



Book Walk Alert for Good Night, Irene and The Women

Please join us for a 6K book walk in Sacramento's Land Park!

Date/Time: Sunday, June 29, 10 am

Start Point: Vic's Ice Cream Parlor, 3199 Riverside, Sacramento, CA

Book Selections:

This book will feature two books both of which are about women in war. You can read one or both.

Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea

Book Description: What if a friendship forged on the front lines of war defines a life forever? In the tradition of *The Nightingale* and *Transcription*, a searing epic based on the magnificent and true story of heroic Red Cross women.

In 1943, Irene Woodward abandons an abusive fiancé in New York to enlist with the Red Cross and head to Europe. She makes fast friends in training with Dorothy Dunford, a towering Midwesterner with a ferocious wit. Together they are part of an elite group of women, nicknamed Donut Dollies, who command military vehicles called Clubmobiles at the front line, providing camaraderie and a taste of home that may be the only solace before troops head into battle. After D-Day, these two intrepid friends join the Allied soldiers streaming into France. Their time in Europe will see them embroiled in danger, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of Buchenwald. Through her friendship with Dorothy, and a love affair with a courageous American fighter pilot named Hans, Irene learns to trust again. Her most fervent hope, which becomes more precarious by the day, is for all three of them to survive the war intact. Taking as inspiration his mother's own Red Cross service, Luis Alberto Urrea has delivered an overlooked story of women's heroism in World War II. With its affecting and uplifting portrait of friendship and valor in harrowing circumstances, *Good Night, Irene* powerfully demonstrates yet again that Urrea's "gifts as a storyteller are prodigious" (NPR).

Sacramento Public Library System has 12 print copies; 1 audio book CD; eAudiobook; eBook; and Kindle formats

The Women by Kristen Hannah

Book Description: A #1 bestseller on The New York Times, USA Today, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times! From the celebrated author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds* comes Kristin Hannah's *The Women* --at once an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided. Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets--and becomes one of--the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam. *The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

Sacramento Public Library has 24 print copies; 8 Audiobook CDs; 142 eAudiobooks (198 people on waitlist); eBooks, and Kindle

Lunch and Book Discussion:

Bring a lunch and we'll have our book discussion in Land Park.