

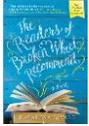
# BETSY ROSS HOUSE READERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

## ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME!

Meeting Date and Time: 1<sup>ST</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

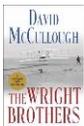
Location: Betsy Ross House Library

Facilitated by South Portland Library Staff



### OCTOBER 6 *THE READERS OF BROKEN WHEEL RECOMMEND* by Katarina Bivald

As luck would have it, the day Sara arrives in Broken Wheel, Iowa, from Sweden to meet her book-loving pen pal Amy, the townsfolk are just leaving Amy's funeral. Tourists are rare in this tiny, depressed town and the residents gather around Sara, sharing their stories of their departed friend. Sara stays in Amy's house, surrounded by her collection of books, and is comforted by the warmth of this quirky community. Sara has little drawing her back to Sweden, so she decides to take Amy's books and open a bookstore in a derelict downtown storefront. With little money to buy books, Sara simply begins sharing Amy's books with her friends. Gradually, the good citizens of Broken Wheel realize that a bookstore and Sara are what they need. How they go about ensuring that Sara can stay and the store can thrive is at the core of this heartwarming, charming debut novel by Swedish author Bivald.



### NOVEMBER 3 *THE WRIGHT BROTHERS* by David McCullough

David McCullough blends impeccable writing with historical rigor and strong character definition in his biography of Wright brothers, Wilbur, the abstract thinker and introvert; and Orville, the extrovert and hands-on doer. Despite their limited formal education, the Wright brothers succeeded due to industry, imagination, and persistence, as seen in their early enterprises as newspaper publishers, printers, and bicycle salesmen in Dayton, OH. Credit is also given to their widowed father, Bishop Milton Wright, as well as their sister Katharine, for their support of the brothers. Highlights of McCullough's narrative include the brothers' first controlled, powered, and sustained heavier-than-air human flight at Kitty Hawk, NC; the issuance of the Wright flying machine patent; and the Ohioans' ongoing search for markets abroad.



### DECEMBER 1 *THE LAST PAINTING BY SARA DE VOS* by Dominic Smith

In this engaging novel, centered on the paintings of fictional seventeenth-century Dutch artist Sara de Vos, Smith immerses the reader in three vibrant time periods. In 1950s New York, a wealthy lawyer discovers his prized de Vos painting has been replaced with a fake, while the forger of the painting grapples with the moral complexities of her recent choices. Both characters reappear in the present day, as the profound effect of the painting on their lives becomes clear. Woven among these scenes are glimpses into the tragic life of de Vos, the first woman master painter admitted into the Guild of St. Luke in Holland. When the story begins, only her haunting winter landscape is known, but as the story progresses, more is revealed, including the inspirations for her greatest works. Rich in historical detail, the novel explores the challenges faced by women in the arts (past and present), provides a glimpse into the seedy underbelly of the art world across the centuries, and illustrates the transformative power of great art.