

From: Oxford Newcomers and Friends newcomers@oxfordms.com 
Subject: February 2021 ONC&F Newsletter
Date: February 1, 2021 at 12:06 AM
To: rosie@oxfordms.com



OXFORD NEWCOMERS *and Friends*



It's February! Why not join in with one of ONC&F's great book groups this shortest month? The ONC&F **Book Chat** crew also offer some enticing reading suggestions. Or check in with friends for coffee -- it's all on Zoom. Mississippi may be ahead of our neighboring states in getting vaccines out smoothly once appointments are scheduled, but it's still a slow slog. Until we can safely gather, wear a mask, wash your hands, maybe bake a few valentine cookies, or ponder spring gardens. You're missed!!

BETTER READ THAN DEAD will meet via Zoom on Thursday, February 25th at 2:00 pm. The book for discussion will be *The Guardians* by John Grisham. In a small Florida town, a young lawyer is shot dead one night. The killer left no clues. Soon the police settle on one man; he is convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Guardian Ministries steps in to help. The guardian who steps in gets much more than he bargained for. Powerful, ruthless people murdered the young lawyer; they do not want the convicted man set free. They killed one lawyer 22 years ago, and they will kill another without a second thought. Zoom coordinator Cathy Williamson will send out the link prior to the meeting. All are welcome! If you would like to join in, just email chair Nancy Muller at

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maytarie@att.net, and she will be sure you get the link.

BOOK CHAT is the alternative to the traditional book club. Here, participants chat once a month to share *whatever* they have recently read, or would like to suggest for others, be it fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or drama. All book lovers are invited! Discuss recent and favorite books or just listen in. Please join us at 10:00 am on Tuesday, February 23rd (our customary last Tuesday of the month) and share a favorite read! Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting or go to the Zoom website (<https://Zoom.us>) and entering the meeting ID: 680 808 8404. Questions? Contact Debra Guyton at debraguyton@bellsouth.net

BOOK CLUB ONE: February's book selection is *A Month in the Country* by J. L. Carr. When Tom Birkin, a shell-shocked veteran of World War I and a broken marriage, arrives in a remote Yorkshire village to restore a recently discovered medieval mural in the local church, he finds not only healing but a new attachment to life. Book Club One will meet on Zoom on Thursday, February 18th (our customary 3rd Thursday of the month) at 2:00 p.m. Meeting ID: Click [here](#) to join us on Zoom, or connect by going to the Zoom website (<https://Zoom.us>) and entering the meeting ID: 880 9331 8209. All Newcomers and friends are welcome! Chair: Debra Guyton, (251) 490-6690 or debraguyton@bellsouth.net

READING FAULKNER will meet on Monday, February 15 at 4:00 pm. (*Please note this is a change from our previous second Monday meetings; we will be meeting on the third Monday from now on.*) Our focus for discussion this month will be chapters 2, 3, and 4 of *Absalom, Absalom!* Click [here](#) to join us on Zoom, or connect by going to the Zoom website (<https://Zoom.us>) and entering the meeting ID: 881 0191 0220. If you would like to join this group or get more information about it, please contact Chair Dianne Fergusson at 662-236-4088 or sdsferg@bellsouth.net

WOMEN'S COFFEE meets virtually on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. Join us via Zoom at 9:00 am on Friday, February 5th and again on the 19th for conversation and community. Don't worry about the weather -- just join us from your kitchen or couch! Contact Jonell McGivern, jonell52@att.net or (205) 937-2888, and she'll make sure you get the Zoom details before each gathering. Chair: Nellanne Davis, nellanned@aol.com

READING SUGGESTIONS: Debra Guyton shares **Book Chat's** suggestions for February, starting with nonfiction ranging from fascinating biographies to exploring the natural world all around us. Ada Huxtable's *Frank Lloyd Wright: A Life* is an excellent introduction to Wright's tumultuous personal life and his long career as a master builder. In *The Second Mountain: the Quest for a Moral Life*, journalist David Brooks explores what it takes to live a meaningful life in a self-centered world. *William F. Winter and the New Mississippi: A*

Biography by Charles C. Bolton is a definitive biography of this pivotal figure in Mississippi politics whose story reflects the evolution of Mississippi in the second half of the twentieth century. While many of us are staying close to home, this might be a great time to explore our own backyards in two fabulous books. The first is David Allen Sibley's *What It's Like to Be a Bird: From Flying to Nesting, Eating to Singing, What Birds Are Doing and Why*. This book is not only gorgeous but is full of fascinating information that will have you lingering over every page. Sibley also wrote the introduction to another great book: *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling* by John Muir Laws. This is a how-to guide to becoming a better artist and an attentive naturalist. More interested in fiction? For espionage buffs, we recommend John Le Carré's last novel, *Agent Running in the Field*, a chilling portrait of our time, and David Baldacci's *Daylight*, a thrilling page turner featuring FBI agent Atlee Pine's search for her kidnapped sister, which leads her into a global conspiracy. For literature buffs, George Saunders' *A Swim in the Pond in the Rain* couldn't come at a better time. Who wouldn't want to curl up by the fire on these frosty days and read seven wonderful Russian short stories with Saunders, a master teacher who will make us better readers as well as writers.

ONC&F FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Friday, Feb 5, **Women's Coffee** 9:00 am
Sunday, Feb 14, Valentine's Day
Monday, Feb 15, **Reading Faulkner** 4:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb 16, Mardi Gras
Thursday, Feb 18, **Book Club One** 2:00 pm
Friday, Feb 19, **Women's Coffee** 9:00 am
Tuesday, Feb 23, **Book Chat** 10:00 am
Thursday, Feb 25, **Better Read than Dead** 2:00 pm

MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE: Most ONC&F members are now eligible for the vaccine. **To see about scheduling your vaccine, start [HERE](#) on the MS Dept. of Health website or call (877) 978-6453.** Demand has far exceeded supply, leaving some ONC&F members, and others, with frustrating waits or trips out of town to reach available vaccine appointments. The Mississippi State Department of Health continues to update their websites as to availability; the best strategy is to check frequently, as when slots open up, they fill quickly. The good news -- once you obtain your first vaccine, scheduling the second has proven easier. To learn more, visit the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency website at www.msema.org/covid-19

LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER!! Mardi Gras 2021 won't see parades rolling down the streets of New Orleans or Rio de Janeiro, but you can check out the [Krewe of House Floats](#) instead, which roll out on February 1st! More than 5,000 homes in the New Orleans area have decked themselves out in Mardi Gras style -- click [here](#) for a sneak preview!

Looking for something new to do? Check out the Quick Bites Virtual Seminars presented by the MS State University Extension Office

I ❤️ Flowers

Thursday, February 4, 2021 12:00 - 1:00pm

February is the perfect time to enjoy bright colorful flowers indoors since it's a bit gloomy outdoors. Join presenter Lynette McDougald, Plant and Soil Sciences Instructor at Mississippi State, as she combines some of our favorite flowers and foliages using quick and easy design techniques. To register, visit the event website: <http://techoutreach.extension.msstate.edu/quick-bites/2021/02/i-flowers>

What's in Your Soil?

Thursday, February 11, 2021 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Join Clarissa Balbalian, Diagnostic Lab Manager, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, & Plant Pathology, to dig down deep and get the new year started in prepping from the ground up. Clarissa will address common disease problems in your landscape and garden, tips on how to avoid problems and, what we might expect this spring. To register, visit the event website: <http://techoutreach.extension.msstate.edu/quick-bites/2021/02/whats-your-soil>

Technology and You: What is Your Digital Footprint?

Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Andy Collins, Instructor, Extension Center for Technology Outreach, will lead this talk about digital footprints. What are we putting out there, who is monitoring and following, how do we change our status or no longer participate, how will our accounts be managed after we die? What happens to our information that we provide to online accounts? Join in to learn more...

To register, visit the event website:

<http://techoutreach.extension.msstate.edu/quick-bites/2021/02/technology-and-you-what-your-digital-footprint>

Oxford Newcomers and Friends Executive Committee 2020-21

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Serving Oxford Hotline

If you are symptom free but are over 60 years old; have asthma; heart disease; or diabetes; or are otherwise at risk, experts recommend following the most conservative response of self quarantine. The City of Oxford and Lafayette County are committed to making this easier for our community. Partnered with churches throughout Oxford and Lafayette County, we have set up a hotline that you can call to request assistance with grocery or prescription delivery, and to direct you to more information regarding COVID-19.

We are stronger together.

662-238-2793

Updates to share? Send to ONC&F Communications Chair
Michelle Harvey, mmautheharvey@att.net

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[Unsubscribe rosie@oxfordms.com](mailto:rosie@oxfordms.com)

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