

February 2019 Spark discussions:

Society Made Queer Men of Colour A White Killer's Prey, article by P.J. Larocque, Huffington Post, Updated Feb 5/19. The double marginalized status of these men in Toronto's Gay Village made them both the targets of a killer and lower priorities in the eyes of the law. Systemic biases in law enforcement put racialized members of the LGBTQ community in harm's way. The disappearance of Andrew Kinsmen, McArthur's alleged final victim and a white man mobilized law enforcement and the media. "I was never aware of my racial otherness until I came out of the closet." "A queer person of colour is used to being dehumanized".

The Dinner, Herman Koch. Two couples meet for dinner in Amsterdam. One is a successful politician, Serge, and the other his brother, Paul. They meet to discuss the horrific actions of their 15-year-old sons. Paul avoids the discussion all evening as his resentment against his successful brother grows and grows. Finally, Paul finds himself caught in the middle of a conspiracy. The book is an interesting study in human nature that asks the question, what would you do to protect your child.

The Wonder, Emma Donoghue. A gripping investigation into an Irish girl's fasting by the writer of Room. Based on the many cases of "fasting girls" reported across the world from the 16th to the 20th centuries. Lib Wright, an English nurse, is commissioned for a fortnight to watch over 11-year-old Anna O'Donnell, who apparently has not eaten in four months, to determine whether she is a miracle or a fraud. Thrilling domestic psychodrama.

This Mountain Life. Action, adventure documentary directed by Grant Baldwin, formerly of Brechin United Church. The main focus of the documentary is on a mother and daughter team who decide to cross the trans coastal BC mountains. Baldwin mixes their trek with interviews of others living along their trail. The mountains mean everything to these people. Contact the Galaxy Theatre for special showings during February.

Check out Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's New Green Deal on Google. A 10-year US national mobilization plan to combat climate change.

Interesting discussion focusing on living in a minimalist, sustainable manner through our choices of transportation, conscious consumerism and waste management.

