

Book Selections for Adelante 2024-2025

September 18

Up Home: One Girl's Journey by Ruth J. Simmons (260 pp.)

In her autobiography Simmons shares the account of her rise from a childhood in poverty in Jim Crow Texas to the presidencies of Smith College and Brown University.

(C-1, U-1)

October 16

The Power Worshipers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism by Katherine Stewart (320 pp.)

Stewart presents an investigation of the Religious Right's rise to power and their goal to transform the norms and institutions of American democracy. This is an important topic in this election year.

(C-1, U-1)

December 4

Poverty by America by Matthew Desmond (author of Evicted) (287 pp.)

Acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond uses history, research, and original reporting to show how the affluent both knowingly and unknowingly allow poverty in America to persist.

(C-6, U-2, + audio-3)

January 15

How Democracies Die by Steven Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt (299 pp.)

Published in 2018, this book examines the fall of democracies around the world and the warning signs of the rise of authoritarianism.

(C-2, U-1, + audio & e-books)

February 19

The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative by Florence Williams (290 pp.)

Williams investigates the science behind nature's positive effects on the brain.

March 19

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi (231 pp.)

Kalanithi wrote this memoir, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, as he struggled with Stage IV lung cancer, asking the question "what makes a life worth living?"

(C-4, U-3, and multiple e-books and audio books)

April 16

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: and their race to save the world's most precious manuscripts by Joshua Hammer (289 pp.)

To save ancient Arabic texts from destruction at the hands of Al Qaeda, a band of librarians organizes a smuggling operation to get them to safety. A true-life thriller.

(C-audiobook, U-2, and multiple e-book options)

May 21

Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice by Cristina Rivera Garza (295 pp.)

This Pulitzer Prize winning memoir documents Garza's search for justice for her sister, murdered over 29 years earlier in a case of domestic violence.

(C-1, U-1, and audio books)

June 18

Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea (465 pp.)

Urrea's novel is based on the "Donut Dollies", an elite group of women serving in the Red Cross during WWII who command military vehicles called Clubmobiles at the front line and bring a taste of home to troops before they head into battle. One of C-U's own served as a Dolly.

(C-21, U-3, and e-books and audio books)

July 16

Women Rowing North: Women Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age by Mary Pipher (268 pp.)

Pipher examines the cultural and developmental issues that women face as they age.

(C-1, U-1)

August 20

The House of Lincoln by Nancy Horan (348 pp.)

Historical fiction examining the ascension of Abraham Lincoln from Springfield lawyer to President and Great Emancipator through the eyes of a young asylum seeker.

(C-2, U-1)

