

Real World Reads Nonfiction Book Discussion - 2010 Schedule

All meetings are on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm in the Ames Meeting Room.

February 16

Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick

The Pilgrims arrived in the New World in 1620 and forged alliances with the Wampanoag Indians. After coexisting peacefully with the natives for almost 50 years, however, war broke out between them. King Philip's War went on for nearly 2 years, leading to the deaths of 5,000 colonists and a higher percentage of natives with many others shipped to the West Indies as slaves. This book sets the record straight about myths of our country's founding.

April 20

Clara's War by Clara Kramer

Teenager Clara Kramer hid in a small underground bunker under a German neighbor's house for 18 months, along with 17 other Polish Jews during WWII. In its review, *Booklist* magazine stated: "...in the bunker, the families fight for food, air, and space; some resent taking in children; the wealthy do not share. When the Russians come at last, of the 5,000 Jews in Zolkiew, there are 50 left. And they must save their rescuers. Both a gripping thriller and a heartbreaking drama of human kindness, this is sure to become a classic of Holocaust history."

June 15

Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure by Matthew Algeo

In 1953, former president Harry Truman and his wife, Bess, set out on a cross-country road trip in a new Chrysler New Yorker. They traveled 2,500 miles, staying in local motels and eating in diners. Hoping to travel without notice, the press soon began following their journey. The book brings 1950s America to life, and provides interesting facts and trivia about Truman.

August 17

Little Heathens by Mildred Armstrong Kalish

The subtitle of this book is "Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm during the Great Depression." This memoir of growing up on an Iowa farm in the 1930s describes what it was like to live during those austere times, and all the work involved in preparing meals, doing laundry, and working a farm without the benefit of electricity.

October 19

Horse Soldiers by Doug Stanton

This is the story of the Special Forces soldiers who were the first Americans on the ground to fight the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001 after 9/11. The soldiers invaded on horseback and worked with the Northern Alliance. A real page-turner.

December 21

Breakfast at Sally's by Richard LeMieux

After losing his business, then his home and wife and family in divorce, the author descended into depression and contemplated suicide before being stopped by hearing his dog barking. He then moved into his van with the dog, Willow, and became homeless. He traveled from town to town and wrote about his experiences. This book provides an intimate look at the lives of homeless people. "Sally's" is a nickname for the Salvation Army.

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