

What is the Suburban Mosaic Book of the Year?

Suburban communities in northern Illinois, home for many of us, continue to grow in diversity - with many people from many races and ethnic backgrounds. Our communities reflect a "mosaic" - a work of art patterned from distinct pieces - but together making something beautiful. We realize, however, that racism, religious bigotry, and ethnic hostilities are still present in our communities. Now in its 17th year, the Suburban Mosaic Book of the Year is a program that wants to confront issues - issues of racial and social justice.

When will the program start?

You can begin reading the books at any time. Copies of selected titles will be available at participating libraries, and some will host discussion groups throughout the fall and winter. Check with a participating library near you for more information.

How can I participate?

Libraries listed in this brochure will have copies of Suburban Mosaic books available for checkout, and some will present programs and book discussions. Encourage your local library or school to participate. You can invite your own book club to read and discuss these titles, start your own book group, or simply enjoy these books on your own.

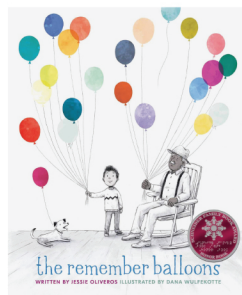
Where can I find the books?

Each participating library will have copies. Books are available at area bookstores.



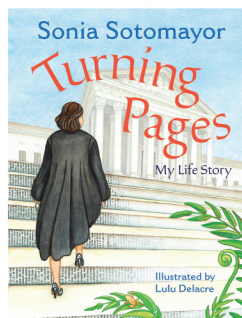
Selected Readings

2020 - 2021



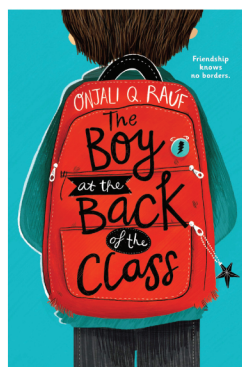
Preschool - Grade 1 Title
The Remember Balloons
by Jessie Oliveros

James's Grandpa has many balloons that show his memories. As time passes, Grandpa's balloons start to float away. Now, it's up to James to share his balloons, and memories, with Grandpa.



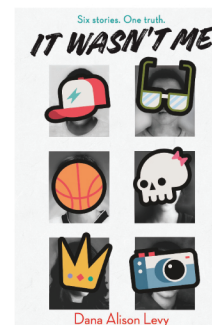
Grades 2 - 3 Title
Turning Pages: My Life Story
by Sonia Sotomayor

The first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor, writes about what inspired her to reach for her dreams - books!



Grades 4 - 5 Title
The Boy at the Back of the Class
by Onjali Q. Raúf

Alexa immediately decides to befriend the new student, Ahmet, a refugee from Syria who doesn't speak English. Although communicating with Ahmet isn't easy, Alexa tries and tries again to gain his friendship.



Middle School Title
It Wasn't Me
by Dana Alison Levy

One or more of the five students is suspected of vandalizing Theo's self-portrait. A teacher asks all five and Theo to spend a vacation together. The truths they share might change their lives forever.




High School Title
Internment
by Samira Ahmed

Set in a near-future United States, Layla and her family are forced into an internment camp for Muslim Americans. Layla forms an unexpected alliance and fights for justice and against silent complicity.



Adult Title
So You Want to Talk About Race
by Ijeoma Oluo

An honest, conversational guide to discussing race without being condescending or preachy. Oluo herself, has a white mother and bi-racial children, so her insight is especially valuable on the subject.



Participating Organizations

Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Des Plaines Public Library
Elk Grove Village Public Library
Mount Prospect Public Library
Palatine Public Library District
Prospect Heights Public Library
Rolling Meadows Library
Arlington Heights School District 25
Mount Prospect School District 57
Prospect Heights School District 23
River Trails School District 26
Schaumburg School District 54
Daily Herald Newspaper



Mission

**Fostering cultural understanding
and social justice through literature**



For more information about this program see our
website at www.suburbanmosaicbooks.org
or contact John Brennan at jpbrenn@aol.com
or 847-507-8051

Revised August 7, 2020



Interracial

Let's build bridges here and there
Or sometimes, just a spiral stair
That we may come somewhat abreast
And sense what cannot be exprest,
And by these measures can be found
A meeting place - common ground
Nearer the reaches of the heart
Where truth revealed, stands clear, apart;
With understanding come to know
What laughing lips will never show:
How tears and torturing distress
May masquerade as happiness:
Then you will know when my heart's aching
And when yours is slowly breaking.
Commune - the altars will reveal...
We then shall be impulsed to kneel
And send a prayer upon its way
For those who wear the thorns today.

Oh, let's build bridges everywhere
And span the gulf of challenge there.

Georgia Douglas Johnson
Harlem Renaissance Poet
(1886 - 1966)

*Reprinted from The Poetry of the Negro 1746 - 1970.
Edited by Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps, 1970.
Doubleday Publishers, Garden City, NY*



Book of the Year 2020 - 2021

Selected Readings

The Remember Balloons
by Jessie Oliveros

Turning Pages: My Life Story
by Sonia Sotomayor

The Boy at the Back of the Class
by Onjali Q. Raúf

It Wasn't Me
by Dana Alison Levy

Internment
by Samira Ahmed

So You Want to Talk About Race
by Ijeoma Oluo

