

**Morning Book Club Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2024**

Location: Callander Museum

Community Updates:

- Callander Lights Up: Saturday, November 30th
- Cookie Walk: Saturday, November 30th 9:30am – 11:00am Trinity United Church Cook Walk
- J.O.Y Band A Most Wonderful Christmas, Sunday, December 8th @ 2:00pm Trinity United Church – free will offering to Santa Fund and Trinity Food Shelf
- Senior and Youth Choir are presenting December 22nd @ 10:30pm Trinity United Church
- Longest Night Service: Contemplative Service, December 21st @ 7:30pm Trinity United Church
- Symphony, December 14th, @ 6:30, Capital Centre
- 10am Monday Nipissing Community Centre – Chair Yoga

Upcoming Library Events:

- Coffee Club – Tea Tasting @ 1:30 today, the next Coffee Club is Colleen Neily, author of Dr. Zoe Cavendish who will talk about the process of writing and publishing a novel
- Raising Readers – Fishing theme
- Saturday – Rainbow Glasses for Callander Lights Up the Park at the Library (all day drop-in program)

Upcoming Books:

Dec 18th: Christmas Book or Cook Book – potluck if you want to bring something – no pressure!

Jan. 29th, 2024: *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett (LC)

Feb. Lessons in Chemistry (DL)

Mar. *Bittlemores* by Jann Arden (AM)

Apr. Nine Lives of Charlotte Taylor by Sally Armstrong (MB)

May *Shrines of Gaiety* by Kate Atkinson (JB)

June *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult - Tentative

Book Suggestions:

November: *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women* by Lisa See

Discussion:

7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excited when I got the book, I love learning about a time that I know nothing about • There were too many details about different treatments, but I was very interested to learn about their vaccination treatment for small pox • By the end of the book, I was furious about the foot binding and that it went on for thousands of years, and then that we have this rise again of gender inequality and I didn’t want to be reading about that at this time. • I did laugh hysterically about the women playing “Pooh Sticks” – which reminded me of Winnie the Pooh
7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree with a lot of what was just said, I really liked the descriptions of friendships

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a lot of repetition in this book, but I still liked the history • It was incredible to learn about the women spending their entire life in a compound • It was a book worth reading, I loved the ending
8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found it an intriguing novel • I loved the enduring friendships – they were well drawn out and the stories of the women and how connected they were • I was interested in how the signs of zodiac were included in the story • The • I was interested in the medical descriptions and the foot binding
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was interested in this book because I loved Snow Flower and the Secret Fan and this book did not live up to my expectations, it wasn't a bad book, but I didn't learn anything new from this book
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would say if you have read the Secret Fan, don't read this one • It made me think about women who change their bodies to make them more appealing to men • laborious
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not a book that I would have picked, I had heard about foot binding, but I hadn't read anything as in-depth on this subject before • The medical portion was interesting to me, and how much was lost because it was the role of women • The women had no voice, they were there to produce boys – it was interesting how the class system worked in China at that time • I started reading it, thinking that I wouldn't like it – the message that I got was that women were so oppressed that the one thing they could do was develop those relationships
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I did enjoy the book • The patriarchal society and class system were very limiting, however the women still stuck together
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm always interested in where a book will lead me when I read a story – Lady Tan was a real woman, she lived to be well over 90 • I was struck by how bored these women must have been • I found this book paled in comparison to Snow Flower and Secret Fan
8 – 8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found a lot of things interesting: the naturopathic medicine piece, the polite cattiness between the women's relationships, the part about class and how it was continually excepted, the power dynamics between classes and ages • I really appreciate historical fiction and liked it based
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had also not read her previous book and found a lot of topics very interesting, I like the euphemisms • By the end I realized the women did have some power when they ascended the hierarchical structure • I was reading Fugitive Pieces at the same time, and I did find this book to be a breath of fresh air