

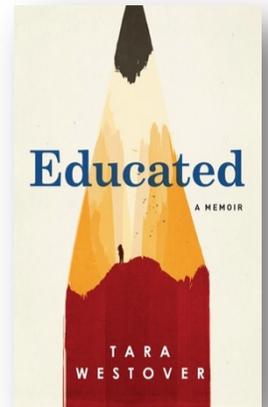
Two Towns – One Book

Celebrating our Ninth Community Read

2020 Community Activities

Our Books of the Year for 2020

***Becoming* by Michele Obama**
***Educated* by Tara Westover**



For the first time in nine years of TTOB Community Reads, we had a tie – ***Becoming*** by Michele Obama and ***Educated*** by Tara Westover. We decided that since both books were memoirs, we would plan our program focusing on the memoir and ideas and themes from both books.

“In her memoir, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. ***Becoming*** is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.” Goodreads 4.61

“An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. ***Educated*** is an account of the author’s struggle for self-invention. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Tara Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one’s life through new eyes and the will to change it.” Goodreads 4.8

*****KICK OFF *** Sunday, January 12 at 2:00pm, Library Program Rooms - Registration Requested. It's a Memoir Renaissance – Marion Roach Smith**

The past two decades have seen a renaissance for the memoir form. The winners of our Two Towns – One Book Community Read for 2020 are both memoirs. They are both good examples of why memoirs are still front and center in book conversations, blending self-critical honesty, humor, and epiphany into the creation of great books that keep the pages turning and change minds and perspectives about our world. Our Kick Off presenter, Marion Roach Smith, will share her expertise as a memoirist and writing coach to introduce the memoir genre, the different types of memoirs, the importance of memoirs and the changes in acceptance of the memoir in publishing.



Most of her own work includes a large helping of memoir, including her books ***The Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair***, (Bloomsbury, 2005) and ***Another Name for Madness***, (Houghton Mifflin, 1985) and her commentaries for National Public Radio’s ***All Things Considered***. Her most recent book, ***The Memoir Project, A Thoroughly Non-Standardized Text on Writing & Life***, was published by Grand Central Publishing.

Marion has also written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Prevention*, *Vogue*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and elsewhere. Marion will be signing copies of

her most recent book that will be available for sale by The Open Door Bookstore.

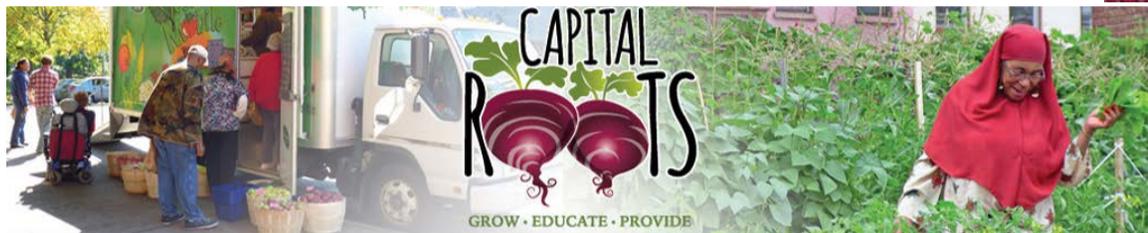
Sunday, February 16, 2020, 2:00pm, Library Program Rooms – Registration Suggested. Essential Oils – Sarah Parendo

Would you like to learn more about essential oils? In this demo-style class, Young Living consultant, Sarah Parendo, will show participant s how to create a non-toxic sleep support roller made with essential oils and other items already in your home.



Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 2:00pm, Library Program Rooms - Registration Requested. Journal Into Memoir – Janine Cammarata

Local author, Janine Cammarata, will present a journaling/memoir workshop where participants are invited to bring a son, a daughter, a sister, a brother, a parent, or a best friend to the presentation. The focus will be on how two related people see and respond to the same event in their lives in very different ways, similar to Tara Westover and her family members in *Educated*. It should be great fun! Bring your own journal, a photo from a shared experience if you have it, one and a pen. We will supply the rest. Janine will be selling and signing her various fiction and non-fiction books inspired by her own experiences and journaling.



Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 2:00pm, Library Program Rooms, Registration Suggested. Getting to Know Capital Roots – Sharon DiLorenzo, Capital Roots Program Manager

In *Becoming*, Michele Obama emphasized that in this country . . . “fast food has become the everyday meal.” Our food culture needs to change. Our presenter, Sharon DiLorenzo, has worked as Capital Roots’ Program Manager for 25+ years, organizing community gardens and urban forestry projects, overseeing educational programming and managing the Squash Hunger program, a food recovery initiative that collects surplus produce from farms, markets and distributors for delivery to area food pantries and other community feeding programs – positive action that actually teaches clients to eat healthier.

Capital Roots’ vision for the future is of a Capital Region where every person has access to fresh, affordable, healthy food. Join us to learn about all of the organization’s successful and innovative programs and how you can get more involved. Visit Capital Roots website to learn more about this local non-profit. <https://www.capitalroots.org>

Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 2:00pm, Library Program Rooms, Registration Suggested. Home Sweet Home: A Panel Discussion

In *Educated*, the author, Tara Westover, reflects on how she changes what she views as ‘home’. “I wonder now if the day I set out to steal that tax return wasn’t the first time I left home to go to Buck’s Peak. That night I had entered my father’s house as an intruder. It was a shift in mental language, a surrendering of where I was from.” (page 206) What makes this story fascinating? Is it how different her background is or how fundamentally similar it is to everyone else’s experience of leaving home, the topic of our panel discussion.



Gretchel Hathaway, Dean of Diversity and Inclusion at Union College, will facilitate our panel discussion. Our panelists include Library Director, Alex Gutelius, Shenendehowa Superintendent,

Dr. Oliver Robinson, FOL Board Member, Andreas Harnecker, and Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library Trustee, Purushothaman Srinivasan.

Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 2:00 pm, Library Program Rooms, Registration Suggested. Inspiring African-American Women – Kate Dudding, Storyteller

Michele Obama has been called inspiring and the world’s most admired woman. Come hear award-winning Clifton Park storyteller Kate Dudding share stories about other inspiring and admired African American women including: Barbara Johns, a 16 year old junior in an all black high school in Virginia led an all school walk-out protesting the poor conditions in 1951; Fatima Knight who created an online fundraiser to help rebuild the Christian Churches burned after the shooting in Charleston, SC Emanuel AME Church in 2015 and others.

Saturday, May 16, 2020 - Bus Trip to Seneca Falls, Registration Required

In 2020, we’ll celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Woman’s Suffrage Movement and Seneca Falls, NY is the place where it started. To join the celebration and to honor, two strong women, Michele Obama and Tara Westover, the authors of our two books of the year, we have planned a trip to Seneca Falls. The bus will leave the Library parking lot at 7:30am. We plan to arrive in Seneca Falls by 11:00am where we will first tour, The National Women’s Hall of Fame. We’ll take a break for lunch at a local restaurant, and then enjoy the afternoon touring The Stanton House and The Women’s Rights Historic Park. On the way home, we will stop in Skaneateles, NY for shopping and supper. It’s going to be a great day!