

Book Selections for Adelante 2021-2022

September 16

Our Time is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America by Stacy Abrams

Ms. Abrams draws on extensive research to document how the right to vote and the principle of democracy have been and continue to be under attack. She shares positive actions and inspiration for standing up for voting rights and other components of our democracy.

C-3, U-1

October 20

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee

McGhee uses economic and sociological research to document racism's costs for everyone in America. She shares personal stories of everyday people to illustrate the losses and paints a picture of a better way for the future.

C-5, U-3

December 1

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: Lessons from the Crematory by Caitlin Doughty

Doughty's memoir documents how she became a mortician after taking a job in a crematory and shares the history of undertaking with gallows humor and vivid characters. She helps reveal how the fear of dying warps our society and "will make you reconsider how our culture treats the dead".

C-1, U-2

January 19

Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America by Maria Himojosa

Himojosa is an Emmy-Award winning journalist and anchor of NPR's Latino USA. Here she tells the story of immigration in America using her own family's experiences as well as her decades of reporting.

C-1, U-1

February 16

How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith

In his best-selling book Smith tours monuments and landmarks across the country and reveals the hidden stories behind them. His exploration helps us see the legacy of slavery as it presents itself today and its impact on how we see ourselves as a country.

C-4, U-2

March 16

Unwell Women: Misdiagnosis and Myth in a Man-Made World by Elinor Cleghorn

With her own autoimmune disease diagnoses as inspiration, Cleghorn documents the history of the relationship between women, illness, and medicine. She uses numerous case histories to illustrate how medicine has failed women and what can be done to change that.

C-2, U-1

April 20

The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here by Hope Jahren

Jahren, an award-winning scientist as well as a writer, uses concise and very readable chapters to illustrate the link between the key inventions that allow our modern way of life and the greenhouse gases that increase global warming. She explains the projected consequences of climate change and how we can fight back against them. "A pocket primer on climate change..."
C-2, U-1

May 18

Every Day is a Gift by Tammy Duckworth

Our U.S. Senator shares her remarkable story in this best-selling memoir which documents the experiences that served as turning points in her life from childhood to today.
C-3, U-3

June 15

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich

Erdrich's grandfather was a night watchman as well as a fighter against the dispossession of Native lands. She uses his life as her inspiration for this novel, winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It appeared on numerous "Best Books of 2020" lists.
C-4, U-4

July 20

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

This novel of historical fiction is set in the aftermath of the Civil War. Here is the tale of an aging news reader returning a young girl, captured by the Kiowa, back to her people. News of the World was a National Book Award finalist and has been made into a motion picture. This was a CPL Book Club selection and multiple copies as well as DVDs of the movie are available at the library.
C-16, U-2

August 17

Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe by Dawn Tripp

In this, another novel of historical fiction, the author uses the actual events of O'Keeffe's life to tell the story of her life in its entirety. This was another best-selling book.
C-2, U-1