

CGWAN Booklist – Recommended books from members

Email Sue at kusch_at_gmail.com with additional recommendations

Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right by Arlie Russell Hochschild

A powerful journey to a part of 'red America' that offers insights into the modern conditions that form the emotions, views and political choices of voters who resist the intervention of government to improve their lives.

"Given the lack of affordable housing, the large number of second homes and vacation rentals in the Gorge, having to have places for the homeless to warm up in the winter and the unavailability of affordable land on which the Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity can build houses, I would like to recommend the following book for the CGWAN book list."

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

This important book examines the role that housing and the lack of affordable and respectable housing represents enormous challenges to people who either already live in poverty or are on the brink of poverty. Absent and often corporate landlords use the laws that favor the owners to evict people already on the edge. The numbers are astounding: every year millions of people are evicted from their homes.

The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism by Naomi Klein

"One of the most important books I have ever read. Also one of the most disturbing. As we witness more and more natural disasters, we begin to see why perhaps denial of climate change is actually a strategy for disaster capitalism."

This groundbreaking book challenges the free market economic revolution and describes instead a system of corporate and governmental exploitation and violence that moves in quickly to take advantage of people while they are reeling from natural and social disasters. The ultimate goal is to 'advance radical privatization' as both an economy and as a disaster response.

No Is Not Enough: Resisting Trump's Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need by Naomi Klein

From the book's Introduction: "Trump is extreme but he's not a Martian. He is the logical conclusion of many of the most dangerous trends of the past half-century. He is the personification of the merger of humans and corporations--a one-man megabrand, with wife and children as spin-off brands. This book is to help understand how we arrived at this surreal political moment, how to keep it from getting a lot worse, and how, if we

keep our heads, we can flip the script and seize the opportunity to make things a whole lot better in a time of urgent need. A tool-kit for shock-resistance."

The Healing of America, A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care, by T.R. Reid, Penguin Book 2010

Is health care a human right? Why are all of the other industrialized democracies able and willing to provide healthcare for all? The author travels to countries to witness both the successes and the problems with systems that offer accessible healthcare to all of its citizens.

The Wild Edge of Sorrow by Francis Weller.

"I realize it seems like an odd topic, but I've been grieving since before the election about the state of our world. Weller talks about bearing the sorrows of the world and how unresolved grief affects us. I have found the book very helpful as I attempt to cope with the daily barrage of insanity."

From the Foreword: *The Wild Edge of Sorrow* explains that grief has always been communal and illustrates how we need the healing touch of others, an atmosphere of compassion, and the comfort of ritual in order to fully metabolize our grief. Weller describes how we often hide our pain from the world, wrapping it in a secret mantle of shame. This causes sorrow to linger unexpressed in our bodies, weighing us down and pulling us into the territory of depression and death. We have come to fear grief and feel too alone to face an encounter with the powerful energies of sorrow.

Corruption in America: From Benjamin Franklin's Snuff Box to Citizens United
by Zephyr Teachout

When Louis XVI gave Ben Franklin a diamond-encrusted snuffbox, the gift troubled Americans: it threatened to corrupt him by clouding his judgment. By contrast, in 2010 the Supreme Court gave corporations the right to spend unlimited money to influence elections. Teachout shows that Citizens United was both bad law and bad history.

The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists & Mental Health Experts Assess a President by Bandy X. Lee, editor and an assistant clinical psychiatry professor at the Yale School of Medicine.

From Goodreads: In THE DANGEROUS CASE OF DONALD TRUMP, twenty-seven psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health experts argue that, in Mr. Trump's case, their moral and civic "duty to warn" America supersedes professional neutrality.

They then explore Trump's symptoms and potentially relevant diagnoses to find a complex, if also dangerously mad, man.

Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice by Dr. Willie Parker

“A great read from a doctor who now only performs abortions in needed states, who is also very religious. A story of his life and stories of women. He's amazing.”

From Goodreads: In *Life's Work*, Dr. Willie Parker tells a deeply personal and thought-provoking narrative that illuminates the complex societal, political, religious, and personal realities of abortion in the United States from the unique perspective of someone who performs them and defends the right to do so every day. He also looks at how a new wave of anti-abortion activism, aimed at making incremental changes in laws and regulations state by state, are slowly chipping away at the rights of women to control their own lives. In revealing his daily battle against mandatory waiting periods and bogus rules governing the width of hallways, Dr. Parker uncovers the growing number of strings attached to the right to choose and makes a powerful Christian case for championing reproductive rights.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

From Goodreads: Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism by bell hooks

From Goodreads: A groundbreaking work of feminist history and theory analyzing the complex relations between various forms of oppression. *Ain't I a Woman* examines the impact of sexism on black women during slavery, the historic devaluation of black womanhood, black male sexism, racism within the recent women's movement, and black women's involvement with feminism.

#Notyourprincess: Voices of Native American Women by Lisa Charleyboy

From Goodreads: Whether looking back to a troubled past or welcoming a hopeful future, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America resound in this book. In the same style as the best-selling *Dreaming in Indian*, #NotYourPrincess presents an eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art that combine to express the experience of being a Native woman. Stories of abuse, humiliation, and stereotyping are countered by the voices of passionate women making themselves heard and demanding change. Sometimes angry, often reflective, but always strong, the women in this book will give teen readers insight into the lives of women who, for so long, have been virtually invisible.

Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and The Courage to Stand Alone by Brene Brown

"If you are not already a fan of Brene Brown, you will be after reading any of her books."

From Goodreads: "True belonging doesn't require us to *change* who we are. It requires us to *be* who we are." Social scientist Brene Brown, PhD, LMSW, has sparked a global conversation about the experiences that bring meaning to our lives--experiences of courage, vulnerability, love, belonging, shame, and empathy. In *Braving the Wilderness*, Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization. With her trademark mix of research, storytelling, and honesty, Brown will again change the cultural conversation while mapping a clear path to true belonging."

Necessary Trouble: Americans in Revolt by Sarah Jaffe

From Goodreads: "*Necessary Trouble* is the definitive book on the movements that are poised to permanently remake American politics. We are witnessing a moment of unprecedented political turmoil and social activism. Over the last few years, we've seen the growth of the Tea Party, a twenty-first-century black freedom struggle with BlackLivesMatter, Occupy Wall Street, and the grassroots networks supporting presidential candidates in defiance of the traditional party elites."