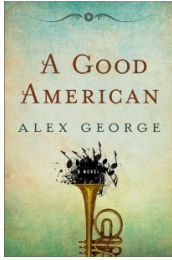
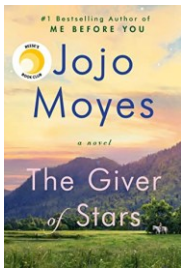


UMW Book Selections 2020-21



Discussion July 28, 2020 – *A Good American*, 2012, *Alex George*, 448 pages. (Library Journal Best Books)

This is the story of the Meisenheimer family, told by James, a third-generation American living in Beatrice, Missouri. It's where his German grandparents—Frederick and Jette—found themselves after journeying across the turbulent Atlantic, fording the flood-swollen Mississippi, and being brought to a sudden halt by the broken water of the pregnant Jette... tells of Jette's dogged determination to feed a town sauerkraut *and* soul food; the loves and losses of her children; and the precocious voices of James and his brothers, sometimes raised in discord...sometimes in perfect harmony... is about the music in Frederick's heart, a song that began as an aria, was jazzed by ragtime, and became an anthem of love for his adopted country that the family still hears to this day.



Discussion August 25, 2020 – *The Giver of the Stars*, 2019, *JoJo Moyes*, 400 pages.

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky... What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. Based on a true story, these heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers..., they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

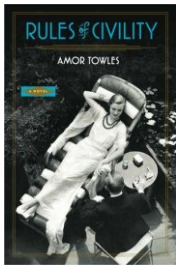
UMW Book Selections 2020-21



Discussion September 29, 2020 – **The Dutch House**, 2019, *Ann Patchett*. 352 pages.

At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

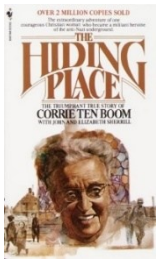
The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. It is this unshakeable bond between them that both saves their lives and thwarts their futures... Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past



Discussion October 27, 2020 – **Rules of Civility**, 2011, *Amor Towles*, 369 pages.

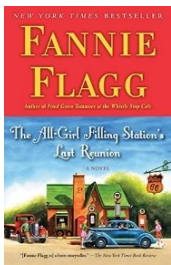
On the last night of 1937, twenty-five-year-old Katey Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society—where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve... With its sparkling depiction of New York's social strata, its intricate imagery and themes, and immensely appealing characters, *Rules of Civility* won the hearts of readers and critics alike.

UMW Book Selections 2020-21



Discussion December 1, 2020 – **The Hiding Place**, 1984, *Corrie Ten Boom*, John and Elizabeth Sherrill. 231 pages.

In World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jews escape from the Nazis. Only Corrie Ten Boom survived the concentration camps to tell the story of how faith triumphs over evil, a story that would touch the hearts of millions. Learn about: Handling separation, Getting along with less, Security in the midst of insecurity, Forgiveness, How God can use weakness, Dealing with difficult people, Facing death, How to love your enemies, What to do when evil wins.



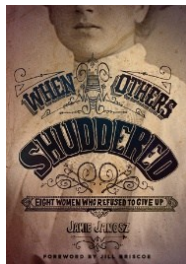
Discussion January 26, 2021 – **The All-Girl Filling Station Last Reunion: A Novel**, 2013, *Fannie Flagg*, 384 pages.

The one and only Fannie Flagg, beloved author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*, *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven*, and *I Still Dream About You*, is at her hilarious and superb best in this new comic mystery novel about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are.

Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and perhaps traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, the formidable Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. Lenore may be a lot of fun for other people, but is, for the most part, an overbearing presence for her daughter. Then one day, quite by accident, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future.

Sookie begins a search for answers that takes her to California, the Midwest, and back in time, to the 1940s, when an irrepressible woman named Fritzi takes on the job of running her family's filling station. Soon truck drivers are changing their routes to fill up at the Station. As Sookie learns about the adventures of the girls at the All-Girl Filling Station, she finds herself with new inspiration for her own life.

UMW Book Selections 2020-21

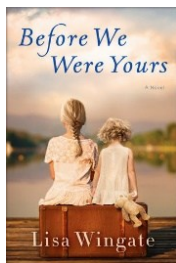


Discussion February 23, 2021 – *When Others Shuddered – Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up*, 2014, *Jamie Janosz*, 208 pages.

When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up is the story of eight women called to serve God and who, in doing so, changed the world. They lived at the turn of the century, rubbing shoulders with the well-known men of their time, like John Rockefeller, Marshall Field, and Dwight Lyman Moody.

These women—Fanny Crosby, Mary McLeod Bethune, Nettie McCormick, Sarah Dunn Clarke, Emma Dryer, Virginia Asher, Evangeline Booth, and Amanda Berry Smith—were unique. They were single and married, black and white, wealthy and poor, beautiful and plain, mothers and childless. Yet, each felt called to make a difference and to do something—to meet a pressing need in her world.

These women wanted to live lives less ordinary. Their stories inspire us to follow God’s calling in our own lives. They teach us that each individual person can make a difference. These eight women will show you how God can use *your* life to change the world.

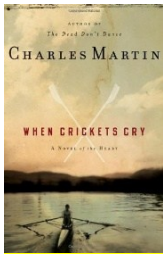


Discussion March 30, 2021 – *Before We Were Yours*, 2017, *Lisa Wingate*, 384 pages.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family’s long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

Based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate’s riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

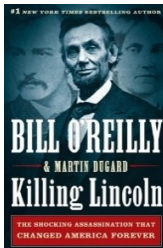
UMW Book Selections 2020-21



Discussion April 27, 2021 – *When Crickets Cry*, 2006, *Charles Martin*, 336 pages.

A man with a painful past. A child with a doubtful future. And a shared journey toward healing for both their hearts.

It begins on the shaded town square in a sleepy Southern town. A spirited seven-year-old has a brisk business at her lemonade stand. But the little girl's pretty yellow dress can't quite hide the ugly scar on her chest... Her latest customer, a bearded stranger, drains his cup and heads to his car, his mind on a boat he's restoring at a nearby lake. The stranger understands more about the scar than he wants to admit. And the beat-up bread truck careening around the corner with its radio blaring is about to change the trajectory of both their lives... Before it's over, they'll both know there are painful reasons why crickets cry . . . and that miracles lurk around unexpected corners.

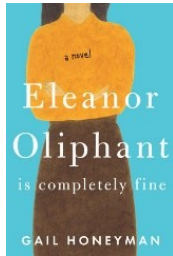


Discussion May 25, 2021 – *Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever*, 2011, *Bill O'Reilly*, 324 pages.

The iconic anchor of *The O'Reilly Factor* recounts one of the most dramatic stories in American history—how one gunshot changed the country forever. In the spring of 1865, the bloody saga of America's Civil War finally comes to an end after a series of increasingly harrowing battles. President Abraham Lincoln's generous terms for Robert E. Lee's surrender are devised to fulfill Lincoln's dream of healing a divided nation, with the former Confederates allowed to reintegrate into American society. But one man and his band of murderous accomplices, perhaps reaching into the highest ranks of the U.S. government, are not appeased.

In the midst of the patriotic celebrations in Washington D.C., John Wilkes Booth—charismatic ladies' man and impenitent racist—murders Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. A furious manhunt ensues and Booth immediately becomes the country's most wanted fugitive. Lafayette C. Baker, a smart but shifty New York detective and former Union spy, unravels the string of clues leading to Booth, while federal forces track his accomplices. The thrilling chase ends in a fiery shootout and a series of court-ordered executions—including that of the first woman ever executed by the U.S. government, Mary Surratt. Featuring some of history's most remarkable figures, vivid detail, and page-turning action, *Killing Lincoln* is history that reads like a thriller.

UMW Book Selections 2020-21

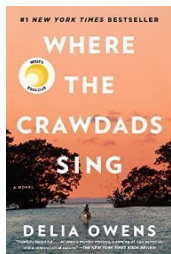


Discussion June 29, 2021 – **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine**, 2017, *Gail Honeyman*, 336 pages.

No one's ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine.

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy.

But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.



Discussion July 27, 2021 – **Where the Crawdads Sing**, 2018, *Delia Owens*, 384 pages.

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So, in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

Where the Crawdads Sing is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.