

# WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

*meets the first Wednesdays of the month at the New Carlisle Library*

*Next Meetings are March 3 and April 7, 7:00pm – 8:00pm*

## **February book to read for March 3 meeting: "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant**



The Red Tent is an intense adventure of historical fiction. The Red Tent retells the story of Dinah, which is found in the Biblical book of Genesis, Chapter 34. "Like any sisters who live together and share a husband, my mother and aunties spun a sticky web of loyalties and grudges," Anita Diamant writes in the voice of Dinah. "They traded secrets like bracelets, and these were handed down to me the only surviving girl. They told me things I was too young to hear. They held my face between their hands and made me swear to remember."

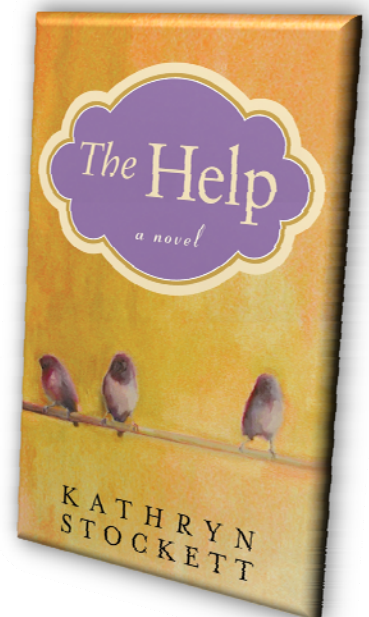
Remembering women's earthy stories and passionate history is indeed the theme of this magnificent book... Skillfully interweaving biblical tales with events and characters of her own invention, Diamant's (Living a Jewish Life, HarperCollins, 1991) sweeping first novel re-creates the life of Dinah, daughter of Leah and Jacob, from her birth and happy childhood in Mesopotamia through her years in Canaan and death in Egypt. ... Diamant has written a thoroughly enjoyable and illuminating portrait of a fascinating woman and the life she might have lived.

The amazing word-of-mouth support from readers and from book groups has made The Red Tent a publishing phenomenon. The Red Tent has been published in 25 countries with translations into 20 languages.

## **March book to read for April 7 meeting: "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett**

Kathryn Stockett, Mississippi-born author now living in Atlanta, unveils her first novel, *The Help*, already being hailed by critics as a "contemporary classic." It's an unforgettable novel of three women and the crossing of racial barriers in 1960s Mississippi, a "timeless and universal story."

From Publishers Weekly: What perfect timing for this optimistic, uplifting debut novel set during the nascent civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan is just home from college in 1962, and, anxious to become a writer, is advised to hone her chops by writing about what disturbs you. The budding social activist begins to collect the stories of the black women on whom the country club sets relies and mistrusts enlisting the help -- a maid who's raised 17 children, another who has found herself unemployed more than a few times after mouthing off to her white employers. The book Skeeter puts together based on their stories is scathing and shocking, bringing pride and hope to the black community, while giving Skeeter the courage to break down her personal boundaries and pursue her dreams. Assured and layered, full of heart and history, this one has bestseller written all over it.



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