June's Books Plus Discussion

Graduation, students leaving town, the planning of summer trips and picnics, yes it's that time of year again. If only the weather would comply. On June 5th, Jane Layman will lead our next Books Plus discussion about Jonathan Franzen's latest novel *Freedom*. This well-reviewed novel features Patty and Walter Berglund, pioneers of old St. Paul. Walter is an environmental lawyer concerned about the fate of warblers, and Patty is an ex-sports player, perhaps a little too competitive with her parenting.

Freedom's interwoven themes include the nature of love and commitment, our roles as neighbors, the rocky path of adolescence, and the need to protect nature. One of Patty's favorite books is Tolstoy's War and Peace. This novel brings war and peace to the family and to the neighborhood. Please join us for an interesting and thought-provoking discussion about a modern novel of ideas that is set in the Midwest.

For more information and for details on this and future programs, please see below.

Books Plus meets the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome. Join the discussion or simply come to listen.
Please note the later date in July due to the holiday weekend.
No registration necessary. Drop in.
2 p.m., First Sundays

June 5 - Freedom **by Jonathan Franzen**
Discussion Leader: Jane Layman
"Jonathan Franzen's new novel, Freedom, like his previous one, The Corrections is a masterpiece of American fiction. The two books have much in common. Once again Franzen has fashioned a capacious but intricately ordered narrative that in its majestic sweep seems to gather up every fresh datum of our shared millennial life." --New York Times Book Review

July 10 - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks **by Rebecca Skloot**
Discussion Leader: Wendy Rubin
"Science journalist Skloot makes a remarkable debut with this multilayered story about faith, science, journalism, and grace. It is also a tale of medical wonders and medical arrogance, racism, poverty and the bond that grows, sometimes painfully, between two very different women - Skloot and Deborah Lacks - sharing an obsession to learn about Deborah's mother, Henrietta, and her magical, immortal cells." -- Publisher's Weekly

August 7 - The Art of Racing in the Rain **by Garth Stein**
Discussion Leader: Elizabeth Gray
"The Art of Racing in The Rain has everything: love, tragedy, redemption, danger, and--most especially--the canine narrator Enzo. This old soul of a dog has much to teach us about being human." - Sara Gruen, Author of Water for Elephants

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Posted by Sarah B. on May 26, 2011

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Links:
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