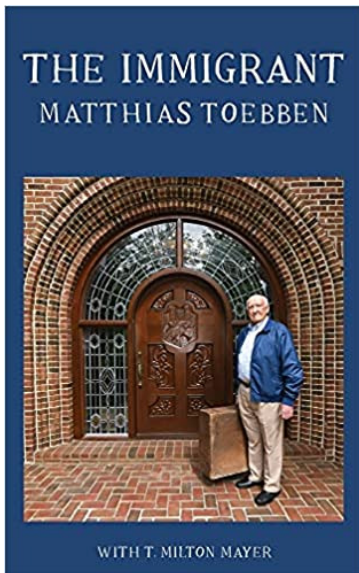
### July 27 Book Selection



For decades, beloved chef Lidia Bastianich has introduced Americans to Italian food through her cookbooks, TV shows, and restaurants. Now, in *My American Dream*, she tells her own story for the very first time. Born in Pula, on the Istrian peninsula, Lidia grew up surrounded by love and security, learning the art of Italian cooking from her beloved grandmother. But when Istria was annexed by a communist regime, Lidia's family fled to Trieste, where they spent two years in a refugee camp waiting for visas to enter the United States. When she finally arrived in New York, Lidia soon began working in restaurants, the first step on a path that led to her becoming one of the most revered chefs and businesswomen in the country.

Heartwarming, deeply personal, and powerfully inspiring, *My American Dream* is the story of Lidia's close-knit family and her dedication and endless passion for food.

### August 24 Book Selection

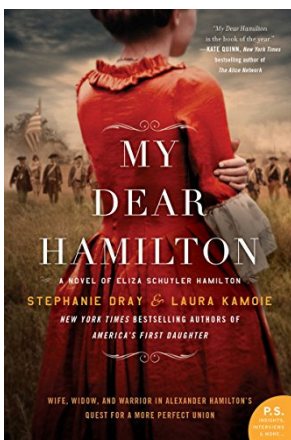


The story of Matth Toeppen begins as a tale of a young child growing up under the scourge of Nazi Germany. He was forced to witness things a boy of his age should never see. For Matth and his family, every day was a struggle for survival in a time of overwhelming oppression.

At the age of twenty-one, he headed forth across the Atlantic Ocean to America. Although he was unable to speak a word of English and had only ten dollars in his pocket, he wasn't deterred. Those obstacles were offset by an abundance of ambition and determination. He found the United States to be a land of immense opportunity for anyone willing to work hard and make their visions a reality. He dedicated himself to the principles upon which his new country was founded: devotion to God, love of family, and dedication to the community. Through sheer determination, he succeeded, and with each success came another. Along the way, he faced multiple disasters, both professionally and personally. It was the way in which he overcame the setbacks that had defined him as one of the area's most respected and influential leaders.

**Mr. Matth Toeppen will be our special guest**

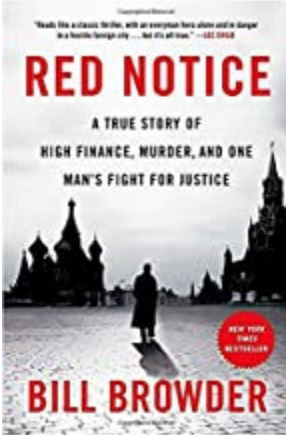
### September 28 Book Selection



From the *New York Times* bestselling authors of *America's First Daughter* comes the epic story of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton—a revolutionary woman who, like her new nation, struggled to define herself in the wake of war, betrayal, and tragedy. Haunting, moving, and beautifully written, Dray and Kamoie used thousands of letters and original sources to tell Eliza's story as it's never been told before—not just as the wronged wife at the center of a political sex scandal—but also as a founding mother who shaped an American legacy in her own right.

To make a book suggestion or for more information about the Book Club, please contact Betty Minor via email at [bettyminor@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyminor@yahoo.com)

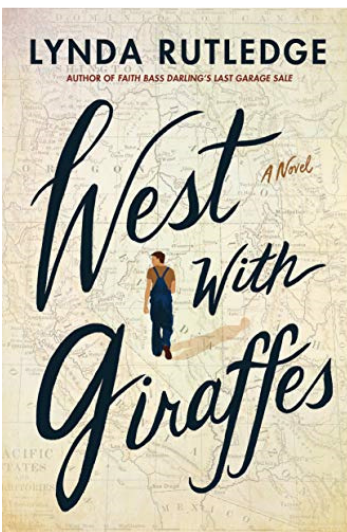
## October 26 Book Selection



A real-life political thriller about an American financier in the Wild East of Russia, the murder of his principled young tax attorney, and his dangerous mission to expose the Kremlin's corruption.

Browder glimpsed the heart of darkness, and it transformed his life: he embarked on an unrelenting quest for justice in Sergei's name, exposing the towering cover-up that leads right up to Putin. A financial caper, a crime thriller, and a political crusade, *Red Notice* is the story of one man taking on overpowering odds to change the world.

## November 23 Book Selection



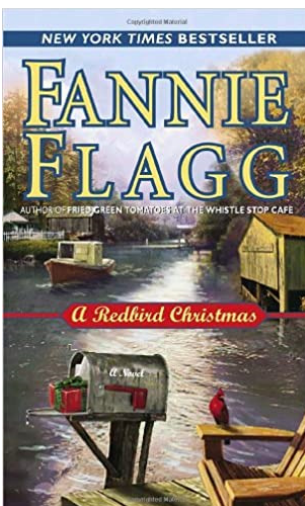
**An emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America.**

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.

## December 28 Book Selection



Deep in the southernmost part of Alabama, along the banks of a lazy winding river, lies the sleepy little community known as Lost River, a place that time itself seems to have forgotten. After a startling diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves behind the cold and damp of the oncoming Chicago winter to spend what he believes will be his last Christmas in the warm and welcoming town of Lost River. There he meets the postman who delivers mail by boat, the store owner who nurses a broken heart, the ladies of the Mystic Order of the Royal Polka Dots Secret Society, who do clandestine good works. And he meets a little redbird named Jack, who is at the center of this tale of a magical Christmas when something so amazing happened that those who witnessed it have never forgotten it. Once you experience the wonder, you too will never forget *A Redbird Christmas*.

