

# ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2012-2013

Adelante is a book group sponsored by AAUW that focuses on various aspects of diversity. Anyone interested in reading and discussing the books is welcome to attend. We encourage you to share the books with friends and invite them to attend the discussions.

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

**Place: 104 E. Willard St., Urbana**

**Contact person: Phyllis Cline, 344-4806, [plcline@comcast.net](mailto:plcline@comcast.net)**

Libraries and # of copies: U = Urbana C = Champaign LINC = Area System UI = University of Illinois  
Obtaining books through LINC is slower than the former Lincoln Trails, so order early if you plan to use it.

## SEPTEMBER 25

***A Singular Woman: the Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mother***

Author: Janny Scott (2011)

This study of Ann Dunham's life, from Kansas to Hawaii and Indonesia, shows how character is passed from parent to child, and offers insights into how Obama's destiny was created early in his life by his mother's deep faith in his gifts and by her unconventional mothering. Dunham died at age 52 before she could see her son go on to his greatest accomplishments and reflections of what she taught him.

U – 3 C – 4 LINC – 6 UI – several in state schools including Parkland College

## OCTOBER 23

***Inside Deaf Culture***

Authors: Carol A. Padden and Tom L. Humphreys (2006)

A compelling narrative of the historical, cultural, and contemporary forces that influence the lives of the deaf. Many deaf people identify themselves as part of a community with its own beliefs, traditions, values and shared culture that uses American Sign Language as its main means of communication. Past practices of forbidding deaf people from using ASL and insisting on oral communication handicapped their development of a community which does not view deafness as a disability that needs to be fixed.

U – 0 C – 2 LINC – 0 UI – 2

## NOVEMBER 27

***Kill the Indian, Save the Man: the Genocidal Impact of American Indian Residential Schools***

Author: Ward Churchill (2004)

For five consecutive generations, from roughly 1880–1980, Native American children in the United States and Canada were forcibly taken from their families and relocated to residential schools. The stated goal of this government program was to “kill the Indian to save the man.” Half of the children did not survive the experience, and those who did were left permanently scarred. The resulting alcoholism, suicide, and the transmission of trauma to their own children have led to a social disintegration with results that can only be described as genocidal.

U – 1 C – 0 LINC – 1 UI – 1

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### DECEMBER 18

#### ***Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast***

Author: Natasha Trethewey (2010)

Trethewey was recently named the US Poet Laureate. *Beyond Katrina*'s themes—competing narratives of history, the responsibility of the living to remember the dead, the intermingling of remembering and forgetting—refer to a world whose landmarks have not been rebuilt since the deadly 2005 hurricane. Landmarks are the monuments of our pasts, the things that reassure us that our history has some kind of permanence, and losing them can condemn us to forgetting our past.

U - 1    C - 2    LINC - 0    UI - 1

### JANUARY 22

#### ***Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea***

Author: Barbara Demick (2009)

The author describes life in a closed world under the most repressive totalitarian regime in the world, a police state where informants are rewarded and an offhand remark can send a person to the gulag for life. Six average North Korean citizens are followed over 15 years as they struggle for survival, raise families, and try to nurture ambitions despite a famine that killed one-fifth of the population and their government's harsh betrayal.

U - 1    C - 1    LT - 0    UI - 2

### FEBRUARY 26

#### ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness***

Author: Michelle Alexander (2010)

The author argues that we have not ended racial caste in America but simply redesigned it. By targeting black men and decimating communities of color our criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control despite formally adhering to the principle of color blindness. The book challenges us to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America.

U - 3    C - 1    LINC - 1    UI - 1

### MARCH 26

#### ***Havana Real: One Woman Fights to Tell the Truth About Cuba Today***

Author: Yoani Sánchez (2011)

The author writes "Generation Y," an intensely personal internet blog that provides the world a unique window into the realities of daily life in Cuba and what it means to live under the Castro regime. We experience the contrast between the exalted rhetoric of Cuban communism and the struggles of living under a propaganda machine that pushes deeply into public and private life. She hopes to empower fellow Cubans to express themselves through the use of technology that bypasses the regime's censorship.

U - 0    C - 1 (many more in 2013)    LINC - 1    UI - 1

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### APRIL 23

#### ***My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq***

Author: Ariel Sabar (2008)

The author is the son of an Iraqi Jew from Kurdistan who grew up in a corner of the world so isolated that he was raised speaking the ancient Aramaic of Jesus. Sadar, who grew up in the US embarrassed by his father's ancient ways, becomes closer to his father as they journey together to Kurdistan to explore their family roots. What he finds in the Sephardic Jews' millennia-long survival in Islamic lands is a story of tolerance and hope.

U – 1    C – 2    LINC – 1    UI – 1

### MAY 28

#### ***Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China***

Author: Jung Chang (1991, 1992, 2003)

The evocative story of how three generations of women in the author's family fared in the political maelstrom of 20th century China. Born just a few decades apart, their lives overlap with the end of the warlords' regime, violent struggles between the Kuomintang and the Communists to carve up China, and the vicious cycle of purges orchestrated by Chairman Mao that crushed millions of people, including the author's parents.

U – 1    C – 4    LINC – 1    UI – 1

### JUNE 25

#### ***I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity***

Author: Izzeldin Abuellaish (2010)

Abuellaish is a Palestinian physician, born and raised in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, who has devoted his life to medicine and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. In 2009 three of his daughters were killed by Israeli artillery. Instead of seeking revenge or sinking into hatred, Abuellaish called for the people in the region to start talking to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be "the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis."

U – 4 & 1 large print    C – 3    LINC – 4    UI – 2

### JULY 23

#### ***What's the Matter With Kansas?: How Conservatives Won the Heart of America***

Author: Thomas Frank (2004)

Why do so many of us vote against our economic interests, and why do so many Kansans support politicians who espouse economic policies which do not benefit the majority of people in the state? At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Kansas was a staunchly left-wing state, but in recent decades it has become extremely conservative, with the political discourse dramatically shifting from social and economic equality to explosive cultural issues that are used to redirect anger toward liberal elites.

U – 2    C – 2    LINC – 5    UI – several in state schools

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AUGUST 27

***The Warmth of Other Suns: the Epic Story of America's Great Migration***

Author: Isabel Wilkerson (2010, 2011)

The author chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. The story is told through the lives of three individuals who migrated to different areas of the country. Both a riveting microcosm and a major assessment, the book is a bold account of an unrecognized immigration within our own land.

U – 3      C – many      Douglass – 2      LINC – 7      UI – several