

September 26, 2023 Book Club

Cher Terry read *Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*, by Gail Collins. This is a history, with numerous case studies, of women's roles in the US socio-economic system in modern times. Written by a journalist, the book is factual and not a feminist manifesto. Cher's report led to a lively discussion of various members' personal experiences during this timeframe.

Sarah Tatum read *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, by Charlie Mackesy. Sarah heartily recommends this book for everyone "from 8 – 80." She found it comforting and likened it to the Winnie the Pooh series by A.A. Milne. It relates the story of a lonely boy who becomes friends with a mole, a fox both of whom can talk, and a horse who can't. Sarah loved this book about life and friendship.

Carol Mattaino is halfway through Julie Nixon Eisenhower's biography of her mother, Pat Nixon, which was written in the 1980s. The author's portrayal of her mother gives the impression of a tragic figure who was frequently referred to as "Plastic Pat." Carol's report, particularly the belief in the 1960 Nixon campaign that JFK had "stolen" the election and the tumultuous year 1968 led to a fascinating discussion of current events.

Robert McLean read *A Warning*, by Anonymous. This work of non-fiction was written by a Trump administration official and led to an interesting discussion about whether, as a Trump administration official, one would remain in an administration to try to improve policies or resign instead in protest. Robert liked this book and recommends it.

Norma Brodsky and **Louise McLean** both read *Lucy by the Sea*, by Elizabeth Strout. This novel takes place during the pandemic and focuses on the relationship between Lucy Barton and her ex-husband William. The two former spouses who live in New York City, decide to retreat to Maine during Covid. Both Norma and Louise enjoyed the book.

Laurie Tracy read *Dear Edward*, by Ann Napolitano. This novel relates the story of 12-year-old Edward, the sole survivor of a plane crash that kills all the others onboard, including his parents and beloved older brother. Edward's physical recovery progresses fairly quickly; it is his psychological recovery that takes much longer. With the help of his family and Shay, his next-door neighbor, he comes to terms with his broken heart. Laurie recommends this book.

The next book group session is tentatively set for Tuesday, October 24 at 3:00 p.m.