

## PS BOOK CLUB NOTES FROM APRIL 27, 2023

The PS Book Club met Thursday, April 27 in the Library. Those present: Trish Bonness, Joyce Crawford, Kay Hunt, Diane Plourde, and Brenda Smith. Several other members participated via Zoom. One visitor from Waldo Reads Together, Jeris Ragusa, was also there.

Brenda led the discussion of *Night of the Living Rez* by Morgan Talty. The author is a professor at the University of Maine, Orono, and a member of the Penobscot Indian Nation. We all agreed that this series of twelve linked short stories provided vivid, memorable images of a native American family who live on Maine's Indian Island Reservation north of Orono, and are navigating their lives through a series of raw (sometimes brutal) crises. Most of us felt the stories, while compelling and beautifully written, were bleak and pessimistic, though well worth our time.

Brenda encouraged us all to attend an acclaimed documentary film, *Dreamland*, which will be shown at the Belfast Free Library on Wednesday, May 10 at 6 pm. While not directly related to the book, this film tells the little-known story of the widespread practice in this country of removing Indigenous children from their families "for their own good" and placing them in boarding schools and foster homes during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At our next meeting on Thursday, May 25, we will discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, "a debut novel about a scientist in the 1960s who is opinionated, funny and intelligent". Elizabeth Zott is a single mother who, after being fired from a research institute for insubordination, becomes the reluctant star of a TV cooking show for housewives. (If you experienced workplace gender discrimination during those years, you will relate). The novel has been a bestseller since it came out over a year ago.

On June 22 we will discuss *A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penney. We will not meet in July or August. For September 28, the selection is *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn.

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