

Give-a-way books for Session 6:

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. Our presenters, Jay LaPlante and Barbara Aragon, recommended an extraordinary reading list of Native American authors and stories about Native Americans for this session!

1. [The Woman Who Fell from the Sky: Poems](#), by Joy Harjo (1994)

One of this country's foremost Native American voices, Joy Harjo, member of the Muscogee Tribe, combines elements of storytelling, prayer, and song in this, her fourth volume of poetry. Informed by her interest in jazz and by her North American tribal background, her writing draws from the realities of American culture, the concept of feminine individuality, and the Native American tradition of praising the land and the spirit. (A poem from this book was read at the session)

2. [Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI](#), by David Grann (2017)

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they rode in chauffeured cars and lived in mansions. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed. As the death toll rose, the case was taken up by the newly created FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), and its young, secretive director, J. Edgar Hoover. You'll have to choose this book to see if the team he put together, including a Native American agent, cracked the case!

3. [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants](#), by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013)

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires acknowledging and celebrating our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

4. [Ceremony](#) by Leslie Marmon Silko (1977, 2006)

...has been lauded as the "greatest novel in Native American literature." Another says, maybe the book shouldn't be called a novel at all, but simply a "telling." *Ceremony* refers to the healing ceremonies based on the ancient stories of the Diné and Pueblo people. The author says the novel was supposed to be a funny story about Harley, a WWII veteran whose family tried, and failed to keep him away from liquor. In the process of writing, she discovered she wanted to learn more about what happened to the war veterans, many of them her cousins and relatives, and survivors of the Bataan Death March. They

returned from the war and were often drunk the rest of their lives. What had happened to them? Leslie Marmon Silko was one of the very first group of fellows awarded “genius grants” by the MacArthur Foundation. She grew up on the Laguna Reservation, she is of mixed blood.

5. [**The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse**](#), by Louise Erdrich (2001)

For more than half century, Father Damien Modeste has served his beloved people, the Ojibwe, on the remote reservation of Little No Horse, How, hearing the end of his life, Father Damien dreads the discovery of his physical identity, for he is a woman who has lived as a man. To further complicate his quiet existence, a troubled colleague comes to the reservation to investigate the life of the perplexing, possibly false saint Sister Leopolda. Father Damien alone knows the strange truth of Leopolda’s piety, and is faced with the most difficult decision. Should he tell all and risk everything...or manufacture a protective history! **This won the National Bestseller award!** Author Louise Erdrich is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa, Pembina Band.

6. [**A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest**](#) (Civilization of the American Indian Series) Paperback, by Dr. Robert H. Ruby, M.D., John A Brown, Cary C. Collins, and Clifford E. Trafzer (October 25, 2010)

The Native peoples of the Pacific Northwest inhabit a vast region extending from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, and from California to British Columbia. For more than two decades, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest* has served as a standard reference on these diverse peoples. Now, in the wake of renewed tribal self-determination, this revised edition reflects the many recent political, economic, and cultural developments shaping these Native communities.