

BOOKS

Peace and Justice Book Group

The Lightless Sky by Gulwali Passarlay

This year the Peace and Justice Committee will be focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity. Part of this teaching states "We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world." The goal of the Peace and Justice Book Group is to increase our awareness and understanding of our brothers and sisters by reading books that share their stories. All are welcome to participate. Our first book is *The Lightless Sky* by Gulwali Passarlay. It is the story of a 12 year old refugee's harrowing escape from Afghanistan and his extraordinarily journey across half the world. We will meet to discuss this amazing story on March 1 at church. Copies of the book can be found in the church library and are available to borrow. Please stop by and pick one up. We hope you will join us on March 1 at 6:30 PM for our first book discussion.

Other Books

Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen by Jose Antonio Vargas This book is a "window for readers to see how living without papers is possible, both difficult and commonplace, and too often heartbreaking."

In the Sea There are Crocodiles by Fabio Geda

Story of a young Afghan boy's passage out of the country

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes by Atia Abawi

Syrian family realizes to stay alive they must leave

City of Thorns by Ben Rawlence

Nine lives in the world's largest refugee camp: Dadaab in Kenya

This Land is Our Land: An Immigrants Manifesto by Suketu Mehta

A book making the case against bigotry and for all migrants, what we are not, who we are, and why we deserve to be welcomed, not feared.

The Girl Who Smiled Beads by Clementine Wamariya

Story of Clemantine and Claire Wamariya who in 1994 fled Rwanda and spent the next 6 years wandering through Africa searching for safety. [At age twelve, the two Wamariya sisters were granted asylum. Clemantine went to live with an American family who tried to provide her with a space to heal and to grow. But Clemantine became aware that others' perceptions of her were clouded by the events in Rwanda, such that they could only see her as broken and in constant need of assistance. She rejected the attempts to label her as a victim, and details the steps she took to reclaim her sense of her whole self. She also provides views on words such as "genocide," which she sees as a sterile word that cannot convey anything about what it signifies. She also writes of her encounter with Holocaust survivor and human rights campaigner Elie Wiesel, which led to an appearance on Oprah Winfrey's show, and the enormous changes in her life after that fateful appearance.

Somewhere in the Unknown World by Kao Kalio Yang

A collection of refugee stories: many voices whose powerful, individual tales "converge to create a prism of humanity."

I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai

The true story of Malala who was shot by the Taliban for supporting education for girls. Exceptional for its detail to the history of Pakistan and the Taliban.

A Stranger and You Welcomed Me: A Call to Mercy and Solidarity With Migrants and Refugees—

September 20, 2018

by Pope Francis (Author), Robert Ellsberg (Editor)

Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America: Second Revised and Updated Edition

Penguin Books (June 14, 2022)

by Juan Gonzalez (Author)

Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions

By Valeria Luiselli, Jon Lee Anderson (Introduction by)

Coffee House Press (4/4/2017) - Sociology

The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You

By Dina Nayeri

Catapult (9/15/2020) - Biography - General / Memoirs

Separated: Family and Community in the Aftermath of an Immigration Raid

Johns Hopkins University Press (August 3, 2021)

by William D. Lopez

Papers: Stories By Undocumented Youth

by Jose Manuel, Cesar Pineda, et al. | Jan 1, 2012

Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother By

Sonia Nazario

Random House Trade Paperbacks (1/2/2007) - Political Science

Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen

By Jose Antonio Vargas

Dey Street Books (9/3/2019) - Biography - General / Memoirs

The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life

Unabridged, May 22, 2018

by Lauren Markham

Lost Children Archive: A novel

By Valeria Luiselli

Vintage (2/4/2020) - Fiction - General

The Book of Unknown Americans (Vintage Contemporaries)

By Cristina Henríquez

Vintage (3/3/2015) - Fiction - General

Oprah Daily: an array of immigration-centric fiction and nonfiction, from stories of growing up on the Mexican border, descriptions of the perilous trek fleeing war, and chronicles of being a second generation citizen. These books about the immigrant experience are fit for high school curriculums and book club lists alike.

The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You by Dina Nayeri - The Ungrateful Refugee is a companion read to virtually every single book on this list. When Dina Nayeri was a child, she and her family fled Iran and sought asylum in the U.S. Her world was uprooted, and so was her sense of self. Nayeri uses her own experiences as a springboard for telling other immigrants' stories, providing the unfiltered, no-holds-barred commentary about what it means to leave—and not be welcomed upon your arrival. (Also on Amy's list)

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri - Nuri, a beekeeper, and his wife, Afra, live a simple and happy life in Aleppo, Syria—at least, they do for years. Then comes war, the same one that has been dominating headlines for years. Following the couple's journey away from everything they've ever known, The Beekeeper of Aleppo is a portrait of the sadness and strength behind so many news stories. (Traveled to Britain)

Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League by Dan-el Padilla Peralta - This incredible story begins with a young boy living in the U.S. When his parents' visas lapse and Peralta's father returns to Santo Domingo, his courageous mother, stays in NYC to try to make a better life for her sons. But due to life's difficulties, the family eventually becomes homeless. Peralta's account takes us through his story from homeless shelter to eventually attending Princeton University. This memoir is a essential for anyone who not only wants to learn more about the immigration process, but also about how it feels to grow up living in two completely different worlds.