

## LUNCHTIME BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

*Books That Will Keep You Reading:*

**Brown Bag Lunch Book Group**

**Winter-Spring 2026**



Enjoy your lunch and join us at our popular Brown Bag Lunch Book Discussion group. You may join the group at any time. Pick up books for the sessions at the library one month in advance or download them from the library through Overdrive/Libby. Discussions are led by library staff member, Lorraine Isaac, and will be held **in person at the temporary location—555 Pleasantville Road—until further notice.**

*The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern* by Lynda Cohen Loigman

**Tuesday, January 13; Book discussion from 12:30 –1:30 p.m. followed by an author talk to be given by Lynda Cohen Loigman from 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

“On the cusp of turning eighty, newly retired pharmacist Augusta Stern is adrift. When she relocates to Rallentando Springs--an active senior community in southern Florida--she unexpectedly crosses paths with Irving Rivkin, the delivery boy from her father's old pharmacy--and the man who broke her heart sixty years earlier. As a teenager growing up in 1920's Brooklyn, Augusta's role model was her father, Solomon Stern, the trusted owner of the local pharmacy and the neighborhood expert on every ailment. But when Augusta's mother dies and Great Aunt Esther moves in, Augusta can't help but be drawn to Esther's curious methods. As a healer herself, Esther offers Solomon's customers her own advice--unconventional remedies ranging from homemade chicken soup to a mysterious array of powders and potions. As Augusta prepares for pharmacy college, she is torn between loyalty to her father and fascination with her great aunt, all while navigating a budding but complicated relationship with Irving. Desperate for clarity, she impulsively uses Esther's most potent elixir with disastrous consequences”(Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

*The Listeners* by Maggie Stiefvater

**Tuesday, March 10; 12:30 -2:00 p.m.**

“January 1942. The Avallon Hotel & Spa has always offered elegant luxury in the wilds of West Virginia, its mountain sweetwater washing away all of high society's troubles. Local girl-turned-general manager June Porter Hudson has guided the Avallon skillfully through the first pangs of war. The Gilfoyles, the hotel's aristocratic owners, have trained her well. But when the family heir makes a secret deal with the State Department to fill the hotel with captured Axis diplomats, June must persuade her staff--many of whom have sons and husbands heading to the front lines--to offer luxury to Nazis. With a smile. Meanwhile FBI Agent Tucker Minnick, whose coal tattoo hints at an Appalachian past, presses his ears to the hotel's walls, listening for the diplomats' secrets. He has one of his own, which is how he knows that June's balancing act can have dangerous consequences: the sweetwater beneath the hotel can threaten as well as heal. June has never met a guest she couldn't delight, but the diplomats are different. Without firing a single shot, they have brought the war directly to her. As clashing loyalties crack the Avallon's polished veneer, June must calculate the true cost of luxury” (Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

*A Marriage at Sea* by Sophie Elmhirst

**Tuesday, May 5; 12:30-2:00 p.m.**

“...this stranger-than-fiction true story opens with an otherworldly wreck. Ending the night watch on their sailboat somewhere in the Pacific early on a March morning in 1973, Maralyn Bailey goes below deck to wake her husband, Maurice, and feels ‘a crack, a jolt, the sound of a gun going off.’ From the deck, the couple can see a sperm whale, bleeding and writhing in distress. Über-prepared as they are, the married sailors can’t save their boat, which they had planned to take from England all the way to New Zealand. They gather their emergency supplies onto a raft and hope for rescue. As the days tick on, reaching the triple digits, the suspense is almost unbearably high... British journalist Elmhirst nimbly and skillfully relates the story’s intensely dramatic moments while folding in the couple’s history. Almost every page underscores that Maurice and Maralyn, who met and married in Derby, England, in 1962 and quickly realized that typical English life—possibly any life on land—was not for them, were made for each other” (Excerpted from *Booklist*).

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED:** Contact Lorraine Isaac at [Lisaac@briarcliffmanorlibrary.org](mailto:Lisaac@briarcliffmanorlibrary.org)

or (914) 941-7072

Briarcliff Manor Public Library - 555 Pleasantville Road

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