



# VOICE



Celebrating diversity, promoting unity

## Feminist Film Club's March Speaker Series

By Joelle Leopold



To celebrate Women's History Month, the Feminist Film Club is having a guest speaker series. The FFC was created to commemorate and support women in the arts. For every Thursday in the month of March, we will be speaking with influential women in the arts:

On March 3rd, Linda Gottlieb will be coming to PPAS! Linda Gottlieb was one of the leading producers on the 1987 film, *Dirty Dancing*. The FFC

spent the last two weeks before February break watching *Dirty Dancing* so this will be extremely exciting! Gottlieb has been nominated for five Daytime Emmys and has won three of them. It will be amazing to be able to converse with a woman in the film industry.

On March 10th, Manuela Agudelo will be joining us! Manuela Agudelo is a Colombian dancer from New York City who tells her ancestors' stories through movement. She founded Kaleidoscope, an art collective that merges arts with community and activism, in Queens.

On March 17th, Ellin Bernstein will be speaking. Ellin Bernstein is Mollie Grodsky's grandmother, who is a member of the Feminist Film Club. Ms. Bernstein was the first person in Mollie's family to go to college back in the 1950's. Ellin Bernstein created *Call Your Grandmother*, a podcast about being a Jewish grandmother. Listen to *Call Your Grandmother* on Spotify to prepare questions and comments.

Finally, on March 23rd we will be having a discussion with Maia Ermansons. A former PPAS student, Ermansons gained recognition when she revealed her experience with sexual harassment in the arts at age twenty one. At age eleven, Maia Ermansons met playwright Israel Horovitz, who she saw as a grandfather figure for years. However, at twenty one, Maia Ermansons posted on Facebook and Twitter explaining about how Horovitz "pulled me onto his lap and licked my lips and tried sticking his tongue in my mouth several times." Maia Ermansons is a brave woman, and it will be an absolute honor to speak to her.

We are excited to chat with these impactful women. We hope to inspire young artists at PPAS, so if anyone is interested in speaking to any of these women, come to Ms. Mussman's room (410) during the high school lunch period. Happy Women's History Month!

## Twenty-five, Twenty-one: Netflix's Latest Heart Fluttering Series

By Emma Tom



In its pursuit to monopolize the video-streaming industry, Netflix has been endorsing a fan favorite genre: K-dramas. With popular releases such as *Squid Games* and *All of Us Are Dead* capturing spots on the Top 10 billboard, K-dramas have been

expanding to wider audiences as a staple pastime. If you find yourself in dire need of a series to binge watch, I have the perfect recommendation for you.

A tender coming-of-age show, relatively niche for Netflix consumers who are not avid fans of K-dramas, *Twenty Five, Twenty One* has left audiences craving for more. Set in 1998, South Korea, during the economic crisis that left many businesses bankrupt, the premise surrounds 18-year old Na Heedo who is aspiring to become a professional fencer. The deuteragonist, Baek Yijin, is the 22-year old son of a former conglomerate businessman who was a victim of the economic catastrophe. Fans of romantic comedies and bittersweet endings will be enraptured by the chemistry between the main characters and nostalgic lens of the cinematography. Motifs about deferred dreams and how the times can alter your life at any moment resonate with many of us who grapple with the anxiety of our unknown futures.

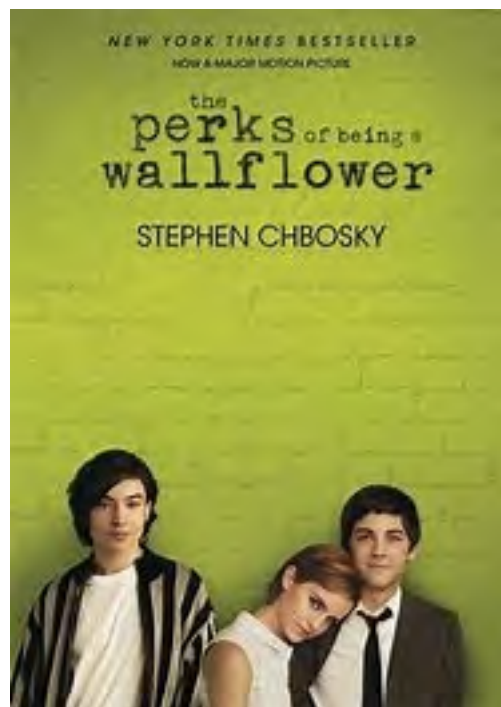
If you adore an intimately drawn out slowburn along with whimsical sequences, *Twenty Five, Twenty One* may be just what you are looking for. Honestly if you want to live vicariously through the cavity-inducing sweetness of a classic “first love” trope, no one is judging you. Prepare your tissues and brace yourself for the attachment issues you might encounter, *Twenty Five, Twenty One* is a show you will never want to put down.



## The Perks of Being a Wallflower: Why the Book is so Important

By Tanya Jaffe

Stephen Chbosky first published *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* in 1999. The book was written as an epistolary novel, following the life of a 16-year-old introverted boy named Charlie, as he goes through his first year of high school. It garnered mixed reviews for its graphic details, becoming one of the most challenged books of the decade. The book resonates with many teenagers for its raw and realistic portrayal of adolescence. Chbosky decides to depict many of his characters as innocent, effectively communicating people who sometimes don't understand or deserve the challenges they are going through. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is banned in some schools for many reasons, one of them being its ending. Throughout the novel, Charlie describes the guilt he feels towards his aunt Helen's death, who died in a car accident when she was driving to his house to give him a birthday present. After taking LSD and having suicidal ideations on the couch in front of his television, he is found outside in the snow completely naked. He also describes having gone to a psych ward before and not wanting to go back. At the end of the book, both readers and Charlie realize that all of this behavior stems from his aunt's sexual abuse towards him as a child.



By not shying away from important issues, Chbosky acknowledges that teenagers do in fact face these challenges. Teenagers read the book and feel a sense of understanding from someone who can relate to them. That was all Charlie really wanted: for someone to listen to him.



Stephen Chbosky's works may be challenged by parents for being too graphic. However his intention was not to spark controversy, but to illustrate real problems that many people may face at a very young age. Books for teenagers should not be an idolization of what their life "should" be—because that is simply unrealistic. Rather than pushing feelings of sadness and depression down, Charlie finally gets help by acknowledging his trauma.

# Biden Nominates Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court

By Ellis Rubin



In January, Justice Stephen Breyer announced his retirement, paving the way for President Biden to fulfill his 2020 campaign promise of elevating a Black woman to the Supreme Court. Exactly two years after he made that promise, Biden announced last month that he would nominate

D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to fill Breyer’s seat.

Notably, Jackson had already worked at the Supreme Court as a law clerk to Breyer during the Court’s 1999-2000 term. A few years after that clerkship, she built an extensive resume in criminal law, practicing as a federal public defender before serving as vice chair of the United States Sentencing Commission. In 2012, President Obama nominated Jackson to be a Federal District Court judge for the District of Columbia. In that position, she established a liberal reputation through her rulings against the Trump administration. Most famously, in 2019, Jackson explained that “presidents are not kings” in a decision negating President Trump’s order that White House Counsel Donald McGahn not comply with a subpoena.

When Biden tapped Jackson for her current position last year, three Republican senators voted to confirm her, reflecting bipartisan support. But Republican opposition to Jackson broke out as soon as her nomination to the highest court was announced. Lindsay Graham (R-SC), who had previously voted for Jackson, tweeted that her nomination, “[meant] the radical Left has won President Biden



over yet again.”

The Republican National Committee released bullet points urging readers to “meet Ketanji Brown Jackson.” These included her and her husband’s donations to Democratic campaigns, a case where she represented terrorists detained at Guantanamo Bay, and her membership with an exclusive Washington D.C. social club. Another bullet point suggested that Jackson, a Harvard Law School alumna, should not be allowed to rule in an upcoming affirmative action case involving the university.

Biden is known to have interviewed at least two other candidates for the open spot: California Supreme Court Justice Leandra Kruger and South Carolina Federal District Court Judge J. Michelle Childs. Longtime Biden ally and House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC 6th District) had publicly backed Childs, claiming that her public law school education would more accurately represent his constituents than a nominee with an Ivy League law degree. In contrast, Jackson or Kruger (Yale Law School) would join seven Justices with Harvard or Yale law degrees.

In taking the seat of the 83 year-old Breyer, the 51 year-old Jackson would replace the Court’s oldest member with its youngest. Fearing a repeat of a conservative justice appointment, after the death of liberal stalwart Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, progressive groups had been pressuring Breyer to retire since Biden took office with a Democratic-controlled Senate.

Although Jackson’s nomination is historic, her confirmation would change little about the ideological composition of the Court. As Jackson would be replacing Breyer, a fellow liberal, the Court’s 6-3 conservative majority would stay intact. That dominance is certain to influence the Court’s upcoming decisions on gun rights (*New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc., v. Bruen*), religious liberty (*Carson v. Makin*), abortion (*Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*), and a plethora of politically charged issues that the Court will deal with in its upcoming terms.



However, Jackson would still be able to immediately exert influence. The Court often does not vote strictly along ideological lines, and Jackson could shape majority rulings for which she votes. Additionally, she would help decide which cases the Court takes up. For now, though, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will be focused on meeting with senators and preparing for bruising confirmation hearings as she pursues the title of “Justice.”

## October

By Anya Jiménez

I was halfway between asleep and undone  
when I tasted October,  
and my chest started to ache.  
Tonight, I will wear your sweater  
and dance myself to bed.  
And the empty cups around my room won't mind.  
They refill, and spill over  
until I float to the very top of the room.

I kiss the ceiling goodnight,  
October as my life raft.

Photos by Anya Jiménez

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**Call for Contributors!  
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Political Junkies!**

If you would like to contribute an article, a work of art, a story—please contact  
theppasvoice@ppasshare.org

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Crossword by Anya Jiménez

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**Complete the crossword puzzle with words referenced in our articles for a chance to be a judge in the PPAS teacher bake off!**

1	2	3		4				5		6	7	8		9	10			11
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**ACROSS**

- 1 Standardized test.
- 5 Time Warner \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 Worker who parks your car.
- 12 Abbreviation for dance moves.
- 14 You may see this inscribed on a tombstone.
- 15 Alternative name for an electrovalent bond.
- 17 First name of Turner and Fey.
- 18 Popular K-pop boy band.
- 19 \_\_\_ Yaeger, the fictional anime character.
- 20 “\_\_\_, a long long way to run.”
- 21 “You’re telling me a shrimp fried this \_\_\_?”
- 22 HBO Max comedy, White \_\_\_\_\_.
- 24 Sodium.
- 25 McDonald’s limited edition St. Patrick’s Day themed drink.
- 27 Figure of Greek mythology who girlbossed too close to the sun.
- 29 Twelve months.
- 30 Plucked string instrument invented in medieval India.
- 31 United States intelligence agency in the Department of Defense.
- 32 The organ of sight.
- 33 Body of interstellar clouds.
- 34 The practice version of 1 Down.

**DOWN**

- 1 Biology, chemistry, forensics, etc.
- 2 “Now” in Spanish.
- 3 Might come after “ring” or “text.”
- 4 Slang for chest muscles.
- 6 Building material (plural).
- 7 Fine \_\_\_, the Harry Styles album.
- 8 United States government agency that protects the environment.
- 10 Possible future profession of a Drama or MT major.
- 11 Not that, but \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13 Washing machine cycle.
- 16 Multi-arts performance venue located in Downtown Brooklyn.
- 17 \_\_\_ Tac.
- 18 Everyone’s favorite mall cop.
- 20 Price of transit admission.
- 21 Rock and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 23 Beatles’ song “Back in the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Solo.
- 27 Possessive form of a commonly used pronoun.
- 28 LA-based talent agency.
- 29 Subject and star of Netflix docuseries “jeen-yuhs.”

**Submit a picture of the completed crossword to the google form in our linktree on our Instagram: @ppasvoice!**