March 17—My Name is Red
(Fiction 2001)
Orhan Pamuk

“... part murder mystery, part love story—set amid the perils of religious repression in sixteenth-century Istanbul ... [it is] at once a fantasy and a philosophical puzzle, a kaleidoscopic journey to the intersection of art, religion, love, sex, and power” (book jacket).

April 21—Walden
(nonfiction 1854)
Henry David Thoreau

A classic of American Literature which opens with “When I wrote the following pages, ...I lived alone, in the woods, a mile from any neighbor, in a house which I had built myself, on the shore of Walden Pond, in Concord, Massachusetts, and earned my living by the labor of my hands only.”

May 19
Selection meeting for 2020-2021 discussions

September 17—Becoming
(nonfiction 2018)
Michelle Obama

This book “offers a sometimes surprisingly intimate look at the life of the former first lady ... beginning with her childhood years and ending with reflections on the current administration, Becoming covers Obama’s transformation from a young overachiever on the South Side of Chicago to one of the most formidable political figures in recent history” (The Atlantic, November 13, 2018).

**An optional additional read for September:

Dreams From My Father
(nonfiction 2004)
Barack Obama
October 15—*Free Man of Color*
(fiction 1997)
Barbara Hambly

Set in 1833 New Orleans, “mystery and history combine in a lush and haunting novel of a city steeped in decadent pleasures… and of a man, proud and defiant, caught in a terrifying web of murder and betrayal” (book jacket).

*Booklist* calls it “a richly detailed telling portrait of an intricately structured racial hierarchy.”

November 19—*Walter Harper: Alaska Native Son*
(nonfiction 2017)
Mary F. Ehrlander

“… illuminates the life of the remarkable Irish-Athabascan man who was the first person to summit Denali (1913) … Walter’s strong Athabascan identity allowed him to remain grounded in his birth culture as his Western education expanded and he became a leader and a bridge between Alaska Native peoples and Westerners in the Alaska Territory” (book jacket).

January 21—*Smilla’s Sense of Snow*
(fiction 1993)
Peter Hoeg

“[Smilla] thinks more highly of snow and ice than she does of love. She lives in a world of numbers, science, and memories—a dark, exotic stranger in a strange land. And now Smilla Jaspersen is convinced she has uncovered a shattering crime…” (book jacket).

Written by a celebrated Danish writer, this was an *Edgar Award Best Novel* nominee for 1994 and was winner of the *Dilys Award* that same year, an award of the *Independent Mystery Booksellers Association* granted between 1992 and 2014.

February 18—*Brief Answers to the Big Questions*
(nonfiction 2018)
Stephen Hawking

“Will humanity survive? Should we colonize space? Does God exist? These are just a few of the questions Hawking addresses in this wide-ranging, passionately argued final book from one of the greatest minds in history” (book jacket). —This is food for a lively discussion.

**December — No meeting**