**September 2020 Staff Picks**

**Eileen recommends *Shanghai Girls* and *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See**

Lisa See’s stories have a way of sticking with you long after you read them. It’s been about ten years since I read this duo and I still have strong memories of Pearl and May Chin. The story begins in 1937 Shanghai, where they’re living a carefree life just before the Japanese invasion. That moment in history sends them fleeing to Los Angeles and arranged marriages while carrying a secret that will divide the two sisters for a long time. Dreams of Joy picks up in 1957 with the second generation as daughter Joy becomes enthralled with the promise of Red China just before the Cultural Revolution.

**Kelly** **recommends The Crown Season 1 and 2**
If you have had it on your need to watch list, now is the time as season 3 will soon be released on DVD.  Netflix has done an outstanding job giving us a behind the scenes look at what life has been like for Queen Elizabeth and family dating back to her childhood.  The actors and production quality of this series are amazing. Very well done!

**Linda recommends *Growing Old: Notes On Aging with Something Like Grace***

**by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas**

If fortune smiles upon us, we will live long enough to pay taxes. And, that other certainty, our demise is assured. But, to be truly smiled upon by the gods we will come to know what it means to “Grow Old.” This book is a gem! The author’s style of writing is as if the reader is listening to an “old” friend. Thomas does not mince words or attempt niceties but there is an undercurrent of humor and her joy of living is evident. One of the gems has to do with the various methods of disposing of one’s physical being. A variety of methods are examined and readers may be interested in costs associated with those choices. The author has traveled extensively and her experiences are relevant and add depth and breadth to her writing. For example, in her twenties Thomas lived among the San, the world’s oldest people, in South Africa. Another adventure-experience – spending the summer on Baffin Island living among wolves – is the basis for *The Hidden Life of Dogs*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller. As an aside, Thomas walked 75 miles to the island. Thomas makes her home in Peterborough, New Hampshire. At the time of publication (April 2020) Thomas was 88 years young.