

## Rosenberg Library Announces Museum Book Club Fall Selection

Rosenberg Library is pleased to announce that *The Promise* by Ann Weisgarber is the selection for the Fall 2015 Museum Book Club Series. *The Promise* - which is set in Galveston during the Great Storm of 1900 - is the highly acclaimed second novel by Weisgarber.

The first meeting of the Fall Museum Book Club will take place on Wednesday, September 9 from 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. A second session will be held on Thursday, October 15 from 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. The Museum Book Club will meet in the McCullough Room located on the library's 2nd floor. Light refreshments are provided at all sessions.

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

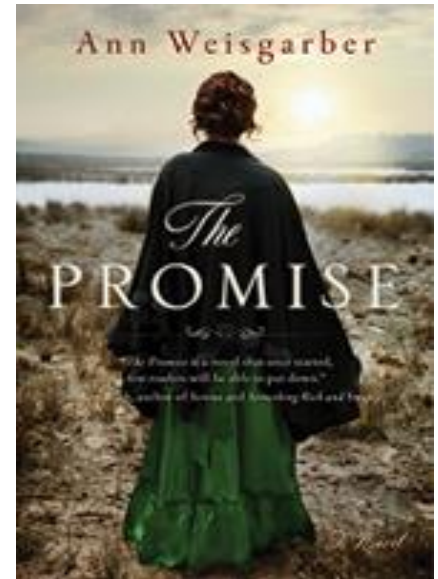
Set in Galveston at the onset of the 20th century, *The Promise* is a historical novel based on the September 8, 1900 hurricane which devastated the island and claimed the lives of several thousand people. The story revolves around three central characters. Catherine Wainwright is a well-educated and culturally refined woman from Ohio who has come to Galveston in order to escape a personal scandal back home. Nan Ogden is the strong-willed housekeeper of Oscar Williams, a dairy owner on the island's remote west end who is engaged to be married to Catherine. Together, the trio must navigate the difficult path to sharing a household and caring for the young son of Oscar and his late wife.

In the midst of emotional conflict, the characters must fight for their own lives and for each other as they struggle to survive an unprecedented and ungodly storm from the sea surrounding them.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Ann Weisgarber has written two award-winning novels. Her first book, *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree* was nominated for numerous literary prizes including the Orange Prize, the Langum Prize for American Historical Fiction, and the Stephen Turner Award. Her latest novel, *The Promise*, was shortlisted for the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and was a finalist for the Ohioana Book Award and for the Spur Award for Best Western Historical Fiction.

A native of Ohio, Weisgarber attended Wright State University where she earned a degree in social work. She later received a master's degree in Sociology from the University of Houston. Weisgarber has taught Sociology at Wharton County Junior College and worked as a social worker for psychiatric and nursing home facilities. She lives in the greater Houston area and spends much of her time on Galveston Island.



Cover image of *The Promise* by Ann Weisgarber.

### ***FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION***

Ann Weisgarber utilized the resources available at Rosenberg Library's Galveston and Texas History Center while conducting research for *The Promise*. During the Museum Book Club program, library staff will share original items from the Special Collections including photos of 1900 Storm damage, family letters, ca. 1900 paintings of Galveston Island, and a variety of items salvaged by residents after the catastrophic event.

### ***ABOUT THE MUSEUM BOOK CLUB***

Rosenberg Library's Museum Book Club offers participants the chance to experience art and literature in a more interactive way. Members have the opportunity to view rarely exhibited art and historical artifacts from the library's permanent collection as they discuss related books.

Registration is required for all Museum Book Club meetings. Established book clubs are encouraged to participate. Groups of over 10 people are asked to call the Reference Desk in advance to arrange accommodations.

*The Promise* is available at Rosenberg Library in [both paperback book and e-book formats](#).

### ***GULF COAST READS PARTNERSHIP***

*The Promise* was also the 2015 selection for Gulf Coast Reads, a community-wide book club program sponsored by the Harris County Public Library System. Rosenberg Library hosted "Researching the Promise," a special event with author Ann Weisgarber. For additional information on other Gulf Coast Reads events, visit [www.gulfcoastreads.org](http://www.gulfcoastreads.org).