

**Ellis South End Neighborhood Association**

**Book Group 2009-2010**

The Ellis Book Group meets from September to June, on the third Wednesday of the month, at 7pm, in the living room of the YWCA Berkeley Residence, 40 Berkeley Street. The meetings last about an hour. The co-leaders are Betsy Boveroux (617-426-0989) and Trudy Kontoff (617-482-4141). All are welcome to attend, either regularly or intermittently.

September 16, 2009: *The Beauty of the Lilies* by John Updike: Clarence Wilmot, a Presbyterian clergyman, loses his faith and becomes an encyclopedia salesman and a multigenerational family story unfolds. A history of American films is woven into the narrative as a metaphor of the upheavals that beset the characters. 512p

October 21, 2009: *The Forever War*, by Dexter Filkins: A stunning account of the human side of war, written by NY Times reporter embedded with the US troops during the attack on Fallujah. 384p

November 18, 2009: *Their Eyes were Watching God*, by Zora Hurston: The story of Janie, an African American woman, as she experiences the different men in her life and, equally important, her relationships with black women. Hurston's great dialogue, at first vilified by other black authors of Harlem's Renaissance, but now admired for the depiction of black life, captures the ongoing war of the sexes as well as the truces, joys and tender moments. 256p

January 20, 2010: *Lincoln's Virtues, An Ethical Biography*, by William Lee Miller: Tracing the moral and ethical core of Lincoln's beliefs. An incisive and shrewd discussion of AL's development as a person and politician. 544p

February 17, 2010: *March*, by Geraldine Brooks: A well researched interpretation of the absent father of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, who is a chaplain in the Union army. Read *Little Women* if you have the time. 304p

March 17, 2010: *The Nine: Inside the World of the Supreme Court*, by Jeffrey Toobin: It is not laws or constitutional theory that rule the High Court, but quirky men and women guided by political intuition. A survey of the Court from Reagan on, as the justices wrestle with abortion, affirmative action, the death penalty, gay rights, and church and state separation. 384p

April 21, 2010: Poetry Month. Members bring a poem(s) to share with the group.

May 19, 2010: *The Post American World*, by Fareed Zaharia: The industrial, financial, educational, social and cultural power is shifting. This book is less about the decline of the US and more about "the rise of the rest" including China, India, Brazil, Russia and many others. 336p

June 16, 2010: *Netherland*, by Joseph O'Neill: A post 9/11 story that evokes the disorientation and darkness of that time in NYC. A novel of ideas and an emotionally wrenching love story. 272p

For information or to join the Book Group, contact Betsy Boveroux. For information on Ellis, visit [www.ellisneighborhood.org](http://www.ellisneighborhood.org).