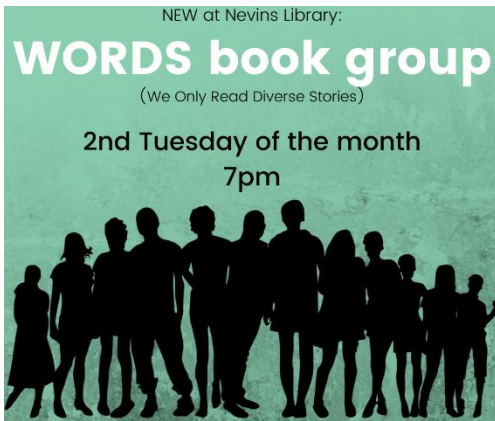


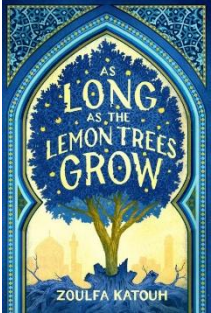


INTRODUCING: The WORDS Book Group (We Only Read Diverse Stories)

Nevins Library, Trustees Room

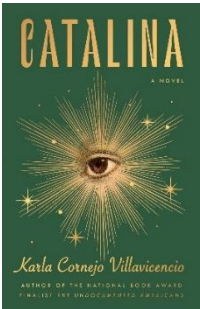
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm

This book group will focus on authors and stories that explore diverse and underrepresented voices and experiences.



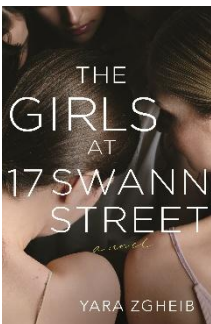
December 9: *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow* by Zoulfa Katouh

Eighteen-year-old Salama Kassab, a pharmacy student volunteering at the hospital in Homs, is desperate to find passage on a refugee boat for herself and her pregnant best friend, but first she must learn to see the events around her for what they are--not a war, but a revolution.



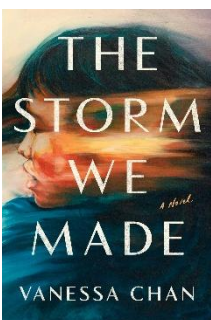
January 13: *Catalina* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

Catalina peers into the life and mind of titular protagonist Catalina Ituralde. Raised by her aunt and uncle in Ecuador and later by her grandparents in Queens, Catalina is an undocumented immigrant finishing her last year at Harvard University, a place she studies with a tricky combination of humor, disgust, and curiosity. But once Harvard sends her off into the world, she's unsure she'll have anywhere to go, given her undocumented status. The combined weight of her uncertain future, her complicated relationships, her country's ugly politics, her devastating wit, and Harvard's social hierarchy create an existential stew in this quick, cool novel.



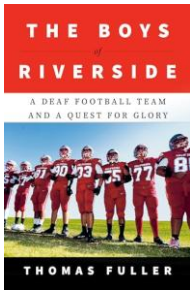
February 10: *The Girls at 17 Swann Street* by Yara Zgheib

Anna Roux was a professional dancer who followed the man of her dreams from Paris to Missouri. There, alone with her biggest fears – imperfection, failure, loneliness – she spirals down anorexia and depression till she weighs a mere eighty-eight pounds. Forced to seek treatment, she is admitted as a patient at 17 Swann Street, a peach pink house where pale, fragile women with life-threatening eating disorders live. Women like Emm, the veteran; quiet Valerie; Julia, always hungry. Together, they must fight their diseases and face six meals a day.



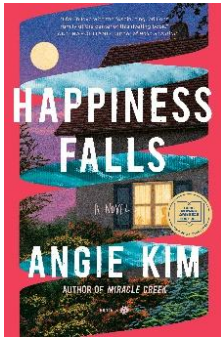
March 10: *The Storm We Made* by Vanessa Chan

In 1945 Malaya, when her family is in terrible danger due to a choice she made 10 years earlier, Cecily Alcantara, who was lured into a life of espionage for the invading Japanese forces during World War II, finds her actions catching up with her and will do anything to save those she loves.



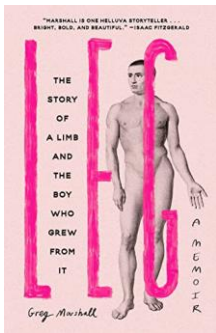
April 14: **The Boys of Riverside: A Deaf Football Team and a Quest for Glory** by Thomas Fuller

The incredible story of an all-deaf high school football team's triumphant climb from underdog to undefeated, their inspirational brotherhood, a fascinating portrait of deafness in America, and the indefatigable head coach who spearheaded the team, by *New York Times* reporter and San Francisco Bureau Chief, Thomas Fuller.



May 12: **Happiness Falls** by Angie Kim

Mia, the irreverent, hyperanalytical twenty-year-old daughter, has an explanation for everything-- which is why she isn't initially concerned when her father and younger brother Eugene don't return from a walk in a nearby park. They must have lost their phone. Or stopped for an errand somewhere. But by the time Mia's brother runs through the front door bloody and alone, it becomes clear that the father in this tight-knit family is missing and the only witness is Eugene, who has the rare genetic condition Angelman syndrome and cannot speak. What follows is both a ticking-clock investigation into the whereabouts of a father and an emotionally rich portrait of a family whose most personal secrets just may be at the heart of his disappearance.



June 9: **Leg: the story of a limb and the boy who grew from it: a memoir** by Greg Marshall

Greg Marshall's early years were pretty bizarre. Rewind the VHS tapes and you'll see a lopsided teenager limping across a high school stage, or in a wheelchair after leg surgeries, pondering why he's crushing on half of the Utah Jazz. Add to this home video footage a mom clacking away at her newspaper column between chemo, a dad with ALS, and a cast of foul-mouthed siblings. Fast forward the tape and you'll find Marshall happily settled into his life as a gay man only to discover he's been living in another closet his whole life: He has cerebral palsy, a diagnosis that has been kept from him since birth. (His parents always told him he just had "tight tendons" and left it at that.)



July 14: **Everything We Never Had** by Randy Ribay

Randy Ribay tells the story of a Filipino family over four generations of men: a newly immigrated farmer in California in the 1930s, his son enduring racism at school in the '60s, his grandson who's curious about his family history in the '80s, and finally, his great-grandson enduring the Covid pandemic in 2020. This National Book Award-longlisted novel might be classified as YA, but its portrayal of living, breathing immigrant experience—and how it evolves through decades—resonates at any age.



August 11: **Behind You is the Sea** by Susan Muaddi Darraj

This gorgeous debut, an intergenerational novel-in-stories following three Palestinian-American families in Baltimore, navigates a tricky balance beam: It's a zoomed-in family drama that simultaneously captures wide-lens truths about cultural differences; the weight of history; and the myriad manifestations of love.