

WOMEN'S FORUM

Sharing Wisdom

A Program for Women

Dear Ladies,

In previous letters I mentioned that we would be having the writer Amy Tan as our topic for the September '23 new season kickoff. I've spent the last several weeks reading her books and researching her on TED Talks and interviews she has given over the years. Now more than ever I am delighted that this fascinating woman will be our next subject.

When we did the *American Masters - Baby Boomers* topic on Zoom during Covid, one of the top Boomer favorites was Amy Tan. We'd all heard of her, a writer whose wildly successful breakthrough novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, (over 40 weeks on the NYT bestseller list) had then become a major motion picture. Amy went on to author many notable books and literary pieces and became a fixture in contemporary American letters. But it wasn't until her fascinating persona came through with her participation in that *American Masters* documentary, that I wanted to know more about *her*, not just the writer, but

the *woman* behind all those stories of cultural duality and complexity.

Flawlessly composed, extremely intelligent and articulate and possessed of an alluring charm, Amy Tan made one stop and notice. *And yes, definitely, I wanted to know more, and to bring it to WF...*

As "Luck" would have it, the timing was pretty good. Amy's last book, a memoir, *Where the Past Begins*, inspired a documentary film *Unintended Memoir*. (Perfect fit for our next event.)

This documentary of one woman's journey, at once so heartening and tumultuous, will be viewed and discussed with us by a panel of mental health professionals, garnered (very proud to say) from within our own membership.

Unintended Memoir Luncheon, Thursday September 7, noon. Admission 20. To attend, please register.

Taking it a step further, her best-selling book *The Joy Luck Club*, is a great start for the debut of our "boutique-y" *In-Depth* discussion series. (Patterned after the Zoom

sessions which have become a source of deeper and more open sharing, this in-person, small group, *occasional* gathering, will create an opportunity for book discussions and other conversations drawn from varied resources.) If you haven't read *The Joy Luck Club*, give it a look. It is a fast read, engrossing . If you read it ages ago, bring your memory of it. *Women's Forum In-Depth*, Thursday September 14, 1:30. Dillon Library History Room. Duration 1 hour + or - 15 minutes. To attend please register.

And rounding out our Amy Tan tribute month, at our Luncheon on Thursday September 21, at noon, we'll screen the now classic, major motion picture *The Joy Luck Club*. You'll find a beautiful film, intelligent, delicate and elegant - very much like its author. Admission: 20. To attend please register.

To register for our programs please contact us at womensforumusa@gmail.com.

Best always,

Evelyn

Dillon Library, Bedminster, NJ