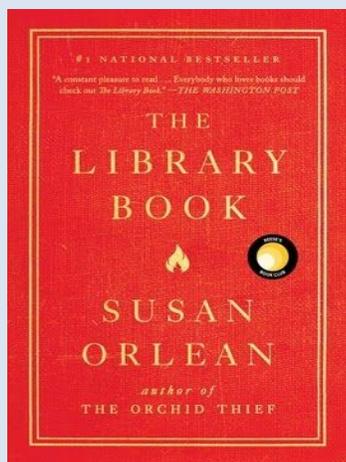


Friends of the Hunterdon County Library Book Club

Welcome to our monthly discussion! We meet on the 4th Thurs. of the month at 7:00 pm.

Here's what we're reading in 1Q 2020:

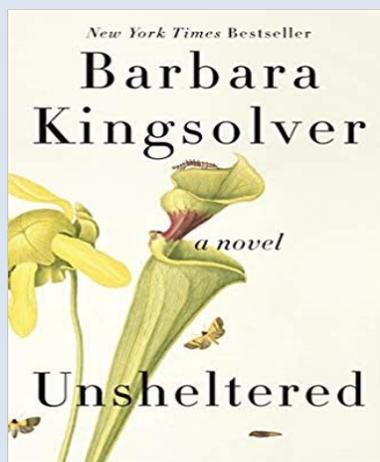
Jan 30th



On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had been cleared out of the building realized this was not the usual fire alarm. The fire was disastrous: it reached 2000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the end it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. More than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?

Susan Orlean chronicles the fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger role that libraries play in our lives in addition to the mystery surrounding the fire.

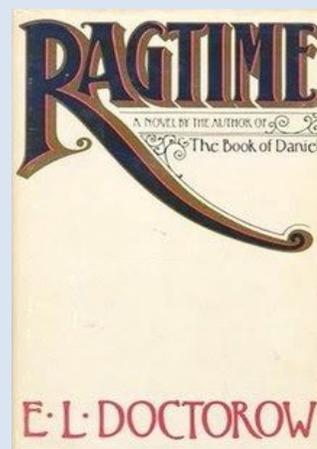
Feb 27th



Willa Knox has prided herself on being the embodiment of responsibility for her family. Which is why it's so unnerving that she's arrived at middle age with nothing to show for her hard work and dedication but unpaid bills and an inherited brick home in Vineland, New Jersey, that is falling apart. The magazine where she worked has folded, and the college where her husband had tenure has closed. The dilapidated house is also home to her ailing and cantankerous Greek father-in-law and her two grown children.

A timely novel that interweaves past and present to explore the human capacity for resiliency and compassion in times of great upheaval.

Mar 26th



Published in 1975, Ragtime changed our concept of what a novel could be. An extraordinary tapestry, Ragtime captures the spirit of America in the era between the turn of the century & the First World War. The story opens in 1906 in New Rochelle, NY, at the home of an affluent American family. One lazy Sunday afternoon, the escape artist Harry Houdini swerves his car into a telephone pole outside their house. Almost magically, the line between fantasy & fact, between real & imaginary characters, disappears. Henry Ford, Emma Goldman, J.P. Morgan & Sigmund Freud slip in & out of the tale, crossing paths with Doctorow's imagined family & other fictional characters, including an immigrant ragtime musician from Harlem whose insistence on a point of justice drives him to revolutionary violence.

**North Branch, Clinton
Grandin Room**

**HQ, Flemington
Meeting Room**

**North Branch, Clinton
Grandin Room**

No registration is required. If you have any questions, please email Cheryl at fohclbookclub@gmail.com We look forward to meeting you!