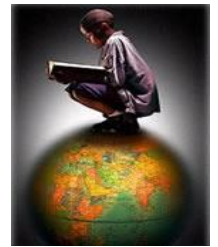




United Black Book Clubs of Pittsburgh (UBBCP)

7TH Annual Celebration of Reading



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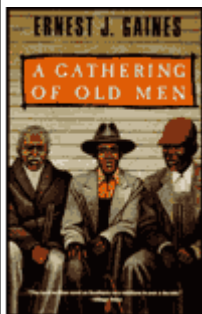
Literary Healing IV: Family

PROUDLY PRESENTS

A GATHERING OF OLD MEN

MOVIE VIEWING AND DISCUSSION FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

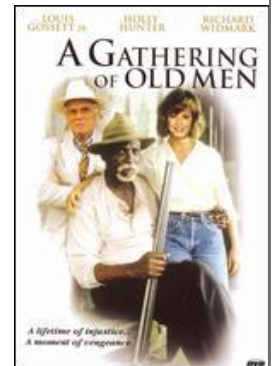
Thursday, May 6, 2010 (11:00 AM – 2:00 PM)



A Gathering of Old Men (1983) by Ernest J. Gaines is a novel about race relations in the American South. Over the course of one day in the bayou country of deepest Louisiana, in the late 1970s, a white Cajun farmer is found shot dead in the yard of a black man's house. Eighteen old black men gather at the house and each claims that he is responsible for the killing. The brutal white sheriff is pretty sure who killed the white guy -- hardly any of the old fellows standing around could hit the side of a barn -- but his interrogations fail to crack their conflicting and confusing stories. Every single one claims guilt, though the dead man was killed with but one shot. Meanwhile, they wait for the inevitable lynch mob that is sure to be organized by the dead man's relatives. By the end of the day, there have been many surprises, and many of the characters have changed in

ways that they could not have imagined, especially the beaten old black men who get a taste of their own power and courage. The novel hints that although the wounds of the past run deep and still influence the present, times are changing, and in the future, black people can hold out hope for a new era in which everyone is treated equally under the law. Gaines' tale presents a moving description of how people are capable of asserting their independence after lifetimes of subservience in a racist community.

The movie, *A Gathering of Old Men*, is based on the novel and was adapted for the screen by Charles Fuller. The movie stars Louis Gossett Jr., Richard Widmark and Holly Hunter.



- Students will enjoy a group viewing of the movie, followed by a discussion of the movie's themes, led by professional moderators.
- The event will be held Thursday, May 6, 11am – 2pm, at The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Homewood Branch. The library is located at 7101 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15208. More information about the library is available at <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/homewood/> or by phone at 412-731-3080.
- The library is easily accessible on PAT via the 71D Hamilton, 77B Penn Hills & EBA routes.
- The event is free & open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.
- To confirm your attendance or for more information, please contact Shirrell at 412-999-4567 or send an email to shirrell@ubbcp.org. Please indicate the number of people in your group.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 7TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF READING EVENT CAN BE FOUND AT

WWW.UBBCP.ORG OR BY EMAILING INFO@UBBCP.ORG.

Wednesday, May 5 – Our Men Read To Our Children; Thursday, May 6 – Student Movie Viewing; Friday, May 7 – Celebration of Reading Opening Gala; Saturday, May 8 – Black Book Fair



UBBCP is an association of librarians, readers and book clubs in Pittsburgh. Through a united effort, UBBCP was formed to promote literary activities and events, to provide community outreach programs, and to spread the love of reading throughout the community.