

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2010-2011

Adelante is a book group sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) that focuses on various aspects of diversity. Anyone interested in reading and discussing the books is welcome to attend.

Date/Time: Fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:30 PM

Place: 1805 Pleasant St., Urbana

Contact person: Phyllis Cline, 344-4806, plcline@comcast.net

Library locations and # of copies: U = Urbana C = Champaign LT = Lincoln Trails

SEPTEMBER 28—Hispanic Heritage Month

Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother Author: Sonia Nazario (2006)

When Enrique was five his mother left Honduras to work in the US because she could not afford to support her children. She sent money home and promised to return quickly but could not keep that promise. Although the money helped Enrique eat better and attend school, without his mother he became lonely and troubled. After 11 years he set off to find her, evading gangsters, police and immigration authorities, clinging to the tops and sides of freight trains. Thousands of children make this dangerous journey every year to find their families in the US.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 3

OCTOBER 26—Disability Awareness Month

The Water Giver: The Story of a Mother, a Son, and Their Second Chance Author: Joan Ryan (2009)

At age 16 the author's adopted son Ryan, who had developmental disabilities, suffered a severe traumatic closed head injury. She had felt frustrated by her inability to "fix" him as he grew up, and she became more his relentless reformer than his loving mother. Now she had a second chance at motherhood as he again learned the simple tasks of living. She became more accepting of him as he was, not as she wanted him to be, and in the process came to terms with her limitations and recognized what an amazing, heroic person Ryan was.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 2

NOVEMBER 23

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide Authors: Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (2009)

The authors (husband and wife) give a detailed analysis of the plight of women in developing countries, focusing particularly on sex trafficking, maternal mortality, and gender-based violence. They argue that the oppression of women in developing countries is a devastating injustice that demands a moral and political movement to eradicate it, highlighting stories of women who overcame tremendous odds/abuse.

U – 2 C – 4 LT – 5

DECEMBER 28

Jan's Story: Love Lost to the Long Goodbye of Alzheimer's Author: Barry Petersen (2010)

At age 55 the author's beloved wife Jan was diagnosed with Early Onset Alzheimer's. With this news the couple was slowly, excruciatingly lowered into a version of hell that enveloped them like a dark, toxic fog. They had pledged themselves to each other forever, but it suddenly and terrifyingly had an expiration date as Alzheimer's disease slowly and cruelly robbed Jan of her memory, and with it their shared life together.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 1

JANUARY 25

Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan Author: Greg Mortenson (2009)

The book picks up where *Three Cups of Tea* left off in chronicling the Central Asia Institute's school building progress. Mortenson believes that encouraging literacy promotes trust and understanding, and building schools that girls can attend is especially important to counteract the cultural traditions against educating females. Mortenson gains the trust of local people and engages them in the process of planning and building the schools.

U – 23 + 1 large print C – 5 + 2 large print and 2 CD copies LT – 12

FEBRUARY 22—Black History Month

Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America Author: Beryl Satter (2009)

This book is about the history of the wide-spread and systematic economic exploitation of African-Americans in the real estate market in Chicago during the 1950s and 1960s. Redlining of black neighborhoods and lack of equal access to credit forced the majority of black homeowners into contract ownership under unscrupulous terms, leading to impoverishment for many homeowners and the decline of black neighborhoods into slums while speculative investors reaped big profits.

U – 1 C – 0 LT – 2

MARCH 22—Women's History Month

When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present Author: Gail Collins (2009)

New York Times columnist Collins goes behind the scenes of the women's rights movement, describing the closed opportunities and limited horizons that women faced in 1960. Facts, court cases, legislation, and personal anecdotes are used to show how far American women have come in every aspect of their lives. Collins reminds us of what we remember and shows us what we've forgotten about this critical period in women's history.

U – 2 C – 2 LT – 4

APRIL 26

Absolution by Murder: a Sister Fidelma Mystery Author: Peter Tremayne (1994)

The author presents seventh century Ireland as a golden age of enlightenment and equality for women. Sister Fidelma, a Celtic follower and legally trained scholar, is asked to investigate when, during an ecclesiastical conclave to settle major divisions between the Roman and Celtic branches of Christianity, the Abbess of

Kildare, a Celtic proponent, is murdered. The relationship between Sister Fidelma and Brother Eadulf, her Roman counterpart, adds to the drama and mystery.

U – 2 C – 0 LT – 2

MAY 24—Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month

Country Driving: A Journey Through China from Farm to Factory Author: Peter Hessler (2010)

No place in the world is changing as fast and at such a scale as modern China. The country is frantically industrializing, with peasants leaving the countryside in droves for the cities, where new problems await them and contradictions are rampant. New Yorker author Hessler guides us through the ambitions, failures, and comedy of a country in which everybody, it seems, is on the move, and no one is quite sure of the rules.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 0

JUNE 28

The Road of Lost Innocence: The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine Author: Somaly Mam (2008)

As a child the author was sold to a violent older man as an indentured servant, then in her teens to a brothel in Phnom Penh. She was used as a sex slave in brothels, raped and beaten, unable to seek help from the police who were in collusion with the brothel owners. She eventually escaped and later returned to Cambodia to establish a charity that rescues prostitutes and exploited children, shelters them and teaches them employable skills. She is determined to prevent other girls from suffering the horrors she endured.

U – 1 C – 3 + 1 CD LT – 2

JULY 26

I Dead in Attic: After Katrina Author: Chris Rose (2007)

The author is a writer for the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The book is a collection of his columns about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. He chronicles the stories of the dead and the living, of hope and despair. It is a roller coaster ride of observations, commentary, emotions, tragedy and even humor. The psychological effects of the massive losses on the city, its people, and the author are movingly told.

U – 0 C – 2 LT – 1

AUGUST 23

Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War Author: Joe Bageant (2007)

The author, a native of Virginia, returns to his predominantly working class home town to examine issues of economic class distinctions and find out why the majority side with the Right and vote for Republicans in apparent opposition to their own interests. He explores the importance of hunting, religion, and redneck pride among America's white working poor. With their values of personal responsibility and distrust of government they fall deeper into debt and further behind in their ambitions, while the Left has largely turned them out and not sympathized with their predicament.

U – 1 C – 0 LT – 1