

# 2019 Fall

To register, or for more information, visit [mercantilelibrary.com](http://mercantilelibrary.com) or call 513-621-0717  
**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

## The Niehoff Lecture

### Niehoff XXXII: Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist Bob Woodward

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Hyatt Regency Cincinnati

Co-chairs: Jack Greiner and Carolyn Micheli

Including *All the President's Men*, Woodward has authored or coauthored 19 national best-selling books. Thirteen have been number one national non-fiction bestsellers. Woodward has written books on nine of the most recent presidents, from Nixon to Trump.

**Tickets: \$175.00 for members, \$230 for nonmembers. Nonmembers PLUS membership: \$230. The evening includes a cocktail reception, multi-course dinner, and the lecture. Black-tie attire. Seating is limited. This is the Library's only annual fundraiser.**

## Signature Events

### Science & Nature: Climate Change/Cincinnati: A Three-Part Series

Thursdays, August 29, September 12, October 3  
6 pm reception/6:30 pm program

Panel discussions and lectures featuring local, regional, and national experts.

Presented in partnership with The University of Cincinnati's Center for Public Engagement with Science.

**Series: Free\* and open to the public. Sponsored by Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati**

### Albert Pyle Urban

Thursday, September 26  
6 pm reception/6:30 pm program

Deborah & James Fallows, authors of *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey Into the Heart of America*

**Free\* to members/\$20 nonmembers**

### Modern Novel

Wednesday, October 16  
6 pm reception/6:30 pm program

Ottessa Moshfegh, author of *Eileen* and *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*

**Free\* to members/\$15 nonmembers**

## Literary Programs

### *Donna Has Left the Building* An Evening with Susan Jane Gilman

Wednesday, September 11  
6 pm reception/6:30 pm program

Gilman, the New York Times–bestselling author of *Hypocrite in a Puffy White Dress* brings a hilarious, timely, and big-hearted new novel about rebuilding life in the face of disaster. Free and open to the public. Copies of *Donna Has Left the Building* will be available for sale and signing courtesy of Joseph-Beth Cincinnati.

### *The Bourbon King: The Life and Crimes of George Remus, Prohibition's Evil Genius*

An Evening with Bob Batchelor

Tuesday, September 17  
5:30–6:30 pm reception with bourbon tasting  
with Molly Wellmann (tasting additional cost)  
6:30 pm program

Author Bob Batchelor gives an unflinching look at one of the area's most notorious citizens, and the inspiration for *The Great Gatsby*: George Remus. Open to the public.

**Bourbon tasting: \$15 members/\$25 nonmembers. Copies of *The Bourbon King* will be available for sale and signing courtesy of Joseph-Beth Cincinnati.**

### *Letter To My Palestinian Neighbor*

Yossi Klein Halevi

Tuesday, October 29, noon

Presented in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council. *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* is one Israeli's powerful attempt to reach beyond the wall that separates Israelis and Palestinians and into the hearts of "the enemy." In a series of letters, Yossi Klein Halevi explains what motivated him to leave his native New York in his twenties and move to Israel to participate in the drama of the renewal of a Jewish homeland, which he is committed to see succeed as a morally responsible, democratic state in the Middle East.

**Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing courtesy of Joseph-Beth Cincinnati. Includes lunch.**

### *All This Could Be Yours*

Author Jami Attenberg in  
Conversation with Leah Stewart

Wednesday, November 13  
6 pm reception/6:30 pm program

Acclaimed author Jami Attenberg joins us for the debut of her novel *All This Could Be Yours*—a timely, piercing exploration of what it means to be caught in the web of a toxic man who abused his power; it shows how those webs can tangle a family for generations and what it takes to—maybe, hopefully—break free.

**Free and open to the public. Copies of *All This Could Be Yours* will be available for sale and signing courtesy of Joseph-Beth Cincinnati.**

### Fiction Writers' Workshop Twice Told Tales: Plot Archetypes in Fiction

Jasmine Griffin, Instructor

Mondays, 6–8 pm  
September 16 through November 18

In this workshop, writers will explore classic character and plot archetypes as well as ways to create modern versions of these stories and characters that cater to a contemporary audience. We will ask ourselves what makes these tales so timeless, how they overlap cross-culturally and how to make these recycled tales refreshing. We will discuss the dangers of clichés. We will read short story examples of these archetypes in both classic and contemporary voices. We will develop writing prompts to accompany these tropes and write shorts pieces for workshop for later sessions. At the end we will do an overview of the value of these tales and how we can use them while still staying true to our own original writing styles and unique voices.

**Available ONLY as series. Members: \$100, Nonmembers \$155 (includes a membership).**

### New Members/New Books

Wednesday, September 18, 5:30–7 pm

Join us for a happy hour and an introduction to all things Mercantile—get a tour, and quick lessons on how to use the Library, register for events, request books, and much more. Also, discover what the what the must-read books for the fall and winter are from your Mercantile Librarians. This isn't just for NEW members, anyone can join. Registration required.

## Silent Reading Parties & Book Swaps

**Wednesdays, 5–7 pm**  
**September 25, October 30**

Give yourself a respite from busyness and enjoy an evening reading, in silence, with other bookworms. Starting this fall, each Silent Reading Party will include a book swap: bring a book you're ready to send out into the world, take a book vetted by your fellow readers. Free and open to the public.

## New Member Orientation

**Fridays, 9–10 am**  
**October 11, November 8**

Join us for an introduction to all things Mercantile—get a tour, and quick lessons on how to use the Library, register for events, request books, and much more. Registration required.

## Artist-In-Residence Exhibit Opening

**Wednesday, November 20**  
**5:30–7 pm**

Mercantile Library Artist-in-Residence Sara Caswell Pearce debuts her works of art from her second year in residence. Caswell-Pearce uses materials from books that were deaccessioned from the Library's collection. Art will be available for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefit the Mercantile Library. Free and open to the public.

## The 20 Best Noir Films Of All Time. And The Books Which Inspired Them

Rock Neely and Dan Andriacco

**Thursday, November 21**  
**6 pm reception/6:30 pm program**

Local authors and detective story buffs Rock Neely and Dan Andriacco discuss the darkest era of noir films—those shadowy films your grandparents watched from the balconies of the theaters they wouldn't take you to as a kid. And those stars! James Cagney, Orson Wells, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward G. Robinson, Ava Gardner, Marlene Dietrich, Henry Fonda, and many more. It's 90 minutes of tell-all, and the subject is murder. Everyone leaves with a checklist, not just the usual suspects either. Don't get left in the dark! Free and open to the public.

### Discussion Groups

**2019 Mercantile Library discussion groups are sponsored by The Camden Foundation**

When registering online, discussion groups with series and individual ticketing options have the series ticket in the first session. To register for individual sessions, please call 513-621-0717. Discussion groups meet in the 12th Story Lecture Hall, unless otherwise noted. Seating is limited.

## Ulysses In Pieces

**Tuesdays, 6 pm**  
**September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3**

Author Leah Stewart will guide readers through James Joyce's meandering, labyrinthine classic novel. Sponsored by Kathy Brinkman, this group is free to members, however, space is limited.

## First Wednesday Book Discussions

**Wednesdays, noon–1 pm**  
**Open to Mercantile members and their guests only. Space is limited. Groups may be full.**

**September 4:** *Beartown* by Fredrik Bachman (discussion leader Susan Cranley)

**October 2:** *Conversations with Friends* by Sally Rooney (discussion leader Joshua Chowdhury)

**November 6:** *Speedboat* by Renata Adler (discussion leader Kamal Southall)

**December 4:** *LaRose* by Louise Erdrich (discussion leader Marianna Bettman)

## Canon Club: The 2019–2020 Season

Led by Dr. Niamh J. O'Leary, Associate Professor of English at Xavier University

**Wednesdays, 6–7:30 (except where noted)**  
**September 4, October 2, November 6, December 11, January 22, March 4, April 29, June 10**

One of the Library's longest-running discussion groups—the Canon Club—completed its first journey through the Shakespeare's 38-play canon in 2013. Working their way through the canon again, the club now also includes reading and discussion of canon-adjacent plays: those written by Shakespeare's contemporaries.

**Series subscription only.**  
**Members: \$60/nonmembers: \$75**

**September 4: Season Kickoff**  
**Movie Night in the Stacks!**  
*Romeo + Juliet*, dir. Baz Luhrmann (1996).

Join us for our second Canon Club Movie night—a great way to sample what Canon Club is all about.

**October 2:** *Romeo and Juliet*  
**November 6:** *Titus Andronicus*  
**December 11:** *The Merry Wives of Windsor*  
**January 22:** *Coriolanus*, dir. Ralph Fiennes (2011)  
**March 4:** *Coriolanus*  
**April 29:** *Hamlet*  
**June 10:** *Book of Will*, by Lauren Gunderson

## Peregrine Haiku Society

**Thursdays, noon–1 pm**  
**September 5, October 3, December 5 (does not meet in November)**

Haiku writers' workshop and read around, led by Patti Niehoff. Forget 5-7-5, this group is for anyone interested in focusing on those tiny moments of illumination, honing their craft, or just learning about the art form. Open to all levels of expertise.

**Free and open to the public. Lunch provided.**

## Common Threads with Rich Lauf: Music in Literature, Literature in Music

**Tuesdays, 6–7:30 pm**  
**September 10, 24, October 8, 22**

Listening to music and learning its background inevitably takes us into the history of its times and into literary works. Literary works have regularly inspired composers like Verdi and Strauss, but on the other hand, authors have used composers and musicians as subjects for their creations. This series takes a look at these connections. Rich Lauf is a long-time member and discussion leader at the Mercantile Library. Individual sessions or series subscription available.

**Members: \$15/session, \$35/series.**  
**Nonmembers: \$20/session, \$45/series.**

**September 10:** *The Librettist of Venice* by Rodney Bolt  
**September 24:** *Doktor Faustus* by Thomas Mann  
**October 8:** *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett  
**October 22:** *Orfeo* by Richard Powers

## Impossible Dreamers: Reading Don Quixote

**Tuesdays, 6 pm**  
**September 10, October 8, November 12, 26**

With help from a local expert in Spanish literature, embark on a quest to read and understand Cervantes' massive novel. Library members Joe Heyd and Mary Curran Hackett will lead the discussions. Series subscription only.

**Members: \$20/nonmembers: \$50.**

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## Walnut Street Poetry Society

**Second Wednesday of the month, noon–1 pm**

The Walnut Street Poetry Society's theme for 2019 is The Sonnet. Email [reservations@mercantilelibrary.com](mailto:reservations@mercantilelibrary.com) for availability.

## Graphic Novel

**Second Saturday of the month (check [mercantilelibrary.com](http://mercantilelibrary.com) for date changes) 1–2 pm**  
**September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14**

This group is moderated by Jeff Suess and is free and open to the public. For reading selections, visit individual dates at [www.mercantilelibrary.com](http://www.mercantilelibrary.com)

## Rock & Read

**Third Saturday of the month, 10:30 am–noon**  
**September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21**

This group is moderated by Steven Rosen and is free and open to the public. For reading selections, visit individual dates at [mercantilelibrary.com](http://mercantilelibrary.com)

## A Short Trip with Tony Covatta

**Wednesdays, Noon**  
**October 16, November 20**

Every spring, long-time Mercantile member and discussion leader Tony Covatta takes readers on literary journeys. This fall, he'll take readers on a quick trip to Ireland via two recently published, critically acclaimed novels.

**Individual sessions or series subscription available.**  
**Members: \$10/session, \$15/series.**  
**Nonmembers: \$20/session, \$30/series.**

**October 16:** *Normal People* by Sally Rooney  
**November 20:** *Milkman* by Anna Burns

## Adaptation: Movie Book Club

*Ringu*, by Koji Suzuki/Film

**Tuesdays, October 22 and 29, 6 pm**

Adaptation, presented in collaboration with The Mini Microcinema, considers books and the movies they inspire. Discuss the book *Ringu* by Koji Suzuki at the Mercantile Library on October 22, then see a special screening of the Japanese film by Hideo Nakata at The Mini Microcinema on October 29. Mini volunteers Lillian Currens and Michael Sweeny will lead both discussions.