

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2013-2014

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

Libraries and # of copies: C = Champaign U = Urbana LP = large print edition

SEPTEMBER 24

Midnight in Mexico: a Reporter's Journey Through a Country's Descent into Darkness by Alfredo Corchado (2013)

The author is the Mexican Bureau Chief of the *Dallas Morning News*. He has spent years reporting on Mexican government corruption, murders in Juarez, and the country's ruthless drug cartels. Despite threats to his life he is determined to report the truth about conditions in his country of origin.

C - 1 U - 1

OCTOBER 22

The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness by Elyn R. Saks (2007)

The author is an endowed professor at the prestigious University of Southern California Gould School of Law. She has achieved this in spite of being diagnosed as schizophrenic and given a "grave" prognosis, and having suffering the effects of her illness throughout her life.

C - 2 U - 1

NOVEMBER 26

Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History by S. C. Gwynne (2010)

A vivid historical account of the forty-year battle between Comanche Indians and white settlers for control of the American West, centering on Quanah, described as the greatest Comanche chief of them all.

C - 2 U - 2 + 1 audio

DECEMBER 17 (third week, not fourth)

Fire in the Ashes: Twenty-Five Years Among the Poorest Children in America by Jonathan Kozol (2012)

The author returns to the scene of his prize-winning books *Rachel and Her Children* and *Amazing Grace*, and to the children he has vividly portrayed, to share their fascinating journeys and unexpected victories as they grow into adulthood.

C - 2 + 1 audio U - 1 + 1 audio

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2013-2014, page 2

JANUARY 28

And the Mountains Echoed by Khalid Hosseini (2013)

A series of stories within the story, told through multiple viewpoints, spanning more than half a century and shifting across continents. The novel moves through war, separation, birth, death, deceit, and love, illustrating again and again how people's actions, even the seemingly selfless ones, are shrouded in ambiguity. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe, the story expands gradually outward, becoming more emotionally complex and powerful with each page.

C - 15 + 1 audio and 1 LP U - 6 + 1 audio and 1 LP

FEBRUARY 25

Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys and the Dawn of a New America by Gilbert King (2012) Won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize.

This account of Marshall's defense of four young black men in Florida accused in 1949 of raping a white woman offers valuable insights into Marshall's work and life. The FBI and NAACP case files reveal false witness testimony, persecution of the defendants and the death of two of them at the hands of local law enforcement officials.

C - 2 U - 1

MARCH 25

Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond by Lilly Ledbetter (2012)

The inspiring story of the woman at the center of the historic sex discrimination case that inspired the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act—her fight for equal rights in the workplace, and how her determination became a victory for the nation. She took her case to the Supreme Court, which ruled against her, but Obama's first official piece of legislation as president was the Act that bears her name.

C - 2 U - 1

APRIL 22

The Graves are Walking: The Great Famine and the Saga of the Irish People by John Kelly (2012)

The Irish Potato Famine claimed twice as many lives as the American Civil War. Bacterial infection, political greed, and religious intolerance sparked the catastrophe. More than one million people died and another two million fled the country. Religious dogma, anti-relief sentiment, plus racial and political ideology combined to result in almost inconceivable human suffering.

C - 2 + 1 audio U - 1 + 1 audio

ADELANTE BOOK LIST 2013-2014, page 3

MAY 27

Soul Survivors: Stories of Women and Children in Cambodia by Bhavia C. Wagner (2002)

Soul Survivors gives voice to the women and children who stayed in Cambodia after the genocide (1975-1979), when nearly two million people died from execution, starvation or disease. These engaging personal narratives reveal that hope and kindness survived the darkest period of Cambodia's recent history.

C - 1 U - 1 Phyllis Cline has two copies updated in 2008

JUNE 24

The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam by Eliza Griswold (2010)

The tenth parallel—the line of latitude seven hundred miles north of the equator—is a geographical and ideological front line where Christianity and Islam collide. Religious conflicts are also conflicts about land, water, oil, and other natural resources, and local and tribal issues are often shaped by religious ideas. These encounters are shaping the future of each faith and of whole societies.

C - 2 U - 1

JULY 22

Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion by Elizabeth Cline (2012)

The author uncovers the true nature of cheap fashion, the rise of budget clothing chains, the death of middle-market and independent retailers, and our obsession with deals and steals. She describes how the fashion industry chases even lower costs into Bangladesh, and looks at the impact here and abroad of America's drastic increase in imports.

C - 1 U - 1

AUGUST 26

Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder (2009)

Deogratias, a third year medical student in Burundi, escapes the horrendous 1994 civil war and genocide in Burundi and Rwanda, comes to US and struggles to survive—homeless and haunted by memories of the unspeakable horrors he witnessed in Africa. Along the way he is helped by Americans, attends college and medical school in the US, works for Dr. Paul Farmer's Partners in Health, and later returns to Burundi to build a medical clinic.

C - 2 + 1 LP U - 1