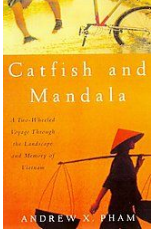


Armchair Travel Book Club

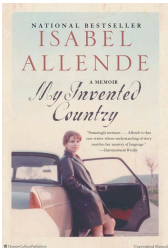
This book club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Note there is no meeting in November and in March the group meets the 3rd Wednesday. For more information, contact Rachel Sideman-Kurtz at rsideman@minlib.net.



September 9

Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam by Andrew X. Pham

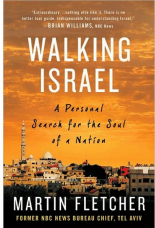
Catfish and Mandala is the story of an American odyssey—a solo bicycle voyage around the Pacific Rim to Vietnam—made by a young Vietnamese-American man in pursuit of both his adopted homeland and his forsaken fatherland.



October 14

My Invented Country: A Nostalgic Journey Through Chile by Isabel Allende

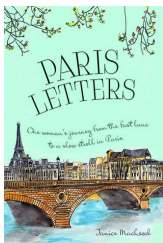
Isabel Allende evokes the magnificent landscapes of her country; a charming, idiosyncratic Chilean people with a violent history and an indomitable spirit; and the politics, religion, myth, and magic of her homeland that she carries with her even today.



December 9

Walking Israel: A Personal Search for the Soul of a Nation by Martin Fletcher

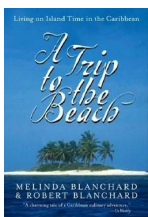
Longtime chief of NBC's Tel Aviv news bureau, Martin Fletcher is in a unique position to interpret Israel, and he brings it off in a spectacular and novel manner. Strolling the entire coast, from Lebanon to Gaza, observing facets of the country that are ignored in news reports, he tells a different and truer story.



January 13

Paris Letters by Janice MacLeod

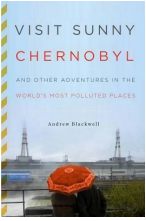
"How much money does it take to quit your job?" Exhausted and on the verge of burnout, Janice MacLeod poses this question to herself as she doodles on a notepad at her desk. Surprisingly, the answer isn't as daunting as she expected. With a little math and a lot of determination, Janice cuts back, saves up, and buys herself two years of freedom in Europe.



February 10

A Trip to the Beach: Living on Island time in the Caribbean by Melinda Blanchard

This is the story of a trip to the beach that never ends. It's about a husband and wife who escape civilization to build a small restaurant on an island paradise -- and discover that even paradise has its pitfalls. It's a story filled with calamities and comedy, culinary disasters and triumphs, and indelible portraits of people who live and work on a sliver of beauty set in the Caribbean Sea. It's about the maddening, exhausting, outlandish complications of trying to live the simple life -- and the joy that comes when you somehow pull it off.



March 16

Visit Sunny Chernobyl: And Other Adventures in the World's Most Polluted Places

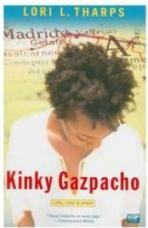
by Andrew Blackwell

For most of us, traveling means visiting the most beautiful places on Earth—Paris, the Taj Mahal, the Grand Canyon. It's rare to book a plane ticket to visit the lifeless moonscape of Canada's oil sand strip mines, or to set sail for the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. But in *Visit Sunny Chernobyl*, Andrew Blackwell embraces a different kind of travel, taking a jaunt through the most gruesomely polluted places on Earth.

April 13

Kinky Gazpacho: Life, Love & Spain by Lori L. Tharps

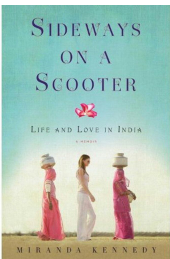
Magazine writer and editor Lori Tharps was born and raised in the comfortable but mostly White suburbs of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she was often the only person of color in her neighborhood. At an early age, Lori decided that her destiny would be discovered in Spain. She didn't know anyone from Spain, had never visited the country, and hardly spoke the language. Still, she never faltered in her plans to go. Arriving in the country as an optimistic college student, however, Lori soon discovers Spain's particular attitude toward Blackness.



May 11

Sideways on a Scooter: Life and Love in India by Miranda Kennedy

When twenty-something reporter Miranda Kennedy leaves her job in New York City and travels to India with no employment prospects, she longs to immerse herself in the turmoil and excitement of a rapidly developing country. What she quickly learns in Delhi are early signs that life is less Westernized than she'd thought. Living in Delhi for more than five years, and finding a city pulsing with possibility and hope, Kennedy experiences friendships, love affairs, and losses that open a window onto the opaque world of Indian politics and culture—and alter her own attitudes about everything from food and clothes to marriage and family.



June 8

Assassination Vacation by Sarah Vowell

New York Times bestselling author and contributor to NPR's "This American Life" Sarah Vowell embarks on a road trip to sites of political violence, from Washington DC to Alaska, to better understand our nation's ever-evolving political system and history. She takes us on a road trip like no other -- a journey to the pit stops of American political murder and through the myriad ways they have been used for fun and profit as well as political and cultural advantage.

