

First Unitarian Book Group 2021

Meets at 7:00 on the second Monday of the month

Except no meeting in August; October is rescheduled to Columbus Day.

January 11: *Deacon King Kong*, James McBride, 384 pages (Emily and Nancy Wells)

"James McBride...has written a propulsive and comic neighborhood epic set in the 1960s with a cast of characters that are beguiling, boozed-filled, and larger than life...*Deacon King Kong* tells the fictional story of one Brooklyn project, but in so doing tells a broader story of race and religion, getting by and getting out, and how grudges and alliances become embedded in the foundations of our neighborhoods."

February 8: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Isabel Wilkerson, 496 pages (Gloria and Edwin)

"Like Martin Luther King, Jr. before her, Isabel Wilkerson has traveled the world to study the caste system and has returned to show us more clearly than ever before how caste is permanently embedded in the foundation and unseen structural beams of this old house called America."

March 8: *The Revisioners*, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, 288 pages (Langdon)

"This stunning novel is told in alternating chapters from the points of view of two African-American women connected by blood but divided by time: a biracial single mom in 2017 and a former sharecropper turned farm-owning widow in 1924 as they discover the dangers that threaten to upend their lives transcend generations."

April 12: *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, Sarah L. Delany, A. Elizabeth Delany, Amy Hill Hearth, 320 pages (Cori)

"Warm, feisty, and intelligent, the Delany sisters speak their mind in a book that is at once a vital historical record and a moving portrait of two remarkable women who continued to love, laugh, and embrace life after over a hundred years of living side by side."

May 10: *The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett, 352 pages (Edwin)

The Vanishing Half examines sisterhood, black identity, and parenthood with compassion and conviction. The Vignes twins grew up inseparable in the '60s in Mallard, Louisiana, a small town reserved for black residents with light skin. Stella and Desiree Vignes are tall and beautiful...When they flee to New Orleans as teenagers, Stella discovers that she can pass as white, and so begins the fracture that will forever separate the twins. Stella disappears in California and continues to play the part of a white woman...Desiree returns to Mallard with her daughter...who is 'black as tar'."

June 14: *Serena*, Ron Rash, 371 pages (Nancy Wolf)

"Award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling novelist Ron Rash conjures a gothic tale of greed, corruption, and revenge with a ruthless, powerful, and unforgettable woman at its heart, set amid the wilds of 1930s North Carolina and against the backdrop of America's burgeoning environmental movement."

July 12: *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*, Bill Bryson, 276 pages (Abby)

"The Appalachian Trail...consists of some five million steps, and Bryson manages to coax a laugh, and often an unexpectedly startling insight, out of every one he traverses."

September 13: *Rachel Maddow: A Biography*, Lisa Rogak, 288 pages (Pat)

"The first biography of the most popular anchor in cable news."

October ? : *Invisible Man, Got the Whole World Watching: A Young Black Man's Education*, Mychal Denzel Smith, 240 pages (Judy)

"An unflinching account of what it means to be a young black man in America today, and how the existing script for black manhood is being rewritten in one of the most fascinating periods of American history."

November 8: *American Dirt*, Jeanine Cummins, 400 pages (Allison)

"Lydia Quixano Pérez runs a bookstore in Acapulco, Mexico, where she lives with her husband, Sebastián, who is a journalist, and their son, Luca. When a man starts visiting her store, buying books and striking up a friendship, she has no idea initially that he will be responsible for turning her life upside down. But Lydia and Luca will have to flee Acapulco, setting them on a journey they will share with countless other Central and South Americans-turned migrants."

December 13: 2022 Book Pick