

Equity & Belonging

Book Club



September 22

Zoom ID: 811 8870 4937
Passcode: 323 795

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

by Ocean Vuong

How can creative writing and queer story telling provide new perspectives of addiction recovery work?

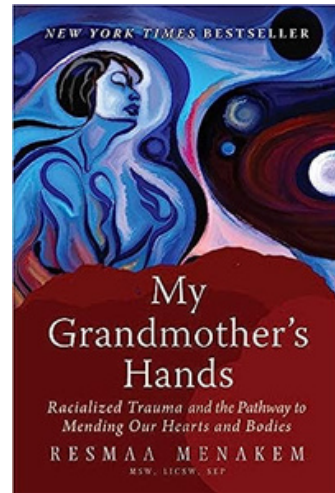
"On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born – a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam – and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity. Asking questions central to our American moment, immersed as we are in addiction, violence, and trauma, but undergirded by compassion and tenderness, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is as much about the power of telling one's own story as it is about the obliterating silence of not being heard." -via GoodReads

My Grandmother's Hands

by Resmaa Menakem

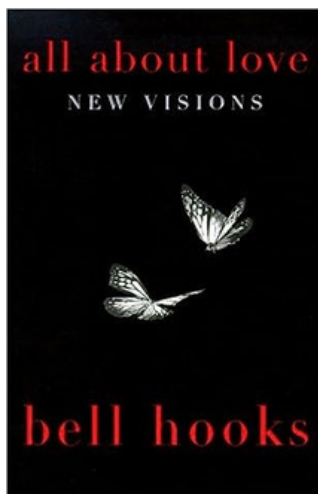
**What is racialized trauma and how can we heal?
What part do we play in the healing of others?**

"In this groundbreaking work, therapist Resmaa Menakem examines the damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of body-centered psychology. He argues this destruction will continue until Americans learn to heal the generational anguish of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded in all our bodies. *My Grandmother's Hands* is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched racialized divide." - via GoodReads



October 27

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November 17

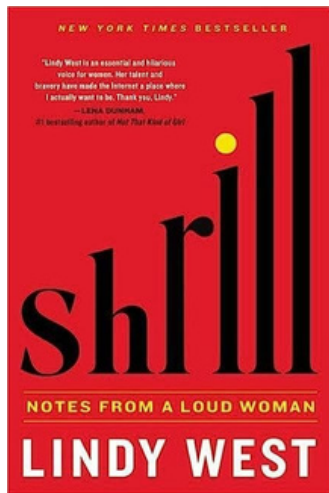
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All About Love

by bell hooks

**How is love feminist?
How is love anti-racist?
What role does love play in recovery?**

"All About Love offers radical new ways to think about love by showing its interconnectedness in our private and public lives. In eleven concise chapters, hooks explains how our everyday notions of what it means to give and receive love often fail us, and how these ideals are established in early childhood. Moving from the cultural to the intimate, hooks notes the ties between love and loss and challenges the prevailing notion that romantic love is the most important love of all. Visionary and original, hooks shows how love heals the wounds we bear as individuals and as a nation, for it is the cornerstone of compassion and forgiveness and holds the power to overcome shame." -via GoodReads



December 15

Zoom ID: 835 2345 6964
Passcode: 590 366

Shrill

by Lindy West

What is survival in a world where not all stories are created equal and not all bodies are treated with equal respect?

“Coming of age in a culture that demands women be as small, quiet, and compliant as possible--like a porcelain dove that will also have sex with you--writer and humorist Lindy West quickly discovered that she was anything but. Shrill provocatively dissects what it means to become self-aware the hard way, to go from wanting to be silent and invisible to earning a living defending the silenced in all caps.” -via GoodReads

The New Jim Crow

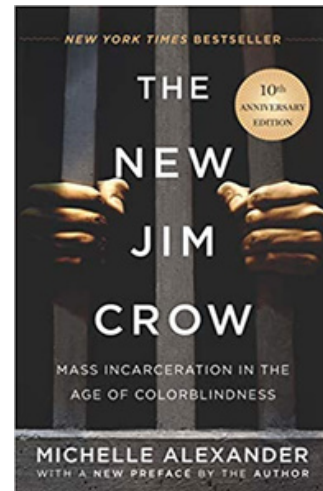
by Michelle Alexander

**How has the racial caste system in American been redesigned?
How can recovery advocacy affect racial justice?**

“In this incisive critique, former litigator-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. Alexander shows that, by targeting black men and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of color blindness. The New Jim Crow challenges the civil rights community--and all of us--to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America..” - via GoodReads

January 26

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February 23

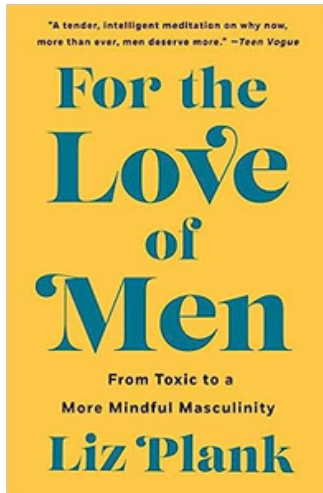
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How Long 'Til Black Future Month?

by N.K. Jemisin

What is the importance of centering Black voices and creativity?

“In these stories, Jemisin sharply examines modern society, infusing magic into the mundane, and drawing deft parallels in the fantasy realms of her imagination. Dragons and hateful spirits haunt the flooded city of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In a parallel universe, a utopian society watches our world, trying to learn from our mistakes. A black mother in the Jim Crow south must figure out how to save her daughter from a fey offering impossible promises. And in the Hugo award-nominated short story “The City Born Great,” a young street kid fights to give birth to an old metropolis’s soul.” -via GoodReads



March 22

Zoom ID: 878 5496 4381
Passcode: 445 462

For the Love of Men

by Liz Plank

How is patriarchy harmful to men?

What is mindful masculinity?

How can we work to address harmful gendered expectations?

How do gender roles affect substance use and recovery?

“A nonfiction investigation into masculinity, *For the Love of Men* provides actionable steps for how to be a man in the modern world while also exploring how being a man has evolved. Liz Plank offers a smart, insightful, and deeply researched guide for what we're all going to do about toxic masculinity. For both women looking to guide the men in their lives and men who want to do better and just don't know how, *For the Love of Men* will lead the conversation on men's issues in a society where so much is changing but gender roles have remained strangely stagnant.” -via GoodReads

Sister Outsider

by Audre Lorde

How can we use anger for good?

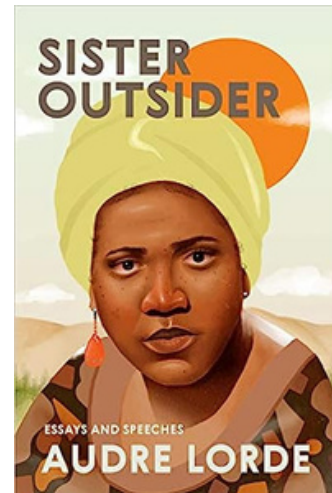
How do we balance equity and belonging work with intersecting identities?

In this collection of 15 essays and speeches, Lorde tackles racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. She suggests that our differences offer a vehicle for social change. Lorde's message is one of hope for anyone who may feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of work that needs to be done for equity and justice. Our emotions are not weakness, they are tools.

“Sometimes we are blessed with being able to choose the time, and the arena, and the manner of our revolution, but more usually we must do battle where we are standing.”

April 26

Zoom ID: 868 5386 3114
Passcode: 336 504



May 24

Zoom ID: 810 2994 1795
Passcode: 076 998

The Fire This Time

by Jesmyn Ward

What truths must we confront to work toward societal change?

“*The Fire This Time* is divided into three parts that shine a light on the darkest corners of our history, wrestle with our current predicament, and envision a better future. Of the eighteen pieces, ten were written specifically for this volume. The idea that we are living in the post-Civil Rights era, that we are a “postracial” society, is an inaccurate and harmful reflection of a truth the country must confront. Baldwin’s “fire next time” is now upon us, and it needs to be talked about.” -via GoodReads

