



# April Book Club

**Open to everyone!** Reservations for Book Club may be made with Member Services at (760) 423-1512 or e-mail [reception@eldoradoecc.org](mailto:reception@eldoradoecc.org).  
Location: The Grille Patio

## APRIL 12, 2021 | 4:00 P.M.

### The World's Fastest Man

*The Extraordinary Life of Cyclist Major Taylor, America's First Black Sports Hero*  
by Michael Kranish

In the tradition of *The Boys in the Boat* and *Seabiscuit*, a fascinating portrait of a groundbreaking but forgotten figure—the remarkable Major Taylor, the black man who broke racial barriers by becoming the world's fastest and most famous bicyclist at the height of the Jim Crow era.

In the 1890s, the nation's promise of equality had failed spectacularly. While slavery had ended with the Civil War, the Jim Crow laws still separated blacks from whites, and the excesses of the Gilded Age created an elite upper class. Amidst this world arrived Major Taylor, a young black man who wanted to compete in the nation's most popular and mostly white man's sport, cycling. Birdie Munger, a white cyclist who once was the world's fastest man, declared that he could help turn the young black athlete into a champion.

Twelve years before boxer Jack Johnson and fifty years before baseball player Jackie Robinson, Taylor faced racism at nearly every turn—especially by whites who feared he would disprove their stereotypes of blacks. In *The World's Fastest Man*, years in the writing, investigative journalist Michael Kranish reveals new information about Major Taylor based on a rare interview with his daughter and other never-before-uncovered details from Taylor's life. Kranish shows how Taylor indeed became a world champion, traveled the world, was the toast of Paris, and was one of the most chronicled black men of his day.

