

Campbell UMC BOOK CLUB

2018-19 BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

(Books selected for 2018-19 season are highlighted)

Dick Sheehan's Recommendations:

THE BOY ON THE WOODEN BOX: How the Impossible Became Possible ... on Schindler's List by Leon Leyson ... This, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. The author was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow. Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory—a list that became world renowned: Schindler's list.

THE LAST SUNRISE, A TRUE STORY by Harold Gordon ... This is a true story of a nine-year old boy who found himself hunted for no reason other than born Jewish and living on the wrong continent at the wrong time. Little by little, he found himself devoid of friends and relatives-- the Nazi took them all. Imprisoned but not defeated he grew up in Nazi concentration camps as a political prisoner marked for death, as an enemy of the state, and lived to tell his story.

SELECTED to Discuss 22 April 2019: THE PRESIDENT IS MISSING: A Novel by James Patterson and Bill Clinton ... *The President Is Missing* confronts a threat so huge that it jeopardizes not just Pennsylvania Avenue and Wall Street, but all of America. Uncertainty and fear grip the nation. There are whispers of cyberterror and espionage and a traitor in the Cabinet. Even the President himself becomes a suspect, and then he disappears from public view. Set over the course of three days, *The President Is Missing* sheds a stunning light upon the inner workings and vulnerabilities of our nation. Filled with information that only a former Commander-in-Chief could know.

THE SILK ROADS: A New History of the World by Peter Frankopan ... It was on the Silk Roads that East and West first encountered each other through trade and conquest, leading to the spread of ideas, cultures and religions. From the rise and fall of empires to the spread of Buddhism and the advent of Christianity and Islam, right up to the great wars of the twentieth century—this book shows how the fate of the West has always been inextricably linked to the East. Peter Frankopan realigns our understanding of the world, pointing us eastward. He vividly re-creates the emergence of the first cities in Mesopotamia and the birth of empires in Persia, Rome and Constantinople, as well as the depredations by the Mongols, the transmission of the Black Death and the violent struggles over Western imperialism. Throughout the millennia, it was the appetite for foreign goods that brought East and West together, driving economies and the growth of nations.

Ellen Droke's Recommendations:

SELECTED to Discuss December 2018: EDUCATED: A Memoir by Tara Westover ... *Educated* is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one's closest ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.

THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE by Betty Friedan ... Published in 1963, it gave a pitch-perfect description of "the problem that has no name": the insidious beliefs and institutions that undermined women's

confidence in their intellectual capabilities and kept them in the home. Writing in a time when the average woman first married in her teens and 60 percent of women students dropped out of college to marry, Betty Friedan captured the frustrations and thwarted ambitions of a generation and showed women how they could reclaim their lives. Part social chronicle, part manifesto, *The Feminine Mystique* is filled with fascinating anecdotes and interviews as well as insights that continue to inspire.

MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING by Viktor E. Frankl ... Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Between 1942 and 1945 Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother, and pregnant wife perished. Based on his own experience and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose. Frankl's theory—known as logotherapy, from the Greek word *logos* ("meaning")—holds that our primary drive in life is not pleasure, as Freud maintained, but the discovery and pursuit of what we personally find meaningful.

Roxanne Kohlin's Recommendations:

SELECTED to Discuss 26 November 2018: BORN A CRIME: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah ... *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy, Trevor Noah, who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

THE DESERT AND THE SEA: 977 Days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast by Michael Scott Moore ... Michael Scott Moore, a journalist, incorporates personal narrative and rigorous investigative journalism in this profound and revelatory memoir of his three-year captivity by Somali pirates. A sort of *Catch-22* meets *Black Hawk Down*, this book is written with dark humor, candor, and a journalist's clinical distance and eye for detail. Moore offers an intimate and otherwise inaccessible view of life as we cannot fathom it, brilliantly weaving his own experience as a hostage with the social, economic, religious, and political factors creating it.

BEAUTIFUL EXILES by Meg Waite Clayton ... This novel begins in Key West, 1936. Headstrong, accomplished journalist Martha Gellhorn is confident with words but less so with men when she meets disheveled literary titan Ernest Hemingway in a dive bar. Their friendship—forged over writing, talk, and family dinners—flourishes into something undeniable in Madrid while they're covering the Spanish Civil War. *Beautiful Exiles* is a stirring story of lovers and rivals, of the breathless attraction to power and fame, and of one woman—ahead of her time—claiming her own identity from the wreckage of love.

Lou Woodburycatcott's Recommendation:

SELECTED to Discuss 27 May 2019: FLY GIRLS: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History by Keith O'Brien ... *Fly Girls* recounts how a cadre of women banded together to break the original glass ceiling: the entrenched prejudice that conspired to keep them out of the sky. O'Brien weaves together the stories of five remarkable women: Florence Klingensmith, a high-school dropout who worked for a dry cleaner in Fargo, North Dakota; Ruth Elder, an Alabama divorcee; Amelia Earhart, the most famous, but not necessarily the most skilled; Ruth Nichols, who chafed at the constraints of her blue-blood family's expectations; and Louise Thaden, the mother of two young kids who got her start selling coal in Wichita. Together, they fought for the chance to race against the men—and in 1936 one of them would triumph in the toughest race of all.

Elizabeth Young's Recommendations:

SELECTED to Discuss 24 June 2019: THE DRY: A Novel by Jane Harper ... After getting a note demanding his presence, Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his hometown for the first time in decades to attend the funeral of his best friend, Luke. Twenty years ago when Falk was accused of murder, Luke was his alibi. Falk and his father fled under a cloud of suspicion, saved from prosecution only because of Luke's steadfast claim that the boys had been together at the time of the crime. But now more than one person knows they didn't tell the truth back then, and Luke is dead. Amid the worst drought in a century, Falk and the local detective question what really happened to Luke. As Falk reluctantly investigates to see if there's more to Luke's death than there seems to be, long-buried mysteries resurface, as do the lies that have haunted them. And Falk will find that small towns have *always* hidden big secrets.

THE ALICE NETWORK: A Novel by Kate Quinn ... An enthralling new historical novel from national bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

WITHOUT YOU, THERE IS NO US: Undercover Among the Sons of North Korea's Elite by Suki Kim ... A haunting account of teaching English to the sons of North Korea's ruling class during the last six months of Kim Jong-il's reign. This book offers a moving and incalculably rare glimpse of life in the world's most unknowable country, and at the privileged young men she calls "soldiers and slaves".

THE CONFIDENCE CODE FOR GIRLS: Taking Risks, Messing Up, and Becoming Your Amazingly Imperfect, Totally Powerful Self by Katty Kay and Claire Shipman ... Packed with graphic novel strips; appealing illustrations; fun lists, quizzes, and challenges; and true stories from tons of real girls, *The Confidence Code for Girls* teaches girls to embrace risk, deal with failure, and be their most authentic selves. It is currently available on Amazon.

Susan Sargent's Recommendations:

SELECTED to Discuss 28 January 2019: BENEATH A SCARLET SKY by Mark Sullivan ... Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, this book is the triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours. Based in the final two years of World War II, Pino Lella, an Italian teenager, wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior. In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. But after Pino is injured, he is recruited at the tender age of eighteen to become the personal driver for Adolf Hitler's left hand in Italy, General Hans Leyers, one of the Third Reich's most mysterious and powerful commanders. He becomes a spy for the Allies, endures the horrors of the war and has the love affair of his life. Soon to be a movie.

DAY OF DECEIT: The Truth About FDR and Pearl Harbor by Robert Stinnett ... Pearl Harbor was not an accident, a mere failure of American intelligence, or a brilliant Japanese military coup. It was the result of a carefully orchestrated design, initiated at the highest levels of our government. According to a key memorandum eight steps were taken to make sure we would enter the war by this means. Pearl Harbor was the *only way*, leading officials felt, to galvanize the reluctant American public into action. This great question of Pearl Harbor--what did we know and when did we know it?--has been argued for years. After decades of Freedom of Information Act requests, Robert B. Stinnett has gathered the long-hidden evidence that shatters every shibboleth of Pearl Harbor. It shows that not only was the attack expected, it was *deliberately* provoked through an eight-step program devised by the Navy. The evidence is overwhelming. At the highest levels--on FDR's desk--America had ample warning of the pending attack. At those same levels, it was understood that the isolationist American public would not support a declaration of war unless we were attacked first. The result was a plan to anger Japan, to keep the loyal officers responsible for Pearl Harbor in the dark, and thus to drag America into the greatest war of her existence. *Day of Deceit* is the definitive final chapter on America's greatest secret and our worst military disaster.

The Twilight Saga Book Series by Bella Forrest (5 Books)

The Chronicles of Narnia Series by CS Lewis (7 Books)

Dave Sargent's Recommendation:

SELECTED to Discuss 25 March 2019: FOUNDING BROTHERS: the Revolutionary Generation by Joseph J. Ellis ... In this landmark work of history and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Joseph J. Ellis explores how a group of greatly gifted but deeply flawed individuals—Hamilton, Burr, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Adams, and Madison—confronted the overwhelming challenges before them to set the course for our nation.

Ron Schwartz's Recommendations:

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann ... In *Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann revisits a shocking series of crimes in which dozens of people were murdered in cold blood. Based on years of research and startling new evidence, the book is a masterpiece of narrative nonfiction, as each step in the investigation reveals a series of sinister secrets and reversals. But more than that, it is a searing indictment of the callousness and prejudice toward American Indians that allowed the murderers to operate with impunity for so long. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is utterly compelling, but also emotionally devastating.

THE SINISTER PIG by Tony Hillerman ... Tony Hillerman's novel leads his readers through another of his intricate plots to the solution of this crime, with a cast of vivid characters: a Washington political mogul and his more-or-less renegade pilot; a customs official who bends the rules; a Mexican smuggler with a conscience; and, finally, "Legendary Lieutenant" Joe Leaphorn, now retired, who connects the lines on a dusty old map to find the answers -- and the Sinister Pig -- among the great scimitar-horned oryx grazing on the historic Tuttle Ranch.

A MAN CALLED OVE: A Novel by Fredrik Backman ... A feel-good story, Fredrik Backman's novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others. "If there was an award for 'Most Charming Book of the Year,' this first novel by a Swedish blogger-turned-overnight-sensation would win hands down".

SELECTED to Discuss 22 October 2018: HAMILTON by Ron Chernow, which we decided in the 2017-18 season to read over the summer and discuss at our 22 October 2018 Meeting.

Margaret Foster's Recommendation:

EMPIRE OF THE SUMMER MOON: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History by S.C. Gwynne ... This stunning historical account of the forty-year battle between Comanche Indians and white settlers for control of the American West was a major *New York Times* bestseller. S. C. Gwynne's *Empire of the Summer Moon* spans two astonishing stories. The first traces the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. The second entails one of the most remarkable narratives ever to come out of the Old West: the epic saga of the pioneer woman Cynthia Ann Parker and her mixed-blood son Quanah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches. S. C. Gwynne's account of these events is meticulously researched, intellectually provocative, and, above all, thrillingly told.