

LEPOCO BOOK CLUB FOR 2020

FEB - How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi (Bill Thomas)

It points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In his book, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like and how we can play an active role in building it.

MARCH - The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea by Jack E. Davis (George Tessaro)

Phillip Connors, of the NY Times Book Review, calls it a beautiful homage to a neglected sea, a lyrical paean to its remaining estuaries, marshes, and a marvelous mash-up of human and environmental history.

APRIL - On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal by Naomi Klein (Bob Riggs)

In 18 essays, Klein marshals the most powerful arguments for why climate change cannot be effectively addressed without a simultaneous deep reckoning with our society's other ills of wealth and income inequality, racial discrimination, and crumbling infrastructure.

MAY - The Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli (Matricia McLoughlin)

Luiselli is a Mexican writer living in the US. Her novel deals with immigration policy and child separation. It deftly questions historic policy of the US in terms of dealing with those we define as "other". She crafts the story around a family road trip which includes 2 young children. This technique allows lots of humor and understanding which prevents it from becoming too dark and giving a light touch. The concept of parents being archivists/documentarians adds depth.

JUNE - Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration and a Road to Repair by Danielle Sered (Alwyn Eades)

Mr. Sered is founder of Common Justice. The book is an eloquent and readable account of the deficiencies of our present justice/incarceration system - and what we should do about it

JULY - Men We Reaped: A Memoir by Jasmyn Ward (Tom Pietzak)

It contends with the deaths of five young men dear to her and the risk of being a black man in the rural South. She edited The Fire This Time which we read several years ago. She is currently an associate professor of English at Tulane University.

SEPT - Freedom and Despair: Notes From the South Hebron Hills by David Shulman (Addison Bross)

This is a memoir by a Jewish Israeli with the joint Jewish/Palestinian peace and justice group Ta'ayiesh (Together) of which he was a founding member about 20 years ago. Ta'ayiesh members risk injury, insult, and blacklisting in order to stand with Palestinian farmers and herdsman against attacks by settlers from Jewish-only settlements south of Hebron in the West Bank - and from Israel Defense Force soldiers as well, who commonly do nothing to halt the settlers violence.

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OCT - The Food Explorer by Daniel Stone (Diane Dilendik)

The true adventures of David Fairchild, a Dept. of Agriculture botanist, who traveled the globe and introduced diverse crops like avocados, mangoes, seedless grapes, kale, and Hundreds more to the American plate.

NOV - 1491 by Charles Mann (Ed Kay)

This book gives us new revelations of the Americas before Columbus. Mann, a science journalist, provides a sweeping portrait of human life in the Americas before the arrival of Columbus - it is estimated that there were 25million native inhabitants in the Yucatan Peninsula alone.

DEC - Erosion: Essays on Undoing by Terry Tempest Williams (Nancy Tate)

In a collection of passionate, galvanizing essays, activist and teacher Williams shares her intimate connection to the as-yet untamed landscapes of the American West.