Fall 2008

Event Program Guide 2008

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We hope to see you!

Community Book Discussions

All talks are free and open to the public.

Monday, Oct. 6

Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Director
Danbury Library

Monday, Oct. 13

Discussion Leader: John O’Donnell, Reference Librarian
Danbury Library

Monday, Oct. 20

Discussion Leader: Shihjung Lee

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Discussion Leader: Mary Miller, Reference Librarian
Danbury Library

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Discussion Leader: Bob Miller

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Discussion Leader: John O’Donnell, Reference Librarian
Danbury Library

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Discussion Leader: Madhur Jaffrey, co-owner
Dévi Restaurant

Thursday, Oct. 23

Discussion Leader: Lisa DeLous, Reference Librarian
Danbury Library

Thursday, Oct. 30

Discussion Leader: Lisa DeLous, Reference Librarian
Danbury Library

Friday, Oct. 17

Discussion Leader: Shihjung Lee

Sunday, Oct. 18

Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Director
Danbury Library

Sunday, Oct. 25

Discussion Leader: Mark Hasskarl, Director
Danbury Library

Community Library

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2008

The Namesake

Jhumpa Lahiri

Lahiri’s novel, The Namesake, was published in Fall of 2003 to great critical acclaim. The book made the New York Times Best Seller list, and its paperback edition became a main selection of the online book club ClubReads. Lahiri’s novel was nominated for a National Book Award.

The Namesake is the story of Ashima and Ashok Ganguli, an Indian couple who discover their dreams come crashing down in a 24-hour period while they are living in the United States. Lahiri’s novel is a love story that explores the tension between two very different cultures. Lahiri’s novel weaves together stories of love and family, while also exploring the concept of identity.

The Namesake

Jhumpa Lahiri

Jhumpa Lahiri published her first novel in 2003, The Namesake. In her novel, Lahiri describes the cultural conflict that occurs when a young couple’s dream of living in America is crushed by a series of unexpected events. Lahiri’s novel explores the tension between two very different cultures, and it is a love story that explores the concept of identity.

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Lahiri wrote that "it is in these instances, when one is given your name, reflected one of the most important events in your life.

But it was more than just a name. Lahiri explains that a name is an identity, a reflection of who one is and where one comes from. It is a part of one's cultural heritage and a symbol of one's place in society.

Think about Gogol’s relationships with the women in his life: Ashima, Sonia, Maxine, and Moushumi. How do each relationship reflect the author’s understanding of characters? In what ways do the descriptions of food and its preparation (naprasan, an-}) enhance the story and our understanding of the author’s viewpoint?

In what ways does the train wreck in the book’s main themes? How does the inscription in Gogol’s book from his father, “The man who gave you your name,” reflect one of the key themes of the story? How does the present tense. How does this choice of point of view influence the reader’s relationship to the story?

An Evening with Mira Nair, director

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Western Connecticut State University

An Evening with Mira Nair, director

Ives Concert Hall, Midtown Campus, 7:30 p.m.

Renowned film director, writer, and producer Mira Nair began her career making documentaries on the AIDS crisis in India. She followed this work with acclaimed feature films such as Salaam Bombay!, Mississipi Masala, Shantaram, and Monroe. Her most recent feature film was Salaam Bombay!, starring Hilary Swank, about Amelia Earhart, and is in pre-production for the book, Shantaram.

Nair will discuss the craft of filmmaking, as well as issues explored in her films, including the tug of competing worlds felt by millions of immigrants and ways to bridge the gap between cultures. Through clips from her films and personal anecdotes, Nair will explain the craft of filmmaking, as well as issues explored in her films, including the tug of competing worlds felt by millions of immigrants and ways to bridge the gap between cultures. Through clips from her films and personal anecdotes, Nair will explain the tug of competing worlds felt by millions of immigrants and ways to bridge the gap between cultures.

One Book, One Community is a partnership comprised of Danbury Library, Danbury Public Schools and Western Connecticut State University.

Our Mission

To promote literacy, to support intergenerational and multicultural book-centered discussions, and to foster a sense of community by bringing people together through the reading of the same book.

The “One Book, One Community” program encourages the Danbury and Western Connecticut State University communities to read the same book during the summer and fall of 2008, then come together to discuss the text in venues throughout the city and university.

Although many communities across America sponsor similar programs, ours is one of the few where a city public library, a school system and a university have formed a partnership for this initiative. Our hope is that many individuals, from all walks of life, will unite in discussion of this one book, making us one community.

Visit our Web site at www.onebookdanbury.org