

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Literally, books come to life for club**

EDMOND, Okla. — When some of the women at Touchmark at Coffee Creek got together to form a book club, they didn't know it would be so much fun and become such an important part of their lives.

The group of about a dozen residents and friends gets together monthly to not only discuss the assigned novel, memoir or classic — but also to immerse themselves in the setting and culture of the book. There is no limit to their creativity.

When they read Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner," set mostly in Afghanistan, the book club gathering featured Middle Eastern food. Some wore burkas, which covered them from head to toe, and they learned about the Quran and Muslim customs.

For "The Great Gatsby," martinis and vintage clothing, such as flapper dresses, were part of the program. For "The Orphan Train," one of the residents set up her late husband's model train set.

Joan Crooks, who moved to Touchmark four years ago, is the charter member and organizer of the group that began two years ago.

She said the group is not fussy about the books they choose, which has enabled the club to sample a wide array of genres. She also said there is a vibrant discussion about each book that everyone in the club reads. "Really, we do," laughed Joan.

"I enjoy that when we see each other around, we ask each other what page we are on in the book and talk about what is going on in the book. Joan calls this book club her favorite out of the many she has participated in over the years.

While the book club didn't actually participate in a mock fight-to-the-death-style party when they read the popular young adult novel, "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins, they did enjoy the story, and they understand why today's kids like it so much.

"My favorite book was "The Kite Runner," a story about friendship and redemption," shared Joan, who obviously enjoys getting together for the book club with her Touchmark friends to eat, discuss and enjoy good conversation and laughter. "It's a highlight of my month, for sure," she said smiling.

Adrienne Parker said preparation for the most recent meeting was a group effort, with the women reviewing "The Aviator's Wife," a book about Charles Lindbergh's wife. The table featured a centerpiece of a model airplane and historic photos. Parker especially appreciates Touchmark's Dining Services staff. "For this month, they made sack lunches, which is what Anne Lindbergh would prepare for her husband's voyages," she said.

"Each book evokes different responses, and this month our group was dismayed to learn how shabbily Lindbergh treated his wife," said Parker.

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TOUCHMARK *at Coffee Creek*

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Touchmark offers an award-winning life enrichment/wellness program and provides an environment where residents can participate in various activities, said Melissa Mahaffey, executive director.

Crooks works with a local Edmond bookstore to get small discounts on paperbacks, but many members also use e-readers, because they like the ability to change font sizes and lighting.

“The Touchmark Food Services group is very helpful and accommodating when it comes to planning book club menus,” said Joan. “And we’re looking forward to the early summer months, when we can have our meetings on the beautiful outside commons area.”

### **About Touchmark at Coffee Creek**

Touchmark is part of the Coffee Creek 638-acre planned residential development, which includes a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. A full-service retirement community, Touchmark at Coffee Creek offers a wide range of homes and lifestyle options. For more information, contact Touchmark at 405-340-1975 or visit [TouchmarkEdmond.com](http://TouchmarkEdmond.com).

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### **Caption:**

Residents of Touchmark at Coffee Creek organized a unique book club that brings to life each book during a luncheon. To reflect this month’s book, “The Aviator’s Wife” about Charles Lindbergh’s wife, Adrienne Parker (right) and the group decorated the table with small airplanes and historic photos. The women ate a sack lunch, which pilots’ wives used to pack for their husbands. More than a dozen women participate in the club, including (from left) Jan Hall and Melissa Wilson.

### **Sidebar:**

#### **Here are just some of the books the Touchmark Book Club has read over the past two years:**

“The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency”  
“Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society”  
“A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail”  
“The Help”  
“Half Broke Horses”  
“Water for Elephants”  
“Snow Flower and the Secret Fan”  
“Empire of the Southern Moon”  
“A Girl Named Zippy”  
“Sarah’s Key”  
“Cold Sassy Tree”  
“Shopping, Seduction & Mr. Selfridge”  
“The Hunger Games”  
“Leaving Cold Sassy”  
“A Small Death in the Great Glen”  
“One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd”  
“The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl”  
“The Shoemaker’s Wife”  
“A Secret Kept”  
“The House I Loved”  
“The Great Gatsby”

**“The Orchard”**  
**“The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry”**  
**“The Kite Runner”**  
**“A Thousand Splendid Suns”**