

WPC Book Discussion --Details for 2024-2025

Date	Title and author	Fiction/non fiction	Leader	What it's about
September 9	<i>The Women</i> by Kristin Hannah	Fiction	Jane Ash	When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America.
October 7	<i>Frozen River</i> by Ariel Lawlon	Historical Fiction	Linda Davis	Historical mystery based on the real-life diary of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen--one of whom has now been found dead in the ice.
November 4	<i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte	Fiction Classic	Laurie Albrecht	When the dark brooding orphan boy Heathcliff enters the Earnshaw household at Wuthering Heights, he

				is at first shunned by his new stepsiblings, Catherine and Hindley. Catherine eventually falls in love with Heathcliff, but Hindley's rivalry with Heathcliff only deepens, and when Hindley inherits the estate, he treats Heathcliff as little more than a servant. When Catherine later marries a neighboring landowner who can offer her social advancement, Heathcliff's humiliation is complete and he charts a course of revenge that will have tragic consequences for everyone.
December 2	<i>And Then There Were None</i> by Agatha Christie	Fiction Mystery	Linda and all*	If you want a quick classic mystery, Agatha Christie is the way to go. You'll have fun trying to figure out whodunit on an isolated island mansion where the suspects start dying off one by one. I'll be impressed if you figure it out. I never do. A classic for a reason, this novel is surprisingly short, leaving you plenty to read even more five-star books.
January 6	<i>The Sun Does Shine</i> by Anthony Ray Hilton	Nonfiction	Susan Hill	A powerful, revealing story of hope, love, justice, and the power of reading by a man who spent thirty years on death row for a crime he didn't commit. An Oprah pick.
February 3	<i>Trust</i> by Hernan Diaz	Fiction	Julie Pritchett	At once an immersive story and a brilliant literary puzzle, <i>TRUST</i> engages the reader in a quest for the truth while confronting the deceptions that often live at the heart of personal relationships, the reality-warping force of capital, and the ease with which power can manipulate facts. The book is composed of four fictional texts: A Novel (Bonds), an incomplete autobiography (My Life), a completed memoir (A Memoir, Remembered), and a diary (Futures). While each book focuses on many of the same characters, the

				<p>information included in each is often mutually exclusive, with it being left up to the reader to determine the truth.</p> <p>Named the recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction with Barbara Kingsolver's <i>Demon Copperhead</i>.</p>
March 3	<i>There there</i> by Tommy Orange	Fiction	Betsy Ballantyne	A wondrous and shattering award-winning novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. One of <i>The Atlantic's</i> Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.
April 7	<i>Horse</i> by Geraldine Brooks	Historical Fiction	Gaol Rothenberger	A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history Kentucky, 1850.
May 5	<i>Love and Saffron</i> by Fay Kim	Fiction	Jean Michels	When twenty-seven-year-old Joan Bergstrom sends a fan letter--as well as a gift of saffron--to fifty-nine-year-old Imogen Fortier, a life-changing friendship begins. Joan lives in Los Angeles and is just starting out as a writer for the newspaper food pages. Imogen lives on Camano Island outside Seattle, writing a monthly column for a Pacific Northwest magazine, and while she can hunt elk and dig for clams, she's never tasted fresh garlic--exotic fare in the Northwest of the sixties. As the two women commune through their letters, they build a closeness that sustains them through the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of President Kennedy, and the unexpected in their own lives.
June 2	Luncheon TBD			

*Since the December book is short, let's devote half of our session to Agatha Christie and the other half in giving a gift to each other. Please come prepared to share the name of the best book you've ever read (or at least one that you'd highly encourage everyone to read.)