

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2011-2012

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 encourage them to attend the discussions. Contact Phyllis Cline for further information.

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 UI = Univ. of Illinois

SEPTEMBER 27—Hispanic Heritage Month

Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx

Author: Adrian Nicole LeBlanc (2003)

Giving the reader an unvarnished portrait of people living in deep urban poverty, LeBlanc charts the tumultuous cycle of the generations as girls become mothers, boys become criminals, and hope struggles against massive deprivation. She goes behind the cold statistics and sensationalism and skillfully provides a riveting, haunting, and true story, offering a voice to the people who are always at risk of poverty and violence stripping away their hard fought gains.

U – 0 C – 4 LT – 2 UI – 0

OCTOBER 25—Disability Awareness Month

An Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Moods and Madness

Author: Kay Redfield Jamison (1995)

Jamison, an international authority on manic-depressive illness, reveals her own struggle since adolescence with the condition and how it shaped her life. With vivid prose and wit she takes us into the fascinating and dangerous territory of this form of madness and how it can be managed. Now called bipolar disorder, it has been associated with artistic creativity, but untreated it can cause a roller coaster ride through exhilaration and the depths of despair.

U – 1 C – 1 LT – 8 & 1 sound recording UI – 2

NOVEMBER 22

Fifty Miles From Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People

Author: William L. Iggiagruk Hensley (2009)

Hensley brings to life this little-known part of America through tales of toil, triumph and the Inupiat spirit. As a child growing up in rural Alaska he learned that survival was the primary concern of his society. After attending college in the Lower 48 he returned to his homeland where he became a crusader for the Inupiat people as an activist, a state representative, and worker in the corporate sector.

U – 2 C – 2 LT – 1 UI – 1

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2011-2012, page 2

DECEMBER 27

The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey

Author: Candice Millard (2005)

Roosevelt's search for adventure led to an ill-prepared journey down an unexplored tributary of the Amazon known as the River of Doubt. The small group had neither sufficient supplies nor canoes sturdy enough for the river's rapids, and a cannibalistic indigenous tribe stalked them much of the way. Descriptions of the flora and fauna, including millions of insects, that the group endured will lead many readers to appreciate armchair travel.

U – 2 C – 19 LT – 10 & 2 large print UI – 1

JANUARY 24

Every Man in This Village is a Liar: An Education in War

Author: Megan Stack (2010)

Stake is a reporter who covered the war in Afghanistan after September 11 plus conflicts in many other Middle East countries. Her vivid, atmospheric prose and keen empathy make her a superb observer of the region's horrific particulars, and she offers gripping accounts of the sorrows of war and its effects on civilians caught in the middle, as the cost of violence outweighs the elusive promise of freedom and democracy.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 1 UI – 1

FEBRUARY 28—Black History Month

Slaves in the Family

Author: Edward Ball (1998)

Ball traces his family back to their first arrival on American shores and also traces the lineage of the slaves his ancestors once owned. He follows their stories through the decades, using plantation records, interviews with descendents of both the Balls and their slaves, and travels to Africa and the American South. He has constructed a story of the riches and squalor, violence and insurrection, pride and shame, that make up the history and legacy of slavery in America.

U – 1 & 1 large print C – 2 LT – 19 & 1 large print UI – 2

MARCH 27—Women's History Month

The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe vs. Wade

Author: Ann Fessler (2006)

Using oral histories, Fessler chronicles the guilt, shame and sorrow of young unmarried pregnant women pressured by parents, adoption workers, and society's rigid standards of morality into relinquishing their babies. Some felt they were seen as incubators for married couples who couldn't conceive. The negative effects on the birth mothers who were forced to give up their babies remained strong despite the passage of time.

U – 1 C – 1 LT – 6 UI – 2

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2011-2012, page 3

APRIL 24

Murder in the Marais

Author: Cara Black (1998)

Set in Paris in the historic Jewish quarter, this mystery introduces dauntless private investigator Aimee Leduc whose specialty is computer forensics. A dead woman with a swastika carved into her forehead sends her on a chase involving neo-Nazis, corrupt government officials and fierce anti-Semitism. She and her expert computer hacking partner uncover clues involving enigmatic characters from the past as they seek the truth.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 1 & 1 large print UI – 0

MAY 22—Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month

Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China

Author: Leslie T. Chang (2008)

China is in the midst of history's largest human migration, with 130 million of its citizens having left their home villages in search of urban employment. Chang explores the migrant experience through the lives of several young women in the industrial city of Dongguan. Their attempts at self-reinvention are both entertaining and poignant. The book is an intimate portrait of a strange and hidden landscape, a universe of relentless motion.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 0 UI – 2

JUNE 26

The Crying Tree

Author: Naseem Rakha (2009)

This complex, layered story of a family's journey toward justice and forgiveness comes together through Rakha's ability to create wonderfully realized characters, and she sustains the story's tension to the end as she examines themes of loss, coping, hate, forgiveness, redemption, acceptance and love. She introduces hard questions for which there are no black-and-white answers, and readers are forced to question their own beliefs as the characters delve into their own.

U – 1 C – 2 LT – 2 UI – 1 CD

JULY 24

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope

Authors: William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer (2009)

The inspiring story of an indomitable will that refused to bend to doubt or circumstance. In famine-stricken Malawi, the teenaged Kamkwamba scavenges discarded materials to build a windmill whose electricity will power his village. Using old textbooks and his own inventiveness, he figures out how to construct the structure and hook up the wiring that will bring the village out of darkness and hunger.

U – 1 C – 2 & 1 large print LT – 11 & 1 large print UI – 0

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2011-2012, page 4

AUGUST 28

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Author: Rebecca Skloot (2010)

From a single, abbreviated life grew a seemingly immortal line of cells that made some of the most crucial innovations in modern science possible. In 1951 a poor black woman named Henrietta Lacks died of cervical cancer, but pieces of the tumor that killed her were taken without her knowledge or consent to be used for medical research. Over the years the cells from this one tumor would spawn a multi-billion dollar industry and become a foundation of modern science, leading to breakthroughs in gene mapping, cloning and fertility, and helping to discover how viruses work and how cancer develops.

U – 5 & 1 large print

C – 17 & 1 large print

LT – 15 & 1 sound recording

UI – 2