SHUWF

2025
Reading Program
Programa De Lectura
독서 프로그램



United
Women
in Faith

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Dear United Women in Faith Readers,

A vigorous morning rain taps on my apartment windows while I write you this letter. The day's work is calling, the children awake, and the inbox piling up. Yet, the rain keeps falling and I find myself longing for that wonderful trifecta of coziness: a fuzzy blanket, a steaming cup of tea, and a great book.

Whether you have a disciplined daily reading ritual with morning meditation in a favorite chair, or you take more of a catch-as-catch-can approach, with a paperback stuffed in your purse for reading on the go, you have come to this catalog because you believe in the power of the page. United Women in Faith readers engage in many different ways. Some of us listen to audiobooks while commuting to work. Some of us savor the late-night hours to pour over each chapter again and again. Some of us power through a binge-reading session the day before the library's return due date. Some of us read solo and some of us are part of book groups at church, online, or in our community. Whatever way works for you, we invite you to join us on this powerful reading journey!

United Women in Faith's Reading Program is designed to help women of faith to achieve five key goals: lean into our spiritual growth, strengthen our leadership skills, equip ourselves for local and global mission, take faithful action for the common good, and build community in ways large and small. The books are current and cover a wide variety of topics. Participating in one of the Reading Program plans at any of the four levels, or even reading just one or two books in this catalog, can help you grow. And anyone, anywhere, can participate—whether you are a member of United Women in Faith already or just getting to know us.

Reading allows us to travel the world. I have never had the joy of visiting Nigeria, but Abi Darè's novel, *The Louding Voice*, shrunk the 5,000+ miles between New York City and Lagos. By entering into the fictional world of Adunni, the teenage main character, my mind and heart were opened a bit more to the concerns of my Nigerian sisters. Meanwhile, Linda Sarsour's beautiful memoir, *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders*, inspired me with its testimony to the power of intersectional organizing while reminding me that practicing real sisterhood requires intentionality. While Ms. Sarsour and I share a city, our identities are quite different. As she related her experiences as a Brooklyn-born Palestinian Muslim American activist, I found myself both nodding along in recognition and connecting the dots in ways I hadn't previously. Of course, sometimes the hardest gulfs to cross, the greatest contradictions, and the deepest chasms come not from across the globe or even across the city, but rather from the tensions we feel within our very own souls. We name and claim our relationship with God as Christian women—but do we always pay attention to the practices that nourish the most fundamental of relationships? Some days, the space between who we are and who we long to be can feel like the farthest of all possible distances. Barbara Peacock's *Spiritual Practices for Soul Care* offers us 40 practical tools to go deeper in our Christian walk. This year's Bonus Books, along with the other offerings in our 2025 Reading Program, are a powerful launching point for both personal reflection and meaningful conversation.

We encourage Reading Program participants to think of this catalog as a tool that they can use both individually and as a group:

- **For Individuals:** Choose a Reading Program Plan and select the books you'll read. Get reading! When you've finished, complete the reporting form and turn it in to your Program Resources Coordinator at the district or conference level to receive a Certificate of Recognition, awarded annually. Check-in with the Program Resources Coordinator about the due date and process for recognition in your conference/district.
- **For Groups:** Use this catalog to select one or more books that you will all read and discuss together. Almost all of the books in this year's catalog make for good group discussion. But if you're looking for a quick place to start, we've created a special section (new this year!) in this catalog that shares ways you can use our three Bonus Books for group discussion.

Recent polling suggests that 30 percent of American adults experience feelings of loneliness at least weekly. Chances are that many of these folks are in your communities —maybe even in your churches. Consider this your call to action! Open your groups to other women in your community who may be looking for a way to connect and grow. Be diligent in your practice of gracious and intentional invitation. And if you don't yet have a way to read and grow together in your community, consider whether this may be a new ministry worth exploring. You may consider starting a new group at your local church or beginning a new, All Access group outside of the traditional structure. It is a balm to the soul to share in a sisterhood of spirit-filled readers committed to growing together and sharing the journey.

Blessings—and happy reading!

Peace,

Emily Jones

Emily A Jones

Emily Jones
Executive for Racial Justice
United Women in Faith

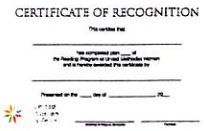


GENERAL FAQs



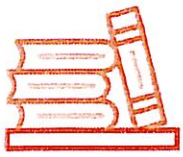
• Where can I find the books?

You can access books at your public library, from your local bookstore, or through an online retailer. You can also purchase most of the current Reading Program books at **bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith**. United Women in Faith receives 10% back on all purchases from our virtual shelves.


CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

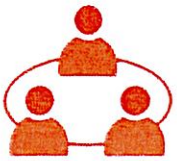
• How can I receive recognition for participating in the Reading Program as an individual?

Complete Reading Program Plans I, II, III, or IV. Fill out the reporting form available in the resources section at the end of this catalog. Submit the reporting form to the District or Conference Program Resources Coordinator or designee. Reach out to your district/conference leadership team for the relevant details, including the due date. All members and friends of United Women in Faith who complete a Plan and submit the form in a timely manner are eligible to receive the annual Certificate of Recognition.



• How can I use the Reading Program resources in a group setting?

The Reading Program provides excellent content for both regular unit meetings and new All Access member gatherings. Whether your group is meeting in person or virtually, reading a book together can provide powerful common ground. The books in the Reading Program are specially selected to help women grow spiritually, strengthen their leadership skills, and equip themselves for more effective social action, community-building, and public service. Reading and discussing a shared book can also make for an easier start to meaningful conversation among women who do not yet know each other well. It can also be a way to connect with new women and invite them into our sisterhood. Consider opening your Reading Program book discussions to women who are not yet members of United Women in Faith. Explore hosting groups in non-traditional locations, like public libraries, coffee shops, or parks. Try meeting at times accessible to women in a variety of life situations, including women who are working full-time during the day or shouldering heavy care responsibilities. You can develop your own discussion questions for any book in the Reading Program or begin with the sample discussion questions for this year's Bonus Books, available in the resources section at the end of this catalog.



What resources support intergenerational learning?

Youth and children's book selections are included in every category. In addition, the 2025 list includes two intergenerational book sets that include youth and adult versions of *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders/We're in This Together* by Linda Sarsour and *Black Girls Unbossed/Unbossed* by Khristi Laurel Holmes.

Which years of the Reading Program are eligible for reporting credit?

For 2025, books from the 2019-2020, 2021–2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit. You can find a combined list of all these books at **bit.ly/RPBookList**.



Are there other ways to receive Reading Program reporting credit?

Yes. You can also receive Reading Program reporting credit for:

- Listening to the *Faith Talks* podcast: 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for 2+ episodes
- Listening to the *Voices From the Field* podcast: 1 credit in Education for Mission for 2+ episodes
- Reading **response** magazine: 1 credit in Nurturing for Community for reading one year (6 issues)
- Being part of a Mission u study, including Mission u 2024 (Living the Kin-dom) and Mission u 2025 (Hope as a Resurrection People):
  - 1 credit in Spiritual Growth for reading a Mission u study on your own
  - 2 credits in Spiritual Growth for joining a Mission u study together with others, as a leader or participant
- Movies and television programs based on current Reading Program books are also eligible for credit. In determining the category for credit, identify the category of the original book and apply credit for the film to the same category.



How are books selected?

A large team of volunteer evaluators reads and evaluates potential Reading Program book selections throughout the year. Each book under consideration is independently evaluated by at least three people. The Reading Program Committee uses these evaluations as a basis for their recommendation, considering the overall balance of the list offerings as a whole. Their recommendation is then reviewed and approved by the Governance Committee of the Board of Directors.



- **How can I recommend a book?**

  If you would like to suggest a book for consideration for a future Reading Program catalog, you can do so by using the "Suggest a book" link available at **uwfaith.org/read**.



- **Can I use audiobooks?**

  You are always welcome to use audiobooks if that's an easier and more accessible way for you to read the material.



- **Is there any troubling content in the Reading Program books? How do I know what to expect?**

  The Reading Program is designed to be uplifting and spiritually nourishing while also wrestling honestly with the difficult experiences of our world today, including violence and other potentially triggering content. Where possible, we have added flags to the book descriptions to note any potentially disturbing content re: **graphic violence (V), explicit sexual content (S) and/or profane language (L).** This is not meant to steer you away from these books, but rather to prepare you to know what to expect so you can make informed choices. Unfortunately, we are not able to anticipate all the content that may be disturbing to every one of our readers, since each of us is unique and brings our own particular set of experiences. If you start to read a book and discover that it is too much for you at a given time, then, of course, we encourage you to practice good self-care and set the book aside.



- **How can I learn about upcoming events and keep connected to the community?**
  - If you would like to join our mailing list, visit **bit.ly/RPMailList**.
  - We also invite you to join us in the Reading Enthusiasts discussion group on United Women in Faith Digital where you can post, learn about upcoming events, and share with others about your favorite books.
    - For people who are new to United Women in Faith Digital: **bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts-MN**.
    - For people who are already on United Women in Faith Digital: **bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts**.

READING PROGRAM PLANS

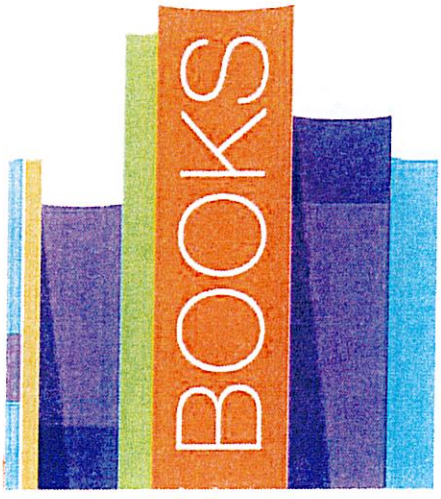
Eligible years: For 2025, books from the 2020, 2021, 2022–2023, 2024, and 2025 Reading Program lists are all eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not previously read them.

PLAN I
- 5 books each year.
- 1 book from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN II
- 10 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN III
- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

PLAN IV
- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

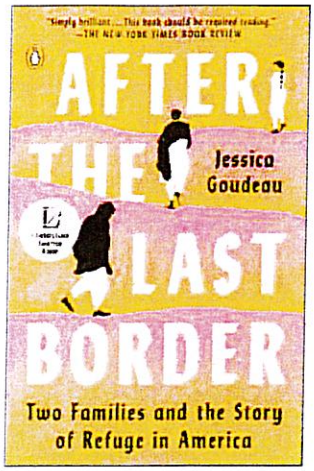


Books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice, from **bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith**, or borrowed from your local public library.

For books on previous reading lists go to: **uwfaith.org/read**

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

Adult Books

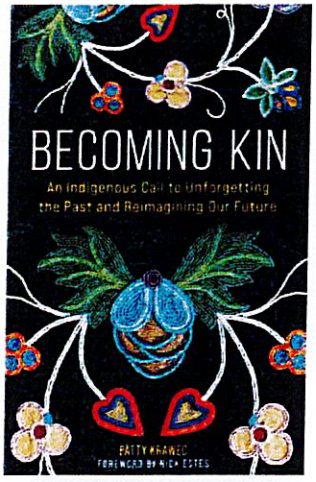


AFTER THE LAST BORDER: TWO FAMILIES AND THE STORY OF REFUGE IN AMERICA

JESSICA GOUDEAU

PENGUIN BOOKS (2021)

Writer and activist Jessica Goudeau offers an intimate look at the lives of two women as they struggle for the 21st-century American dream as refugees in Austin, Texas. Mu Naw, a Christian from Myanmar struggling to put down roots with her family, was accepted after decades in a refugee camp at a time when America was at its most open to displaced families. Hasna, a Muslim from Syria, agrees to relocate as a last resort for the safety of her family, only to be separated from her children by a sudden ban on refugees from Muslim countries. The book is hailed as a dramatic, character-driven story within a larger history.

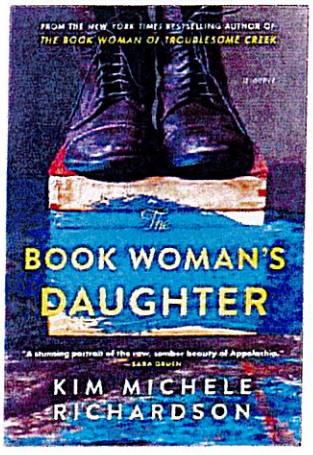


BECOMING KIN: AN INDIGENOUS CALL TO UNFORGETTING THE PAST AND REIMAGINING OUR FUTURE

PATTY KRAWEC

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2022)

In *Becoming Kin*, podcaster Patty Krawec weaves her own story with the story of her ancestors and the broader themes of creation, replacement, and disappearance, helping readers see settler colonialism through the eyes of an Indigenous writer. Krawec asks questions such as: What would it look like to remember that we are all related? How might we become better relatives to the land, one another, and Indigenous movements for solidarity? The work is a sojourn through Native and settler history, myth, identity, and spirituality that helps us retrace our steps and unravel the history we have been taught.



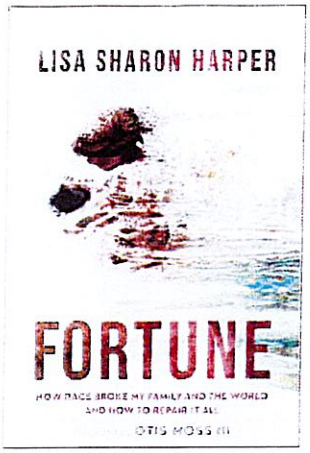
THE BOOKWOMAN'S DAUGHTER: A NOVEL

KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON

SOURCEBOOKS LANDMARK (2022)

Both a standalone and a sequel to the bestselling novel *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, *The Bookwoman's Daughter* tells the story of Honey Lovett, daughter of the famed, blue-skinned Troublesome Creek packhorse librarian. Honey and her Kentucky family have been hiding from the law all her life. But when her mother and father are imprisoned, Honey realizes she must fight to stay free. Picking up her mother's library route, Honey begins to deliver books to the remote hollers of Appalachia. But the route can be treacherous, and Honey's going to have to fight for her place. **(V)**

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

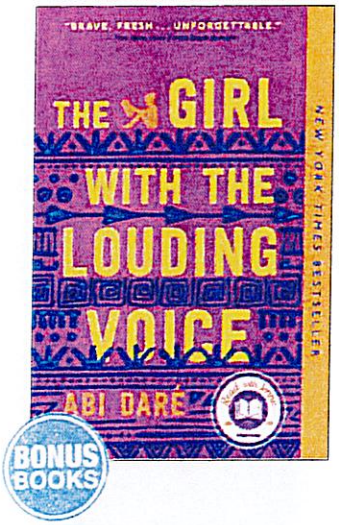


FORTUNE: HOW RACE BROKE MY FAMILY AND THE WORLD AND HOW TO REPAIR IT ALL

LISA SHARON HARPER

BRAZOS PRESS (2022)

Drawing on her lifelong journey to know her family's history, activist Lisa Sharon Harper recovers the beauty of her heritage, exposes the brokenness that race has wrought in America, and casts a vision for collective repair. With careful research, Harper traces 10 generations of her family history, showing how American ideas, customs, and laws robbed her ancestors—and the ancestors of so many others—of their humanity and flourishing. A Word & Way 2022 Book of the Year and listed in *Sojourners'* 2022 Book Roundup to Inspire Faith and Justice.

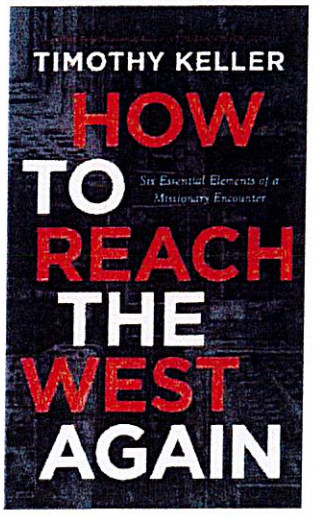


THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE: A NOVEL

ABI DARÉ

DUTTON (2020)

This coming-of-age novel tells the story of Adunni, a 14-year-old girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself. Despite the obstacles in her path, Adunni never loses sight of her goal of escaping her life of poverty so she can build the future she chooses—and help other girls like her do the same. The debut novel from Abi Daré, who grew up in Nigeria and now lives in the United Kingdom, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller. **(V)(S)**



HOW TO REACH THE WEST AGAIN: SIX ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A MISSIONARY ENCOUNTER

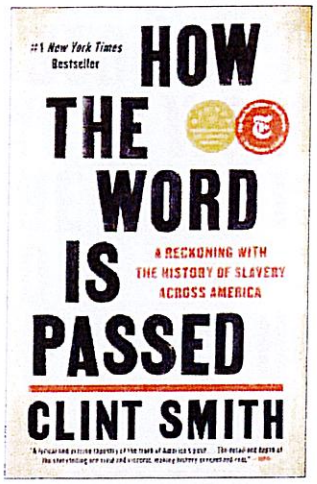
TIMOTHY KELLER

REDEEMER CITY TO CITY (2020)

Authored by the late American Calvinist pastor, preacher, theologian, and Christian apologist Timothy James Keller, this book calls upon churches to step up in the face of Christianity's decline in the West and be compelled to rethink evangelism from the ground up. Using the early church as our guide, Keller argues that churches and individual Christians must examine ourselves, our culture, and Scripture to work toward a new missionary encounter with Western culture that will make the gospel both attractive and credible to a new generation.

Book available in English & Korean.

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

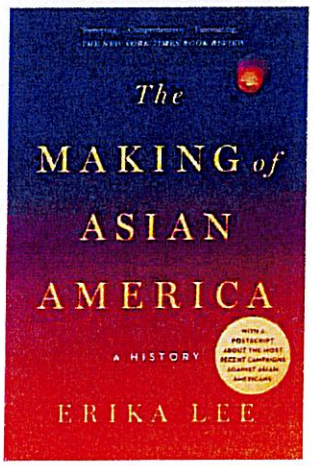


HOW THE WORD IS PASSED: A RECKONING WITH THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY ACROSS AMERICA

CLINT SMITH

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY (2021)

American writer, poet, and scholar Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history and ourselves. *How the Word Is Passed* illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view, offering a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of our country and how it has come to be. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, the Stowe Prize, and the 2022 Hillman Prize for Book Journalism.

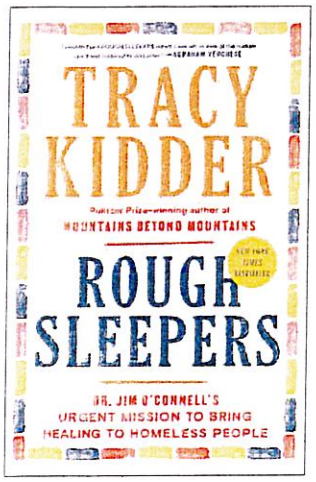


THE MAKING OF ASIAN AMERICA: A HISTORY

ERIKA LEE

SIMON & SCHUSTER (2016)

Authored by historian and author Erika Lee, the granddaughter of Chinese immigrants, this book illuminates how generations of Asian immigrants and their American-born descendants have made and remade Asian American life, from sailors who came on the first trans-Pacific ships in the 1500s to the Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. Over the past 50 years, a new Asian America has emerged. But as Lee shows, Asian Americans have continued to struggle as both "despised minorities" and "model minorities," revealing all the ways that racism has persisted in their lives and in the life of the country.



ROUGH SLEEPERS: DR. JIM O'CONNELL'S URGENT MISSION TO BRING HEALING TO HOMELESS PEOPLE

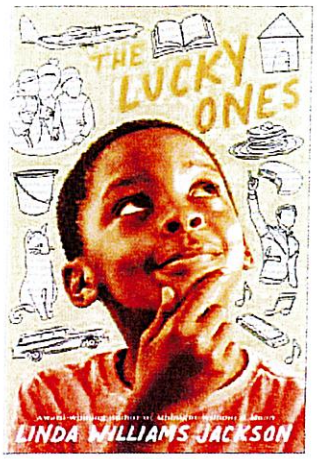
TRACY KIDDER

RANDOM HOUSE (2024)

Authored by the Pulitzer Prize-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author Tracy Kidder, *Rough Sleepers* shares the powerful tale of one doctor, Jim O'Connell, who made a difference by helping to create a program to care for Boston's homeless community, addressing one of American society's most difficult problems instead of looking away. Kidder spent five years following O'Connell and his colleagues as they worked with thousands of homeless patients, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city's most endangered citizens. Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, BookPage, and the Chicago Public Library. **(V)**

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

Youth Books

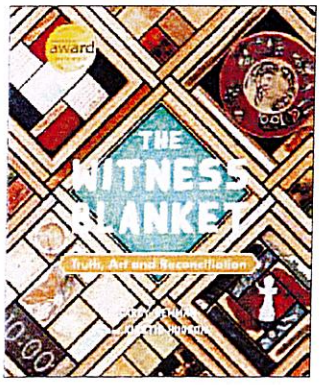


THE LUCKY ONES

LINDA WILLIAMS JACKSON

CANDLEWICK (2022)

This compelling historical fiction account tells the story of 11-year-old Ellis Earl Brown who lives in the Mississippi Delta in 1967. Ellis Earl works hard in school and has big dreams, planning to grow up to become a teacher or a lawyer so his mama won't have to work as a maid and there will always be enough food in the icebox. But when Mama tells Ellis Earl that he might need to quit school to help support the family, he wonders if happy endings are only possible in storybooks. A gripping story about racism, poverty, and the power of community to help lift people up.



THE WITNESS BLANKET: TRUTH, ART AND RECONCILIATION

CAREY NEWMAN & KIRSTIE HUDSON

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS (2022)

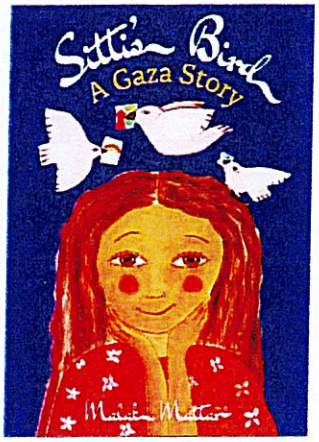
This nonfiction book for middle-grade readers tells the story of the Witness Blanket, a work by Indigenous artist Carey Newman. For 150 years, thousands of Indigenous children were taken from their families and sent to residential schools across Canada. Newman created the Witness Blanket to make sure that history is never forgotten. The Witness Blanket is a living work of art, a collection of hundreds of objects from those schools including everything from photos and dolls to piano keys. This book is both a collection of truths and a beacon of hope.

I've always been an avid reader but what a joy it is to share my passion with hundreds of other Reading Enthusiasts, changing the world one page at a time!

—Mikele Haskins-Delmore, Northeastern Jurisdiction President

EDUCATION FOR MISSION

Children's Books

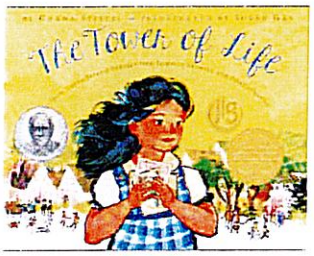


SITTI'S BIRD: A GAZA STORY

MALAK MATTAR

CROCODILE BOOKS (2024)

From Palestinian artist Malak Mattar comes this slice-of-life narrative that explores how painting helped her overcome the fear and isolation she experienced as a child living in Gaza with her parents. One day while she is in school, bombings begin. She spends the next 50 days at home with her parents worrying and feeling scared, until one day she picks up her paintbrush. Her story brings warmth and wonder to children as it tells of her rebirth as an artist during the 2014 airstrikes on Gaza.



THE TOWER OF LIFE: HOW YAFFA ELIACH REBUILT HER TOWN IN STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

CHANA STIEFEL

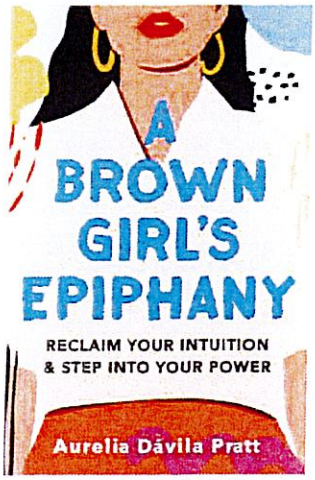
SCHOLASTIC PRESS (2022)

This moving biography helps young readers understand the motivation behind the woman who created The Tower of Faces, a powerful exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Yaffa was just a girl when Nazi soldiers invaded her childhood home of Eishyshok, a beautiful Polish town brimming with light and laughter. Nearly 3,500 Jewish souls, including her family, friends, and neighbors, were erased. After the war, Yaffa made it her life's mission to recover thousands of her town's photographs from around the world. Using these photos, she built her amazing exhibit.

I credit the Reading Program for opening my eyes to situations, perspectives, and events that I never had been aware of in the past. It has challenged me to read beyond my comfort level, explore my faith, and be aware of the world beyond my personal experience.

—Jana Jones, Reading Program Committee Chair

Adult Books

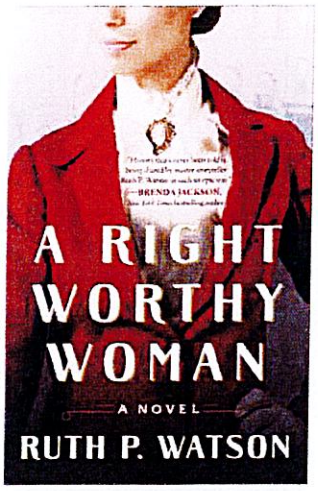


A BROWN GIRL'S EPIPHANY: RECLAIM YOUR INTUITION AND STEP INTO YOUR POWER

AURELIA DÁVILA PRATT

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2022)

In this book, Texas pastor, writer, and podcaster Aurelia Dávila Pratt invites people to step out of the harmful belief systems informed by white supremacy and scarcity and into healthy paradigms of abundance, liberation, and power. Pratt, a woman of color who finds joy in helping people live into the fullness of their God-given divine image, urges people to embrace the truth of imago Dei as our catalyst for healing so we can set down the burdens of traumas, triggers, and painful experiences that have shaped our existence in this world. **(L)**

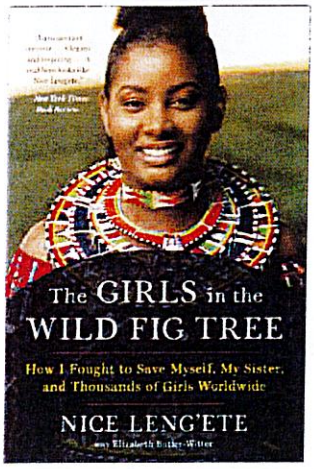


A RIGHT WORTHY WOMAN: A NOVEL

RUTH P. WATSON

ATRIA BOOKS (2023)

Based on the inspiring true story of Virginia's Black Wall Street, *A Right Worthy Woman* tells the story of the indomitable Maggie Lena Walker, the daughter of a formerly enslaved woman who became the first Black woman to establish and preside over a bank in the United States. She went from schoolteacher to secretary-treasurer of the Independent Order of St. Luke, founder of a newspaper, a bank, and a department store where Black customers were treated with respect. Bestselling novelist Patti Callahan Henry calls this a "remarkable and stirring" work.



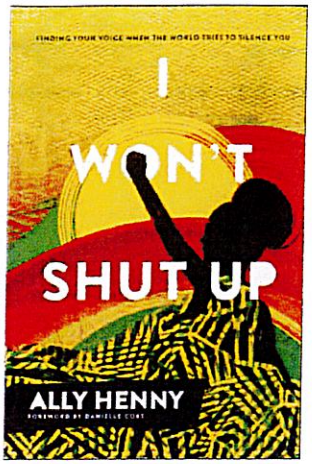
THE GIRLS IN THE WILD FIG TREE: HOW I FOUGHT TO SAVE MYSELF, MY SISTER, AND THOUSANDS OF GIRLS WORLDWIDE

NICE LENG'ETE

LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY (2021)

This memoir from Kenyan human rights activist Nice Leng'ete shares how she went from "heartbroken child and community outcast, to leader of the Maasai." As an orphaned young girl taken in by her uncle, Nice defied cultural convention and fled from female genital cutting. She ultimately became the first in her family to attend college and, supported by Amref Health Africa, works to end female genital mutilation and replace it with alternative rites of passage. Through her work with Amref, she has helped save an estimated 15,000 girls from the cut and forced childhood marriages. **(V)**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

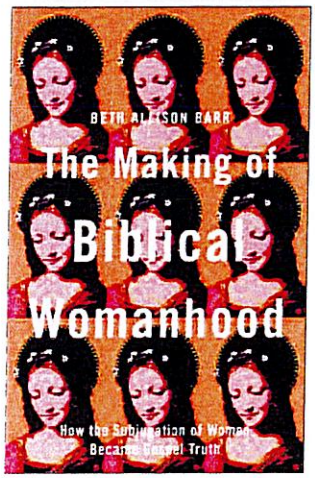


I WON'T SHUT UP: FINDING YOUR VOICE WHEN THE WORLD TRIES TO SILENCE YOU

ALLY HENNY

BAKER BOOKS (2023)

White cultural norms. White beauty standards. White noise. To all of this and more, Ally Henny is here to say, "No. I am a loud Black woman, and I won't shut up." A writer, speaker, advocate-minister, and vice president of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective, Henry tells her own story of finding her voice, pushing back against oppression, and embracing her unique perspective. And she invites readers to find their voice in a world that tries to silence so many.

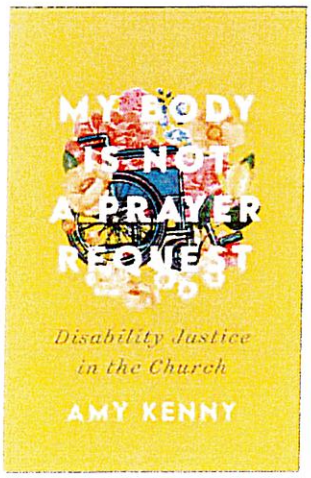


THE MAKING OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD: HOW THE SUBJUGATION OF WOMEN BECAME GOSPEL TRUTH

BETH ALLISON BARR

BRAZOS PRESS (2021)

This *USA Today* bestseller moves the conversation about biblical womanhood beyond Greek grammar and into the realm of church history—ancient, medieval, and modern—to show that this belief is not divinely ordained but a product of human civilization that continues to creep into the church. Interweaving her story as a Baptist pastor's wife, Barr sheds light on the #ChurchToo movement and abuse scandals in Southern Baptist circles and the broader evangelical world, helping readers understand why biblical womanhood is more about human power structures than the message of Christ.



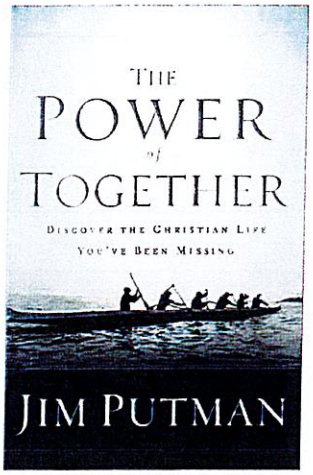
MY BODY IS NOT A PRAYER REQUEST: DISABILITY JUSTICE IN THE CHURCH

AMY KENNY

BRAZOS PRESS (2022)

Offering a unique blend of personal storytelling, fresh and compelling writing, biblical exegesis, and practical application, this book from disabled scholar Amy Kenny invites readers to create a more inclusive community in the church. Kenny reflects on her experiences inside the church to expose unintentional ableism and cast a new vision for Christian communities to engage in disability justice. Winner of the 2023 Silver Book Award. *Sojourners* calls it "a book the church desperately needs."

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



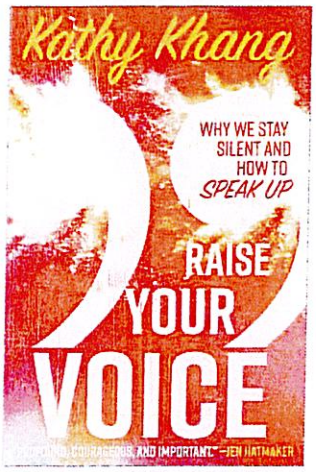
THE POWER OF TOGETHER: DISCOVER THE CHRISTIAN LIFE YOU'VE BEEN MISSING

JIM PUTMAN

BAKER BOOKS (2016)

Dive into *The Power of Together* as pastor and author Jim Putman uncovers the core of true discipleship: relationship. Putman offers an in-depth, biblical look at how Jesus always invited people into relationship with himself. He loved them with God's perfect love and, in the process, showed everyone around him that the act of following God is the act of extending and receiving love that endures all things.

Book available in English & Korean.

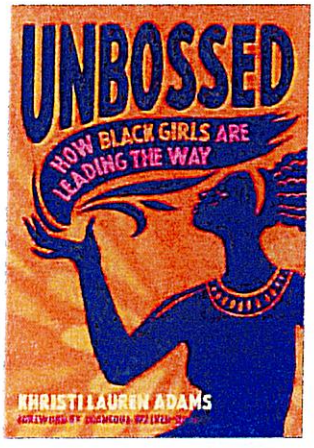


RAISE YOUR VOICE: WHY WE STAY SILENT AND HOW TO SPEAK UP

KATHY KHANG

INTERVARSITY PRESS (2018)

This powerful book from author, speaker, and podcaster Kathy Khang addresses what it looks like to raise our voice in a culture that often encourages silence—particularly when race, ethnicity, and gender are factors. Khang argues that our voice and identity are rooted in the image of God. Because God created us in our ethnicity and gender, our voice is uniquely expressed through the totality of who we are. Khang offers insights on when and how to speak, how to hear God's invitation to steward our authentic voice, and how to communicate the good news in a messed-up world.



UNBOSSED: HOW BLACK GIRLS ARE LEADING THE WAY

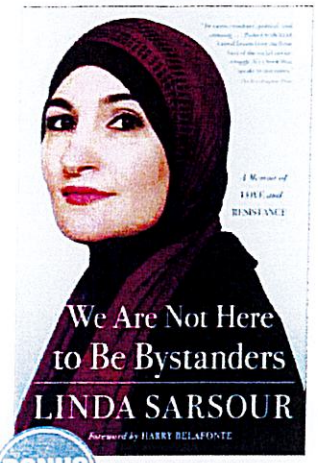
KHRISTI LAUREN ADAMS

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2022)

Unbossed is a hopeful and riveting inquiry into the lives of eight young Black women who are agitating for change and imagining a better world. Offering practical lessons in leadership, resilience, empathy, and tenacity from a group of young leaders of color who are often neglected, *Unbossed* includes profiles of Jaychele Nicole Schenck, Ssanyu Lukoma, Tyah-Amoy Roberts, Grace Callwood, Hannah Lucas, Amara Ifeji, Stephanie Younger, and Kynnedy Smith. Adams is a speaker, advocate, ordained Baptist minister, and award-winning author of *Parable of the Brown Girl*. She is the founder and director of The Becoming Conference, designed to empower, educate, and inspire teenage girls.

SET-*Check out the youth version of this book on page 15 of this catalog.*

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



BONUS BOOKS

WE ARE NOT HERE TO BE BYSTANDERS: A MEMOIR OF LOVE AND RESISTANCE

LINDA SARSOUR

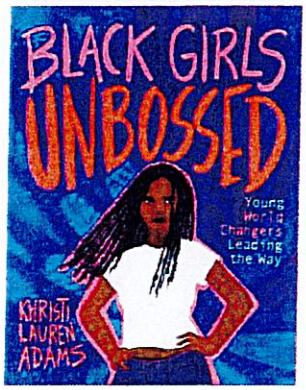
37 INK (2021)

Bonus

This powerful memoir from the co-organizer of the Women's March shares how growing up Palestinian Muslim American, feminist, and empowered moved her to become a globally recognized activist on behalf of marginalized communities across the country. From the Brooklyn bodega her father owned, where Linda learned the real meaning of intersectionality, to protests in the streets of Washington, D.C., her experience is a moving portrayal of what it means to find one's voice and use it for the good of others.

SET-*Check out the youth version of this book on page 16 of this catalog.*

Youth Books



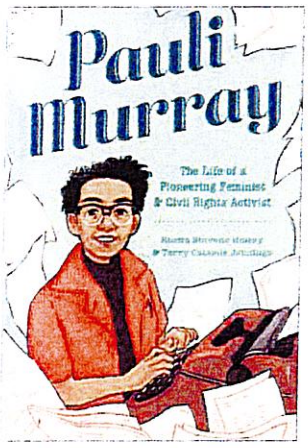
BLACK GIRLS UNBOSSED: YOUNG WORLD CHANGERS LEADING THE WAY

KHRISTI LAUREN ADAMS

BEAMING BOOKS (2022)

This middle grade version of Khristi Lauren Adams' *Unbossed* takes a look at eight powerful young Black women who are agitating for change and imagining a better world. Like their foremothers in earlier freedom movements, these Black girls are transformational leaders. They are pacesetters, strategic thinkers, visionaries, mobilizers, activists, and more. Their stories may often be overlooked. But Black girls are leading the way. Readers explore profiles of Jaychele Nicole Schenck, Ssanyu Lukoma, Tyah-Amoy Roberts, Grace Callwood, Hannah Lucas, Amara Ifeji, Stephanie Younger, and Kynnedy Smith.

SET-*Check out the adult version of this book on page 14 of this catalog.*



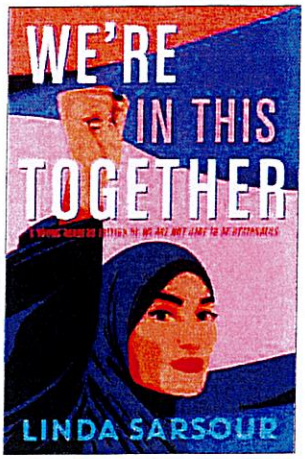
PAULI MURRAY: THE LIFE OF A PIONEERING FEMINIST & CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

ROSITA STEVENS-HOLSEY & TERRY CATASÚS JENNINGS

YELLOW JACKET (2022)

Pauli Murray was a queer civil rights and women's rights activist before any movement advocated for either. In 1944, she conceptualized the arguments that would win *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, and in 1964, the arguments that won women equality in the workplace. Throughout her life, she fought for the oppressed, not only through changing laws but by using her prose to influence those who could affect change. Her goal was human rights and dignity for all. This biography of Pauli Murray is a groundbreaking new nonfiction book intended for the middle-grade audience written in verse.

Suitable for youth & children.



WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER: A YOUNG READER'S EDITION OF WE ARE NOT HERE TO BE BYSTANDERS

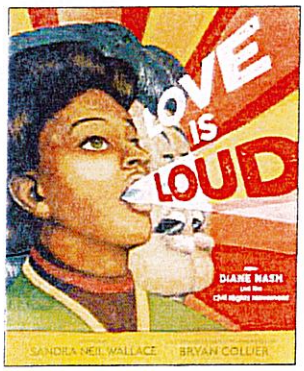
LINDA SARSOUR

SALAAM READS/SIMON & SCHUSTER BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2022)

This empowering young readers' edition tells the story of Women's March co-organizer and activist Linda Sarsour. Here, Sarsour shares the memories that shaped her into the activist she is today, and how pivotal moments in her life led her to become an organizer in one of the largest single-day protests in United States history. The book is a moving portrayal of what it means to find your voice in your youth and use it for the good of others as an adult.

SET-*Check out the adult version of this book on page 15 of this catalog.*

Children's Books



LOVE IS LOUD: HOW DIANE NASH LED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SANDRA NEIL WALLACE

SIMON & SCHUSTER/PAULA WISEMAN BOOKS (2023)

This nonfiction picture book shares the life of Diane Nash, a civil rights leader who worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis. Diane grew up in the South Side of Chicago in the 1940s. As a university student, she visited the Tennessee State Fair in 1959. Shocked to see a bathroom sign that read "For Colored Women," Diane learned that segregation in the South went beyond schools—it was part of daily life. She decided to fight back, not with anger or violence, but with strong words of truth and action.



UNTIL SOMEONE LISTENS: A STORY ABOUT BORDERS, FAMILY AND ONE GIRL'S MISSION

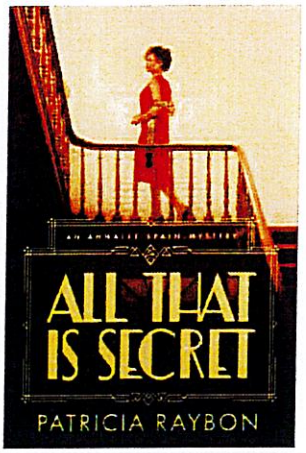
ESTELA JUAREZ

ROARING BROOK PRESS (2022)

When Estela Juarez was eight, her mother was deported to Mexico. This heart-wrenching, autobiographical story shares how, in Estela's own words, Estela learns to find her voice and use it to make change. She wrote letters to local newspapers, Congress, the president, and anyone else who could help. She wrote and wrote and wrote until, finally, someone listened. A Bookstagang Best Picture Book of 2022.

Book available in English & Spanish.

Adult Books

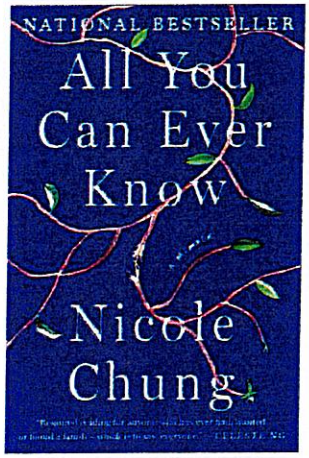


ALL THAT IS SECRET (AN ANNALEE SPAIN MYSTERY)

PATRICIA RAYBON

TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS (2021)

This is the first book in the Annalee Spain Mysteries, an exciting "history mystery" featuring a young Black theologian—a fan of Sherlock Holmes—who solves crimes during Colorado's dangerous 1920s Klan years. In the winter of 1923, Professor Annalee Spain receives a cryptic telegram calling her home to Denver to solve the mystery of the murder of her beloved but estranged father. For a young Black woman, searching for answers in a city ruled by the KKK could mean real danger. Still, she launches her hunt for clues, attracting two surprising allies and following clues that land her among Denver's powerful elite.

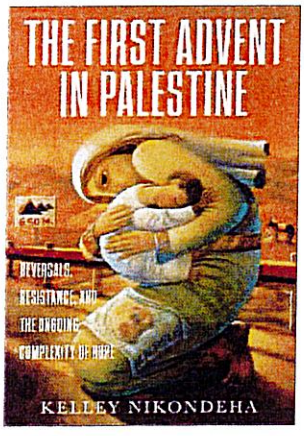


ALL YOU CAN EVER KNOW: A MEMOIR

NICOLE CHUNG

CATAPULT (2018)

Named a Best Book of the Year by more than 20 outlets, including NPR, *The Washington Post*, and *TIME Magazine*, this memoir details the life of Nicole Chung. Born premature, Chung was placed for adoption by her Korean parents, and raised by a White family in a sheltered town. But as she grew up—facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn't see and finding her identity as an Asian American and as a writer—she wondered if the story she'd been told was the whole truth. Chung tells of her search for the people who gave her up, which coincided with the birth of her own child.



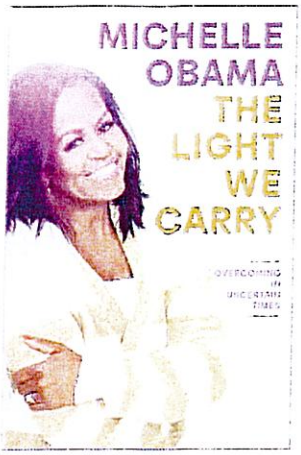
THE FIRST ADVENT IN PALESTINE: REVERSALS, RESISTANCE, AND THE ONGOING COMPLEXITY OF HOPE

KELLEY NIKONDEHA

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2022)

Writer, liberation theologian, and community development practitioner Kelley Nikondeha is known for highlighting Palestinian voices and rights. In this book, she takes us back to the first Advent, where the landscape of Palestine is once again the geographic, socioeconomic, and political backdrop for the Advent story. This thought-provoking examination invites readers into a season of discovery, one that is realistic and honest and yet still wonders at the goodness of God's grace. **(V)**

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



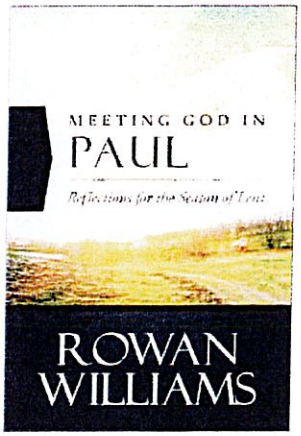
THE LIGHT WE CARRY: OVERCOMING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

MICHELLE OBAMA

CROWN (2022)

In this follow-up to her acclaimed memoir, former First Lady Michelle Obama shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world. She opens a frank dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much? A *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller.

Book available in English, Korean, & Spanish.



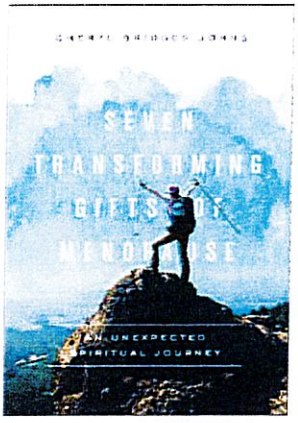
MEETING GOD IN PAUL: REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

ROWAN WILLIAMS

WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX PRESS (2015)

From Welsh Anglican bishop, theologian, and poet Rowan Williams comes this powerful reflection of the essential meaning and purpose of Paul's letters as Christians prepare for the Lenten season. Williams, who was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury (2002–2012), places a special focus on the social world of Paul and the "dangerous newness" that was Christianity, as well as the specific ways the behavior and language of the Christian community were being molded and shaped in Paul's time. Easy to read and packed with illuminating spiritual insights. Questions for reflection or group discussion are provided for each chapter.

Book available in English & Korean.



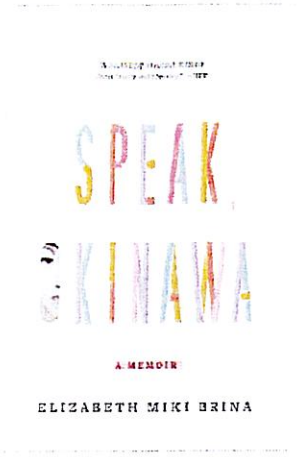
SEVEN TRANSFORMING GIFTS OF MENOPAUSE: AN UNEXPECTED SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

CHERYL BRIDGES JOHNS

BRAZOS PRESS (2020)

Pastor and theologian Cheryl Bridges Johns brings readers this unique but much-needed reflection on the spiritual aspect of menopause, a dramatic but largely overlooked developmental window to the second half of life. The book gets to the very heart of the midlife journey, helping women find their unique voice and speak their truth in an era of #MeToo and #ChurchToo. Coming alongside readers as a wise spiritual guide, Johns identifies seven key developmental "tasks" of menopause and gives practical ways women can embrace each one. She encourages women to view these tasks as gifts as they experience the remarkable physical, emotional, and spiritual transformation that occurs in this stage of life.

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



SPEAK, OKINAWA: A MEMOIR

ELIZABETH MIKI BRINA

VINTAGE (2022)

Elizabeth's mother was working as a nightclub hostess in Okinawa when she met the American soldier who became her husband. The language barrier and power imbalance followed them to the predominantly white, upstate New York suburb where they moved to raise their only daughter. Decades later, Elizabeth comes to recognize the shame and self-loathing that haunt both her and her mother and attempts a form of reconciliation, not only to come to terms with the embattled dynamics of her family but also to reckon with the injustices that reverberate throughout the history of Okinawa and its people. A heartfelt exploration of identity, inheritance, forgiveness, and what it means to be an American. **(V) (S)**

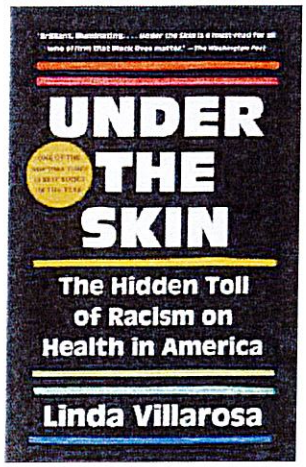


START WITH HELLO: (AND OTHER SIMPLE WAYS TO LIVE AS NEIGHBORS)

SHANNAN MARTIN

REVELL (2022)

This enlightening book addresses how a simple path can lead to a far more deeply connected life. Many people live detached, distracted, and divided from their communities. In *Start with Hello*, Martin invites readers into deeper connection through basic resets, street-level practices, and real-talk storytelling. It's a field guide for a life of security, camaraderie, and joy. For example, Martin shares: An open door is greater than perfect décor. Familiar is greater than fussy. And tender is greater than tough.



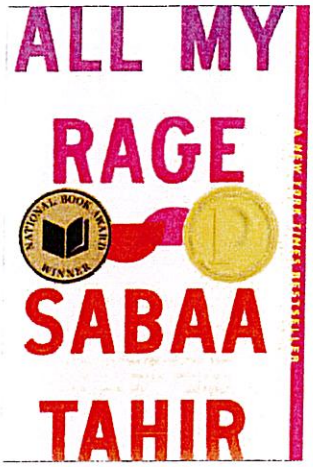
UNDER THE SKIN: THE HIDDEN TOLL OF RACISM ON AMERICAN LIVES AND ON THE HEALTH OF OUR NATION

LINDA VILLAROSA

DOUBLEDAY (2022)

From an award-winning writer and a contributor to the 1619 Project comes this landmark book that uncovers racial health disparities in America, revealing the toll racism takes on individuals and the health of our nation. Villarosa lays bare the forces in the American health care system and American society that cause Black people to "live sicker and die quicker" compared to their White counterparts. Study after study of medical settings show worse treatment and outcomes for Black patients, who live in dirtier, more polluted communities due to environmental racism and neglect from all levels of government. Coping with the daily scourge of racism ages Black people prematurely.

Youth Books



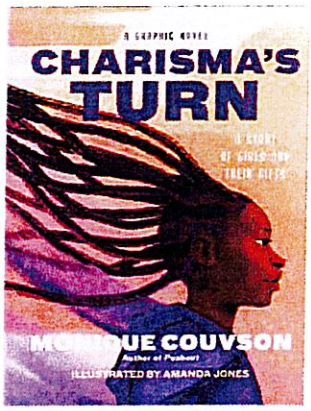
ALL MY RAGE

SABAA TAHIR

RAZORBILL (2023)

This heart-wrenching contemporary novel and National Book Award winner tackles family and forgiveness, love and loss, in a sweeping story that crosses generations and continents. Salahudin and Noor are more than best friends; they are family. Growing up as outcasts in the small desert town of Juniper, California, they understand each other the way no one else does until The Fight destroys their bond. When Sal's attempts to save his immigrant family's motel spiral out of control, he and Noor must ask themselves what friendship is worth—and what it takes to defeat the monsters in their pasts and in their midst. **(V)**

Book available in English & Spanish.



CHARISMA'S TURN: A GRAPHIC NOVEL

MONIQUE COUVSON

THE NEW PRESS (2023)

Named one of the Young Adult Library Services Association's 2024 Great Graphic Novels for Teens, this inspiring graphic novel addresses what can happen when Black girls are given the opportunity to find their genuine power. Charisma is grappling with mounting pressures from home and school. When frustrations with her family intersect with a conflict at school, she reaches a crossroads, facing a choice that could change her future.



STARFISH

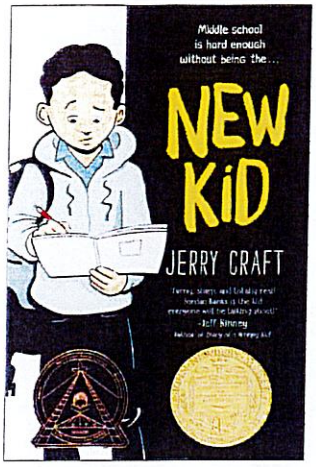
LISA FIPPS

VINTAGE ESPAÑOL/NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, AN IMPRINT OF PENGUIN PUBLISHING GROUP (2023)

From award-winning former journalist and author Lisa Fipps comes this Printz Honor winner about Ellie, who is tired of being fat shamed. Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules. But in her safe space—her swimming pool—she feels a weightless world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life.

Book available in English & Spanish.

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY



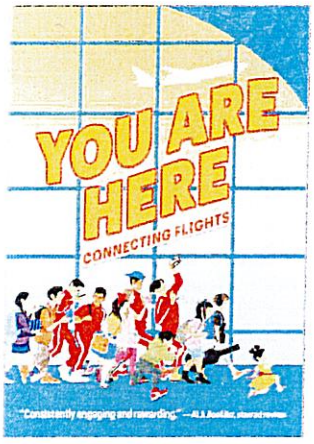
NEW KID

JERRY CRAFT

QUILL TREE BOOKS (2019)

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to art school, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale school, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature.

Book available in English & Spanish.



YOU ARE HERE: CONNECTING FLIGHTS

EDITED BY ELLEN OH

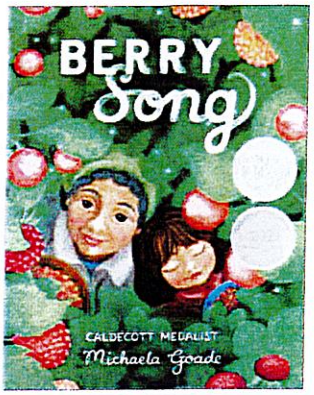
ALLIDA (2024)

In this book written by 12 powerhouse Asian American authors, an incident at a TSA security checkpoint sows chaos and rumors, creating a chain of events that impacts a group of young Asian Americans in a crowded and restless airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross and collide, they encounter fellow travelers—some helpful, some hostile—as they discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, the importance of the right word at the right time, and the unexpected significance of a blue Stratocaster electric guitar.

. . . for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

Proverbs 8:1–21
"The Gifts of Wisdom"
Scriptural basis for the Reading Program

Children's Books



BERRY SONG

MICHAELA GOADE

LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2022)

This Caldecott Honor Book and Indie Bestseller is a gorgeous celebration of the land and the powerful wisdom of elders. On an island at the edge of a wide, wild sea, a girl and her grandmother gather gifts from the earth. Salmon from the stream, herring eggs from the ocean, and in the forest, a world of berries. Through the seasons, they sing to the land as the land sings to them. Goade's luminous rendering offers an invitation to readers to deepen their own relationship with the earth.

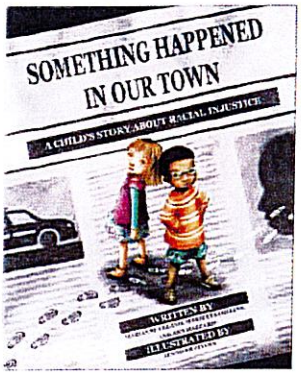


GRANDPA'S WINDOW

LAURA GEHL

FLYAWAY BOOKS (2023)

When Daria visits Grandpa in the hospital, she marvels at the view of the ocean outside his window. She and Grandpa look out at the beach, hoping they will build sandcastles and fly kites together again. *Grandpa's Window* addresses the grieving process, both as a family member approaches the end of life as well as after death. The book includes a note for adults by Dr. Sharie Coombes, child and family psychotherapist, about how to support children who are grieving the loss of a loved one.



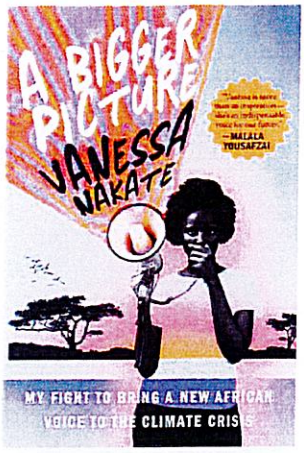
SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN

MARIANNE CELANO, MARIETTA COLLINS, & ANN HAZZARD

MAGINATION PRESS (2018)

From three psychologists involved in community advocacy efforts focused on children's behavioral health and social justice comes this New York Times and #1 Indiebound bestseller centered on two families—one White, one Black—as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives.

Adult Books

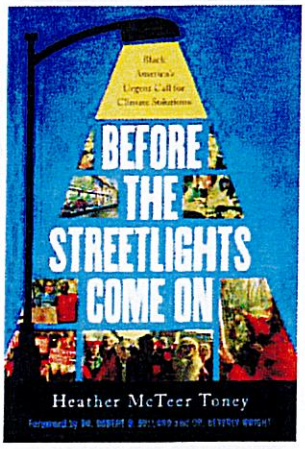


A BIGGER PICTURE: MY FIGHT TO BRING A NEW AFRICAN VOICE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

VANESSA NAKATE

MARINER BOOKS (2021)

This book from leading climate justice activist Vanessa Nakate, founder of the Rise Up Movement and the Vash Green Schools Project, offers a new perspective on one of the biggest issues of our time. Nakate shares her story as a young Ugandan woman who sees that her community bears disproportionate consequences to the climate crisis. At the same time, she sees that activists from African nations and the Global South are not being heard in the same way as activists from White nations are heard. Inspired by Sweden's Greta Thunberg, in 2019 Nakate became Uganda's first Fridays for Future protestor, awakening to her personal power and summoning a commanding political voice.

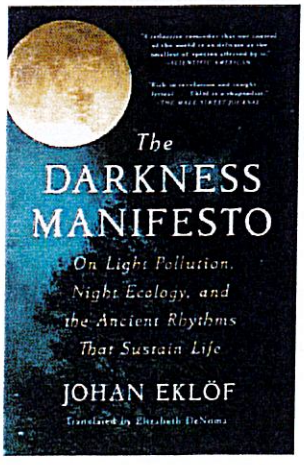


BEFORE THE STREETLIGHTS COME ON: BLACK AMERICA'S URGENT CALL FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

HEATHER MCTEER TONEY

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

From attorney, environmentalist, speaker, and writer Heather McTeer Toney comes this formidable call for climate change. Yet while it is a voter issue, an economy driver, and a defining dynamic for the foreseeable future, Toney argues that in Black communities, climate change is seen as less urgent when compared to other pressing issues, including police brutality, gun violence, job security, food insecurity, and the blatant racism faced daily around the country. But with Black Americans disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, it is a central issue of racial justice and affects every aspect of life for Black communities.



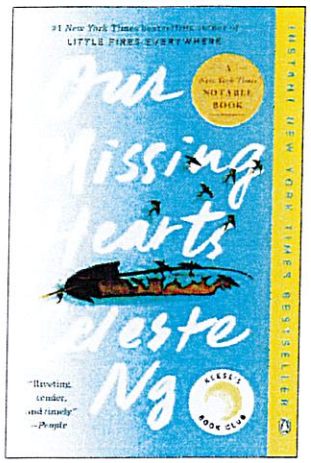
THE DARKNESS MANIFESTO: ON LIGHT POLLUTION, NIGHT ECOLOGY, AND THE ANCIENT RHYTHMS THAT SUSTAIN LIFE

JOHAN EKLÖF

SCRIBNER (2023)

In this well-researched book, Swedish conservationist Johan Eklöf urges readers to appreciate natural darkness, its creatures, and its unique benefits. He also reveals the startling domino effect of diminishing darkness: insects, dumbfounded by streetlamps, failing to reproduce; birds blinded and bewildered by artificial lights; and bats starving as they wait in vain for insects that only come out in the dark. For humans, light-induced sleep disturbances impact hormones and weight and can contribute to mental health problems. The street lamps, floodlights, and neon signs of cities are altering entire ecosystems. Translated by Elizabeth DeNoma.

SOCIAL ACTION



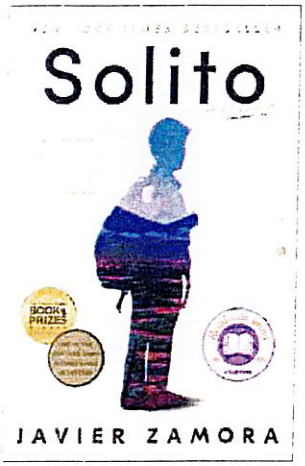
OUR MISSING HEARTS: A NOVEL

CELESTE NG

PENGUIN BOOKS (2023)

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. His mother Margaret, a Chinese American poet, left without a trace when he was nine years old. He doesn't know what happened to her—only that her books have been banned—and he resents that she cared more about her work than about him. Then one day, Bird receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, and soon he is pulled into a quest to find her. Named a Best Book of 2022 by *People*, *TIME Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, NPR, and more.

Book available in English & Spanish.



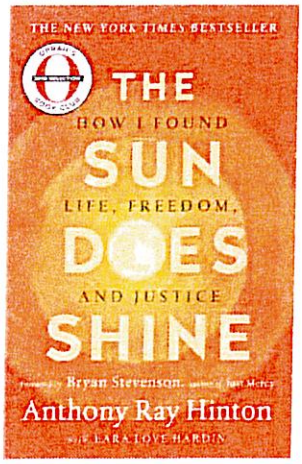
SOLITO: A MEMOIR

JAVIER ZAMORA

HOGARTH (2023)

Salvadoran poet Javier Zamora offers a memoir about his 3,000-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, he expects his trip to last two short weeks. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, and arrests that await him; nor can he know those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like family. **(V)**

Book available in English & Spanish.



THE SUN DOES SHINE: HOW I FOUND LIFE AND FREEDOM ON DEATH ROW

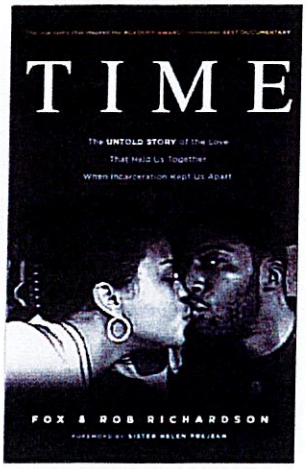
ANTHONY RAY HINTON

ST. MARTIN'S GRIFFIN (2019)

In 1985, Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, he knew it was a case of mistaken identity. But with no money and a different system of justice for a poor Black man in the South, Hinton was sentenced to death by electrocution. He spent his first three years on Death Row in agonizing despair and anger. But as Hinton realized and accepted his fate, he resolved not only to survive but find a way to live, becoming a beacon to his fellow inmates, 54 of whom were executed mere feet from his cell. Hinton won his release in 2015.

Book available in English & Spanish.

SOCIAL ACTION

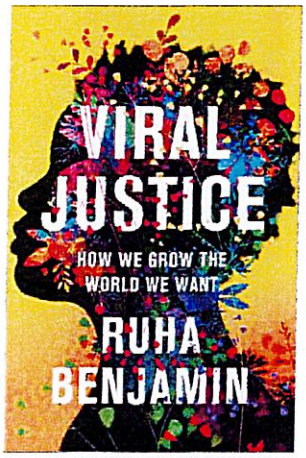


TIME: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE LOVE THAT HELD US TOGETHER WHEN INCARCERATION KEPT US APART

FOX RICHARDSON & ROB RICHARDSON

BAKER BOOKS (2023)

Fox and Robert Richardson endured 21 years as an incarcerated family. Together they have six sons and continue their advocacy for incarcerated families through Participatory Defense, which they founded with the vision of "changing lives and laws through love." The Academy Award-nominated documentary "Time" introduced audiences to Fox and Rob, who riveted audiences with their relentless fight for each other and justice, despite America's broken prison system. This book tells the rest of their story. In alternating voices and intimate detail, Fox and Rob reveal how a person can cultivate the radical love needed to see them through any hardship and how miracles can happen on the way. **(L)**

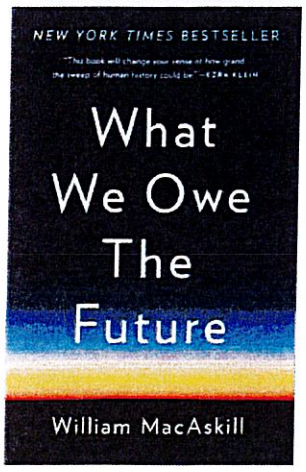


VIRAL JUSTICE: HOW WE GROW THE WORLD WE WANT

RUHA BENJAMIN

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS (2022)

Ruha Benjamin is a sociologist and a professor in the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University. The twin plagues of COVID-19 and anti-Black police violence inspired her to rethink the importance of small, individual actions. Part memoir, part manifesto, Viral Justice is a sweeping and deeply personal exploration of how we can transform society through the choices we make every day. Vividly recounting her personal experiences and those of her family, Benjamin shows how seemingly minor decisions and habits could spread virally and have exponentially positive effects.



WHAT WE OWE THE FUTURE

WILLIAM MACASKILL

BASIC BOOKS (2023)

In this instant *New York Times* bestseller, renowned philosopher William MacAskill puts forth the case for longtermism: how positively influencing the distant future is our time's key moral priority. As MacAskill shares, it's not enough to reverse climate change or avert a pandemic. We must ensure that civilization would rebound if it collapsed; counter the end of moral progress; and prepare for a planet where the smartest beings are digital.

Book available in English & Korean.

Youth Books

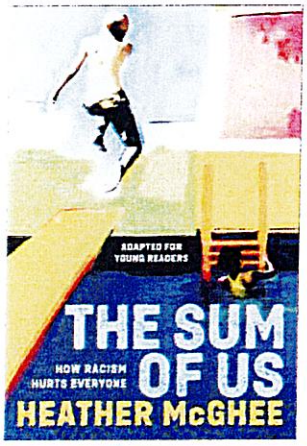


I RISE

MARIE ARNOLD

VERSIFY (2022)

From Haitian-born children's author Marie Arnold comes what is a love letter to Harlem and hope. Fourteen-year-old Ayo has to decide whether to take on her mother's activist role when her mom is shot by police. As she tries to find answers, Ayo looks to the wisdom of her ancestors and her Harlem community for guidance. This impactful and unforgettable novel takes on the important issues of inequality, systemic racism, police violence, and social justice.

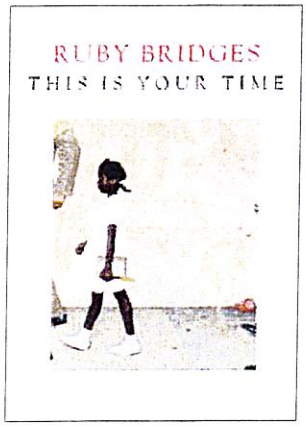


THE SUM OF US (ADAPTED FOR YOUNG READERS): HOW RACISM HURTS EVERYONE

HEATHER MCGHEE

YEARLING (2024)

The New York Times bestseller has been adapted for a new generation of young readers, leaders, thinkers, and activists, examining how racism affects and harms all of us and how we need to face it head-on, together. McGhee examines how damaging racism is, not only to people of color but also to white people. She offers hope and real solutions so all can prosper. An expert in economic policy, McGhee draws lessons both from her work at a think tank and from her travels around the country talking to everyday Americans fighting for a more just and inclusive society.



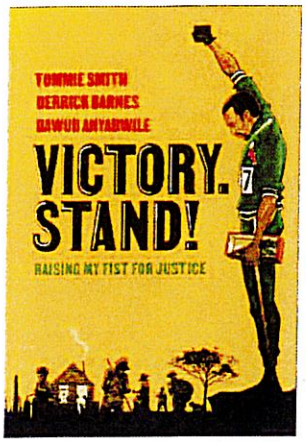
THIS IS YOUR TIME

RUBY BRIDGES

DELACORTE PRESS (2020)

This *New York Times* bestseller and CBC Kids' Book Choice Award winner tells the tale of civil rights icon Ruby Bridges—who, at the age of six, was the first Black child to integrate into an all-white elementary school in New Orleans. Written as a letter from civil rights activist and icon Ruby Bridges to the reader, the book is both a recounting of Ruby's experience and an appeal to generations to come to effect change.

Suitable for youth & children.



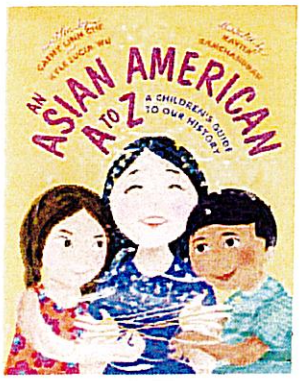
VICTORY. STAND! RAISING MY FIST FOR JUSTICE

TOMMIE SMITH, DERRICK BARNES, & DAWUD ANYABWILE

NORTON YOUNG READERS (2022)

On October 16, 1968, during the medal ceremony at the Mexico City Olympics, Tommie Smith, the gold medal winner in the 200-meter sprint, and John Carlos, the bronze medal winner, raised their black-gloved fists to protest racial injustice inflicted upon African Americans. Both men were forced to leave the Olympics, received death threats, and faced ostracism and continuing economic hardships. In his first-ever memoir for young readers, Tommie Smith looks back on his childhood growing up in rural Texas through to his stellar athletic career, culminating in his historic victory and Olympic podium protest. Black-and-white illustrations throughout.

Children's Books

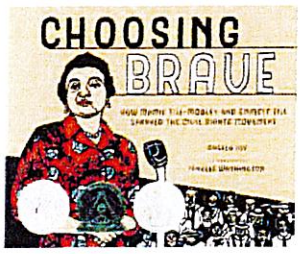


AN ASIAN AMERICAN A TO Z: A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO OUR HISTORY

CATHY LINH CHE & KYLE LUCIA WU

HAYMARKET BOOKS (2023)

Written by the directors of Kundiman—an organization dedicated to nurturing Asian American writers—An Asian American A to Z is a book for children of all backgrounds and a vital resource for tomorrow's organizers. Co-authors Cathy Linh Che and Kyle Lucia Wu take us on a journey through stories of celebration and resistance: the Third World Liberation Front, the Muslim Ban, Japanese American incarceration camps, Padma Lakshmi, Rashida Tlaib, Sunisa Lee, and more. It is a history of struggle, but also one of great triumph, brought to life with colorful and dynamic illustrations.



CHOOSING BRAVE: HOW MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY AND EMMETT TILL SPARKED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

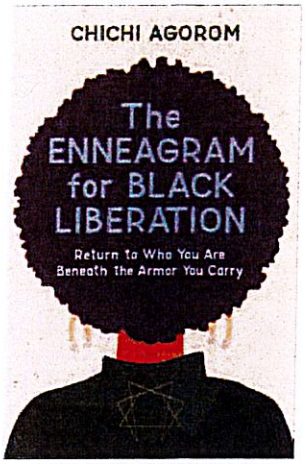
ANGELA JOY

ROARING BROOK PRESS (2022)

This picture book biography of Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till, helps young readers understand how she channeled grief over her son's death into a call to action for the civil rights movement. At age 14, Emmett Till was brutally murdered while visiting the South in 1955. His death became a rallying point for the civil rights movement, but few know that it was his mother who was the catalyst for bringing his name to the forefront of history. A thorough and moving story masterfully crafted to be both comprehensive and suitable for younger readers. **(V)**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Books



THE ENNEAGRAM FOR BLACK LIBERATION: RETURN TO WHO YOU ARE BENEATH THE ARMOR YOU CARRY

CHICHI AGOROM

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2024)

From certified Enneagram teacher, writer, and psychotherapist Chichi Agorom comes this exploration of how the Enneagram can be a powerful tool for Black women to rediscover wholeness and worth that existed long before systems of supremacy said they weren't enough. Breaking down each Enneagram type as a form of armor, this book offers practices to help Black women, and all who live on the margins, begin to build a sense of self separate from our mechanisms of self-protection, while working to dismantle the systems that require us to stay constantly armored up.

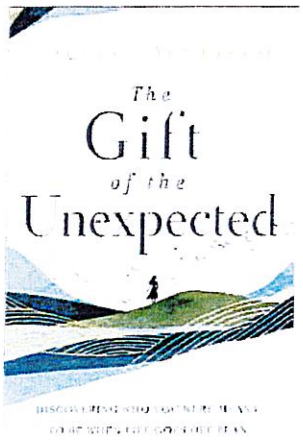


FORGIVING WHAT YOU CAN'T FORGET

LYSA TERKEURST

THOMAS NELSON (2020)

Have you ever felt stuck in a cycle of unresolved pain, playing offenses over and over in your mind? In this book, author and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries Lysa TerKeurst shares how to let go of bound-up resentment and overcome the resistance to forgiving people who aren't willing to make things right. With rich Bible teaching coming out of more than 1,000 hours of theological study, Terkeurst will help readers learn how to move on when the other person refuses to change and never says they're sorry, achieve freedom from the past, discover what the Bible really says about forgiveness, and more.



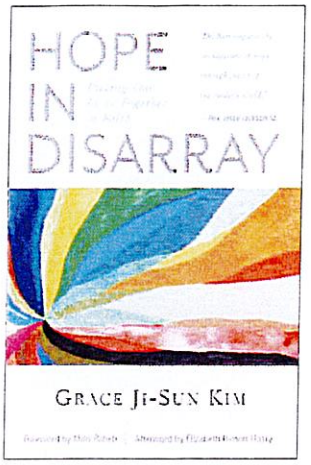
THE GIFT OF THE UNEXPECTED: DISCOVERING WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE WHEN LIFE GOES OFF PLAN

JILLIAN BENFIELD

BETHANY HOUSE PUBLISHERS (2023)

What if the unexpected is the beginning of becoming your truest self? In this book, former journalist and news anchor Jillian Benfield addresses how receiving a life-altering diagnosis for her unborn son changed her in ways she couldn't have imagined. Overcoming this unexpected circumstance wasn't an option. She would have to undergo it instead. In doing so, she discovered who she was and who God wanted her to become.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

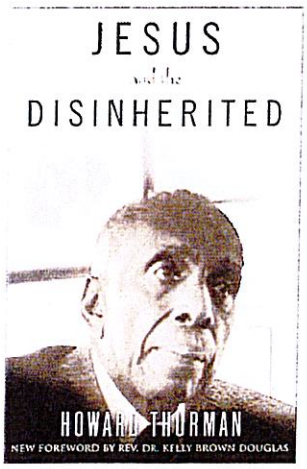


HOPE IN DISARRAY: PIECING OUR LIVES TOGETHER IN FAITH

GRACE JI-SUN KIM

PILGRIM PRESS (2020)

Scholar and theologian Grace Ji-Sun Kim reflects on the practice of sustaining hope during turbulence and injustice through this illuminating collection of essays that invite a conversation on culture, faith, creation, and identity. *Hope in Disarray* takes the world's pain seriously to ignite intentional, revolutionary, and integrated living. The Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. called it an "urgent call for solace in a world caught in the crux of disorder and chaos."



JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED

HOWARD THURMAN

BEACON PRESS (1996)

Howard Thurman (1899–1981) was hailed by *LIFE* as one of the great preachers of the twentieth century. He served as spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King Jr., Sherwood Eddy, James Farmer, A. J. Musty, and Pauli Murray, and he was the first Black dean at a White university and cofounder of an interracially pastored, intercultural church in the United States. Originally published in 1949 and now republished with a new forward by Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas Beacon Press brings readers the text that Martin Luther King Jr. sought inspiration from in the days leading up to the Montgomery bus boycott. Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited* helped shape the civil rights movement and changed our nation's history forever. As he maintains, hatred does not empower—it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.



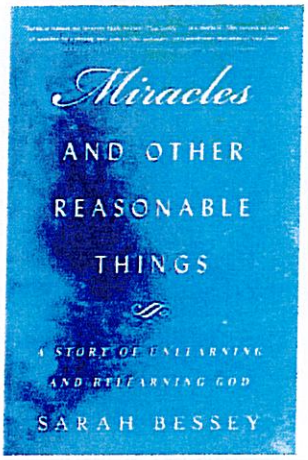
LIVING RESISTANCE: AN INDIGENOUS VISION FOR SEEKING WHOLENESS EVERY DAY

KAITLIN CURTICE

BRAZOS PRESS (2023)

Award-winning author, poet-storyteller, public speaker, and enrolled citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, Kaitlin Curtice offers a reclaiming of the term "resistance." Curtice shows that we can learn to practice embodied ways of belonging and connection to ourselves and one another through everyday practices, such as getting more in touch with our bodies, resting, and remembering our ancestors. She explores four "realms of resistance"—the personal, communal, ancestral, and integral—and shows how these realms overlap and why all are needed for liberation and wholeness.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



MIRACLES AND OTHER REASONABLE THINGS: A STORY OF UNLEARNING AND RELEARNING GOD

SARAH BESSEY

HOWARD BOOKS (2019)

In this poignant book, Canadian Christian author and blogger Sarah Bessey shares how a serious car accident unexpectedly shook her deeply rooted faith, upending everything she thought she knew and held so dearly. Weaving together theology and memoir in her trademark narrative style, she tells us the story of the moment that changed her body and how it ultimately changed her life. The road of healing leads to Rome where she met the Pope and encountered the Holy Spirit in the last place she expected. She writes about her miraculous healing, learning to live with chronic pain, and the ways God makes people whole in the midst of suffering.



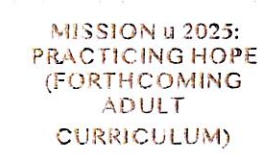
MISSION u CURRICULUM: WELCOME HOME

NEOMI FLETCHER

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2024)

Welcome Home is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Participants are invited to dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities. Author Neomi Fletcher leads participants through a journey in eight one-hour explorations that start with examining home and redefining what it means in light of Scripture's repeated invitations to dwell with God as individuals, community members, and persons of faith.

Book available in English, Korean, & Spanish.



MISSION u 2025: PRACTICING HOPE (FORTHCOMING ADULT CURRICULUM)

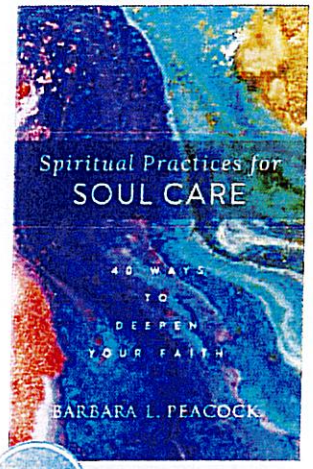
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2025)

Forthcoming Adult Mission u Curiculum on the theme of Practicing Hope.

Book to be made available in English, Korean, & Spanish

United Women in Faith

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



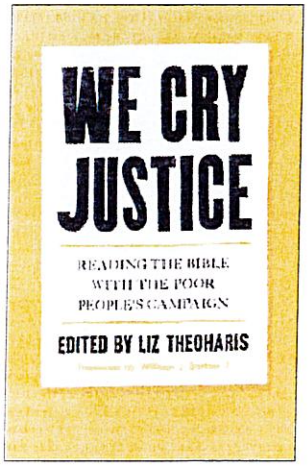
BONUS BOOKS

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR SOUL CARE: 40 WAYS TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

BARBARA L. PEACOCK

BAKER BOOKS (2023)

In this world of frantic activity and constant entertainment, it can be hard to identify and embrace the rhythms that lead to true flourishing. Here, author and spiritual director Barbara L. Peacock offers a way to integrate inner growth into the realities of your outer life through 40 ways to help put spiritual disciplines into action each day. From prayer and meditation to serving and socializing to resting and healing, these simple, restorative practices will help readers develop the kind of Christian walk they desire.

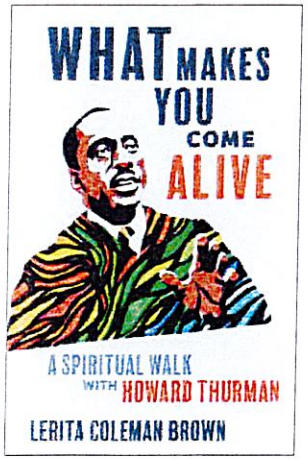


WE CRY JUSTICE: READING THE BIBLE WITH THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

EDITED BY LIZ THEOHARIS

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2021)

In this powerful and much-needed book, Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, is joined by pastors, community organizers, scholars, low-wage workers, lay leaders, and people in poverty to interpret sacred stories about the poor seeking healing, equity, and freedom. In a world roiled by poverty and injustice, Scripture still speaks. Organized into 52 chapters, each focusing on a key Scripture passage, *We Cry Justice* offers comfort and challenge from the many stories of the poor taking action together.



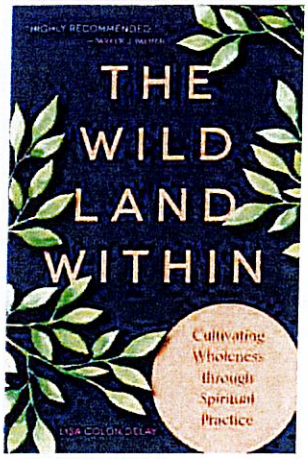
WHAT MAKES YOU COME ALIVE: A SPIRITUAL WALK WITH HOWARD THURMAN

LERITA COLEMAN BROWN

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2023)

Known as the godfather of the civil rights movement, Howard Thurman championed silence, contemplation, common unity, and nonviolence as powerful dimensions of social change. However, Dr. Lerita Coleman Brown didn't learn about him during her years of spiritual direction training. It was only when a friend heard of her longing to encounter the work of Black contemplatives did she finally learn about Thurman, his mystical spirituality, and his liberating ethic. Here, she beckons readers into their own apprenticeship with Thurman, walking through his inimitable life and commitments as he summons us into centering down, encountering the natural world, paying attention to sacred synchronicity, unleashing inner authority, and recognizing the genius of the religion of Jesus.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

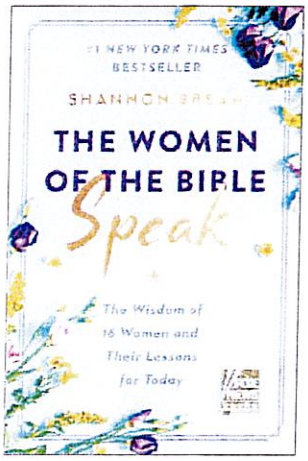


THE WILD LAND WITHIN: CULTIVATING WHOLENESS THROUGH SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

LISA COLÓN DELAY

BROADLEAF BOOKS (2021)

In this innovative book, well-known podcaster Lisa Colón DeLay introduces readers to the landscape of the interior world and ways we can heal from trauma and grow in intimacy with God through prayer, devotional practices, and an intimate form of spirituality using insights from the desert elders of Christianity from the first centuries, and the oft-marginalized voices of Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous people. She uses theology and neuroscience to help us work through buried fear or pain and find embodied spiritual healing from trauma.



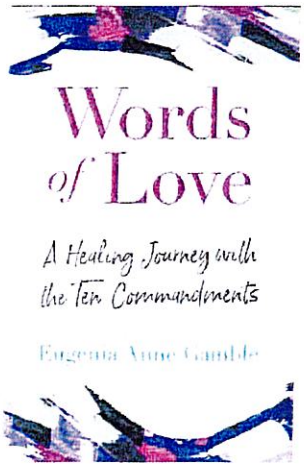
THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK: THE WISDOM OF 16 WOMEN AND THEIR LESSONS FOR TODAY

SHANNON BREAM

BROADSIDE BOOKS (2021)

American journalist and attorney Shannon Bream enables readers to walk closely with 16 women of the Bible, many of whom were central figures in numerous Biblical tales, for example, Queen Esther's bravery at a vital point in history which saved her entire people. The Bible contains warriors like Jael, judges like Deborah, and prophets like Miriam. The first person to witness Jesus' resurrection was Mary Magdalene, who promptly became the first Christian evangelist, eager to share the news that would change the world forever. Bream offers a deeper understanding of each, and wisdom and insights that can transform readers' lives today.

Book available in English & Spanish.



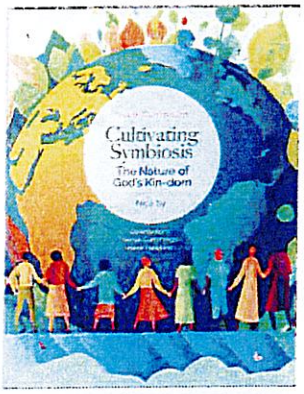
WORDS OF LOVE: A HEALING JOURNEY WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EUGENIA ANNE GAMBLE

WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX PRESS (2022)

In this book, retired Presbyterian Church (USA) pastor, award-winning author, retreat leader, congregational consultant, and preaching coach Eugenia Anne Gamble dives into each of the Ten Commandments and examines their application for modern-day Christians, going beyond the letter of the law to a spiritual truth pointing us toward wholeness and well-being. Each chapter includes a spiritual practice and questions for reflection and discussion to help readers engage deeply with the message of each commandment, whether individually or in a group.

Youth Books



MISSION u CURRICULUM: CULTIVATING SYMBIOSIS: THE NATURE OF GOD'S KIN-DOM

NICA SY

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2024)

This youth curriculum uses the idea of symbiosis to explore relationships with others and with God. Youth will examine different kinds of relationships and understand them as an ongoing journey toward the kin-dom. There is a symbiosis between relationships to each other as humans and to God. By drawing closer to one another, we can draw closer to the kin-dom. By drawing closer to one another, we can collectively move, step by step, toward creating God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Through eight one-hour sessions, youth and their facilitators will more deeply explore what it means to live into the kin-dom of God through the lens of symbiosis.

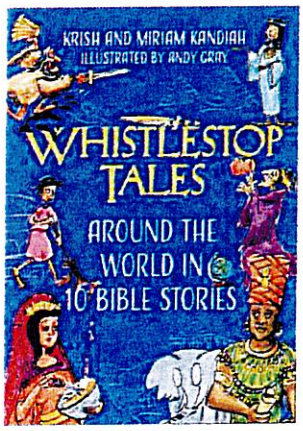
MISSION u 2025 COMMUNITIES OF THE SPIRIT: LIVING INTO HOPE AS RESURRECTION PEOPLE (FORTHCOMING YOUTH CURRICULUM)

MISSION u 2025: COMMUNITIES OF THE SPIRIT: LIVING INTO HOPE AS RESURRECTION PEOPLE (FORTHCOMING YOUTH CURRICULUM)

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2025)

Forthcoming Youth Mission u Curriculum, *Communities of the Spirit: Living into Hope as Resurrection People.*

United Women in Faith



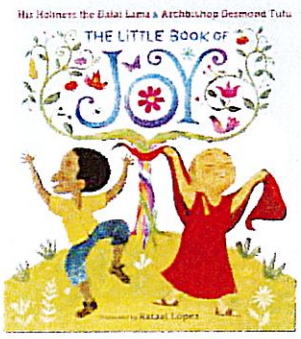
WHISTLESTOP TALES: AROUND THE WORLD IN 10 BIBLE STORIES

KRISH KANDIAH & MIRIAM KANDIAH

NAVPRESS (2022)

Whistlestop Tales features 10 Bible stories that illustrate how God uses people from all over the world to accomplish God's purposes. Each story begins with a closer look at the modern-day country where it took place to help anchor the characters in their original context and cultures, providing a new perspective on the lives of these brave men and women. These action-packed stories will encourage children to live out their own unique adventures with God.

Suitable for youth & children.

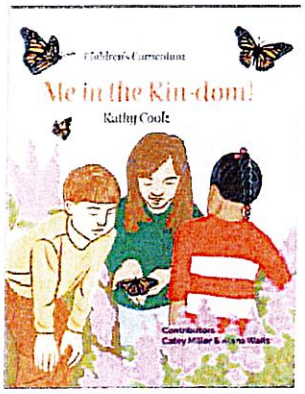


THE LITTLE BOOK OF JOY

HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA & ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

CROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2022)

In this picture book adaptation of the international bestseller *The Book of Joy*, Nobel Peace Prize winners His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu share their childhood struggles to show young readers how they can thrive and find joy even during the most challenging times. The two spiritual masters tell a simple story, vibrantly brought to life by bestselling illustrator Rafael López, of how every child has joy inside them, even when it sometimes hides, and how we can find it, keep it close, and grow it by sharing it with the world.

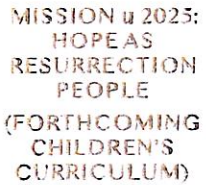


MISSION u CURRICULUM: ME IN THE KIN-DOM!

KATHY COOK

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2024)

This children's curriculum helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children. Children will explore many Scriptures that will help them to learn to see, hear, and love as Christ teaches. This enables us to accept each other as God created us to be. Each session includes Scripture study, discussion, music, artistic expression, and even some opportunities for children to participate in outreach to others.



MISSION u 2025: HOPE AS RESURRECTION PEOPLE (FORTHCOMING CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM)

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (2025)

Forthcoming Children's Mission u Curriculum on the theme of Hope as Resurrection People.

United Women in Faith

2025 BONUS BOOKS
Read Together Discussion Guide

This year's Reading Program Bonus Books are *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, a novel by Abi Daré, *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders: A Memoir of Love and Resistance*, by Linda Sarsour, and *Spiritual Practices for Soul Care: 40 Ways to Deepen Your Faith*, a guide to spiritual growth by Barbara Peacock.

These books offer three distinct and powerful reading experiences:

- Abi Daré's novel, *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, takes the reader across the globe through the story of Adunni, a Nigerian girl wrestling with poverty and gender-based oppression in a context of stark inequality. This story simultaneously unsettles and inspires as it invites readers to learn about real contemporary social issues for girls through a fast-paced fictional story.
- Linda Sarsour, author of *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders* and the youth companion volume *We're in This Together*, is a longtime advocate for Muslim American communities and a lead organizer of the 2017
  Women's March. She shares her deep experience as a Brooklyn-based community organizer, intersectional activist, and Palestinian American Muslim woman of faith.
- Barbara L. Peacock, author of *Spiritual Practices for Soul Care*, takes us on a 40-chapter journey to deepen our walk with Jesus Christ. Each chapter highlights a different "-ing" spiritual practice – a verb-laden form of soul care—while making the connection to Scripture, highlighting examples, and inviting the reader into reflection on putting the practice into action.

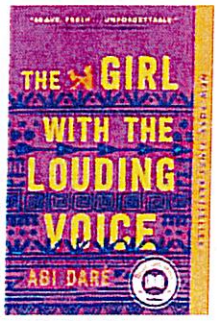
Each of this year's Bonus Books could form a powerful center point for a United Women in Faith Reading Program Read Together group. In the following pages, you'll find some suggestions for how you might use these books in creative and innovative ways to start a new group or provide content for existing groups.

Of course, Bonus Books are not the only 2025 Reading Program books that can be a powerful foundation for shared learning, personal growth, and community discussion. Additionally, these are not the only ways you might use them.

We hope these ideas will inspire you, and that you will modify, adapt, and build what works best for your community. If you use the Reading Program books to create new groups or revitalize existing groups, please let us know how it goes so we can continue to learn and grow together! You can share your inspired ideas, questions, and reflections on our United Women in Faith Digital group at **bit.ly/reading-enthusiasts-MN**.

THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE

ABI DARÉ



This coming-of-age novel tells the story of Adunni, a 14-year-old girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself. Despite the obstacles in her path, Adunni never loses sight of her goal of escaping her life of poverty so she can build the future she chooses—and help other girls like her do the same. The debut novel from Abi Daré, who grew up in Nigeria and now lives in the United Kingdom, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller.

What This Book Offers:

- Category: Education for Mission
- Genre: Novel
- Focus on global social justice issues for women and girls.
- Fast-paced, inspiring novel with a strong female lead
- May appeal to readers who are interested in these topics but don't like reading nonfiction
- Available in multiple languages

Creative Ways to Use This Book:

- Introduce United Women in Faith to your broader community by hosting a book discussion on *The Girl with the Louding Voice* at a local library, coffee shop, or community center.
- Pair your church-based book discussion of this Education for Mission bonus book with a fundraising challenge. Ask each member who attends to bring a small donation, above and beyond their usual pledge to mission, to support the international work of United Women in Faith.

Sample Discussion Questions:

These questions were developed by 2024–2025 Office of Racial Justice seminary intern Samantha Nyachoto.

1. Who was your favorite character in the book and why?
2. "It was Mama who was paying for school fees and rent moneys and feeding money and everything money before she was dead" (5). Women are not celebrated or recognized for their work but are expected to be in the household only. Can you state any similarities in cultural and social attitudes towards patriarchy in America and any other context that you have experienced?
3. Adunni and Enitan have different life priorities. One aspires to be a teacher and the other to be married. Marriage of young girls is considered an achievement in Adunni's village and many villages today. What is your take on the two characters and how can we advocate to change this perspective?

4. "This is your wife now, from today till forever, she is your own. Do her anyhow you want. Use her till she is useless!" (37). These words from Adunni's father to Morufu permit him to abuse her. Discuss how you felt as you read this section.
5. Jungle justice and cultural practices are some factors that lead to immoral practices. How do you think things would have been different in the case of Khadija if she had been rushed to the hospital?
6. After embarking on this journey with Adunni, what does a "louding voice" mean to you and how does one achieve it? What sort of future do you imagine for Adunni?
7. Big Daddy was notorious and abused all the girls who came to help with house chores. Without Kofi's interference, Adunni would have been another victim in this house like Rebecca. Discuss what could have been done better in Rebecca's situation.
8. Discuss the benefits that Adunni gained from her relationships with Khadija and Tia. Conversely, in what ways, if any, do these characters benefit from their interactions with Adunni?
9. Education plays a prominent role in the book, especially for Adunni who is determined to attain it one day. Where does Adunni's faith in the power of education come from? What role does this belief in education play for her during her journey?
10. How would you describe Big Madam and Big Daddy's relationship? Do you feel any sympathy for Big Madam? Why? Why not?
11. Adunni felt like a prisoner in Big Madam's house as a housemaid. Why do you think Big Madam continually abuses Adunni? What do you think gives Adunni the strength to endure? Compare and contrast the environment that housemaids are exposed to in your context.

Going Deeper:

While Adunni is a fictional character, her story reflects the experiences of many girls today. United Women in Faith submitted a resolution to The United Methodist Church's most recent General Conference entitled **The Girl Child**. This resolution, which passed with wide support, speaks to some of those realities. It also calls for the church to act on behalf of girls globally. Read the resolution here: **uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10267&catid=2209**. Reflect on what your church can do to fulfill the call to action in The Girl Child.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO BE BYSTANDERS: A MEMOIR OF LOVE AND RESISTANCE

LINDA SARSOUR



This powerful memoir from the co-organizer of the Women's March shares how growing up Palestinian Muslim American, feminist, and empowered moved her to become a globally recognized activist on behalf of marginalized communities across the country. From the Brooklyn bodega her father owned, where Linda learned the real meaning of intersectionality, to protests in the streets of Washington, D.C., her experience is a moving portrayal of what it means to find one's voice and use it for the good of others.

What This Book Offers:

- Category: Leadership Development
- Genre: Memoir
- Focuses on bold, faith-based women's leadership
- Explores contemporary intersectional justice issues in the United States
- Provides insights into Islam and an opportunity for interfaith learning

Creative Ways to Use This Book:

- Host an intergenerational book discussion. Young readers can use the youth companion volume, *We're in This Together: A Young Readers Edition of We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders*, also a part of the 2025 Reading Program.
- Host an interfaith book discussion. Partner with the women's group at a local mosque, synagogue, or other community of faith to co-host a discussion of *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders.*

Sample Discussion Questions:

1. Linda Sarsour begins her memoir by recounting a keynote speech she gave using words from one of her religious tradition's sacred texts and the subsequent public response. What do you make of this story? What does it teach us about bold leadership?
2. What does Linda Sarsour's decision to wear the hijab mean to her?
3. Linda Sarsour describes herself as "my Palestinian grandmother's wildest dream" (212). Who are your foremothers? In what ways do you embody (or not) the dreams of your ancestors?
4. Why does the campaign for Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr school holidays matter to Linda Sarsour, her daughter, and her community? What holidays are recognized by your local public school calendar? How do different communities in your town/city feel about that?
5. What did you learn from Linda Sarsour's memoir about the surveillance and criminalization of Muslim Americans after 9/11?

6. In "The Women Who Marched," Linda Sarsour describes her experience planning the Women's March. What did you learn from her reflections about how we can be in right relationship with each other across lines of difference as we move forward with the difficult, messy, and extraordinarily vital work of building a powerful, intersectional, antiracist women's movement?

7. Linda Sarsour writes, "As a mother and activist, I contend that it is up to reasonable people of all faiths to stand against hate, whether it is leveled at your child or mine" (117). How can we, as women of faith, take a stand against hate on behalf of all children? Think of at least one concrete action you can take this month, individually or as a group, to act on your commitment.

8. What does Linda Sarsour say about the school-to-prison pipeline and the criminalization of Black communities and other communities of color? What do you learn from the stories she shares?

9. What does the interaction between Yaba (Sarsour's father) and Jerome, in Chapter 3, teach Sarsour (and us) about restorative justice?

10. Linda Sarsour concludes her book by sharing her experience at a march calling for "Justice for Saheed!" Read the last paragraph of the epilogue aloud and discuss it together, lingering especially on the last sentence: "As I made my way through the roar of voices toward my sisters, my own fist pumping in the air, no one but God heard me whisper: This is where I belong" (239).

11. Though Linda Sarsour once believed that she "was destined to walk the path of activism with a gnawing sense of being spiritually alone," she comes to believe that she is "richly supported. God had sent me companions for the journey, and sisters of the heart" (166). Why might a committed social justice leader need to have this kind of soul sisterhood to support her? Do you have a sisterhood to support you?

12. "I've often reflected that God made me so tenacious and stubborn because he knew I'd need such qualities in my line of work" (231). What gifts has God planted in you? How do these gifts and qualities equip you to pursue justice and act in love in your own unique way?

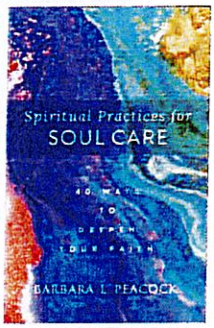
More on interfaith gatherings:

If you choose to host an interfaith book club discussion in partnership with a local mosque, synagogue, or other community of faith, you will want to take extra care in your approach. If possible, try to build a multireligious planning team that works together in advance to thoughtfully plan details like:

- Where will you meet? Keep in mind equity and inclusion. Do not assume that a larger or more well-resourced space is automatically the better host location.
- Who will co-facilitate the discussion? Identifying a strong, multireligious team to be your discussion co-facilitators is a great way to show by example that you value all women's voices and seek to make a meaningful space for all participants.
- What food will be served? Inquire about the dietary needs of different religious traditions and honor all participants.
- What will be the flow of your gathering? What discussion questions will you use? What are your group's guidelines? Recognize that what may be "obvious" to some group members might be new for others.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR SOUL CARE: 40 WAYS TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

BARBARA L. PEACOCK



In this world of frantic activity and constant entertainment, it can be hard to identify and embrace the rhythms that lead to true flourishing. Here, author and spiritual director Barbara L. Peacock offers a way to integrate inner growth into the realities of your outer life through 40 ways to help put spiritual disciplines into action each day. From prayer and meditation to serving and socializing to resting and healing, these simple, restorative practices will help readers develop the kind of Christian walk they desire.

What This Book Offers:

- Category: Spiritual Growth
- Genre: This book has 40 chapters, each of which includes:
  - a spiritual practice for soul care
  - a Scripture focus related to the practice
  - a soul care leader who exemplifies that practice
  - a prayer
  - two reflection questions
- Focuses on soul care, a high priority for women of faith
- Interactive style lends itself to individual devotional use and/or group discussion

Creative Ways to Use This Book:

- Create a text-based spiritual growth small group experience for busy women who crave soul care but can never find the time to meet. You can use a group messaging platform, like WhatsApp, or even a simple text thread, to create a virtual small group experience. This is an asynchronous option that allows participants to read, reflect, and comment when it is best for them.
- Use this book as content for a bring-a-friend in-person spiritual growth retreat or weekly small group book discussion at your church, home, or another community-based location.

Sample Discussion Formats:

Spiritual Practices for Soul Care: 40 Ways to Deepen Your Faith includes questions within the text, itself. At the end of each of the 40 chapters, the author poses two reflection questions related to putting the spiritual practice "in action." These are very fruitful questions for personal reflection and/or group discussion. How you use these questions depends on how frequently your group is meeting/communicating and the format of your gathering. Here are a few examples of how you might approach this:

- **40 Touchpoints (Daily), Text-Based, Asynchronous:** You might consider doing this as a 40-day study for Lent or during another special time of the year in your church calendar. If you are touching base with each other after each chapter, you can use the two reflection questions at the end of each "-ing" chapter as a simple plug-and-play guide for the group's reflection. Invite participants to read the day's chapter and then respond to the two questions at the end in the group chat thread. Of course, if any member would rather not share a response to a particular question, she is welcome to pass.
- **Seven Touchpoints (Weekly), Virtual or In-Person Small Group:** If you are touching base with each other after each "Part" (every four to seven chapters), then you might want to plan which of the reflection questions you will address, selecting those that seem most fruitful for your group. You may also want to ask larger reflective questions when you meet, such as: "Which of this section's spiritual practices is easiest/hardest for you to incorporate in your own life? Why?" You might consider beginning or closing your sessions with the ever-popular Wesleyan question "How is it with your soul?" This lends itself well to a seven-week, short-term discipleship small group that meets at someone's home, at church, in the community, on Zoom, or by conference call.
- **One or Two Touchpoints, Virtual or In-Person Gathering:** If you are touching base with each other just once or twice (e.g. at the start and end of your reading journey), you may want to ask that participants journal privately about the reflection questions contained within the book and use your one or two gatherings to reflect on larger questions related to the experience of engaging this soul care book, such as:
    - How is it with your soul? (The ultimate in Methodist questions!)
    - Why are you interested in a book group on soul care?
    - What soul care practices are part of your life right now?
    - What additional soul care practices are you taking on after reading *Spiritual Practices for Soul Care?*
    - How can we continue to support one another on our soul care journey?

And, of course, you can mix and match approaches in any number of ways The best approach for you will depend on your particular context and the preferences of the women in your community.

Whatever format you choose, hosting a soul care book group is about more than just learning from the content of Barbara Peacock's powerful book, it is also about building a spiritual community of care. Make space for participants to share joys, concerns, and prayer requests. Whether you touch base just once or 40 times, pray for your group and encourage members of your group to pray for one another.

Did you know...?

When United Women in Faith surveyed women across The United Methodist Church, including current members and nonmembers, they found that the strongest need, across all age groups, was for soul care.

For more on United Women in Faith's soul care resources, check out **uwfaith.org/events/soul-care-retreats**.