

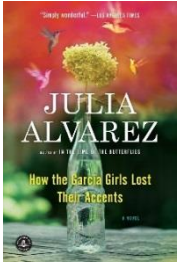
# 2018-19 ¡Adelante! Book Club

Meeting at the Green Bay Distillery @ 5:30 pm

## September 19

### *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*

Julia Alvarez



In Julia Alvarez's debut novel, the García sisters — Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofía — and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow a tyrannical dictator is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wild and wondrous and not always welcoming United States, their parents try to hold on to their old ways, but the girls try to find new lives: by forgetting their Spanish, by straightening their hair, and by wearing fringed bell bottoms. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. How the García Girls Lost Their Accents sets the sisters free to tell their most intimate stories about how they came to be at home — and not at home — in America.

## October 17

### *Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness*

Susannah Cahalan

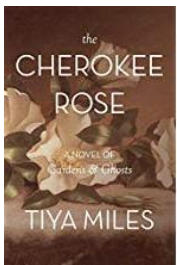


When 24-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she'd gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: She was beginning her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. In a swift and breathtaking narrative, Cahalan tells the astonishing true story of her descent into madness, her family's inspiring faith in her, and the lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn't happen. *Brain on Fire* is an unforgettable exploration of memory and identity, faith and love, and a profoundly compelling tale of survival and perseverance.

## November 21

### *The Cherokee Rose*

Tiya Miles

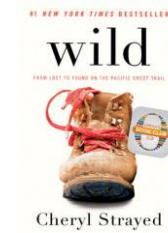


This luminous and highly accessible work examines a little-known aspect of America's past — slaveholding by Southern Creeks and Cherokees — and its legacy in the lives of three young women who are drawn to the Georgia plantation where scenes of extreme cruelty and extraordinary compassion once played out. The novel is based on historical sources about the Chief Vann House in Chatsworth, Georgia, and the Moravian mission sponsored there in the early 1800s. Author Tiya Miles uncovered this history while researching her book *The House on Diamond Hill*. In *The Cherokee Rose*, she has retold the story in fiction.

## December 19

### *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*

Cheryl Strayed



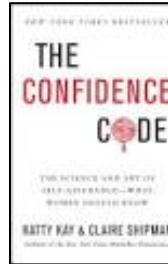
At 22, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her marriage was destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State — and she would do it alone.

Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, *Wild* powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her.

## January 16

### *The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance – What Women Should Know*

Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

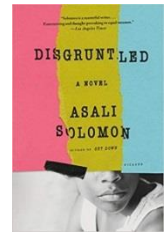


The authors of the bestselling *Womenomics* provide an informative and practical guide to understanding the importance of confidence — and learning how to achieve it — for women of all ages and at all stages of their careers. Working women today are better educated and better qualified than ever before. Yet men still predominate in the corporate world. In *The Confidence Code*, Claire Shipman and Katty Kay argue that the key factor in that gap is confidence. Combining cutting-edge research in genetics, gender, behavior, and cognition with examples from their own lives and those of other successful women in politics, media, and business, Kay and Shipman go beyond admonishing women to “lean in.” Instead, they offer the inspiration and practical advice that women need to achieve the careers they want and deserve.

## February 20

### *Disgruntled: A Novel*

Asali Solomon

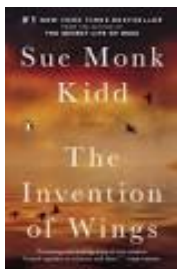


Kenya Curtis is only 8 years old, but she knows that she's different. It's not because she's black — most of the other students in the fourth-grade class at her West Philadelphia elementary school are, too. Maybe it's because she celebrates Kwanzaa, or because she's forbidden from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Maybe it's because she calls her father “Baba” instead of “Daddy.” What Kenya does know is that her difference is connected to what her Baba calls “the shame of being alive.” Effortlessly funny and achingly poignant, Asali Solomon's long-awaited debut novel follows Kenya from West Philadelphia to the suburbs, from public school to private, from childhood through adolescence, as she grows increasingly disgruntled by her inability to find any place or thing or person that feels like home. \

March 20

***The Invention of Wings***

Sue Monk Kidd



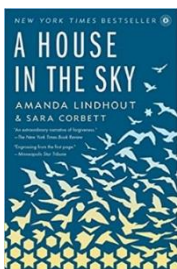
Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a slave in early 19th-century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls of the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimkes' daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something important in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's 11th birthday, when she is given ownership of 10-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable

journeys over the next 35 years, as both women strive for lives of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement, and the uneasy ways of love. As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented.

April 17

***A House in the Sky: A Memoir***

Amanda Lindhout and Sara Corbett



Sarah Laden's life seems like it could not get any more tumultuous. Her husband recently died, her older son, Nate, has developed a rebellious streak, her younger son, Danny, is barely passing his classes, and all the while she is struggling to make ends meet through her catering business. But when an alarming revelation tears apart the family of her closest friend, Laden finds herself fostering her friend's young son, Jordan. Now Jordan, Sarah, and her family must all cope with the tragedy that Jordan

has endured, figure out how to confront and reckon with the truth, and ultimately learn how to forgive and heal.

May 15

***A Tale for the Time Being***

Ruth Ozeki



In Tokyo, 16-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great-grandmother, a Buddhist nun who has lived for more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace, and it will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore

in a Hello Kitty lunchbox — possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of the lunchbox's contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future. Full of Ozeki's signature humor and deeply engaged with the relationship between writer and reader, past and present, fact and fiction, quantum physics, history, and myth, *A Tale for the Time Being* is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

June 19

***Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America***

Rachel Hope Cleves



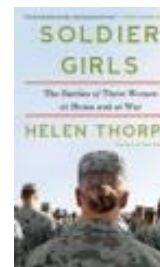
Conventional wisdom holds that same-sex marriage is a purely modern innovation, a concept that was unheard of in the United States' early history. But as Rachel Hope Cleves demonstrates in this eye-opening book, same-sex marriage is hardly new. Revered by their community, Charity and Sylvia operated a tailor shop in the 19th century that employed many local women, served as guiding lights within their church, and helped to raise their many nieces and nephews. Charity and

Sylvia is the intimate history of their extraordinary 44-year union. Drawing on an array of original documents including diaries, letters, and poetry, Cleves traces the couple's lives in sharp detail.

July 17

***Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War***

Helen Thorpe



A sizeable percentage of American soldiers sent overseas since 2001 have been women. Surrounded and far outnumbered by men, embedded in a male culture, looked upon as both alien and desirable, women soldiers have a decidedly different experience. In *Soldier Girls*, Helen Thorpe follows the lives of three women over 12 years on their paths to the military, overseas to combat, and back home. These women, who are quite different in every way, become friends. We see their families, their

lovers, their spouses, their children. We see them work extremely hard, deal with the attentions of men on base and in war zones, and struggle to stay connected to their families back home. We see some of them drink too much, have illicit affairs, and react to the deaths of fellow soldiers. And we see what happens when one of them survives driving a truck into an explosive device. Carefully reported, beautifully written, and powerfully moving, *Soldier Girls* is a groundbreaking work

August 21

***Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography***

Laura Ingalls Wilder and Pamela Smith Hill (editor)



Hidden away since the 1930s, Laura Ingalls Wilder's never-before-published autobiography reveals the true stories of her pioneering life. Some of her experiences will be familiar to readers of her famous *Little House* series; some will be a surprise. *Pioneer Girl* reintroduces readers to the woman who defined the pioneer experience for millions of people around the world.

Through her recollections, Wilder details the Ingalls family's journey through Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Dakota Territory, documenting 16 years of travels, unforgettable stories, and the everyday people whom she immortalized through her fiction.

Using additional manuscripts, diaries, and letters, *Pioneer Girl* builds on Wilder's work by adding valuable context and explores her growth as a writer. This groundbreaking volume develops a fuller picture of Wilder's life and times for readers who wish to learn more about this important American author.