

FERGUSON READINGS ON RACE BOOK CLUB

Upcoming Selections

May 11, 2026: *Defund: Black Lives, Policing, and Safety for All* by Sandy Hudson

June 8, 2026: *New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of America's Second Civil Rights Movement* by Juan Williams

July 13, 2026: *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* (prologue to part 2) by Robert P. Jones

August 10, 2026: *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* (part 3 to end) by Robert P. Jones

September 14, 2026: *If We Don't Get It: A People's History of Ferguson* by Stefan M. Bradley

BOOKS WE HAVE READ

2015

January: First meeting; no book discussion, but chose first selections and discussed how the book club would work

February: *The New Jim Crow* by Michele Alexander

March: *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson

April: *Colorblind* by Tim Wise

May: *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

June: *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Tatum

July: *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Dubois

August: *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

September: *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving

October: *Race Matters* by Cornel West

November: *How to Be Black* by Baratunde Thurston

December: *Dog Whistle Politics* by Ian Haney Lopez

2016

January: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

February: *Ferguson Forward: A Path Toward Racial Equity*, Report by the Ferguson Commission

March: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

April: *Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community* by Leah Gunning Francis

May: *That's the Way it Was: Stories of Struggle, Survival and Self-Respect in Twentieth-Century Black St. Louis* by Vida 'Sister' Goldman Prince

June: *White Rage* by Carol Anderson

July: *Olivia's Story: The Conspiracy of Heroes Behind Shelley v Kraemer* by Jeffrey S. Copeland

August: *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* by Toni Morrison

September: *The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn't, and Why* by Jabari Asim (author visit)

October: *Tell the Truth and Shame the Devil: The Life, Legacy, and Love of My Son Michael Brown* by Lezley McSpadden and Lyah Beth LeFlore (author visit)

November: *Are We Born Racist?* by Jason Marsh and Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton

December: *Generations of Captivity: A History of African-American Slaves* by Ira Berlin

2017

January: *13th* directed by Ava DuVernay

February: *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

March: "Why Black People Act the Way They Do" filmed lecture by Dr. Joy DeGruy

April: Seder meal at First Presbyterian

May: *Ferguson's Fault Lines* by Kimberly Norwood

June: *March* by Rep. John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

July: *The Education of a WASP* by Lois Mark Stalvey

August: *The Blood of Emmett Till* by Timothy B. Tyson

September: Presentation on restorative justice; book for background: *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown

October: *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

November: *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson

December: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

2018

January: *Born Bright* by C. Nicole Mason

February: *Victory Without Violence* by Mary Kimbrough and Margaret W. Dagen; presentation by Billie Teneau, member of the STL C.O.R.E movement
March: *Policing Ferguson, Policing America* by Tom Jackson
April: "Do Not Resist" (film); book for background: *Rise of the Warrior Cop* by Radley Balko
May: *The Origin of Others* by Toni Morrison
June: *Coming of Age in Mississippi* by Anne Moody
July: *White American Youth* by Christian Picciolini
August: Remembering Carla; no book discussion
September: *The Color of Law: A "Forgotten History" of How the U.S. Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein
October: *The Heritage: Black Athletes, a Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism* by Howard Bryant
November: *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi
December: *13 Days in Ferguson* by Capt. Ron Johnson and Alan Eisenstock

2019

January: "The Birth of a New Aristocracy," *The Atlantic* by Matthew Stewart
February: *Black Man in a White Coat* by Damon Tweedy
March: *One Person, No Vote* by Carol Anderson
April: *Don't Shoot* by David Kennedy
May: *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
June: *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* by Charles M. Blow
July: *Slavery at Sea* by Sowande Mustakeem (author visit)
August: *Destroyer* by Victor LaValle
September: *Dying of Whiteness* by Jonathan M. Metz
October: *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild
November: Meeting cancelled due to inclement weather
December: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo

2020

January: *Stony the Road* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
February: *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi
March: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
April: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
May: *For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood and the Rest of Ya'll Too* by Dr. Christopher Emdin

June: *We Can't Breathe: On Black Lives, White Lies, and the Art of Survival* by Jabari Asim

July: *The Source of Self-Regard, Part 1* by Toni Morrison

August: *The Source of Self-Regard, Part 2* by Toni Morrison

September: *The Last Children of Mill Creek* by Vivian Gibson (author visit)

October: *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor

November: *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States* by Walter Johnson

December: *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

2021

January: *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do* by Jennifer Eberhardt, Ph.D

February: *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* by Brittney Cooper

March: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (parts 1-3) by Isabel Wilkerson

April: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (parts 4-7) by Isabel Wilkerson

May: *A Promised Land* (parts 1-4) by Barack Obama

June: *A Promised Land* (parts 5-7) by Barack Obama

July: *The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby

August: *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho

September: *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America* by Carol Anderson

October: *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee

November: *In the Walnut Grove: A Consideration of the People Enslaved in and around Florissant, Missouri* edited by Andrew J. Theising (author visit)

December: *The Whiteness of Wealth: How the Tax System Impoverishes Black Americans - and How We Can Fix It* by Dorothy Brown

2022

January: *The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution* by Eric Foner

February: *The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X* by Les Payne and Tamara Payne

March: *Behind the Fog: How the U.S. Cold War Radiological Weapons Program Exposed Innocent Americans* by Lisa Martino-Taylor

April: *Unwanted Spy: The Persecution of an American Whistleblower* by Jeffrey Sterling (author visit)

May: *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* (chapters 1-6) by Nikole Hannah-Jones

June: *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* (chapters 7-12) by Nikole Hannah-Jones

July: *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* (chapters 13-18) by Nikole Hannah-Jones and the [Executive Summary of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans' Interim Report](#)

August: *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind* by Harriet A. Washington

September: *Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm* by Robin DiAngelo

October: *First to Fall: Elijah Lovejoy and the Fight for a Free Press in the Age of Slavery* by Ken Ellingwood

November: *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism* (parts 1-3) by James W. Loewen

December: *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism* (parts 4-6) by James W. Loewen

2023

January: *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* (parts 1-5) edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain

February: *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019* (parts 6-10) edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain

March: *Climbing the Ladder, Chasing the Dream: The History of Homer G. Phillips Hospital* by Candace O'Connor (author visit)

April: *Little Brother: Love, Tragedy, and My Search for the Truth* by Ben Westhoff

May: *The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in an American Family* by Kerri K. Greenidge

June: *An Afro-Indigenous History of the United States* by Kyle T. Mays

July: *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism* by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar

August: *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities* by Craig Steven Wilder

September: *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond

October: *My Old Kentucky Home: The Astonishing Life and Reckoning of an Iconic American Song* by Emily Bingham

November: *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure* by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt

December: *Cherish Farrah* by Bethany C. Morrow

2024

January: *Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor's Fight for Fairness* by Laura Coates

February: *Twigs from the Bush* by Margaret Bush Wilson

March: *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* (chapters 1-6) by Jonathan Haidt

April: *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* (chapters 7-12) by Jonathan Haidt

May: *Black Saint Louis* by Calvin Riley with NiNi Harris

June: *Dream Town: Shaker Heights and the Quest for Racial Equity* (chapters 1-9) by Laura Meckler

July: *Dream Town: Shaker Heights and the Quest for Racial Equity* (chapters 10-18) by Laura Meckler

August: *Social Justice for the Sensitive Soul: How to Change the World in Quiet Ways* by Dorcas Cheng-Tozun

September: *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad* (chapters 1-9) by Matthew F. Delmont

October: *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad* (chapters 10-18) by Matthew F. Delmont

November: *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation* by Linda Villarosa

December: *The Racism of People Who Love You: Essays on Mixed Race Belonging* by Samira K. Mehta

2025

January: *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom* (Overture - New England) by Ilyon Woo

February: *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom* (The United States - Coda) by Ilyon Woo

March: *James: A Novel* by Percival Everett

April: *Radical Atlas of Ferguson, USA* by Patty Heyda
May: *Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster* by Stephen L. Carter
June: Patty Heyda author visit and tenth anniversary celebration
July: *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth* (chapters 1-7) by Kristin Henning
August: *The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth* (chapters 8-12) by Kristin Henning
September: *The Message* by Ta-Nehesi Coates
October: *Madness: Race and Insanity in a Jim Crow Asylum* by Antonia Hylton
November: *Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School* by Tiffany Jewell
December: *The Sable Cloak* by Gail Milissa Grant

2026

January: *Shielded: How the Police Became Untouchable* by Joanna Schwartz
February: *Gray Areas: How the Way We Work Perpetuates Racism and What We Can Do to Fix It* by Adia Harvey Winfield
March: *Why Does Everything Have to Be about Race?: 25 Arguments That Won't Go Away* by Keith Boykin
April: *Black Theology and Black Power* by James H. Cone
May: *Defund: Black Lives, Policing, and Safety for All* by Sandy Hudson
June: *New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of America's Second Civil Rights Movement* by Juan Williams
July: *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* (prologue to part 2) by Robert P. Jones
August: *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: And the Path to a Shared American Future* (part 3 to end) by Robert P. Jones
September: *If We Don't Get It: A People's History of Ferguson* by Stefan M. Bradley