

March is a quiet month at the Weston Library. We hope you have a chance to curl up with a good book! Our programs this month include our two book clubs:

Thursday Morning Book Club - Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson

Thursday, March 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson, which made it on to many "best of" book lists for 2010. The Weston Library has a few copies and will probably be getting more on a rolling basis. But if you see a copy at your local library, grab it:

[Amazon Best Books of the Month, March 2010](#): In her witty and wise debut novel, newcomer Helen Simonson introduces the unforgettable character of the widower Major Ernest Pettigrew. The Major epitomizes the Englishman with the "stiff upper lip," who clings to traditional values and has tried (in vain) to pass these along to his yuppie son, Roger. The story centers around Pettigrew's fight to keep his greedy relatives (including his son) from selling a valuable family heirloom--a pair of hunting rifles that symbolizes much of what he stands for, or at least what he thinks he does. The embattled hero discovers an unexpected ally and source of consolation in his neighbor, the Pakistani shopkeeper Jasmina Ali. On the surface, Pettigrew and Ali's backgrounds and life experiences couldn't be more different, but they discover that they have the most important things in common. This wry, yet optimistic comedy of manners with a romantic twist will appeal to grown-up readers of both sexes. Kudos to Helen Simonson, who distinguishes herself with *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* as a writer with the narrative range, stylistic chops, and poise of a veteran. Family secrets of Nazi Germany are at the core of this powerful first novel told in two narratives that alternate between New Heidelberg, Minnesota, in the present, and the small town of Weimar near Buchenwald during World War II. Trudy is a professor of German history in Minnesota, where she's teaching a seminar on women's roles in Nazi Germany and conducting interviews with Germans about how they're dealing with what they did during the war. - Hazel Rochman, Booklist

Wednesday Evening Book Club - Wench, by Dolan Perkins-Valdez

Wednesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Another debut work, reviewed by NPR, this historical novel is set in an Ohio summer resort where slave owners take their mistress-slaves for the summer while their wives stay at home. While the novel begins with a somewhat clinched condemnation of slavery, it unfolds to reveal the moral complexities of the slavery institution and to explore the depths of love and sisterhood. As the characters become more human and more fully realized through their flaws, readers come to understand the many layers of effects slavery had on all involved

The library usually has copies of the books, but call first to be sure.