

**BOOKS 'N BRIE SELECTIONS 2025-2026
ALDEN DISTRICT LIBRARY**

**Book Review & Discussion
Meets the 2nd Thurs each month, 3:30**

¹*The book is in the library catalog*
²*The audio CD is in the library catalog*
³*The eBook is in the library's OverDrive catalog*
⁴*The eAudio is in the library's OverDrive catalog*

October 9th BECOMING MADAM SECRETARY^{1,3,4} by Stephanie Dray. Non-fiction
The novel explores Frances Perkins' early life in New York City, her involvement in social reform movements, and her growing awareness of the harsh realities faced by working-class individuals, particularly women and children.
It chronicles her initial interactions with Franklin D. Roosevelt, their evolving relationship, and her eventual appointment as Secretary of Labor. The book highlights Perkins's pivotal role in shaping the New Deal, including her contributions to programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and her crucial work on social security legislation.
"Becoming Madam Secretary" also delves into the personal challenges Perkins faced, including her marriage and the mental health struggles of her husband, Paul Wilson.
Barb Van Pelt

November 13th RADIUM GIRLS: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women^{1,2,3,4}
by Kate Moore. Non-fiction
Story of young female factory workers in the early 20th century who suffered and died from radium poisoning due to work painting watch dials with luminous radium based paint. The women suffered severe health issues and the employers attempted to conceal the truth.
Lori Pudduck

December 11th EVERYTHING IS TUBERCULOSIS: Our Deadliest Infection^{1,2,3,4}
by John Green Non-fiction
John Green, acclaimed author and passionate advocate for global healthcare reform, tells a deeply human story illuminating the fight against the world's deadliest infectious disease.
Monica Lack, Lori Pudduck

January 8th MY FRIENDS^{1,2,3,4} by Frederik Backman. An unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later. Mary Beth Kazanski

February 12th THE LITTLE WARTIME LIBRARY^{1,2,3,4} by Kate Thompson. Historical Fiction
An uplifting and inspiring novel based on the true story of a librarian who created an underground shelter during World War II in 1944 London. – Amazon. Barb Carton

March 12th THE PUSH^{1,3} by Ashley Audrain. Psychological drama
Also labeled a suspenseful thriller. It was a Good Morning America Book Club selection. The mother gives you her experience of motherhood, which is not what she expected. A "hard-to-put-down" fictional story, it raises several questions about our perceptions of motherhood, plus issues that are rising to the forefront in today's world. Barb Carton

April 9th WILD DARK SHORE^{1,3,4} by Charlotte McConaghy. Fiction

A family on a remote island. A mysterious woman washed ashore. Dominic Salt and his three children are caretakers of Shearwater, a tiny island not far from Antarctica. Home to the world's largest seed bank, Shearwater was once full of researchers, but with sea levels rising, the Salts are now its final inhabitants. Isolation has taken its toll on the Salts, but as they nurse the woman, Rowan, back to strength, it begins to feel like she might just be what they need. As the storms on Shearwater gather force, they all must decide if they can trust each other enough to protect the precious seeds in their care before it's too late—and if they can finally put the tragedies of the past behind them to create something new, together.

Jamie Davidson

May 14th CROW MARY^{1reg.&lg.print,2,34} by Kathleen Grissom. Historical Fiction

A sweeping saga inspired by the true story of Crow Mary—an indigenous woman torn between two worlds in 19th-century North America. In 1872, sixteen-year-old Goes First, a Crow Native woman, marries Abe Farwell, a white fur trader. Rescuing 5 native women from certain death, she sets off a whirlwind of colliding cultures that brings out the worst and best in the cast of unforgettable characters and pushes the love between Farwell and Crow Mary to the breaking point. Crow Mary sweeps across decades and the landscape of the upper West and Canada, showcasing the beauty of the natural world, while at the same time probing the intimacies of a marriage. – Amazon. Claudia Drake

June 11th DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT: An African Childhood^{1,3,4}

by Alexandra Fuller. Memoir

An English girl becomes a woman and a writer despite growing up in war-torn Rhodesia and coping with her own challenging family and tells the story of her love of the African continent. Virginia Anderman

July 9th HEAVEN & EARTH GROCERY STORE^{1,2,3,4} by James McBride. Fiction

"A story with an unraveling mystery but a touching theme of what it means to accept everyone no matter our differences. It gives readers a beautiful sense of how humanity and kindness can influence every person that you meet." – Heidi Dischler. Lucy McArtor

August 13th HOW TO READ A BOOK^{1,2,4} by Monica Wood. Fiction

Violet Powell is being released from prison after serving twenty-two months for a drunk-driving crash. Harriet Larson, a retired English teacher who runs the prison book club, is facing the unsettling prospect of an empty nest. Frank Daigle, a retired machinist, hasn't yet come to grips with the complications of his marriage to the woman Violet killed. When the three encounter each other one morning in a bookstore in Portland—Violet to buy the novel she was reading in the prison book club before her release, Harriet to choose the next title for the women who remain, and Frank to dispatch his duties as the store handyman—their lives begin to intersect in transformative ways. – Amazon. Lucy McArtor, Vickie Utke