Osher’s Spring 2018
MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
facilitated by
Julie Plutschak and Joyce Baron
Free and Open to Osher Members
Meeting at:
7400 York Road, Room 113B
Connecting with the Past
Going back in time to the 1950's and the days of orphanages highlights the first mystery. The rules were different then, and no one was too concerned with the plight of poor, unwanted children. Likewise, in the recent history of Ireland, the 1980's, clashes between religious groups made headlines, and peace keepers were needed. The last two mysteries take a more personal note as a boy and a man go into the past to discover if their parents were role models or rogues. In the present, past times become relevant.

Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.
March 8: The Night Bell by Inger Ash Wolfe
March 22: Rain Dogs by Adrian McKinty
April 12: A Brilliant Death by Robert Yocum
April 26: Open and Shut by David Rosenfelt

No registration or sign-up necessary. Read the books and join the group for discussion on the appointed dates.
Questions: Contact Julie, jmvr729@earthlink.net; 410-321-1890
MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
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Book Descriptions

Connecting with the Past

March 8: The Night Bell by Inger Ash Wolfe
In a Canadian orphanage, 1951, some boys heard a bell at night and the next day discovered that one of the boys is missing. Now on the site of the old orphanage, human bones are being found as the land is moved to accommodate new homes. Detective Hazel Micallef recalls a girlfriend who supposedly went to the city for a new life and reflects on her adopted brother who was rumored to be responsible for her friend's death.

March 22: Rain Dogs by Adrian McKinty
It's not a locked-room mystery, but rather a locked-castle mystery! A reporter's body is found in the courtyard of Ireland's Carrickfergus Castle, maybe suicide, maybe murder. Sean Duffy, who has recently been policing violence between religious groups in Belfast, is sent first to solve the prank of a wealthy Finn’s missing wallet. Sean meets the reporter at the upscale hotel; he later learns she was traveling with the wealthy investors from Finland because she believed they were corrupt.

April 12: A Brilliant Death by Robert Yocum
Travis Baron is only an infant when, according to local rumors, his naked mother and her lover jumped into the Ohio River where they were killed by an oncoming barge. Travis's surly truck driving father, who was out of town at the time, refuses to talk about the incident or reveal anything about his mother's past. Consequently, Travis enlists the help of his best friend on Project Amanda, a quest to discover the truth about both his mother's death and his mother's character.

April 26: Open and Shut by David Rosenfelt
Irreverent defense attorney, Andy Carpenter, has a great life with supportive friends, family, dog, but then his father, also an attorney, dies at a baseball game in Yankee Stadium, leaving him a mixed legacy: to help a convicted man get justice and to figure out how his father earned millions to make him wealthy. Andy must first resolve the murder matter in court while questioning every investment his father made with prominent political pals.

Julie Plutschak, MA, an Osher member, taught English in four Baltimore County schools for 34 years after teaching for several years in upstate New York. She sponsored It’s Academic teams as well as literary magazines and school newspapers. She served as president of the Maryland Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts.
Joyce Baron, MA, an Osher member, holds degrees in English and Reading from Towson University. She taught in Baltimore County Public Schools for over 35 years where she also directed Drama performances and was a liaison with Towson University’s Professional Development School’s teacher training program. A lifelong reader, she loves adding collectible books to her personal library.