

**The American Heritage Book Group of the  
Kitchi Gammi Club**

The evening schedule will be as follows:

5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Social Hour (cash bar)  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Light supper and conversation about the book

Price: \$18.00 inclusive; includes soup & sandwich (turkey or ham), chips, water & coffee.

**For more information contact:**

*The American Heritage Book Group Coordinators:*

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**REGISTRATION FOR THE WINTER GATHERING\***

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and enclose this registration form along with a check for \$18 and send it to the Kitchi Gammi Club: 831 E. Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802.

\*Members of the Kitchi Gammi Club may call the front desk to register.

# THE AMERICAN HERITAGE BOOK GROUP OF THE KITCHI GAMMI CLUB

*An Educational Fellowship Experience for Members of the Kitchi Gammi Club, Members of the Duluth-Superior Rotary Clubs, and Friends*



Focus on the Founding of  
Our American Heritage:

★Achieving Independence★

★Establishing an Independent Nation★

## Theme for the Winter 2016: Achieving Independence

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Book Selection:  
*1776* by David McCullough

America's beloved and distinguished historian presents, in a book of breathtaking excitement, drama, and narrative force, the stirring story of the year of our nation's birth—1776—interweaving, on both sides of the Atlantic, the actions and decisions that led Great Britain to undertake a war against her rebellious colonial subjects and that placed America's survival in the hands of George Washington. In this masterful book, David McCullough tells the intensely human story of those who marched with General George Washington in the year of the Declaration of Independence—when the whole American cause was riding on their success, without which all hope for independence would have been dashed and the noble ideals of the Declaration would have amounted to little more than words on paper.

Based on extensive research in both American and British archives, *1776* is a powerful drama written with extraordinary narrative vitality. It is the story of Americans in the ranks, men of every shape, size, and color, farmers, schoolteachers, shoemakers, no-accounts, and mere boys turned soldiers. And it is the story of the King's men, the British commander, William Howe, and his highly disciplined redcoats who looked on their rebel foes with contempt and fought with a valor too little known.

***“This is a narrative tour de force, exhibiting all the hallmarks the author is known for: fascinating subject matter, expert research and detailed, graceful prose. . . . Simply put, this is history writing at its best by one of its top practitioners.”*** — Publishers Weekly

***“A master story-teller's character driven account of a storied year in the American Revolution.”*** — Kirkus

## Spring Theme 2016: Establishing an Independent Nation

The Principles for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Book Selection:  
***Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788*** by Pauline Maier

When the delegates left the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in September 1787, the new Constitution they had written was no more than a proposal. Elected conventions in at least nine of the thirteen states would have to ratify it before it could take effect. There was reason to doubt whether that would happen. The document we revere today as the foundation of our country's laws, the cornerstone of our legal system, was hotly disputed at the time. Some Americans denounced the Constitution for threatening the liberty that Americans had won at great cost in the Revolutionary War. One group of fiercely patriotic opponents even burned the document in a raucous public demonstration on the Fourth of July.

In this splendid new history, Pauline Maier tells the dramatic story of the year-long battle over ratification that brought such famous founders as Washington, Hamilton, Madison, Jay, and Henry together with less well-known Americans who sometimes eloquently and always passionately expressed their hopes and fears for their new country. Men argued in taverns and coffeehouses; women joined the debate in their parlors; broadsides and newspaper stories advocated various points of view and excoriated others. In small towns and counties across the country people read the document carefully and knew it well. Americans seized the opportunity to play a role in shaping the new nation. Then the ratifying conventions chosen by "We the People" scrutinized and debated the Constitution clause by clause.

Although many books have been written about the Constitutional Convention, this is the first major history of ratification. It draws on a vast new collection of documents and tells the story with masterful attention to detail in a dynamic narrative. Each state's experience was different, and Maier gives each its due even as she focuses on the four critical states of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, and New York, whose approval of the Constitution was crucial to its success.

The New Yorker Gilbert Livingston called his participation in the ratification convention the greatest transaction of his life. The hundreds of delegates to the ratifying conventions took their responsibility seriously, and their careful inspection of the Constitution can tell us much today about a document whose meaning continues to be subject to interpretation. Ratification is the story of the founding drama of our nation, superbly told in a history that transports readers back more than two centuries to reveal the convictions and aspirations on which our country was built.