

Berthoud Community Library Book Club, September 2010-May 2011

The Berthoud Community Library Book Club meets at these times: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The same book is discussed at both sessions.

September 28, 2010 ***Murder at the Brown Palace : a True Story of Seduction & Betrayal*** by Dick Kreck.

The characters in this real-life melodrama could not have been better cast. At the center of the storm was the seductively beautiful Denver socialite, Isabel Springer. In her thrall were three men—two locked in a struggle for her affections, and the third her unsuspecting husband. Little did ambitious John W. Springer, wealthy Denver businessman and politician, know that lovely Isabel, 20 years his junior, had been feeding the romantic fire of an out-of-town suitor at the same time that she was developing a cozy relationship with a man he regarded a friend and business partner.

See the ***Loveland Reporter Herald*** article about ***Murder at the Brown Palace*** and the author events, part of the ***Loveland Loves to Read*** 2010 program: [here](#).

October 26, 2010 ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee. 50th Anniversary of when this book was first published.

Eight-year-old "Scout" Finch tells of life in a small Alabama town where her father is a lawyer.

Note: We are skipping November as it is the week of Thanksgiving. And we moved the December date up to the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

December 14, 2010 ***Now & Then*** by Jacqueline Sheehan.

Anna O'Shea and her nephew find themselves suddenly transported back to nineteenth-century Ireland, where one faces hunger and poverty, while the other privilege and status, but while the past offers them a chance at love, it also threatens to destroy them. A romantic adventure with a heavy helping of magic and a loyal Irish wolfhound.

January 25, 2011 ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*** by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows.

Juliet Ashton, a thirty-year-old author, writes to her publisher expressing her desire to stop covering the aftermath of WWII, but Guernsey farmer Dawsey Adams invites neighbors to write to Juliet with their stories, which puts her off at first but eventually helps her find inspiration for her next book, and her life.

February 22, 2011 ***The Work of Wolves*** by Kent Meyers.

In a powerful opening scene, fourteen-year-old Carson Fielding, of Twisted Tree, South Dakota, approaches Magnus Yarborough, the slickest and wealthiest man in town, and negotiates to buy a horse. He is already an accomplished horse trainer, but he has a limited budget. Nevertheless, he picks out the best of the horses in his price range and refuses to budge on his offering price until he succeeds in getting the horse. Twelve years later, when Carson is broke and the family ranch is in trouble, he takes a job training some of Yarborough's horses and teaching his wife to ride. This story is an exploration of duty and retribution, set in dusty, rural South Dakota.

March 22, 2011 ***Can't Wait to Get to Heaven*** by Fannie Flagg.

Set in Elmwood Springs, Mississippi, this is the story of how Elnor falls out of a tree and dies--and then of how it ends up that she didn't actually die afterall, and of all the many ripples through the fabric of her community that Elnor's life and not-quite-death made. The many characters of the town and other farther out places are touched by Elnor's positive and loving personality, and her presence and actions make a lot of differences for the good in their lives. In this comedy-mystery, characters discover something wonderful: Heaven is actually right here, right now, with people you love, neighbors you help, friendships you keep.

April 26, 2011 ***Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*** by Anne Lamott.

"Bird by Bird" reminds us--writers or otherwise--that it's all about heart. Heart and mind and soul dancing together, even if they step all over each other's feet. Just take it bird by bird. Lamott's suggestion on the craft of fiction is down-to-earth: worry about the characters, not the plot.

May 24, 2011 ***Apples and Oranges: My Brother and Me, Lost and Found*** by Marie Brenner.

All her life, Marie Brenner struggled to understand her older brother, Carl. They had very little in common: Carl was a one-time lawyer turned apple farmer in Washington State; Marie was an investigative journalist in New York City, espousing every cultural and political position Carl professed to hate. All she wanted was a loving, solid relationship with her only sibling. A memoir of sibling rivalry which asks the universal question: How can two people from the same family turn out so entirely different?