

About the Author HELEN RAPPAPORT



Born in Bromley, England, Helen Rappaport fell in love with Russian while attending Chatham Girls' Grammar School and studied for a degree in Russian Special Studies at Leeds University. After graduating she rejected suggestions of a career in the Foreign Office, having been heavily involved with student theatre as an undergraduate. She opted instead for the insecurities of the acting profession. After appearing on British TV and in films and commercials until the late 1980s, she abandoned acting and embraced her second love – writing history.

Helen is a fluent Russian speaker and specialist in Russian and Victorian history covering the period 1837–1918. Her great passion is to winkle out lost stories from the footnotes and to breathe new life and new perspectives into old subjects.

For full biography and a complete list of works, please visit the author's official website:
helenrappaport.com

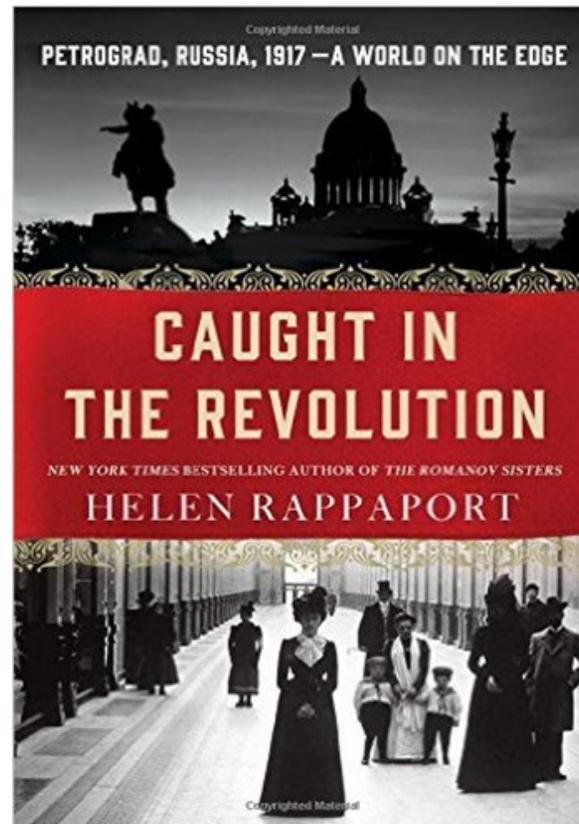


ROSENBERG LIBRARY
MUSEUM BOOK CLUB

PROGRAM AGENDA Spring 2017

Presented by Rosenberg Library

12:00 noon	Welcome & Introductions
12:00-12:15	Historical Presentation
12:15-1:00	Book Discussion



Rosenberg Library's Museum Book Club provides a forum for discovery and discussion, linking literary selections with artworks and historical objects from the permanent collection.

1. Were you already familiar with the events which led to the Russian Revolution before reading this book? Did the descriptions lead you form a favorable or an unfavorable view of the nation and its people?
2. Did you enjoy the author's style of writing and selected resources? Did you find her approach to be objective and balanced?
3. What was your perception of Czar Nicholas and his family? Do you think he was partly to blame for the events which led to his demise, or do you feel that he was an innocent victim?
4. Did it surprise you that wealthy foreigners continued to live in Russia once violence began to erupt?
5. Were you familiar with Maria Bochkareva and the Women's Death Battalion prior to reading this book?
6. Do you believe that the United States should have intervened in the conflict? If it had, how to you think this would have changed the course of history?
7. How did you feel about American journalists who were sympathetic to the Revolutionaries? Were you surprised that Rhys Williams and Bessie Beatty refused to help a young Russian soldier hide from Revolutionaries who had overtaken his military academy? Do you think they were wrong or were justified in their beliefs?