

X –**Book Club: In-person**

Conveners: Judy Diner and Sue Shelley

Meeting Dates (Monthly)

- Tuesday, September 6
- Tuesday October 11
- Tuesday November 15
- Tuesday December 6

Dear Book Lovers,

Welcome! Thank you for signing up for our in-person monthly book discussion group. We are excited to return to 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 6, will include a discussion of *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. 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 6 meeting. Also, please come with two possible reading selections. The group will vote on the selections for future meetings.

We look forward to meeting you and of course we wish you and yours a healthy end of summer and a satisfying OLLI Fall semester.

All the best,

Sue Shelley and Judy Diner

Summary: *The Sweetness of Water*, Nathan Harris. Available in hardback, paperback and on Kindle.

In the wake of the Emancipation Proclamation, newly freed slaves Prentiss and Landry must confront the question of “what next”? They are hired to clear the land of George Walker, a white, pacifist landowner grieving the loss of his son. An exploration of racial violence, family, and community, the book raises eerily relevant questions for our time: What is the legacy of slavery and racial violence? What does it mean to be free? What is the price of dignity? How can a community make peace in the wake of the Civil War?

“A historical page-turner about social friction” (NPR, 8/4/2021), this debut novel was a selection of President Obama’s Summer Reading (2021), Oprah’s Book Club and was longlisted for the Booker Prize.