



## TKC's Seasonal Reading Recommendations

We hope you have a thoughtful and enjoyable holiday season.

We would like to thank those who worked with us in 2023. We're privileged to work with so many inspiring people over the years and we hope you've enjoyed the past year as much as we have.

And for those who have worked with us in the past or who haven't worked with us yet, we look forward to working with you in the new year. Here's to 2024!

As pioneers in using reading experiences for continuing development throughout adulthood, we offer some suggestions of ideas books when you are taking some time off from your day job and working on your own development.

Remember always that it is *not* the Book as such, but how it is read. It's about the *intent and the attitude* with which we read that matters. How can we go about reading like this, to read with intent? We ask ourselves the developmental question: what are the implications of this for how I think?

This is a good practice of reading that we encourage you to take with you and apply generously to your reading.

Reading with intent requires, in effect, as Jacob Bronowski put it in relation to scientific and artistic discoveries, that we "...re-enact the creative act, and we ourselves make the discovery again". We have to put the pieces together, so to speak, for ourselves. Recreating the thinking experience with the authors in some meaningful sense is how we become a genuine appreciator of a work. This appreciation is the opening to understanding.

A good reader, a major reader, an active and creative reader is a rereader."

Vladimir Nabokov

As Isaiah Berlin, following Giambattista Vico (1668-1744), noted: "...one could fully know only what one had oneself made". This can be achieved by reading in the spirit characterised by Keynes as reading with "intelligence and goodwill on the part of the reader."

## **Ideas Reading for the Holiday Season**

***Talking Heads: The New Science of How Conversation Shapes Our Worlds*** by Shane O'Mara is an overview of how conversation affects our relating with others. It connects the personal to the social and deals with current challenges, such as populism, and how we can talk together to shape a better world.

***The Real Work: On The Mystery of Mastery*** by Adam Gopnik explores how people acquire mastery through a personal journey into apprenticing himself to an artist, a dancer, a boxer, a driving instructor, among others. He discovers that mastering a skill involves methodically separating out and rebuilding piece by piece and ultimately requires understanding other minds. An encouraging book for all ages – it is never too late.

***On Quality: An Inquiry into Excellence*** by Robert M. Pirsig is a must read for all connected to his classic *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. Compiled by his wife after his death, the collection has a variety of essays, talks, and letters on the kind of ideas we would expect from this mind.

***The Human Mind: A Brief Tour of Everything We Know*** by Paul Bloom guides us through the mysteries of something we live with everyday of our lives, our minds, which we generally understand all too little. In effect, it opens us up to knowing ourselves better and what makes us who we are.

***Reading for The Love of God*** by Jessica Hooten Wilson approaches reading as a spiritual practice for transformation. Written from the Christian perspective and exploring the reading ways of Christian thinkers from Augustine to Dorothy L. Sayers, she presents reading not only as an art but as a calling.

***Forgiveness: An Exploration*** by Marina Cantacuzino is a timely read for the times we are in when a climate of intolerance and cancel culture is so pervasive – a good antidote to the nastiness that seems to be taking over our world. Stimulates ideas as to how each of us through our daily living can make a better world for all.

***The Creative Act: A Way of Being*** by Rick Rubin with Neil Strauss starts from the principle that everyone is a creator and through many short meditative essays brings comprehensively to our attention aspects of how to live creatively. The epigram of the book from Robert Henri conveys the point: “The object isn’t to make art, it’s to be in that wonderful state which makes art inevitable”.

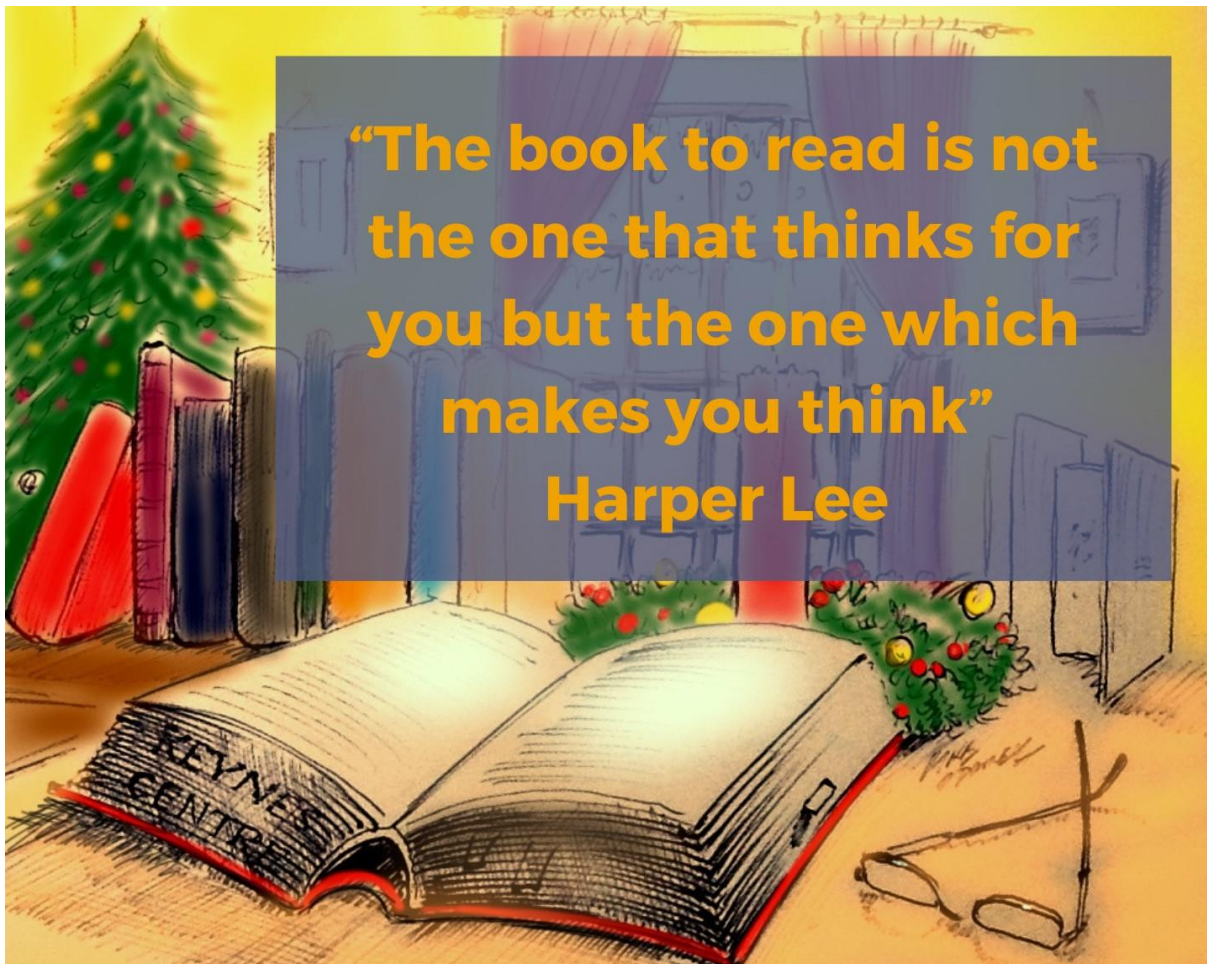
***Liberalism in Dark Times: The Liberal Ethos in the Twentieth Century*** by Joshua L. Cherniss takes on the turn to authoritarianism, autocrats, and boss-man rulers that bedevils societies today. Digging deep into the liberal tradition to locate conceptual resources for countering these trends, the author proposes that we need a temperament or disposition of openness to complexity and operating at uncertainty as well as rejection of the ruthlessness, fanaticism, and overall intolerance which are prominent features of so many today.

We would be remiss not to mention that the second edition of *The Leadership Mind* has just been published. It addresses the three fundamental questions about ‘leadership’:

1. What is 'leadership'?
2. What personal capability is required for 'leadership'?
3. How and by whom can that capability be developed?

The new edition elaborates on the place of action in our concept of 'leadership' and the role of insight as a developmental movement.

It is available at Amazon sites.



To a reading-filled holiday season,  
Connell, Assumpta, Marija