



## UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION - MIDPENINSULA

A member chapter of the UNA-USA

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### UNA Midpeninsula Book Club Schedule

Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:30 – 9pm, UNA Midpeninsula hosts a Book Club  
*focused on United Nations issues and related topics*

**July 20, 2010: *One Minute to Midnight (Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War)* by Michael Dobbs**

Veteran Washington Post reporter Michael Dobbs has pored over previously untapped American, Soviet, and Cuban sources to produce the most authoritative book yet on the Cuban missile crisis. In his hour-by-hour chronicle of those near-fatal days, Dobbs reveals some startling new incidents that illustrate how close we came to Armageddon. Here, for the first time, are gripping accounts of Khrushchev's plan to destroy the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo; the accidental overflight of the Soviet Union by an American spy plane; the movement of Soviet nuclear warheads around Cuba during the tensest days of the crisis; the activities of CIA agents inside Cuba; and the crash landing of an American F-106 jet with a live nuclear weapon on board. Dobbs takes us inside the White House and the Kremlin as Kennedy and Khrushchev—rational, intelligent men separated by an ocean of ideological suspicion—agonize over the possibility of war. **Summary from publisher's website:** [www.randomhouse.com](http://www.randomhouse.com)

**August 17, 2010: *The Land Between Two Rivers (A Novel of Ancient Babylon)* by Jo Ford**

When the young girl, Nitocris, leaves her village to live in the Babylon harem of King Nebuchadnezzar, she enters a Palace life filled with concubines and courtiers, princes vying for the throne, and scribes serving warring gods. Although a favorite of the King, Nitocris finds harem life confining. By law, she is to become a queen, but a shocking event changes that. When she proposes the building of a garden mountain, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the King approves the project. The challenges of building a mountain in the desert and watering its grandiose gardens bring the temptations of forbidden love to three couples who test the boundaries set by tradition, the king and religion. The oracular priestess and the royal Overseer try to maneuver skillfully through the perils of Palace treachery as the improbable gardens begin to rise above the converging Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Jo Ford is a professor emeritus, retired from teaching English at Mission College in Santa Clara, California and lives in Sunnyvale, California. **Summary from publisher's website:** [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com)

**September 21, 2010: *Prisoner of the State: The Secret Journal of Premier Zhao Ziyang* – By Zhao Ziyang – Editor: Adi Ignatius Translated and Edited: Bao Pu and Renee Chiang**

*Prisoner of the State* is the story of Premier Zhao Ziyang, the man who brought liberal change to China and who was dethroned at the height of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 for trying to stop the massacre. Zhao spent the last years of his life under house arrest. An occasional detail about his life would slip out, but scholars and citizens lamented that Zhao never had his final say. But Zhao did produce a memoir, secretly recording on audio tapes the real story of what happened during modern China's most critical moments. He provides intimate details about the Tiananmen crackdown, describes the ploys and double crosses used by China's leaders, and exhorts China to adopt democracy in order to achieve long-term stability. The China that Zhao portrays is not some long-lost dynasty. It is today's China, where its leaders accept economic freedom but resist political change. Zhao might have steered China's political system toward openness and tolerance had he survived. **Summary from publisher's website:** [www.simonandschuster.com](http://www.simonandschuster.com)

**Read the books and join the discussion!**

**Meeting location:**

1945 Mount Vernon Court #15, Mountain View, phone: 650.968.1174

**Questions:**

Call UNA Store: 650.326.3170 or e-mail: [unamidpeninsula@yahoo.com](mailto:unamidpeninsula@yahoo.com)