

Armchair Travel Book Club Selection List

Brookfield Public Library 2023-2024

All sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

We try to have enough books available for everyone in the discussion group by requesting them from other libraries. Under ideal circumstances, the books are available one month in advance of the meeting date from the Circulation Desk. The additional copies will not be displayed in our online catalog! Just ask at the check-out desk for the next available book discussion title. Please ask staff to check the item out to you through the date of the discussion.

August 15, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Kentucky
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson (fiction)

Cussy Mary Carter is the last of her kind, her skin the color of a blue damselfly in these dusty hills. As a member of the Pack Horse Library Project, Cussy delivers books to the hill folk of Troublesome, hoping to spread learning in these desperate times. But not everyone is so keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and people are quick to blame a Blue for any trouble in their small town (Polaris summary).

September 19, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room France
The Sweet Life in Paris: Delicious Adventures in the World's Most Glorious—and Perplexing—City by David Lebovitz

David Lebovitz, pastry chef and cookbook author, moved to Paris to start a new life. From learning the ironclad rules of social conduct to the mysteries of men's footwear, from shopkeepers who work so hard not to sell you anything to the etiquette of working the right way around the cheese plate, here is David's story of how he came to fall in love with the city (Amazon).

October 17, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Asia and Europe
Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World by Jack Weatherford

The Mongol army led by Genghis Khan subjugated more lands and people in twenty-five years than the Romans did in four hundred. In nearly every country the Mongols conquered, they brought an unprecedented rise in cultural communication, expanded trade, and a blossoming of civilization. This book details how Khan's conquests shaped the modern world (Amazon).

November 21, 2023 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room United States
The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-chance Journey Across America by Elizabeth Letts

In 1954, Annie Wilkins had no relatives left, lost her family farm to back taxes, and her doctor had just given her two years to live--but only if she "lived restfully." He offered her a spot in the county's charity home. Instead, she decided she wanted to see the Pacific Ocean just once before she died. She had no map, no GPS, no phone. But she had her ex-racehorse, her faithful mutt, and her own unfailing belief that Americans would treat a stranger with kindness (Polaris summary).

No Meeting in December

January 16, 2024 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Various
American Cheese: An Indulgent Odyssey Through the Artisan Cheese World by Joe Berkowitz

Joe Berkowitz loves cheese. Or at least he thought he did. After stumbling upon an artisanal tasting at an upscale cheese shop one Valentine's Day, he realized he'd hardly even scratched the surface. This discovery inspired Joe to embark on the cheese adventure of a lifetime, spending a year exploring the subculture around cheese. Through this odyssey, an unexpected culture of passionate cheesemakers is revealed, along with the extraordinary impact of one delicious dairy product (Polaris summary).

February 20, 2024 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room India
Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo

A Mumbai slum offers rare insight into the lives and socioeconomic and political realities for some of the disadvantaged riding the coattails (or not) of India's economic miracle in this deeply researched and brilliantly written account. Divided into four parts, the narrative brings vividly to the page life as it is led today in Annawadi, a squalid and overcrowded migrant settlement of some 3,000 people squatting since 1991 on a half-acre of land owned by the Sahar International Airport (Publishers Weekly Review).

March 19, 2024 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Africa
Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Cape Town by Paul Theroux

In this book, Paul Theroux takes readers the length of Africa by rattletrap bus, dugout canoe, cattle truck, armed convoy, ferry, and train. During his journey, he endures danger, delay, and dismaying circumstances. Gauging the state of affairs, he talks to Africans, aid workers, missionaries, and tourists. What results is an insightful meditation on the history, politics, and beauty of Africa and its people (Polaris summary).

April 16, 2024 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Turkey
Istanbul: Memories and the City by Orhan Pamuk

The author fondly remembers and capably details life growing up in Istanbul, a city with an odd mix of history and modernity, Eastern tradition and Western progress. Whether describing the elegant decay of the Bosphorus or explaining the wealth and danger of oil tankers and shipping routes, Pamuk paints a picture of a city where the "remains of glorious past civilizations" are everywhere "inflicting heartache" on all who live among them (Library Journal review).

May 21, 2024 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Various
Underland: A Deep Time Journey by Robert Macfarlane

Macfarlane explores the Earth's underworlds as they exist in myth, literature, memory, and the land itself. Traveling through "deep time," he moves from the birth of the universe to a post-human future, from Bronze Age funeral chambers to the catacomb labyrinth below Paris, and from the underground fungal networks through which trees communicate to a deep-sunk "hiding place" where nuclear waste will be stored for 100,000 years to come (Polaris summary).

June 18, 2024 10:00 a.m. Community Room
Selection Meeting for 2024-2025 season.