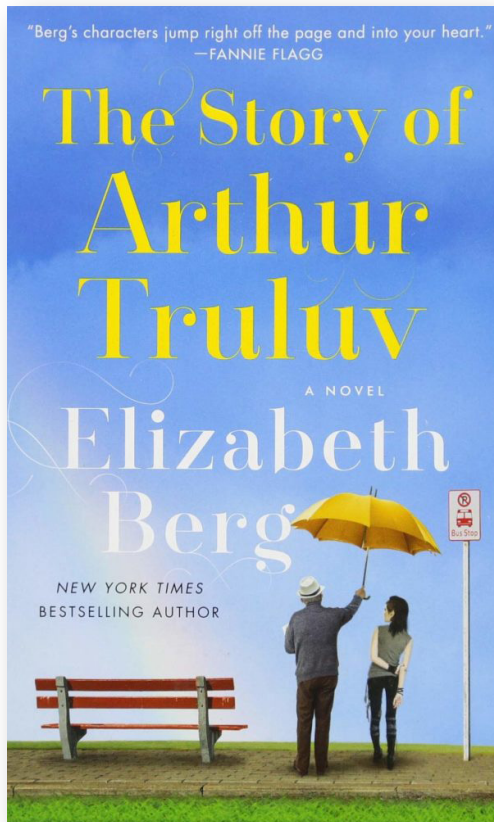




Read Together
Palm Beach County
One Book, One Community

Read Together

Events & Discussion Guide



Read Together Palm Beach County

“one book, one community”

PURPOSE: The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is working to involve thousands of adults throughout Palm Beach County in reading the same book at the same time. This community reading campaign will entice adults who can read, but often don't, to get involved in the habit of reading again. It will also promote community dialogue and engagement as citizens gather together to discuss key themes.

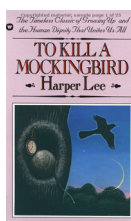
HISTORY: Based on the success of similar campaigns in Seattle and Chicago, the Campaign Coordinating Committee conducted Read Together Palm Beach County biannually from 2002 to 2016. Building on the excitement, momentum and success of the 2016 campaign, the Literacy Coalition and the Read Together Committee decided to coordinate the initiative annually. In each campaign, thousands of adults read and discuss the chosen book.



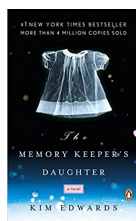
2002



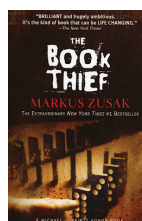
2004



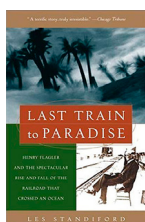
2006



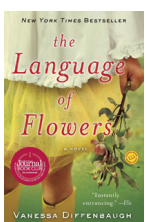
2008



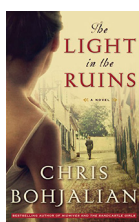
2010



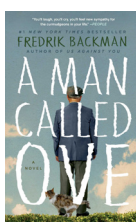
2012



2014



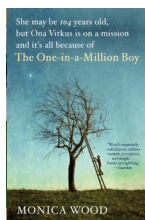
2016



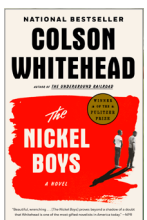
2017



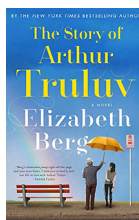
2018



2019



2020



2021-2022





Members of the Read Together Palm Beach County Committee in 2019.

2022 Read Together Palm Beach County Book Selection Committee:

Laurie Gildan, Chair

Staci Alesi

Elisa Glazer

Len Gray

Sharon Hill

Tina Maura

Deborah Nix

Karen Ronald

Carol Rose

Tom Streit

Alyson Walzer

Christina Wood

Helena Zacharis

Nancy Vera

Campaign Committee:

Sharon Hill, Chair

Aurora Arthay

Craig Clark

Lynn Kalber

Theresa Pezzo

Carol Rose

Christina Wood

**COPIES OF THE BOOK ARE AVAILABLE AT THE
LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
FOR A \$10 DONATION.**

About the Author

Elizabeth Berg

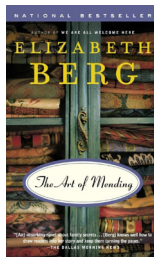
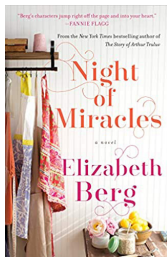


Photo © Teresa Crawford

Elizabeth Berg is the author of many bestselling novels including this year's Read Together book, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, *Open House* (an "Oprah's Book Club" selection), *Talk Before Sleep* and *The Year of Pleasures*. Her work has been published in 30 countries, and three of her novels have been

turned into TV movies. Her short story collection *The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted*, *Durable Goods* and *Joy School* were selected as ALA Best Books of the Year. She adapted *The Pull of the Moon* into a play that enjoyed sold-out performances in Chicago and Indianapolis. Berg's work has been published in thirty countries, and three of her novels have been turned into television movies. She is the founder of Writing Matters, a quality reading series dedicated to serving author, audience, and community. She teaches one-day writing workshops and is a popular speaker at venues around the country. Some of her most popular Facebook postings have been collected in *Make Someone Happy* and *Still Happy*. She lives outside Chicago.

Other Titles by Elizabeth Berg



Courtesy of PenguinRandomHouse.com

About *The Story of Arthur Truluv*

An emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them

For the past six months, Arthur Moses's days have looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life.

Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris is an introspective girl who visits the cemetery to escape the other kids at school. One afternoon she joins Arthur – a gesture that begins a surprising friendship between two lonely souls. Moved by Arthur's kindness and devotion, Maddy gives him the nickname "Truluv." As Arthur's neighbor Lucille moves into their orbit, the unlikely trio band together and, through heartache and hardships, help one another rediscover their own potential to start anew.

Wonderfully written and full of profound observations about life, *The Story of Arthur Truluv* is a beautiful and moving novel of compassion in the face of loss, of the small acts that turn friends into family, and of the possibilities to achieve happiness at any age.

Praise for the book

"For several days after [finishing *The Story of Arthur Truluv*], I felt lifted by it, and I found myself telling friends, also feeling overwhelmed by 2017, about the book. Read this, I said, it will offer some balance to all that has happened, and it is a welcome reminder we're all neighbors here."

— **Chicago Tribune**

"Not since Paul Zindel's classic *The Pigman* have we seen such a unique bond between people who might not look twice at each other in real life. This small, mighty novel offers proof that they should."

— **People, Book of the Week**

"I dare you to read this novel and not fall in love with Arthur Truluv. His story will make you laugh and cry, and will show you a love that never ends, and what it means to be truly human." — **Fannie Flagg**

"Fans of Meg Wolitzer, Emma Straub, or [Elizabeth] Berg's previous novels will appreciate the richly complex characters and clear prose. Redemptive without being maudlin, this story of two misfits lucky to have found one another will tug at readers' heartstrings." — **Booklist**

Reading Group Questions

- 1.** What did the epigraphs mean to you before you read the book? Did they seem to hint at any major themes in *The Story of Arthur Truluv*? How did the meaning of the epigraphs change for you, after you finished the book?
- 2.** Arthur has a special connection to the dead. Every day he talks to his late wife, and he sees glimpses into the lives of other people who are buried in the cemetery. Do you think the connection he has with the dead influences how he views and lives his life?
- 3.** Maddy is bullied by her classmates, both at her school and online. How does this effect the choices she makes early in the book, and how is she eventually able to overcome it?
- 4.** Lucille is an incredibly talented baker. She puts so much time and effort into her recipes that it seems like more than just a hobby to her. What role does baking play in her life, and in the relationships she has with others?
- 5.** Maddy and her father have a strained relationship. Why is it so difficult for him to give Maddy the affection and support she needs? Do you feel sympathy for him and the situation he is in? Does their relationship change over the course of the book?
- 6.** Maddy and Arthur have many differences, the biggest of which is their difference in age. When they first get to know each other, there is a funny scene that highlights this, in which Maddy tries to get Arthur to use a curse word. Do you think differences in a friendship are an advantage or a disadvantage? Can you think of an example where this is true in other works of literature or in your own life?
- 7.** Although Maddy never knew Nola, she honors her in a beautiful way at the end of the book. Why do you think she does this?
- 8.** There is a popular adage that says: "Friends are the family we choose for ourselves." That statement feels especially true for the characters in *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, who build an unconventional family out of friendship. Have you ever had friends that are as dear to you as family, or who are even closer to you than your relatives?

Courtesy of PenguinRandomHouse.com

Community Events

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

Talking Books – Virtual with Florida Outreach Center for the Blind

Presented by the Palm Beach County Library System

Borrow a copy of *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg and attend a lively discussion featuring this year's Read Together Palm Beach County selection. Register for the event at www.pbclibrary.org/digital-activities

THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY (while supplies last)

Grab & Go Art Kits: Valentine Cookie Kit – FREE!

Supplied by Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach

411 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33401



Bring home an art class with a Grab & Go Art Kit! This month, celebrate Valentine's Day in style with a cookie kit! Included in the kit is a Betty Crocker cookie mix, Valentine-themed frosting, and two boxes of conversation hearts. Want to experience some more true love? Read this year's Read Together Palm Beach County book, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*

by Elizabeth Berg. Quantities are limited, and kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the first-floor customer service desk. For more information, visit wpbcitylibrary.org or call 561-868-7701.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022, 2:30 P.M.

Begin Your Own Reading Journal

Presented by Palm Beach County Library, Hagen Ranch Rd. Branch

14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach, FL 33446

Enrich your reading experience and your love of books by keeping a reading journal. Journal kits provided. Attendance limited to 20. Register for the event at <http://events.pbclibrary.org/events-and-classes/all-ages>

Continues on page 8

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Read Together PBC Book Discussion

Presented by Village of North Palm Beach Library

501 US Highway 1, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Enjoy a book discussion with fellow book lovers of the selected book, the 2022 Read Together Palm Beach County book, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. Snacks and refreshments will be supplied. For more information or to register, visit www.village-npb.org/188/Library or call 561-841-3380.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Books & Bakes Read Together PBC Book Discussion

Presented by Delray Beach Public Library

100 W Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444

Borrow a copy of *The Story of Arthur Truluv* and join us for our Book & Bakes discussion. Homemade baked goods play a strong supporting role in the book so participants are invited to bring a homemade baked goodie and recipe to share. Baked goods are optional, but encouraged. The Book & Bakes discussion will be held in the South Pavilion by the field at **Catherine Strong Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach, FL 33444**. Preregistration is requested. Please register at <https://www.delraylibrary.org/classes/read-together-2022/> For more information, call 561-266-0194.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

With a Little Help from My Friends: Let's Talk About Intergenerational Friendships – Virtual

Presented by the Palm Beach County Library System

Inspired by Elizabeth Berg's, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, this interactive conversation focuses on intergenerational friendships, how they happen, and why they matter. Register for the event at www.pbclibrary.org/digital-activities

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

Read Together PBC Book Discussion

Presented by Palm Beach County Library, West Boynton Branch

9451 Jog Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Borrow a copy of *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg and attend a lively discussion featuring this year's Read Together Palm Beach County selection. Attendance is limited to 25 persons. Call 561-734-5556 to preregister.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022, 11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.

Read Together PBC Virtual Book Discussion – Live on Zoom, Free

Presented by Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach

411 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Join the Friends of the Mandel Public Library and other book lovers every second Friday of the month for a lively discussion of selected books. March's book will be this year's selected Read Together Palm Beach County book, *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg. A moving novel about three people who find their way back from loss and loneliness to a different kind of happiness. Informal book chatter begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by a moderated book discussion at noon. No registration required. Visit the library's online calendar at wpbcitylibrary.org or call **561-868-7701** for the Zoom link.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

Read Together PBC Book Discussion

Presented by Palm Beach County Library, Glades Road Branch

20701 95th Avenue South, Boca Raton, FL 33434

Borrow a copy of *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg and attend a lively discussion featuring this year's Read Together Palm Beach County selection. Attendance is limited to 10 persons. Call **561-482-4554** to preregister.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022, 2:30 P.M.

Read Together PBC Book Discussion

Presented by Palm Beach County Library, Royal Palm Beach Branch

500 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

Borrow a copy of *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg and attend a lively discussion featuring this year's Read Together Palm Beach County selection. Call **561-790-6030** to preregister.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

Orange Blossom Cookies! – Virtual

Presented by the Palm Beach County Library System

We're baking Orange Blossom Cookies, with zesty orange frosting! Easy, step-by-step instructions — beginning bakers welcome. Recipe provided via email following registration. Register for the event at www.pbclibrary.org/digital-activities

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022, 6:30 P.M.

Read Together PBC Book Discussion

Presented by Palm Beach County Library, Wellington Branch

1951 Royal Fern Drive, Wellington, FL 33414

Borrow a copy of *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg and attend a lively discussion featuring this year's Read Together Palm Beach County selection. Call **561-790-6070** to preregister.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022, 2:30 P.M.

Write Your Own Obituary

Presented by Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach

14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach, FL 33446

Reconnect with what's important to you and let it guide your life by learning to write your own obituary. What do you want your legacy to be? Register for the event at <http://events.pbclibrary.org/events-and-classes/all-ages>

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022, 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Read Together PBC Book Discussion – In Person or on Zoom, Free

Presented by Boca Raton Public Library

400 NW 2nd Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

Enjoy a book discussion with fellow book lovers of the selected book, the 2022 Read Together Palm Beach County book, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. Attend in person or virtually. A Zoom link will be emailed upon enrollment. Registration will be through the library's calendar accessible at <https://bocalibrary.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=43279>. For more information, call **561-393-7852**.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

Recipe Swap

Presented by Palm Beach County Library, Main Library

3650 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Food is life, it is how we share our collective histories. Bring a recipe or two, chat about origins, memories, and the loved ones who've made those experiences so special. Attendance limited to 10. Register for the event at <http://events.pbclibrary.org/events-and-classes/all-ages>

31ST ANNUAL LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON AND READ TOGETHER FINALE

FEATURING NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

ELIZABETH BERG

Friday, April 1, 2022

11:30 a.m. | Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

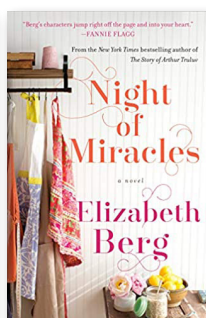
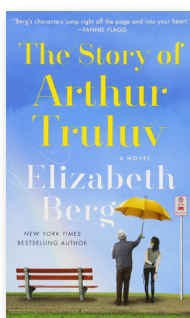


Please join us for the **31st annual Love of Literacy Luncheon on Friday, April 1, 2022**, at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. This year's Luncheon will also be the culmination of our Read Together Palm Beach County Campaign with beloved *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Berg.

Ms. Berg's novels include this year's Read Together book, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, *Open House* (an "Oprah's Book Club" selection), *Talk Before Sleep*, and *The Year of Pleasures*. Her work has been published in 30 countries, and three of her novels have been turned into TV movies.

The Love of Literacy Luncheon is the Coalition's signature event to raise awareness of our county's significant literacy needs and provide crucial money to support literacy programs from Jupiter to Boca Raton and west to Belle Glade. We know that students are struggling, faced with the COVID-19 Learning Loss and they need our help now, more than ever.

MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR
BANK OF AMERICA



SCAN ME



Read Together Palm Beach County

FINALE AT THE LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON

April 1, 2022 | Kravis Center | West Palm Beach



Join us for the 20th year of our “one book, one community” campaign, which promotes community dialogue through book discussions. We are reading *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by New York Times Bestselling Author Elizabeth Berg.

The book is about an unlikely friendship between a teenage girl and an elderly widower. Of the book, Richard Russo said, “I don’t know if I’ve ever read a more affecting book about the natural affinity between the young and the elderly than Elizabeth Berg’s *The Story of Arthur Truluv*”.

The Campaign features book discussions and events culminating with the author’s April 1, 2022 visit for the Read Together Finale at the Love of Literacy Luncheon.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Diamond Sponsorship..... \$10,000

Attend a meet-and-greet with the author at a private reception prior to the Luncheon finale for eight and lunch for 10. Includes 40 copies of the Read Together book, full-page program recognition in the program booklet and top billing and prime recognition in Read Together media and event materials.

Gold Sponsorship.....\$5,000

Attend a meet-and-greet with the author at a private reception prior to the Luncheon finale for six and lunch for 10. Includes 30 copies of the Read Together book, full-page program recognition in the program booklet and top billing and prominent recognition in Read Together media and event materials.

Silver Sponsorship.....\$3,000

Attend a meet-and-greet with the author at a private reception prior to the Luncheon finale for four and lunch for 10. Includes 20 copies of the Read Together book, half-page program recognition in the program booklet and recognition in Read Together media and event materials.

Bronze Sponsorship.....\$1,000

Attend a meet-and-greet with the author at a private reception prior to the Luncheon finale for two people, including lunch. Includes 10 copies of the Read Together book and logo recognition in Read Together media and event materials.

Patron Ticket.....\$300

Individual Ticket.....\$150

Visit LiteracyPBC.org for details.



TEE OFF FOR LITERACY!

6TH ANNUAL
LITERACY LINKS GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022 | PALM BEACH PAR 3

Play a round of golf to benefit our efforts to provide adults and children with links to literacy to succeed in school and life. Foursomes and individual spots are available, all levels are welcome. The Palm Beach Par 3 is an unparalleled golfing experience nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway. We will adhere to social-distancing guidelines at the event. Sponsorships are available.

CHECK-IN: 7:30 a.m.

SHOTGUN START, Scramble Format: 8:30 a.m.

Awards and Lunch following play on-site at *al Fresco* Restaurant

FOURSOME \$800 | INDIVIDUAL \$225



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Kristin Calder

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER

You can volunteer to tutor an adult or child in need of literacy skills. There are also opportunities to help an adult learn English and/or prepare to take the GED exam. No experience is required as we will provide training.



BOOK DRIVES

Organizations and individuals can conduct book drives for the Literacy Coalition. The collected books are shared with the children's literacy programs operated by the Literacy Coalition such as *Budding Readers* or *Reach Out and Read* or distributed to partner agencies serving economically disadvantaged children. We have shared 2,025 of these donated books in the last year to groups in need including teachers, schools and organizations. We have many more requests for gently used children's books.



MAKE A DONATION

Your tax-deductible donation will help provide literacy services to adults, children and families who are working to achieve a better life by improving their literacy skills.



MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT

Donate long-term appreciated securities, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to the Literacy Coalition. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated securities and

contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift to the Literacy Coalition and your tax deduction.



IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS

Consider an endowment gift to the Literacy Coalition that will allow us to sustain the impact in our community for future generations. Include the Literacy Coalition in your retirement plans, will, living trust or related planned giving methods allowing you to extend your legacy of literacy to future generations. Planned gifts – large and small – are a lasting way to help us continue the success we know today in helping families be successful in school and in life.

READ TO A CHILD

Read together everyday. Point out print everywhere. Do not limit yourself to reading books with your child. Street signs and cereal boxes count too. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. This attention lets them know they are special and loved.



ATTEND AN EVENT

There are various events to attend throughout the year that support our literacy programs and initiatives. Events include LOOP for Literacy, the Love of Literacy Luncheon, The Grand Bee Literary Fun & Games and the Literacy Links Golf Tournament.



PROMOTE LITERACY

You can support the mission of the Literacy Coalition and become an advocate for literacy. Share our posts and information on your social media accounts. Follow LiteracyPBC today!



THANK YOU TO OUR READ TOGETHER PARTNERS & SPONSORS



The Palm Beach Post
REAL NEWS STARTS HERE



Blume Literacy Center

on the Brenda & C.P. Medore Campus
3651 Quantum Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33426
561-279-9103 | LiteracyPBC.org

Our Mission

The mission of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

Our Vision

That every child and adult in Palm Beach County becomes a reader.



Only 1% of rated charities across the country have received 4 out of 4 stars for 13 consecutive years.



FOLLOW LITERACYPBC TODAY!

