

BOOKS PLUS Fall 2011- Winter 2012

“Who Are We?”

Pot luck, August 29, OTHELLO

Dates: Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov.14, Dec. 12

Winter: Jan. 16, Feb. 13, Mar. 12, Apr.9

SHANGHAI GIRLS, Lisa See's 3rd historical novel moves from foot binding into the 20th century with sisters Pearl & May leaving “the Paris of Asia.” The Japanese invasion, immigration to America, WW1. “but it's more a history lesson than a fairy tale” & “reads like a family album.” (Washington Post.) Elina McPherson/Maria D'Arcy, March

THE IDIOT, Dostoyevsky. The author wanted to depict “the positively good man” Myshkin, contrasted to the antithetical Rogozhin and both are pursuing Nastasya Filippovna in Petersburg society. Trippe Callahan, February

THE EMBEZZLER, Louis Auchincloss, New York lawyer. “I grew up in the 1920's & 30's in a nouveau riche world where money was spent wildly, and I'm still living one.” 2007 (died 2010) . 1966 novel based on a member of the N.Y. Stock Exchange Diana Lapsley, December

BLOOD & THUNDER, Hampton Sides, “An Epic of the America West”. Kit Carson, scout, soldier, married Indian women & “understood Indian tribes better than any other American alive“, including Navajo warrior Narbona's defense's against the Mexican settlers in Santa Fe & James Polk,'s “Manifest Destiny”. Karen Gianninoto, Sept. 19

THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS THAT HEAVEN BEARS, by Dinaw Mengestu, his first novel. Stephanos and his tribe of fellow immigrants, Congo Joe and Ken the Kenyan, asks from Logan Circle, Washington, D. “How was I supposed to live in America when I never really left Ethiopia?” Randy Wilson, October

MADAME DE MAUVES, 1874 (short novel)and/or THE AMBASSADORS. 1902 by Henry James, who said the latter was “the best of his novels.” Critics E.M. Forster & F.R, Leavis disagreed. Valerie Wilson, January

THE MAN WHO WAS THURSDAY: A NIGHTMARE, by G.K Chesterton, 1908, a “metaphysical thriller” & Christian allegory. The local chapter of the European anarchist council of consists of 7 men, using a day of the week as a code name & the position of Thursday is up for election. Orson Wells did an abridged radio-play adaptation. Jim & Pat Bradley, April

CONFESSIONS OF FELIX KRULL CONFIDENCE MAN by Thomas Mann, 1929 Nobel Prize winner. “The novel of ripening”, the ritual quest, “even brilliant slapstick” “The Krull menage is bankrupt, bilbous, high as old venison”. Debbie Mandycz/Else Ross, November