

2017 NEWS - BC2G is nine years old!

Book Club to Go (BC2G) is a program to encourage the development and success of book clubs in Monterey County. We have many bags with ten copies of books and discussion questions. They can be checked out for six weeks and reserved ahead of time up to one year in advance, using our website MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org/BookClubtoGo/

In February 2008 we started with 32 bags. We kept adding new bags each year. At this point we have 128 bags (24 of them Nonfiction, 5 Large Print).

A printable list of all titles is always available in PDF on the website. Please remember to always print the most current list from the website.

Between February 2016 and January 2017 our bags circulated 276 times, which is more than the previous year (244). We have 80 inactive holds. 112 of currently held bags circulated, some of them multiple times. Many of those that were no longer popular were removed. Maybe some rise in circulation is due to the fact that since last year we have a link to BC2G on the Library Home Page.

Within the last nine years our bags circulated more than 2, 200 times! Keeping in mind that each bag has ten books and each group has an average of ten people, the books from BC2G bags were read 22, 000 times!

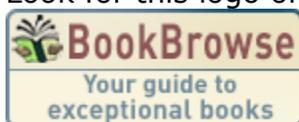
Featured popular bags with at least 3 inactive holds as of early Feb. 2017:

- [A Man Called Ove](#) by Fredrik Backman
- [Be Frank With Me](#) by Julia Johnson
- [The Circle](#) by Dave Eggers
- [Delicious! A novel](#) by Ruth Reichl
- [Destiny of the Republic](#) by Candice Millard
- [The Jade Peony](#) by Wayson Choy
- [The Little Paris Bookshop](#) by Nina George
- [Monterey Bay](#) by Lindsey Hatton
- [The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House](#) by Kate Andersen Brower
- [The Sellout: a novel](#) by Paul Beatty

When we ask BC2G users for feedback one request that keeps coming back is for interactivity. Patrons ask for some kind of a forum for book clubs to share feedback on their experiences reading the books. This year we were able to acquire a subscription to a readers' advisory portal, BookBrowse that will hopefully fill many of our avid readers' needs, not only book clubbers. These are the features:

- Current Fiction and Nonfiction books.
- Reviews, recommendations and excerpts.
- Browsing by genre, time period, geographical setting and theme.
- Handpicked "If you like this, try these" recommendations for thousands of authors and books.
- "Beyond the Book" articles that explore factual aspects relevant to each book.
- Resources for book clubs, including recommended reads by theme, reading guides & online book club discussions.
- One-click links to Monterey County Free Libraries Online Catalog to check if the book is available.
- A free twice-monthly interactive Newsletter "The BookBrowse Review" available by subscription.

Look for this logo on the Library website:



Here is a link that will take you directly to the Newsletter Signup portion of the login page. After you enter your information, you will then be directed to the regular login page.

<https://www.bookbrowse.com/libweb/index.cfm?lcd=632301#signup>

I encourage you to sign up for the newsletter. It is always fun to learn about new good books!

FYI, Last year in October I made a virtual presentation about BC2G at the Librarians' conference held at the UMCS University in Lublin, Poland. It was met with much interest and the article will be published soon.

Also last year we made contacts with two authors whose books we wanted to add to BC2G, but the discussion questions were not available online. At our request they made discussion questions especially for us. What is more, BookBrowse agreed to add them to their website. Check it out: [The Course of Love: a novel](#) by Alain de Botton and [One Child: the Story of China's Most Radical Experiment](#) by Mei Fong.

Reminders:

Groups don't have to use the Request Form for multiple reservations. They can email us a list of BC2G titles they want to read, a list of dates for pick-ups and two names of book club members who have MCFL library cards and we will mix and match based on availability.

While filling up the Request Form please always check the availability first on the Title List. Green notes tell you which bags are **available today**. We update this page daily and you can always see if any bag is available for immediate pickup. Unfortunately we receive many requests for bags that are not available. If we were to continue maintaining this feature on the website we would kindly ask you to use it.

Thank you all for your help in making BC2G such a success!