

**Elaine Newton**

**Professor Emeritus of Humanities, York University, Toronto**

Lifelong Learning favorite Elaine Newton returns with an all-new *Critic's Choice* series. Newton has been enlightening and inspiring audiences ever since the Phil's first season in 1989-90.

### **CRITIC'S CHOICE**

Elaine Newton's *Critic's Choice* series features enlightening commentary on the most important and exciting fiction from around the world.

This season's selections:

#### **November 17 & 19 – *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen**

The intimate portrait of a dysfunctional middle-class American family, and at the same time, a brilliant mural of our troubled times. A New York Times Top-10 Book of the Year.

#### **December 8 & 10 – *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht**

In an unnamed Balkan country, a young pediatrician investigates the mysterious death of her beloved grandfather. In the process, she remembers the magical folktales that he told her – about an “immortal man” and a runaway tiger. A New York Times Notable Book.

#### **January 5 & 7 – *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain**

Told in the voice of Ernest Hemingway's first wife Hadley, this New York Times Notable Book recounts the story of their courtship and rocky marriage and the glittering, jazz-age years they spent on Paris' Left Bank.

#### **February 9 & 11 – *The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown**

Three sisters return to their childhood home, each with a secret, and discover that their hometown and the emotionally complex family they have run from, offer them more than they had expected. New York Times Notable Book.

**Note: Eleanor Brown will join Elaine for an onstage interview at both lectures.**

#### **March 8 & 10 – *Room* by Emma Donoghue**

A remarkable, life-affirming story of mother-love narrated by a 5-year-old boy, whose entire world is an 11-foot by 11-foot room, in which he and his mother are being held against their will. A Booker Prize finalist.

#### **April 12 & 14 – *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* by David Mitchell**

A fascinating tour de force historical drama about a Dutchman in late 18th-century Japan, with everyone jockeying for influence, power and profit. A tale of forbidden love and adventurous rescue. New York Times notable book.

Series of 6:

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Daniels Pavilion

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Hayes Hall