The Friends of the Cleveland State University Library

Richard Fox, Head of the Popular Library at Cleveland Public Library, will lead a book discussion on the title

The Year of Magical Thinking, by Joan Didion

a master essayist and great American novelist

Thursday, September 28, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cleveland State University Library
2121 Euclid Avenue
Rhodes Tower, room 503

Light refreshments will be served.

Call (216) 875-9734 to reserve a space for this free event

Several copies of The Year of Magical Thinking are now available at the CSU Library and on sale at the CSU Bookstore

Didion’s husband, the writer John Gregory Dunne, died just after they had returned from the hospital where their only child, Quintana, was lying in a coma. This book is a memoir of Dunne’s death, Quintana’s illness, and Didion’s efforts to make sense of a time when nothing made sense. “She’s a pretty cool customer,” one hospital worker says of her, and, certainly, coolness was always part of the addictive appeal of Didion’s writing. The other part was the dark side of cool, the hyper-nervous awareness of the tendency of things to go bad. In 2004, Didion had her own disasters to deal with, and she did not, she feels, deal with them coolly, or even sanely. This book is about getting a grip and getting on; it’s also a tribute to an extraordinary marriage.

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On Thursday, November 30, 2006 at 3:00, Richard Fox will lead another book discussion. On this date, Mr. Fox will focus on the thought-provoking recent book by former President Jimmy Carter, Our Endangered Values. President Carter expresses his concern about the current tendency of some to harness “values” to a partisan political agenda. The event will be held in RT 503. Mark your calendars now!