

WOMEN READ Book Selections 2016-2017

September 21

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown (404 pg)

The story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans.

October 19

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr (531 pg)

A stunningly ambitious and beautiful novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

November 16

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho (182 pg)

An inspiring spiritual tale of self-discovery that combines magic, mysticism, wisdom, and wonder. Santiago is an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest leads him to riches far different, and far more satisfying, than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, recognizing opportunity, learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, following our dreams.

December: No meeting

January 18

Pope Joan by Donna Cross (425 pg)

Vividly recreating life during the Dark Ages, while simultaneously painting a portrait of an unforgettable woman, "Pope Joan" explores the extraordinary life of an independent, intelligent and courageous woman who overcomes oppression and ascends to the highest religious power ("San Francisco Chronicle").

February 15

Between the Dark and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life by Sr. Joan Chittister (173 pg)

In words as wise as they are inspiring, Chittister explores the concerns of modern life, of the overworked mind and hurting heart. These are the paradoxical and often frustrating moments when our lives feel at odds with everything around us. Only by embracing the contradictions, Chittister contends, can we live well amid stress, withstand emotional storms, and satisfy our yearnings for something transcendent and real. By delving into the chaos, this book guides us through the questions that seemed easier to avoid and enlightens what has been out of focus.

March 15

My Antonia by Willa Cather (244 pg, RCL book-club-in-a-bag)

A chronicle of the life of Antonia, a Bohemian immigrant woman, as seen through the eyes of Jim, the man unable to forget her. Jim, now a successful New York lawyer, recalls his upbringing on a Nebraska farm. Even after twenty years, Antonia continues to live a romantic life in his imagination. When he returns to Nebraska, he finds Antonia has lived a battered life. Although the man to whom she dedicated her life abandons her, she remains strong and full of courage.

April 19

Hidden Inheritance by Heidi Neumark

A Lutheran pastor discovers her Jewish heritage. (Not in Ramsey County Library)

May 17

The Round House by Louise Erdrich (321 pg)

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, 14-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person who destroyed his family.