

Armchair Travel Book Club Selection List

Brookfield Public Library 2019-2020

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 20, 2019 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Great Lakes area, U.S.
The Great Lakes at 10 Miles an Hour: One Cyclist's Journey Along the Shores of the Inland Seas by Thomas Shevory

Over the course of four summers, Thomas Shevory rode a bicycle along their shores, taking in the stories the lakes tell--of nature's grandeur and decay, of economic might and squandered promise, of exploration, colonization, migration, and military adventure. This book is an account of his travels, shored up by his exploration of the geological, environmental, historical, and cultural riches harbored by North America's great inland seas. (Polaris summary)

September 17, 2019 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Sicily
Sicilian Splendors: Discovering the Secret Places That Speak to the Heart by John Keahey

From Palermo to Castiglione di Sicilia to Alimena, Sicily holds great secrets from the past and unspoken promises. Tradition, in the form of festivals, the written word, photographs, and song, reverberates through village walls. Now, slowly shaking itself free of the Mafia, Sicily is opening itself up to visitors in ways it never has before. (Polaris summary)

October 15, 2019 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Zambia, Mozambique
Secrets of the Savanna: Twenty-three Years in the African Wilderness Unraveling the Mysteries of Elephants and People by Mark and Delia Owens

In this riveting real-life adventure, Mark and Delia Owens tell the dramatic story of their last years in Africa, fighting to save elephants, villagers, and themselves. In Luangwa Valley, in northeastern Zambia, they studied the mysteries of the elephant population's recovery after poaching, discovering remarkable similarities between humans and elephants. A young elephant named Gift provided the clue to help them crack the animals' secret of survival. (Amazon)

November 19, 2019 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room France, Belgium
The Lady and the Unicorn by Tracy Chevalier (fiction)

In 1490's Paris, a shrewd French nobleman commissions six lavish tapestries celebrating his rising status at Court. He hires Nicolas des Innocents to design them. Nicolas creates havoc among the women in the house before taking his designs north to the Brussels workshop where the tapestries are to be woven. There, master weaver Georges de la Chapelle risks everything he has to finish the tapestries on time for his exacting French client. (Amazon)

No Meeting in December

January 21, 2020 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room USA
Blue Highways: A Journey Into America by William Least Heat-Moon

William Least Heat-Moon set out with little more than the need to put home behind him and a sense of curiosity about "those little towns that get on the map-if they get on at all-only because some cartographer has a blank space to fill: Remote, Oregon; Simplicity, Virginia..." His adventures, his discoveries, and his recollections of the extraordinary people he encountered along the way amount to a revelation of the true American experience. (Amazon)

February 18, 2020 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Honduras
The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story by Douglas Preston

Since the days of conquistador Hernán Cortés, rumors have circulated about a lost city of immense wealth hidden somewhere in the Honduran interior, called the White City or the Lost City of the Monkey God. In 2012, author Doug Preston joined a team of scientists in a quest to find it. In an unexplored valley ringed by steep mountains, that flight revealed the unmistakable image of a sprawling metropolis, tantalizing evidence of not just an undiscovered city but an enigmatic, lost civilization. (Polaris summary)

March 17, 2020 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Turkey, Syria
The Hundred-Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey by Dawn Anahid MacKeen

Growing up, Dawn MacKeen heard from her mother how her grandfather Stepan miraculously escaped from the Turks during the Armenian genocide of 1915, when more than one million people—half the Armenian population—were killed. The tale alternates between Stepan's courageous account, drawn from his long-lost journals, and her own story as she attempts to retrace his steps, setting out alone to Turkey and Syria, shadowing her grandfather across a landscape still rife with tension. (Amazon)

April 21, 2020 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Africa
Walking the Nile by Levison Wood

The Nile, one of the world's great rivers, has long been an object of fascination and obsession. English writer, photographer, and explorer Levison Wood's book is a captivating account of a remarkable and unparalleled Nile journey. Starting in November 2013 in a forest in Rwanda, where a modest spring spouts a trickle of clear, cold water, Wood set forth on foot, aiming to become the first person to walk the entire length of the fabled river. He followed the Nile for nine months, over 4,000 miles, through six nations to its end at the Mediterranean coast. (Polaris summary)

May 19, 2020 10:00 a.m. Rotary Club Room Morocco
The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca by Tahir Shah

Inspired by the Moroccan vacations of his childhood, Tahir Shah dreamed of making a home there. At 36, investing what money he and his wife had, Tahir packed up his growing family and bought Dar Khalifa, a crumbling ruin of a mansion by the sea in Casablanca that once belonged to the city's caliph. With its lush grounds, cool, secluded courtyards, and relaxed pace, life at Dar Khalifa seems sure to fulfill Tahir's fantasy—until he discovers that in many ways he is farther from home than he imagined. (Amazon)

June 16, 2020 10:00 a.m. Community Room
Selection Meeting for 2020-2021 season.