

X – OLLI Book Club: In-person

Conveners: Judy Diner and Sue Shelley

Meeting Dates, Fall 2024 (Monthly) – Tuesday 2:30 – 4:00p.m.
September 3, October 1, October 29, December 3.

Catalogue Description

Good books are meant for sharing. Come join our collaborative monthly book group to share ideas about agreed-upon books (fiction and non-fiction) in a relaxed atmosphere. Members propose and select books and take turns leading the discussion.

First meeting (9/3). a) Discuss the novel *Mercury Pictures Presents*, Anthony Marra (Sue Shelley & Judy Diner will lead the discussion). b) Select volunteers to lead future discussions; select books. For those interested in volunteering, please come to our first meeting with two books to propose and vote on. Meetings: 9/3, 10/1, 10/29, 12/3.

NOTE: NO CLASSES ON ELECTION DAY.

Scroll down for information on *Mercury Pictures Presents*, by Anthony Marra.

WELCOME AND COURSE CONTENT

OLLI-WILMINGTON IN-PERSON BOOK GROUP – FALL 2024

Dear Book Lovers,

Welcome! Thank you for signing up for our in-person monthly book discussion group. We are excited to be back at in-person OLLI classes and look forward to meeting all of you.

Because this is a collaborative group, we count on you to take turns leading our discussions. We also count on you to propose books for the group to select by a vote.

Our first session, September 3, will include a discussion of *Mercury Pictures Presents*, by Anthony Marra. Sue Shelley and Judy Diner will lead the discussion. We will also ask for volunteers to lead future discussions and vote on books for the rest of the term.

Here is what we ask of you:

Please give serious consideration to leading a discussion and be ready to volunteer at the September 3 meeting. Also, if you plan to volunteer (for our second, third or fourth meetings) please come with two possible reading selections. Our group will vote on the selections for future meetings.

We look forward to meeting you and of course we wish you and yours health, fulfillment and connection and a satisfying OLLI Fall semester.

With gratitude for your interest,

Sue Shelley and Judy Diner
Mercury Pictures Presents, by Anthony Marra (2022).

Summary

Genre and subjects: Historical Fiction, 1940s and 1950s, California.

"The epic tale of a brilliant woman who must reinvent herself to survive, moving from Mussolini's Italy to 1940s Los Angeles – a timeless story of love, deceit, and sacrifice from the award winning, New York Times bestselling author of *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*. ...

Written with intelligence, wit, and an exhilarating sense of possibility, *Mercury Pictures Presents* spans many moods and tones, from the heartbreaking to the ecstatic. It is a love letter to life's bit players, a panorama of an era that casts a long shadow over our own, and a tour de force. "

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/59109471-mercury-pictures-presents?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=zR4NIrFMpi&rank=1

Critical acclaim

"A genuinely moving and life-affirming novel that's a true joy to read."—Celeste Ng, author of *Little Fires Everywhere*

"A gorgeous book . . . sublime."—*The New York Times* (Editors' Choice)

ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: NPR, *The Guardian*, *Booklist*

Awards

Anthony Marra is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Tsar of Love and Techno* and *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*. His works have been longlisted for the National Book Award and he has won the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize. In all he has won or been a finalist for more than two dozen major awards.