



## Jefferson County Community Read Minutes of Meeting December 3, 2020

Present: Karen Esvelt, Ron Hahn, Sandra Hahn, Jane Ellen Innes, Gretchen Schlie

### 1. Call to Order

Sandra Hahn called the meeting to order at 5:20.

### 2. Election of officers

The following slate of officers was presented:

Sandra Hahn, President

Jane Ellen Innes, Secretary

Gretchen Schlie, Treasurer

Karen Esvelt, Board Liaison

The members in attendance approved the officers as presented. It was moved by Innes, seconded by Esvelt, that Sandra Hahn, and Gretchen Schlie both be authorized to sign checks on behalf of the Community Read. Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. 2021 Community Read

The Committee discussed making the Community Read an every-other-year event. The Committee will continue this discussion at its next meeting.

#### Book Short List

Ramsey, J. (2018). *Words Marked by a Place: Local Histories in Central Oregon* (1st ed.). Oregon State University Press.

Summary: *Words Marked by a Place* is a book of interconnected writings reflecting on the human and natural history of central Oregon. This chronological collection presents the reader with key episodes of central Oregon history, from nineteenth-century exploration to the railroading and homesteading era to the era of community-building and development that followed.

Recommended by: Karen Esvelt

Houle, M. C. (2019). *A Generous Nature: Lives Transformed by Oregon* (1st ed.). Oregon State University Press.

Summary: *A Generous Nature: Lives Transformed by Oregon* offers profiles of twenty-one conservationists and activists who have made enduring contributions to the preservation of Oregon's wild and natural places and high quality of life. These stories speak to their courage, foresight, and actions—at times against great odds—to enact legislation and motivate others to cherish and protect the places that make Oregon unique.

Taken from personal interviews conducted by the author over a decade, these stories will help readers understand the histories of Oregon's exceptional places, innovative planning efforts, and

laws. They provide insight into the principles and values that motivated individuals to preserve the beauty and natural resources of Oregon, craft legislation to further protect them, and educate others about their value. Houle features locations as diverse as the Columbia River Gorge Natural Scenic Area, the wild and scenic Sandy River, and Tryon Creek State Park, along with background on critical laws and organizations such as the Beach Bill, Diack Act, Senate Bill 100, SOLVE, and the High Desert Partnership.

Recommended by: Gretchen Schlie

Rakha, N. (2010). *The Crying Tree*. Broadway Books.

Summary: This complex, layered story of a family's journey toward justice and forgiveness comes together through spellbinding storytelling. Deputy sheriff Nate Stanley calls home one day and announces he's accepted a deputy post in Oregon. His wife, Irene, resents having to uproot herself and their children, Shep and Bliss, from their small Illinois town, but Nate insists it's for the best. Once they've moved into their new home, Shep sets off to explore Oregon's outdoors, and things seem to be settling in nicely until one afternoon when Nate returns home to find his 15-year-old son beaten and shot in their kitchen. After Shep dies in Nate's arms, the family seeks vengeance against the young man, Daniel Joseph Robbin, accused of Shep's murder. In the 19 years between Shep's death and Daniel's legal execution, Bliss becomes all but a caretaker for her damaged parents, and a crisis pushes Irene toward the truth about what happened to Shep. Most of the big secret is fairly apparent early on, so it's a testament to Rakha's ability to create wonderfully realized characters that the narrative retains its tension to the end. (Source: Publishers Weekly)

Other authors discussed and suggested for a future E<sup>3</sup> talk/mini read.

1. Jane Kirkpatrick
2. Ellie Waterson

#### 4. Next Steps

The three books will be distributed to the full committee for its review. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled for March where the committee selection. Additional information about a potential oral history project will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

#### 5. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Ellen Innes  
Secretary to the Board