

Read Outside the Box @ your library™
by Rachelle McPhillips

At the beginning of each new year, many of us resolve to make this the year we eat right, workout more, finish that home renovation project, or pick up a new hobby. These are great things to incorporate into your life and the Columbus Public Library has resources for all of them. You'll find cookbooks to support healthier habits and DVDs to do that workout in the comfort of your own home. Check out how-to guides for your budding do-it-yourselfer, and visit the makerspace to get creative and learn a new skill.

Aside from the regular resolutions, I'd like to propose one more: "Read outside the box." Reading is a wonderful way to relax, escape, and expand your world. I find it is a great comfort to visit and enjoy the same authors, characters, and genres year after year. Every once in a while, a friend or library guest will suggest a book that I'd never pick up on my own and I find I love it. Even if I don't, I am glad I had that shared reading experience just the same.

Imagine having an opportunity to have that sense of wonder and discovery eleven times a year. You can do just that at your library. The Columbus Public Library Book Discussion Group usually meets at the library on the last Thursday of the month. These book discussions are free, relaxed, and everyone is welcome to join us. Every year, book club participants tell me how much they appreciate book club and the opportunity to read things they wouldn't have discovered on their own. "Reading outside the box" – whether they love, hate, or didn't finish the book – is the most cited reason to keep coming back to book club.

Our first meeting this year will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31. "Educated" by Tara Westover is our selection for January. This is Westover's personal story of growing up outside of mainstream society and eventually coming into formal education at the age of seventeen. The New York Times Book Review says, "Westover has somehow managed not only to capture her unsurpassably exceptional upbringing, but to make her current situation seem not so exceptional at all, and resonant for many others."

Other titles we'll read during the first half of 2019 include "Saint Maybe" by Anne Tyler, "Calypso" by David Sedaris, "Dopesick" by Beth Macy, "Volkswagen Blues" by Jacques Poulin, and "An Absolutely Remarkable Thing" by Hank Green. If you'd like to help select books for this club's reading list, join us on May 30 to choose books for the second half of the year.

Copies of all book club titles are made available for checkout at the front desk several weeks before the book club meets. For more information about the book club or any of our resources and programs, please call 402-564-7116 option 2 or stop in for a visit. Follow the Columbus Public Library on Facebook to get updates about library events and schedules. Find us at www.facebook.com/columbuspubliclibrary.