



Book Club Schedule

Event

Dates

*All times listed are in Eastern Time (ET).
Events run for approximately 90 minutes.

Ted Gup | A Secret Gift

How One Man's Kindness - And a Trove of Letters - Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression

Captured Live Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Encore Screenings Available

On January 25, Michael welcomed legendary investigative reporter and journalist Ted Gup to Philadelphia to discuss his latest book, "A Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness -- And a Trove of Letters -- Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression."

The story: Shortly before Christmas 1933 in Depression-scarred Canton, Ohio, a small newspaper ad offered \$10, no strings attached, to 75 families in distress. Interested readers were asked to submit letters describing their hardships to a benefactor calling himself Mr. B. Virdot. Gup's grandfather Sam Stone was inspired to place this ad and assist his fellow Cantonians as they prepared for the cruelest Christmas most of them would ever witness.

Moved by the tales of suffering and expressions of hope contained in the letters, which he discovered in a suitcase 75 years later, Gup initially set out to unveil the lives behind them, searching for records and relatives all over the country who could help him flesh out the family sagas hinted at in those letters. But as he uncovered the suffering and triumphs of dozens of strangers, Gup also learned that Sam Stone was far more complex than the lovable- retiree persona he'd always shown his grandson. Gup unearths deeply buried details about Sam's life-from his impoverished, abusive upbringing to felonious efforts to hide his immigrant origins from U.S. officials-that help explain why he felt such a strong affinity to strangers in need.

John C. Bogle | Don't Count on It!

Reflections on Investment Illusions, Capitalism, 'Mutual' Funds, Indexing Entrepreneurship, Idealism and Heroes.

Captured Live Monday, February 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Encore Screenings Available

On February 28, Vanguard founder and former CEO John C. Bogle returned to Book Club to lay out his newest book, "Don't Count On It! Reflections on Investment Illusions, Capitalism, "Mutual" Funds, Indexing, Entrepreneurship, Idealism and Heroes."

The story: Throughout his legendary career, John Bogle-founder of the Vanguard mutual fund group and creator of the first index mutual fund-has helped investors build wealth the right way, while, at the same time, leading a tireless campaign to restore common sense to the investment world.

A collection of essays based on speeches delivered to professional groups and college students in recent years, Don't Count on It is organized around eight themes:

- Illusion versus reality in investing
- The flawed structure of the mutual fund industry
- The spirit of entrepreneurship
- The unforgettable characters who have shaped his career
- Indexing to market returns
- Failures of capitalism
- What is enough in business, and in life
- Advice to America's future leaders

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James Kaplan | **Frank: The Voice**

The Story of Frank Sinatra, the Best-known Entertainer of the 20th Century

Captured Live Monday, March 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Encore Screenings Available

On March 7, New York Times bestselling author and biographer James Kaplan, **with Special Guest Sid Mark**, visited Book Club to discuss his book, "Frank: The Voice."

The story: Frank Sinatra was the best-known entertainer of the twentieth century—infinately charismatic, lionized and notorious in equal measure. But despite his mammoth fame, Sinatra the man has remained an enigma. As Bob Spitz did with the Beatles, Tina Brown for Diana, and Peter Guralnick for Elvis, James Kaplan goes behind the legend and hype to bring alive a force that changed popular culture in fundamental ways.

Sinatra endowed the songs he sang with the explosive conflict of his own personality. He also made the very act of listening to pop music a more personal experience than it had ever been. In *Frank: The Voice*, Kaplan reveals how he did it, bringing deeper insight than ever before to the complex psyche and turbulent life behind that incomparable vocal instrument. We relive the years 1915 to 1954 in glistening detail, experiencing as if for the first time Sinatra's journey from the streets of Hoboken, his fall from the apex of celebrity, and his Oscar-winning return in *From Here to Eternity*. Here at last is the biographer who makes the reader feel what it was really like to be Frank Sinatra—as man, as musician, as tortured genius.

Jane Leavy | **The Last Boy**

Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood

Captured Live Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Encore Screenings Available

On April 11, Book Club With Michael Smerconish rolled on with Jane Leavy, New York Times bestselling author and creator of the critically acclaimed comic novel "Squeeze Play." Leavy will visit Philadelphia to discuss her latest book, "The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood."

The story: Drawing on more than 500 interviews with friends and family, teammates, and opponents, Leavy delivers the definitive account of Mantle's life, mining the mythology of The Mick for the true story of a luminous and illustrious talent with an achingly damaged soul.

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Del Quentin Wilber | Rawhide Down
The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan

Captured Live Monday, May 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Encore Screenings Available

On May 23, Book Club With Michael Smerconish hosted Del Quentin Wilber, the accomplished Washington Post and Baltimore Sun reporter and author of "Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan."

The story: On March 30, 1981, President Reagan walked out of a hotel in Washington, D.C., and was shot by a would-be assassin. For years, few people knew the truth about how close the president came to dying, and no one has ever written a detailed narrative of that harrowing day. Now, drawing on exclusive new interviews, Del Quentin Wilber tells the electrifying story of a moment when the nation faced a terrifying crisis. With cinematic clarity, we see the Secret Service agent whose fast reflexes saved the president's life; the brilliant surgeons who operated on Reagan as he was losing half his blood; and the small group of White House officials frantically trying to determine whether the country was under attack. Most especially, we encounter the man code-named Rawhide, a leader of uncommon grace who inspired affection and awe in everyone who worked with him.

Ronald Reagan was the only serving U.S. president to survive being shot in an assassination attempt. In *Rawhide Down*, the story of that perilous day—a day of chaos, crisis, prayer, heroism, and hope—is brought to life as never before.

Pete Hamill | *Tabloid City: A Novel*
A new fiction classic from Hamill

Captured Live Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Encore Screenings Available

On June 1, Michael welcomed journalist, novelist and short story writer Pete Hamill to Philadelphia to discuss his latest book, "Tabloid City: A Novel"

The story: In a stately West Village townhouse, a wealthy socialite and her secretary are murdered. In the 24 hours that follow, a flurry of activity circles around their shocking deaths: The head of one of the city's last tabloids stops the presses. A cop investigates the killing. A reporter chases the story. A disgraced hedge fund manager flees the country. An Iraq War vet seeks revenge. And an angry young extremist plots a major catastrophe.

The City is many things: a proving ground, a decadent playground, or a palimpsest of memories-- a historic metropolis eclipsed by modern times. As much a thriller as it is a gripping portrait of the city of today, *TABLOID CITY* is a new fiction classic from the writer who has captured it perfectly for decades.