

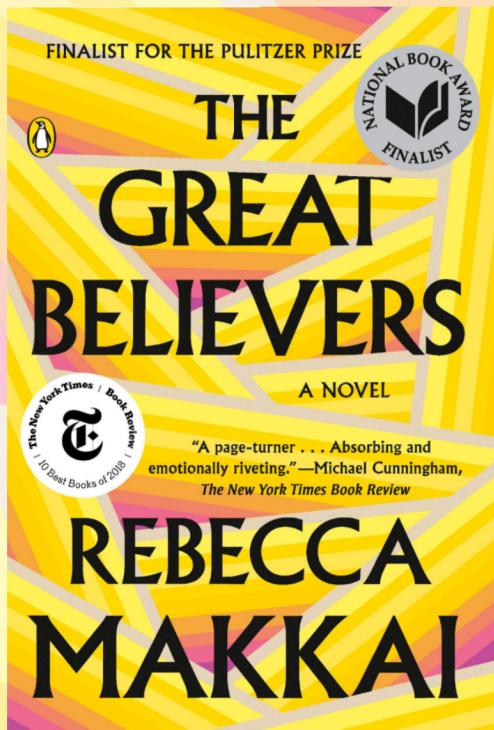


Our Community Reads **2021**

is a program of the Friends of the Aptos Library, in which the community selects a book and then comes together for a series of related events.

All events are free and open to the public.

Due to the pandemic, this year's Our Community Reads will take place remotely. To access an event, registration is required. To register: Go to the Friends of the Aptos Library website (FriendsofAptosLibrary.org) and click on **Our Community Reads**. Scroll to the event you'd like to attend, and click on **To register click here**. This will take you to the registration page on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries website.



The Great Believers is a novel set in Chicago at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and in Paris in 2015.

The book tells of the residents of Boystown (Chicago's gay community), a bequest of art from the 1920s, and a mother's quest to be reunited with her long-estranged daughter.

Programs will include discussions of the AIDS crisis by some who lived through it, comparisons with the COVID-19 pandemic, penetrating book discussions, and the ever-popular Trivia Night—in a new format!

"...an absorbing and emotionally riveting story about what it's like to live during times of crisis."

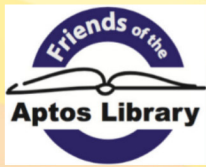
— *New York Times*

JANUARY

28 10:30 AM	Adult Book Discussion Group @ La Selva Beach Margie Bowles leads a thought-provoking group discussion about <i>The Great Believers</i> , allowing participants to delve deep into the book's themes.
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FEBRUARY

1 7:00 PM	HIV/AIDS in the 80's: Firsthand Accounts of the Santa Cruz Scene California State Senator John Laird leads a panel discussion with people who were living in Santa Cruz as the epidemic was exploding. No effective treatments were yet available, and misinformation was rampant. Audience Q&A will follow. Sponsored by the Friends of the Capitola Library.
3 10:00 AM	Capitola Branch Library Book Discussion Group Lorena Lopez of the Capitola Branch Library leads a group discussion of <i>The Great Believers</i> .



FEBRUARY

7 5:00 PM	<p>HIV/AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Pandemic</p> <p>Professor of History & Legal Studies and Interim Associate Dean in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at CSUMB, David A. Reichard describes the history of grassroots HIV/AIDS activism—especially in the 1980s and 1990s—and how marginalized groups advocating for changes in healthcare access, policy, and resources can shape the course of a pandemic. Audience Q&A will follow.</p>
11 1:00 PM	<p>Aptos Library Book Discussion Group</p> <p>The Aptos discussion group, led by long-time Aptos Library volunteer Judy McNeely, goes deep inside <i>The Great Believers</i>.</p>
13 4:00 PM	<p>Cut-Paper Art Workshop</p> <p>April Zilber of the Felton Library Friends leads us in a hands-on art project. April is a professional glass artist and has taught glass art and paper marbling classes. Please have colored paper (look in your recycling bin), pencil, scissors, and glue stick or tape. This is a chance to be creative, a small gesture of art in respect to <i>The Great Believers</i>.</p>
19 6:00 PM	<p>TRIVIA NIGHT</p> <p>Supervisor Zach Friend once again emcees this fun event. Come on your own, with friends, or with your book group (virtually of course) to show off your knowledge of <i>The Great Believers</i>. We supply the questions, but this year you'll have to supply your own cocktails and snacks! Prizes will be awarded to the winners!</p>
21 5:00 PM	<p>MEMORIES: My Brother, a Quilt, and the AIDS Project</p> <p>Join us for this moving conversation with Dinah Davis, a local resident who lost her brother to HIV/AIDS. She tells how the illness affected her family at a time when many members of the LGBTQ community remained closeted. The event, led by life coach Kris Franceschi, includes a short documentary on the San Francisco gay scene of the 1980s, narrated by Cleve Jones, who conceived the AIDS Memorial Quilt to which Dinah contributed. You can view the documentary at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX0Ju8IhoXQ.</p>
24 6:00 PM	<p>Santa Cruz Public Library Book Discussion Group</p> <p><i>The Great Believers</i> is the focus of a discussion led by April Zilber of the Felton Library Friends.</p>

MARCH

4 7:00 PM	<p>Pandemics, Politics and Public Health</p> <p>In an interactive talk, Dr. Ronald P. Hattis, MD, MPH—Associate Clinical Professor of Preventive Medicine, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, and Past President and current Secretary of the Beyond AIDS Foundation—discusses his history, beginning in the early '80s, in the fight against HIV/AIDS, which he calls a "slow-moving pandemic." He ties that struggle to our current fight with a much faster-moving pandemic, COVID-19. Sponsored by the La Selva Beach Library Friends.</p>
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