

Vashon Island Unitarian Universalists Book Club Choices to Vote on for 2023-24

Please consider the following books presented at Seabeck for our monthly bookclub at the end of each month. Please rank order your top 10 choices and send to Pamela Godt.

We should probably include the Unitarian Universalist Common Read for this year which is:

-On Repentance & Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World, by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022 -bulk discounts available)

Other possible books of interest include:

-American Nations: A history of the 11 rival regional cultures of North America, by Colin Woodard, Penguin Books, 2012. (particularly relevant in understanding who voted for who in this presidential year, this is an endlessly fascinating look at American regionalism and the eleven "nations" that continue to shape North America.)

-Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing makes us whole, by Susan Cain, 2022. Based on the premise that light and dark, birth and death, bitter & sweet are forever paired.}

-The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store, by James McBride, 2023. (This is a novel about small-town secrets and the people who keep them. It has a murder, mixes of Whites and Minorities, and shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community-heaven & earth-that sustain us.)

-How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude & Hope, edited by James Crews, forward by Ross Gay, 2021. (Offers uplifting, deeply felt and relatable poems by well known authors.)

- A is for Almost Anything: An Assortment of Poetry, by JR Turek, 2016. (All the poems begin with the letter A)

-The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism, by Mark D. Morrison-Reed, 2014 (Selma represented a turning point for UUs.)

-The Artist's Way: A spiritual Path to Higher Creativity, by Julia Cameron, 1992.
(A Course in discovering & recovering your Creative Self.)

-Hounded, by Frederic Martini, Austin Mccauley Publisher, 2023.

(This is a delightful new novel by a scientist combining dogs and science fiction. A New York detective is assigned a Neo-nine as his partner. A Neo-nine is a genetically enhanced dog/human who's mom was a black labrador. The dog has many hidden talents and the ability to speak as a person in Virtual Reality, helping to solve many interesting crimes; Great fun to read and gives one things to think about in our possible futures.)

-The Light we Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times, by Michelle Obama, Crown publisher, 2022. This new book shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world.)

-The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating, by Elisabeth Tova Bailey, 2016 (Rich and regenerative)

- **The Brothers K, by David James Duncan,2008.** (A father's dreams of baseball glory are destroyed by a mill accident, the mother clings to religion to ward off her past and 4 boys are raised in the 60s. By turns uproariously funny and deeply moving, it is original and poignant in its universality.)

- **Analogia:The Emergence of Technology Beyond Programmable Control, by George Dyson, 2020.** (This book presents a startling look back at the analog age and an unsettling look at what comes next.)

The Rose Code, by Kate Quinn, (A heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchly Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over.)

Being Mortal: Medicine and what Matters in the End, by Atul Gawande (Includes study guides to get more out of the book and follow the character arcs from tragedy to triumph)

Nature's Best Hope : A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard, by Douglas W Tallamy.(Awakens readers to the urgent decline of wildlife because native plants are disappearing.)

Living Beautifully with Uncertainty & Change, by Pema Chodron (The author {a Buddhist Nun }shares practices for living with wisdom and integrity even in confusing and uncertain situations)

1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus, 2nd edition, by Charles C. Mann (A groundbreaking work of science, history and archaeology that radically alters our understanding of the Americas before Columbus..)

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, by Yuval Noah Harari. (Bill Gates: I would recommend this book to anyone interested in a fun, engaging book about early human history... you'll have a hard time putting it down.)

Other possible books of interest include:

-**American Nations: A History of the 11 Distinctly Different Cultures of North America**, by Colin Woodard, Penguin Books, 2012, (particularly relevant in understanding who voted for who in this presidential year - that is an extremely fascinating look at American regionalism and the diverse "nations" that continue to shape "big" America.)

-**Siddharta: How Narrow and Longwey walked in light**, by Hermann Hesse, 2022. Based on the premise that light and dark, birth and death, suffer & desire are journey points.)

-**The Heaven & Earth Society Book**, by James Michener, 2022. (This is a novel about small-town people and the people who love them. It has a cast of Whites and Minorities, and also - as that even is dark times, it is love and community - heaven & earth that sustain us.)

-**How to Love the World: Poems of Grasshops & Flies**, edited by James Crum, forward by Ross Gay, 2021. (Offers enlightening, deeply felt and relatable poems by well known authors.)

- **A is for Almost Anything: An Alphabetical History of Poetry**, by W. S. Merwin, 2016. (Each poem begins with the letter A)

-**The Seima-Tsaganina: How the Qing, the Russian Empire and the Chinese Unionized Utopia**, by Mark D. Mackinnon, 2014 (Some interesting turning point for US.)