

## AAUW Book Group Reading Selections 2024-2025

***The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together, Heather McGhee, 448 pages.***

One of today's most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color. This is the story of how public goods in this country—from parks and pools to functioning schools—have become private luxuries; and of how this country, unique among the world's advanced economies, has thwarted universal healthcare. McGhee also finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend. It leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game.

**DATE: September 21, 2024**

**DISCUSSION LEADER: Mary-Carol Lindbloom**

***Horse, Geraldine Brooks, 464 pages.***

"*Horse* isn't just an animal story—it's a moving narrative about race and art." —*TIME*

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

**DATE: October 14, 2024**

**DISCUSSION LEADER: Kathy Earnest-Koons**

***The Frozen River, Ariel Lawhon, 448 pages.***

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community of Hallowell. Layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard.

**DATE: November 11, 2024**

**DISCUSSION LEADER \_\_\_\_\_**

***The Return of the Light: Twelve Tales from Around the World for the Winter Solstice, Carolyn McVickar Edwards, 192 pages.***

The winter solstice, the day the "sun stands still," marks the longest night and the shortest day of the year, and it comes either on December 20th or 21st. Celebrations honoring the winter solstice as a moment of transition and renewal date back thousands of years and occur among many peoples on every continent. *The Return of the Light* makes an ideal companion for everyone who carries on this tradition, no matter what their faith. These are stories that will renew our wonder of the miracle of rebirth and the power of transition from darkness into light.

**DATE: December 9, 2024**

**DISCUSSION LEADER** \_\_\_\_\_

***Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, Gabrielle Zevin, 416 pages.***

In this exhilarating novel, two friends—often in love, but never lovers—come together as creative partners in the world of video game design, where success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality. Goodreads winner for Best Fiction (2022). Zevin is the author of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, a previous Book Group selection.

**DATE: January 13, 2025**

**DISCUSSION LEADER** \_\_\_\_\_

***Nutshell, Ian McEwan, 224 pages.***

A "suspenseful, dazzlingly clever and gravely profound" (*The Washington Post*) novel that brilliantly recasts Shakespeare and lends new weight to the age-old question of Hamlet's hesitation, from the Booker Prize winner and bestselling author of *Atonement*.

Trudy has been unfaithful to her husband, John. What's more, she has kicked him out of their marital home, a valuable old London town house, and in his place is his own brother, the profoundly banal Claude. The illicit couple have hatched a scheme to rid themselves of her inconvenient husband forever. But there is a witness to their plot: the inquisitive, nine-month-old.

**DATE: February 10, 2025**

**DISCUSSION LEADER** \_\_\_\_\_

***Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood, Trevor Noah, 304 pages.***

“Noah’s childhood stories are told with all the hilarity and intellect that characterizes his comedy, while illuminating a dark and brutal period in South Africa’s history that must never be forgotten.”—*Esquire*

Trevor Noah’s unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa’s tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure,

**DATE: March 10, 2025**

**DISCUSSION LEADER** \_\_\_\_\_

***Lady Tan's Circle of Women, Lisa See, 368 pages.***

According to Confucius, “an educated woman is a worthless woman,” but Tan Yunxian—born into an elite family, yet haunted by death, separations, and loneliness—is being raised by her grandparents to be of use. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine, the Four Examinations—looking, listening, touching, and asking—something a man can never do with a female patient.

A captivating story of women helping each other, *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women* is a triumphant reimagining of the life of one person who was remarkable in the Ming dynasty and would be considered remarkable today.

**DATE: April 14, 2025**

**DISCUSSION LEADER** \_\_\_\_\_

***TRUST, Hernan Diaz, 413 pages.***

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION

“Exhilarating.” —*New York Times*

Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth—all as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune?

**DATE: May 12, 2025**

**DISCUSSION LEADER** \_\_\_\_\_

***Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder, Joanne Fluke, 464 pages.***

Joanne Fluke is a mystery writer who authors the Hannah Swensen mysteries. This 15-book series is known for its recipes, comedy, romance and endings. Carolyn said, "This would be a good book for the June Dish-to-Pass because it has lots of good recipes to try. My favorite is Ibbby's Metaphysical English Toffee."

**DATE: June 9, 2025**

**DISCUSSION LEADER: Carolyn McPherson**