SAVE THE DATE: Nurses Who Read, 2017 to 2018 Academic Year

January 25, 5:30 to 7 pm, 6-194 Weaver-Densford Hall, University of Minnesota, School of Nursing

Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quinones

Paperback: 384 pages
Publisher: Bloomsbury Press; Reprint edition (April 5, 2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1620402521

Review: The rise of OxyContin addiction and subsequent heroin use has been much in the news lately as we try to make sense of what is happening in suburban and small town America. Sam Quinones' Dreamland takes a multifaceted approach to the subject, profiling people from all walks of life, ranging from citizens of impoverished Mexican ranchos to young affluent white athletes, all cogs in the wheel of the latest drug epidemic. Unlike the crack cocaine phenomenon of the 1980s, today's widespread opiate addiction has roots in the prescription pads of certified physicians and the marketing machine of Big Pharma. When the addict, forced by availability and economics, transitions to heroin he is met by a new breed of entrepreneurial drug dealers who are only too happy to take calls and make deliveries. The changing landscape of small town America, along with science, opportunity, shame, and of course, greed, all play a role here and to see the puzzle come together, one incomprehensible piece at a time, is as fascinating as it is unsettling. by Seira Wilson

Biography
Sam Quinones is a journalist, former LA Times reporter, author and storyteller.

Save the Date for 2018: Selections are below
- Late March/early April date pending: Date and location pending
- Thurs. 6/7 Location pending

The Emperor of All Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee

Paperback: 608 pages
Publisher: Scribner; Reprint edition (August 9, 2011)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1439170916
Amazon.com Review: Amazon Best Books of the Month, November 2010: "In 2010, about six hundred thousand Americans, and more than 7 million humans around the world, will die of cancer." With this sobering statistic, physician and researcher Siddhartha Mukherjee begins his comprehensive and eloquent "biography" of one of the most virulent diseases of our time. An exhaustive account of cancer's origins, The Emperor of All Maladies illustrates how modern treatments--multi-pronged chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery, as well as preventative care--came into existence thanks to a century's worth of research, trials, and small, essential breakthroughs around the globe. While The Emperor of All Maladies is rich with the science and history behind the fight against cancer, it is also a meditation on illness, medical ethics, and the complex, intertwining lives of doctors and patients. Mukherjee's profound compassion--for cancer patients, their families, as well as the oncologists who, all too often, can offer little hope--makes this book a very human history of an elusive and complicated disease. --Lynette Mong

From Booklist: Apparently researching, treating, and teaching about cancer isn't enough of a challenge for Columbia University cancer specialist Mukherjee. He was also moved to write a biography of a disease whose name, for millennia, could not be uttered. The eminently readable result is a weighty tale of an enigma that has remained outside the grasp of both the people who endeavored to know it and those who would prefer never to have become acquainted with it. An unauthorized biography told through the voices of people who have lived, toiled, and, yes, died under cancer's inexorable watch. Mukherjee recounts cancer's first known literary reference—hence its birth, so to speak—in the teachings of the Egyptian physician Imhotep in the twenty-fifth century BCE, in which it is clear that Imhotep possessed no tools with which to treat what appears to be breast cancer. His cryptic note under "Therapy:" "There is none." Throughout cancer's subsequent years, many more physicians and scientists with names both familiar and obscure attempted and occasionally succeeded in deciphering or unlocking keys to many of the disease's mysteries. Alas, this is not a posthumous biography, but it is nonetheless a surprisingly accessible and encouraging narrative. --Donna Chavez --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Biography
Siddhartha Mukherjee is a cancer physician and researcher. He is an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University and a staff cancer physician at the CU/NYU Presbytarian Hospital. A former Rhodes scholar, he graduated from Stanford University, University of Oxford (where he received a PhD studying cancer-causing viruses) and from Harvard Medical School. His laboratory focuses on discovering new cancer drugs using innovative biological methods. Mukherjee trained in cancer medicine at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard Medical School and was on the staff at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He has published articles and commentary in such journals as Nature, New England Journal of Medicine, Neuron and the Journal of Clinical Investigation and in publications such as the New York Times and the New Republic. His work was nominated for Best American Science Writing, 2000 (edited by James Gleick). He lives in Boston and New York with his wife, Sarah Sze, an artist, and with his daughter, Leela. His author website is www.siddharthamukherjee.me

A Bittersweet Season: Caring for our Aging Parents and Ourselves by Jane Gross

- A smart and highly detailed book about navigating the complex eldercare system as it related to healthcare, insurance and end of life. . . . The kind of book social workers might suggest to the family who craves more perspective about the logistical issues mentioned above. . . . Readers will find they are engaged by how much they learn in reading Gross's
"Hugely informative, and a gripping read." —Betty Rollin, author of Last Wish

"A Bittersweet Season is sure to become required reading for anyone with an elderly parent who depends on long-term care. It's also a worthwhile read for anyone who is interested in America's health care system as it braces for the demands posed by demographic changes that include a sharp rise in the group now termed the "old old." —The Huffington Post

About the Author: Jane Gross was a reporter for Sports Illustrated and Newsday before joining The New York Times in 1978. Her twenty-nine-year tenure there included national assignments as well as coverage of aging. In 2008, she launched a blog for the Times called The New Old Age, to which she still contributes. She has taught journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, and at Columbia University, and was the recipient of a John S. Knight Fellowship. She lives in Westchester County, New York.

Future Selection—
Why Victoria now? For those that are Anglophiles, it is curious that Great Britain is going through a new infatuation with Queen Victoria, her reign, and her impact on English history, and by extension, our own as America became a republic. Because she and Prince Albert brought about new social reforms, they set the stage for systems changes in the industrial age and policies were adapted for population health, i.e., a cultural shift of from the countryside to urban factories and their contemporary issues of public housing, transportation, education, health care, etc.

Victoria and Florence Nightingale were contemporaries-- Florence was born before Victoria's first birthday and lived 9 years longer. The book by Daisy Goodwin was used as a reference for the PBS series Victoria (even more popular than the PBS all-time hit, Downtown Abbey in the UK) and is more accurate with historical records than the The Young Victoria movie that recounts Victoria's assent to the thrown and early reign.

A couple of health and nursing themes are in the book. First, Victoria's mother and her mother's comptroller attempted to have Victoria sign over control for her reign to a regent when she was ill as a teenager. Victoria made an early mistake as a queen by believing a rumor about a lady-in-waiting who had an abdominal tumor rather than a pregnancy out of wedlock; because Victoria called attention to the wrong details before conducting adequate inquiries, she fell out of grace from her public for a time until she married Prince Albert.

Victoria by Daisy Goodwin

Paperback
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0755396111
Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.2 x 7.8 inches
Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces

Amazon.com Review: An Amazon Best Book of November 2016: For a monarch, there's perhaps no greater historical compliment than to have a time period named after you. Daisy Goodwin, author of The American Heiress, spotlights Victoria's earliest moments on the throne, from the days before her coronation, to her first clash with Parliament and the venerable Lord Wellington, and finally the moment when she proposes to her cousin, Prince Albert. As the 18-year-old queen assumes her regal duties, Victoria discovers the limitations of her governmental powers even as she spreads her wings as a woman who has escaped out from under her mother's thumb and can finally rule herself. There are dramatic missteps along the way, and more than once the reader may find Victoria unsympathetic. However, Goodwin does a deft job in her novelization of Victoria's first two years as monarch, exploring the emotional challenges for a young, sheltered woman who now sits on the throne of a powerful country. Some personages are little more than cardboard, but those who matter in this narrative—Lord Melbourne, Prince Albert, and Victoria herself—are penn
with more detail, revealing an appealing and vulnerable side to a queen later viewed as nigh unassailable. —Adrian Liang, The Amazon Book Review

About the Author:
Daisy Goodwin attended Cambridge University and then won a Harkness Scholarship to Columbia University. She is now a producer of top-rated television programs for the BBC, including the Nation's Favorite series. In addition to Essential Poems (To Fall in Love With), she has edited two other bestselling collections, 101 Poems That Could Save Your Life and 101 Poems to Get You through the Day (and Night). She lives in London with her husband and two children.

Nervous Conditions by Tsitsi Dangarembga

- **Paperback**: 224 pages
- **Publisher**: Ayebia Clarke Publishing; 2nd edition (January 1, 2004)
- **Language**: English
- **ISBN-10**: 0954702336
- **ISBN-13**: 978-0954702335
- **Product Dimensions**: 0.8 x 5 x 7.5 inches

From Publishers Weekly

Tambu, an adolescent living in colonial Rhodesia of the '60s, seizes the opportunity to leave her rural community to study at the missionary school run by her wealthy, British-educated uncle. With an uncanny and often critical self-awareness, Tambu narrates this skillful first novel by a Zimbabwe native. Like many heroes of the bildungsroman, Tambu, in addition to excelling at her curriculum, slowly reaches some painful conclusions—about her family, her proscribed role as a woman, and the inherent evils of colonization. Tambu often thinks of her mother, "who suffered from being female and poor and uneducated and black so stoically." Yet, she and her cousin, Nyasha, move increasingly farther away from their cultural heritage. At a funeral in her native village, Tambu admires the mourning of the women, "shrill, sharp, shiny, needles of sound piercing cleanly and deeply to let the anguish in, not out." In many ways, this novel becomes Tambu's keening—a resonant, eloquent tribute to the women in her life, and to their losses.

Biography

Tsitsi Dangarembga lived and studied in both England and Germany before returning to her native Zimbabwe. She is not only a novelist and playwright, but also a noted film director. She currently is working on the third novel in the trilogy that began with Nervous Conditions and continues in The Book of Not.