

Book Group Schedule for 2022

9:30 a.m. the first Monday of every month except September

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85358221885?pwd=RWx6dTEwRzIzc0xuNmtkaWFzbzZlZ09>

January: *The News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. A novel about an older man returning a ten-year-old white girl to her relatives in southern Texas. Her parents and sister were killed by the Indians, and she has been living with the Indians for four years. Captain Kidd earns a living by reading the newspapers to the locals at each town he comes to. Check Netflix for a movie version to watch over the holidays.

February: *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire. Good background for to the fictional accounts of native Americans that we will read later.

March: *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. This is a pandemic novel, but covid-19 is just one element in the life of its busy narrator, an Ojibwe bookseller named Tookie, living in Minneapolis. As the virus haunts, she sees streets burning during Black Lives Matter protests, the ghost of a deceased “wannabe”-Native customer lingering in her store, and reminders of her recent incarceration for an unwitting offense. Tookie recommends books to her loyal customers.

April: *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. A historical novel about Jesus' ministry portraying him as being married to the sister of Judas Iscariot. An appropriate book for discussion with this group during the Lenten season.

May: *Tangled up in Blue* by Rosa Brooks. In her forties, Rosa Brooks decided to become a cop. A liberal academic and journalist with an enduring interest in law's troubled relationship with violence, Brooks wanted the kind of insider experience that would help her understand how police officers make sense of their world. (Non-fiction)

June: *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers. A heartrending new novel from the Pulitzer Prize-winning and best-selling author of *The Overstory*. The astrobiologist Theo Byrne searches for life throughout the cosmos while single-handedly raising his unusual nine-year-old, Robin, following the death of his wife.

July: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. A fictionalized account of two real subjects. The main character is a Packhorse Librarian who delivered books to remote areas of the Appalachian Mountains during the Great Depression. She is a “Blue” — a woman whose skin appears the unusual shade due to a rare genetic disorder. As a bookwoman, she is highly regarded, but as a Blue, she experiences racism, discrimination and violence.

August: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. A novel about two light skinned identical biracial twins who move into different cultural worlds to live out their adult lives. It addresses issues about race, gender, family and personal identity struggles within a suspenseful story that covers different parts of our country and several generations of a family's history.

September: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. An inspired weaving of indigenous knowledge, plant science, and personal narrative from a distinguished professor of science and a Native American.

October: *Portofino: A Novel* by Frank Schaeffer. Calvin is the son of a missionary family, and their trip to Portofino is the highlight of his year. But the Beckers can't really relax. Calvin's father could slip into a Bad Mood; his mother has a habit of trying to convert "pagans" on the beach; and his sister Janet has a ski sweater and a miniature Bible just in case the Russians invade. But this summer, Calvin has some plans of his own.

November: *The Indigo Girl*: by Natasha Boyd. Historical fiction set in South Carolina in 1739. Eliza Lukas is placed in charge of three plantations, and has to figure out how to support her family. She learns the process of growing Indigo and making dye to help her family survive.

December: *Take Me With You*: by Catherine Ryan Hyde. August Shroeder, a burned-out teacher, has been sober since his nineteen-year-old son died. Every year he's spent the summer on the road, but making it to Yellowstone this year means everything. The plan had been to travel there with his son, but now August is making the trip with Philip's ashes instead and two half-orphans with nowhere else to go. (Fiction)