

July 2023

"Great Lives" Biography Book Group Brookfield Public Library 2023-24

Books are available at the Circulation Desk about a month before the meeting. Anyone interested in reading and discussing biographies is welcome!

Monday, August 28, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***Finding Gobi* by Dion Leonard**

Dion Leonard, a seasoned ultramarathon runner, crossed paths with a stray dog while competing in a 155-mile race through the Gobi Desert in China. As Dion witnessed the incredible determination and heart of this small animal, he found his own heart undergoing a change as well. Although Dion did not cross the finish line first, he felt he had won something even greater -- a new outlook on life and a new friend that he planned on bringing home as soon as arrangements were made. However, before he could take her home, Gobi went missing. Dion, with the help of strangers and a viral outpouring of assistance on the internet, set out to track her down, and reunite forever with the amazing animal that changed his life and proved to him and the world that miracles are possible. (Polaris Summary)

Monday, September 25, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***The Doctors Blackwell* by Janice Nimura**

The vivid biography of two pioneering sisters who, together, became America's first female doctors and transformed New York's medical establishment by creating a hospital by and for women. Both sisters were tenacious and visionary; they were also judgmental, uncompromising, and occasionally misogynistic--their convictions as 19th-century women often contradicted their ambitions. From Bristol, England, to the new cities of antebellum America, this work of rich history follows the sister doctors as they transform the nineteenth century medical establishment and, in turn, our contemporary one. (Provided by the Publisher)

Monday, October 23, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo* by Tom Reiss**

This extraordinary biography traces the almost unbelievable life of the man who inspired not only Monte Cristo, but all three of the Musketeers: the novelist's own father. (Polaris Summary)

Monday, November 27, 2023

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***Brave Hearted: The Women of the American West, 1836-1880* by Katie Hickman**

The true-life story of women's experiences in the Wild West is more gripping, heart-rending, and stirring than all the movies, novels, folk-legends, and ballads of popular imagination. Drawing on letters, diaries, and other extraordinary contemporary accounts, sifting through the legends and the myths, the laws and the treaties, Katie Hickman presents us with cast of unforgettable women: This is the story of the women who participated in the greatest mass migration in American history, transforming their country in the process. (Provided by the Publisher)

December NO MEETING

Monday, January 22, 2024

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler* by Rebecca Donner**

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Mildred Harnack was twenty-six when she enrolled in a PhD program in Germany and witnessed the meteoric rise of the Nazi party. In 1932, she began holding secret meetings in her apartment--a small band that by 1940 had grown into the largest underground resistance group in Berlin. She recruited working-class Germans into the resistance, helped Jews escape, plotted acts of sabotage, and collaborated in writing leaflets that denounced Hitler and called for revolution. When the first shots of the Second World War were fired, she became a spy, couriering top-secret intelligence to the Allies. On the eve of her escape to Sweden, she was ambushed by the Gestapo. At a Nazi military court, a panel of five judges sentenced her to six years at a prison camp, but Hitler overruled the decision and ordered her execution. Historians identify Mildred Harnack as the only American in the leadership of the German resistance, yet her remarkable story has remained almost unknown until now. (Polaris summary)

July 2023

Monday, February 26, 2024

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***Blood and Treasure: Daniel Boone and the Fight for America's First Frontier* by Bob Drury**

The guide to this epic narrative is none other than America's first and arguably greatest pathfinder Daniel Boone-not the coonskin cap-wearing caricature of popular culture but the flesh-and-blood frontiersman and Revolutionary War hero whose explorations into the forested frontier beyond the great mountains would become the stuff of legend. The story of the brutal birth of the United States is told through the eyes of both the ordinary and larger-than-life men and women, white and Native American, who witnessed it. (Provided by the Publisher)

Monday, March 25, 2024

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***The Double Life of Katharine Clark: the Untold Story of the American Journalist Who Risked Her Life for Truth and Justice* by Katharine Gregorio**

In 1955, Katharine Clark became the first female American wire reporter behind the Iron Curtain, forging a career as a journalist, befriending a leading Communist, and risking her life to smuggle away books that exposed the truth about Communism to the world. This dramatic historical narrative shows how one woman with an unwavering commitment to truth, justice, and freedom of the press put her life on the line to reshape American history. (Provided by the Publisher)

Monday, April 22, 2024

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***Feral: Losing Myself and Finding My Way in America's National Parks* by Emily Pennington**

After a decade as an assistant to high-powered LA executives, Emily Pennington left behind her structured life and surrendered to the pull of the great outdoors. With a tight budget, meticulous routing, and a temperamental minivan she named Gizmo, Emily embarked on a yearlong road trip to sixty-two national parks, hell-bent on a single goal: getting through the adventure in one piece. She was instantly thrust into more chaos than she'd bargained for and found herself on an unpredictable journey rocked by a gutting romantic breakup, a burgeoning pandemic, wildfires, and other seismic challenges that threatened her safety, her sanity, and the trip itself. What began as an intrepid obsession soon evolved into a life-changing experience. (Provided by the Publisher)

****Note date change due to Memorial Day****

Monday, June 3, 2024

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern History* by Christopher Gorham**

As Franklin Delano Roosevelt's special envoy to Europe in World War II, Anna Rosenberg went where the president couldn't go. She was among the first Allied women to enter a liberated concentration camp, and stood in the Eagle's Nest, Hitler's mountain retreat, days after its capture. She guided the direction of the G.I. Bill of Rights and the Manhattan Project. Gorham shows that Rosenberg was the real power behind national policies critical to America winning the war and prospering afterward. Astonishingly, her story remains largely forgotten. He shows how Rosenberg's career continued after FDR's death, tapped in 1950 to become the assistant secretary of defense, and fighting tirelessly for causes from racial integration to women's equality to national health care until the end of her life. (Adapted from the book jacket)

Monday, June 24, 2024

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

Selection Meeting for the 2024-25 season. Cast your votes!

Monday, July 22, 2024

1:00pm

Harnischfeger Room

***Official and Confidential: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover* by Anthony Summers**

For this consummate biography, renowned investigative journalist Anthony Summers interviewed more than eight hundred witnesses and pored through thousands of documents to get at the truth about the man who headed the FBI for fifty years, persecuted political enemies, blackmailed politicians, and lived his own surprising secret life.