

Book Selections for Adelante 2023-2024

September 20

Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People by Tracy Kidder (320 pp.)

Kidder brings his narrative mastery to tell the story of an inspiring doctor who helped create a program to care for Boston's homeless community.

C-3, U-1, and 3 via e-book

October 18

Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships

by Nina Totenberg (320 pp.)

Celebrated NPR correspondent Nina Totenberg's memoir focuses on the support given to her by her group of friends, especially the 50-year friendship she had with Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

C-4, U-2, and 3 via e-book

December 6

The Facemaker: A Visionary Surgeon's Battle to Mend the Disfigured Soldiers of World War I by Lindsey Fitzharris (336 pp.)

Fitzharris presents the true story of the visionary surgeon who rebuilt the faces of WWI's injured soldiers and, in so doing, ushered in the modern era of plastic surgery.

C-3, U-1, 1 audio and 2 via e-book

January 17

South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation by Imani Perry (432 pp.)

Perry, a Black woman and native Alabaman, returns to the South to view it through new eyes. Through sharing the stories she encounters, she illustrates her belief that an understanding of the history and culture of the South is key to understanding the nation and to building a more humane future.

C-4, U-1, 2 audio and 3 via e-book, also Hoopla print and audio

February 21

Unfollow: A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church by Megan Phelps-Roper (304 pp.)

Phelps-Roper grew up in the Westboro Baptist Church and joined in their pickets of military funerals and shared their beliefs as the church's Twitter spokeswoman. Through Twitter, however, she encountered other points of view and began her journey to leave the church.

C-2, U-1

March 20

The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Tale of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America by John Wood Sweet (384 pp.)

The winner of multiple awards, this book shares the history of the first published rape trial in American history and its aftermath.

C-1, U-1

April 17

The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet

By Jeff Goodell (383 pp.)

Goodell, an award-winning environmental journalist, reports on the impact of rising heat as the threat that drives all other impacts of the climate crisis. Even though the news he shares is devastating, he also is optimistic about our ability to combat this.

C-1, U-1

May 15

No Ordinary Assignment: A Memoir by Jane Ferguson (336 pp.)

Award-winning war correspondent Jane Ferguson's memoir covers the journey from her childhood in Ireland during the Troubles to covering most of the war fronts and humanitarian crises of our time.

C-1, U-1

June 19

Women and Power: A Manifesto by Mary Beard (128 pp.)

Considered by some as a modern feminist classic, Beard's book explores the history of misogyny and the prohibition of women from power from ancient times to the present day.

C-2, U-1

July 17

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay (295 pp.)

This novel intertwines the story of Sarah, a ten-year-old French Jew during WWII and Julia, the journalist who researches her story sixty years later.

Available on Hoopla

August 21

The Hard Road Out: One Woman's Escape from North Korea

by Jihyun Park (224 pp.)

This memoir tells Park's story of her two attempts to escape North Korea and her ultimate success in finding sanctuary in South Korea.

C-1, U-1