

GFWC of Massachusetts

ESO Book List

October 2017

AMERICAN HISTORY

1776, David McCullough, 400pp. (local – author). Focusing on a year rather than an individual: a momentous 12 months in the fight for independence. How did a group of ragtag farmers defeat the world's greatest empire? As McCullough vividly shows, they did it with a great deal of suffering, determination, ingenuity

A Is for American: Letters and Other Characters in the Newly United States Jill LePore, 256pp. (local – author) Historian LePore explores the significant and unsettling ways language was used to define national character and boundaries in the early republic. Focusing on 7 men and their complex underlying stories: Noah Webster, Samuel F.B. Morse, William Thornton, Sequoyah, Thomas Gallaudet, Abd al-Rahman Ibrahima and Alexander Bell, Lepore analyzes how they devised alphabets, syllabaries, codes and signs.

Adams vs. Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, John Ferling, 304pp. In 1800 the nation was struggling amidst an array of threats from foreign governments and a host of constitutional struggles. Against this backdrop, President John Adams, an elite, strong-willed Federalist, set to square off against his vice president, Thomas Jefferson, a populist, publican. The campaign was brutal. Republicans assailed the Federalists as scare-mongers. Federalists attacked Republicans as godless

American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation, Jon Meacham, 416pp. His book will serve as a launching pad for continued debate on the place of religion in American society, in particular, in government, law, and politics. It certainly won't end the debate, but it has the potential to make it more intelligent. The writing is tight, creative, and imaginative.

American Senate, The: An Insider Story, Neil MacNeil/Richard Baker, 472pp. In this groundbreaking work, a distinguished journalist and an eminent historian provide an insider's history of the United States Senate. They explore the Senate's historical evolution with one eye on persistent structural pressures and the other on recent transformation.

At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68, Taylor Branch, 1056pp. The engrossing final installment of Branch's three-volume biography of Martin Luther King Jr. maintains the high standards set in the previous volumes (Parting the Waters and Pillar of Fire). The series is both a biography of Martin Luther King Jr. and a history of his age.

Best Year of Their Lives, The: Kennedy, Johnson & Nixon in 1948, Lance Morrow, 312pp. Time essayist Morrow does an excellent job of showcasing three future presidents as young congressmen standing at the threshold of power.

Brutal Journey: The Epic Story of the First Crossing of North America, Paul Schneider, 384pp. (local – author) In 1528, the Spanish conquistador Pánfilo de Narváez marched an army of 300 men north from Tampa Bay in search of great cities to conquer and gold to amass. Eight years later and 2,000 miles away, four survivors walked out of the hills on the western coast of Mexico.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Dee Brown 482pp. this nonfiction account about the systematic annihilation of American Indian tribes across the western frontier focuses on the betrayals, battles, and massacres suffered by American Indians between 1860 and 1890. He tells of the renowned chiefs—from Geronimo to Red Cloud, Sitting Bull to Crazy Horse—who struggled to combat the destruction of their people and culture.

Fifties, The, David Halberstam, 654pp. Joe McCarthy. Marilyn Monroe. The H-bomb. *Ozzie and Harriet*. Elvis. Civil rights. It's undeniable: The fifties were a defining decade for America, complete with sweeping cultural change and political upheaval. This decade is also the focus of David Halberstam's most recent triumph.

Girl Who Wrote in Silk, The, Kelli Estes, 399pp. Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core — and force her to make an impossible choice

Great and Noble Scheme, A: The Tragic Story of the Expulsion of the French Acadians..., John Mack Faragher, 544pp. The story of how the French Acadians were run out of their Nova Scotia homes—a story known to most from Longfellow's *Evangeline*. Hundreds died on their voyages; only small, scattered communities, like the Cajuns of Louisiana, survived into the modern era.

Guest of Honor: Booker T. Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, and the White House Dinner that Shocked a Nation, Deborah Davis, 322pp. In this revealing social history, one remarkable White House dinner becomes a lens through which to examine race, politics, and the lives and legacies of two of America's most iconic figures.

House of War, James Carroll, 672pp. (local – author), In this "biography" of the Pentagon, he creates a fugue like history of American military power from Hiroshima to Iraq. Carroll is careful to tell this story with unwavering truthfulness, but Carroll has an obvious affection for the place and for the military as an institution. His style flows and carries you along effortlessly.

Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq, Stephen Kinzer, 400pp. Long before Iraq, U.S. presidents, spies, corporate types had honed the art of deposing foreign governments. America's century of regime changing began not in Iraq but Hawaii. Hawaii's white minority -- in cahoots with the U.S. Navy, the White House and Washington's local representative --conspired to remove Queen Liliuokalani from her throne in 1893 as a step toward annexing the islands.

Portrait of My Father, George W. Bush, A 294pp. George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, has authored a personal biography of his father, George H. W. Bush, the 41st President.

Profiles in Courage, John F. Kennedy, 272pp (local – author), Kennedy obviously admired the men profiled in this book, not for their great successes but for the personal price they all paid as a result of choosing to do what they felt was right. He manages to show us the human, less than perfect, side of each while convincing us of their moral strength. Each chapter leaves you wanting to know more about these men, who helped to shape American history.

Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution, Simon Schama, 496pp. In the Revolutionary War, the British promised freedom to slaves who managed to escape and reach British controlled territory. Somewhere between eighty and a hundred thousand did so. Unfortunately, they had picked the losing side. It is a well written tale of a side of American history that has been generally ignored.

Thomas Jefferson and The Tripoli Pirates, Brian Kilmeade, 251pp. This is the little-known story of how a newly independent nation was challenged by four Muslim powers and what happened when America's third president decided to stand up to intimidation.

Worst Hard Time, The: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl, Timothy Egan, 320pp. How America's great, grassy plains turned to dust, like a biblical plague. The plains weren't suited to farming, and plowing up the grass to plant wheat, along with a confluence of economic disaster-the Depression-and natural disaster-eight years of drought-resulted in an ecological and human catastrophe. Egan's interviews with survivors produce tales of courage and suffering.

ARTS AND CULTURE

American Gothic: A Life of America's Most Famous Painting, Stephen Biel and Grant Wood, 215pp. (local – author)

From its first appearance before the public in 1930, American Gothic has been regarded not as a work of art but as a work of rhetoric: a crafted, compelling statement about American life with which the viewer may or may not agree. Which aspect of that life and what kind of statement has fluctuated, as Biel's lively history shows. He does a terrific job laying out the various aesthetic and political preoccupations of the relentlessly self-regarding American century, and how they attached themselves to the work, which just turned 75.

And After the Fire, Lauren Belfer, 496pp. Two women, one European and one American, and the mysterious choral masterpiece by Johann Sebastian Bach that changes both their lives.

Boston Raphael, The: A Mysterious Painting, an Embattled Museum in an Era of Change & A Daughter's Search for the Truth, Belinda Rathbone, 224pp.

On the eve of its centennial celebrations in December, 1969, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts announced the acquisition of an unknown and uncatalogued painting attributed to Raphael. Simultaneously, experts on both sides of the Atlantic lined up to debate its very authenticity. Belinda Rathbone, daughter of the museum's director at that time, digs into the background of the affair as it was reported in the popular press, both questioning the inevitability of its outcome and revealing the power struggle within the museum that led to her father's resignation. She draws almost entirely from primary source material in various archival collections and over a hundred contemporary and personal interviews. The book is lavishly illustrated with full-color plates and many previously unpublished photographs.

Electric Pencil, The, Drawings from Inside State Hospital #3, James Edward Deeds Jr, 272pp. introduces readers to an astonishing record of one man's unwavering artistic vision in the face of the most inhospitable conditions.

Frida Kahlo at Home, Suzanne Barbezat, 178pp. *La Casa Azul*, now one of the most visited museums in Mexico City, was the artist's birthplace and the home where she grew up. Health troubles and a trolley accident in her youth forced her to spend long periods at home convalescing and she took up painting to pass the time, ultimately developing her own distinctive style which depicted themes drawn from her own life but also contained a strong political message.

Leonardo and The Last Supper, Ross King, 352pp. King explores how--amidst war and the political and religious turmoil around him, and beset by his own insecurities and frustrations--Leonardo created the masterpiece that would forever define him. King unveils dozens of stories that are embedded in the painting. As King explains, many of the myths that have grown up around *The Last Supper* are wrong, but its true story is ever more interesting. Bringing to life a fascinating period in European history.

Leonardo and the Mona Lisa Story: The History of a Painting Told in Pictures, Donald Sassoon, 352pp. Revered, imitated, exploited, stolen, recovered & hidden from the Nazis in WWII – Sassoon provides the context for each period of the painting's life, using pictures to tell the story from DaVinci's 1st draft to today.

Madame Tussaud: A Life in Wax, Kate Berridge, 370pp. tells this fascinating woman's complete story for the first time, drawing upon a wealth of sources, including Tussaud's memoirs and historical archives. It is a grand-scale success story, revealing how with sheer graft and grit a woman born in 1761 to an eighteen-year-old cook overcame extraordinary reversals of fortune to build the first and most enduring worldwide brand identified simply by reference to its founder's name: Madame Tussaud's.

Ongoing Moment The, Geoff Dyer, 285pp. Dyer's insight that photographers return to the same key subjects is not necessarily a new one. The great strength of this book lies not in the striking fact, but in what Dyer does with it...in his hands a detail willfully migrates toward a larger pattern. Dyer makes us want to look at photographs, and then look again, and from them to see the world anew.

Strapless, Deborah Davis, 320pp. The dress! The painting! The scandal! This book tells the story behind John Singer Sargent's infamous portrait of American expatriate and exotic beauty Amelie Gautreau. It provides fascinating details of Paris society in the late 19th century.

BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS

All Will Be Well: A Memoir, John McGahern, 304pp. regarded as one of Ireland's finest contemporary writers. His difficult childhood informs much of his work -- he seeks not to exploit his past but to understand it and to make it pertinent and meaningful to others.

Becoming Justice Blackmun: Harry Blackmun's Supreme Court Journey, Linda Greenhouse, 288pp. Blackmun embraced equal protection for women and came to reject capital punishment. A Nixon appointee, Blackmun became the Supreme Court's most liberal justice after the retirement of William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall. The personality that emerges is that of a self-effacing and scholarly judge, devoid of partisanship, willing to follow his ideas wherever they led him.

Boy Who Fell Out of the Sky, The, Ken Dornstein, 320pp. (local – author) Characterized by a surpassing drive to express truths as he investigates the emotional landscape of loss following the death of his older brother. on Pan Am Flight 103.

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance, Barack Obama, 480pp. Barack Obama, a black man raised by his white mother and grandparents, journeyed to Kenya to learn more about his African father after receiving news of his death. This memoir is not about his father's life, but about Obama's, and he brings that home with an intimate tone rather than that of his public speeches. Obama, the first black president of Harvard Law Review, wrote this memoir before his recent election to the US Senate.

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, Malala Yousafzai, 289pp. is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. *It will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.*

Mirror to America, John Hope Franklin, 416pp. 90 year old Franklin recounts the story of his rise from a childhood in Oklahoma to a career as a pioneering African American historian, whose work on the history of segregation formed part of the N.A.A.C.P.'s brief in Brown v. Board of Education. Descended from slaves, he studied at Harvard, taught at some of the nation's most prestigious universities, served on committees for FDR and Bill Clinton, published seminal histories of blacks in America and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in civil rights.

Mrs. Sherlock Holmes, The True Story of New York City's Greatest Female Detective and the 1917 Missing Girl Case That Captivated a Nation, Brad Ricca, 449pp. tells the true story of Mrs. Grace Humiston, a detective and lawyer who turned her back on New York society life to become one of the nation's greatest crime fighters during an era when women weren't even allowed to vote.

My Beloved World, Sonia Sotomayor, 353pp. The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench.

Rosa Parks, Douglas Brinkley, 256pp. Brinkley pinpoints the origins of Parks's strength and strong social commitment as he details the legalized segregation that tainted every aspect of Southern life.

Scrappy Little Nobody, Anna Kendrick, 304pp. A collection of humorous autobiographical essays. Enter Anna's world and follow her rise from "scrappy little nobody" to somebody who dazzles on the stage, the screen, and now the page.

Wisdom of Our Fathers, The: Lessons and Letters from Daughters & Sons, Tim Russert, 304pp. A collection of letters he received recounting relationships between fathers and their sons and daughters. Russert, host of NBC's Meet the Press, received 60,000 letters and e-mails from readers with their own touching memories of filial love. The contributors are decidedly ordinary Americans, many with recollections that highlight generational differences of a time when fathers were less than demonstrative.

BUSINESS / FINANCE / TECHNOLOGY

Art of Immersion, The: How the Digital Generation Is Remaking Hollywood, Madison Avenue, and the Way We Tell Stories, Frank Rose, 385pp. Not long ago we were spectators, passive consumers of mass media. Now, on YouTube and blogs and Facebook and Twitter, we *are* media. Frank Rose introduces us to the people who are reshaping media for a two-way world, changing how we play, how we communicate, and how we think.

Candyfreak A journey through the Chocolate Underbelly of America, Steve Dimond, 279pp. the candy industry ruled by huge conglomerates, where the little guys, the last remaining link to the glorious boom years of the candy bar in America, struggle to survive. Visiting the candy factories that produce the Twin Bing, the Idaho Spud, and a dozen other quirky bars, Almond finds that the world of candy is no longer a sweet haven. Today's precious few regional candy makers mount daily battles against corporate greed, paranoia, and that good old American compulsion: crushing the little guy.

Leadership Lessons From a UPS Driver Delivering a Culture of WE not ME, Ron Wallace, 161pp. Instead of writing a typical business memoir that celebrates the leader as celebrity, Wallace shares vivid stories that focus on the people he worked with, the challenges they overcame, and the simple principles and practices that make up the UPS way. The straightforward and easy-to-understand lessons provide a blueprint for an individual or company to build on past successes and adapt to future challenges. This is a must-read for anyone aspiring to become a great leader.

Losing the Signal: The Untold Story Behind the Extraordinary Rise and Spectacular Fall of BlackBerry, Jacquie McNish / Sean Silcoff, 288pp. In 2009, BlackBerry controlled half of the smartphone market. Today that number is one percent. What went so wrong? *Losing the Signal* is a riveting story of a company that toppled global giants before succumbing to the ruthlessly competitive forces of Silicon Valley. This is not a conventional tale of modern business failure by fraud and greed. The rise and fall of BlackBerry reveals the dangerous speed at which innovators race along the information superhighway.

Marcel's Letters, A Font and The Search for One Man's Fate, Carolyn Porter, 352pp. Marcel's Letters is the incredible story of Carolyn's increasingly desperate search to uncover the mystery of one man's fate during WWII, seeking answers across Germany, France, and the United States. Simultaneously, she continues to work on what would become the acclaimed P22 Marcel font, immortalizing the man and his letters that waited almost seventy years to be reunited with his family.

Spam Nation: The Inside Story of Organized Cybercrime- from global Epidemic to your Front Door, Brian Krebs, 256pp. Blending cutting-edge research, investigative reporting, and firsthand interviews, this terrifying true story reveals how we unwittingly invite these digital thieves into our lives. From unassuming computer programmers next door to digital mobsters like "Cosma". Krebs uncovers the shocking lengths to which these people will go to profit from our data and our wallets.

CONSERVATION / ECOLOGY

Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do, Wallace J. Nichols, 368pp. Combining cutting-edge neuroscience with compelling personal stories from top athletes, leading scientists, military veterans, and gifted artists, he shows how proximity to water can improve performance, increase calm, diminish anxiety, and increase professional success.

Dragon Behind the Glass, The, A True Story of Power, Obsession, and the World's most coveted Fish, Emily Voigt, 337pp. An intrepid journalist's quest to find a wild Asian arowana—the world's most expensive aquarium fish—takes her on a global tour in this “engaging tale of obsession and perseverance...and an enthralling look at the intersection of science, commercialism, and conservationism.

Lab Girl, Hope Jahren, 306pp. is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren's remarkable stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota with an uncompromising mother and a father who encouraged hours of play in his classroom's labs; about how she found a sanctuary in science, and learned to perform lab work done "with both the heart and the hands"; and about the inevitable disappointments, but also the triumphs and exhilarating discoveries, of scientific work.

Land on Fire, The New Reality of Wildfire in The West, Gary Ferguson, 213pp. Wildfire season is burning longer and hotter, affecting more and more people, especially in the west. It explores the fascinating science behind this phenomenon and the ongoing research to find a solution. This gripping narrative details how years of fire suppression and chronic drought have combined to make the situation so dire. Award-winning nature writer Ferguson brings to life the extraordinary efforts of those responsible for fighting wildfires, and deftly explains how nature reacts in the aftermath of flames. Dramatic photographs reveal the terror and beauty of fire, as well as the staggering effect it has on the landscape.

Wild Lives, Leading Conservationists on the Animals and the Planet they Love, Lori Robinson/Janie Clodosh, 218pp. Today we are faced with the staggering possibility that as many as 50 percent of species alive will become extinct within this century. While this is alarming, all hope is not lost; conservation experts across the globe are working tirelessly to preserve our planet for future generations.

CURRENT EVENTS, POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers , Kevin Flynn and Jim Dwyer, 384pp
A dramatic account of the survival efforts of thousands of people who were inside the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11 draws on hundreds of interviews as well as phone, e-mail, and radio transcripts, in an account that also raises questions about building safety and New York's emergency preparedness.

Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution, Stephen Breyer, 176pp. Breyer examines several areas of ongoing controversy before the high court: free speech and campaign finance, federalism, privacy, affirmative action and how much deference courts should show when reviewing actions by federal agencies. In each instance, he attempts either to justify the court's course in terms of the Constitution's democratic purpose or to critique the court for taking a more narrowly interpretive tack. The justice is more successful in some of these areas than in others

Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City, Jed Horne, 432pp. New insights into how a ferocious storm, governmental ineptitude and racial inequities permanently jeopardize one of the nation's cultural gems. Quickly moves past the melodrama of a striking disaster to the stories of individuals caught in the storm's hellish aftermath or mired in the government's hamstrung response.

Courtroom 302: A Year Behind the Scenes in an American Criminal Courthouse, Steve Bogira, 416pp. The horrific injustice of the flawed system cries out from almost every page, as honorable and intelligent, yet all too human court officers work diligently within it. The author provides the historical background and rationale for the plea bargaining, the unintended consequences of "drug courts" resulting in more arrests for criminals holding small amounts of drugs, and the pressures, political and administrative, that judges face.

Dispatches from the Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters, and Survival, Anderson Cooper, 224pp. Cooper tells us of how he went to the world's dangerous places: Bosnia, Somalia, Niger, Rwanda. His memoir talks about the year of 2005 and its events: the Tsunami, Niger's hunger crisis, Iraq, and Hurricane Katrina. On how it changed him profoundly. He gracefully interwove these stories with imagery and honest reflection about his personal journey and struggle to find happiness and meaning in life with so much loss

Guantanamo and the Abuse of Presidential Power, Joseph Margulies, 336pp. By one of the lawyers who fought - and won - the right for prisoners to have judicial review, this book will be of immense interest to liberals and conservatives alike. Traces arguments on both sides of the debate

Human Cargo: A Journey Among Refugees, Caroline Moorehead, 352pp. A landmark overview of the fate of refugees as millions of people all around the world are either searching for a better life or seeking asylum after surviving persecution. She finds that refugees who remain in the Third World—the majority— are preoccupied with the struggle for survival. Those who make it to Western countries face an equally daunting task, caught in a legal limbo between asylum and deportation, forbidden to work, grappling with a strange language, loneliness and a society that views them as alien interlopers

Sewing Circles of Herat, The: A Personal Voyage Through Afghanistan, Christina Lamb, 384pp. A vivid picture of Taliban rule and a broader sense of life devastated by two decades of war. Her moving account reveals the heroism of the Afghans, who not only survived but also resisted their Soviet occupiers

Survivor, The: Bill Clinton in the White House, John Harris, 448pp. The Survivor is the rare book with positive recommendations from both liberal historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. and Brit Hume of the Fox News Channel. Harris peppers the book with both fact and anecdote, moving swiftly from subject to subject. The Survivor shows Clinton's growth as a leader throughout the eight years of his presidency, and how his personal failings almost brought them to a close. Far from being a milquetoast summary of events, The Survivor is a gripping read set behind the scenes in the West Wing.

Truth Torture and the American Way, Jennifer Harbury, 240pp. Jennifer Harbury's investigation into torture began when her husband disappeared in Guatemala in 1992; she told the story of his torture and murder in Searching for Everardo. For over a decade since, Harbury has used her formidable skills to press for the U.S. government's disclosure of America's involvement in abuses in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.

Understanding Trump, Newt Gingrich, 354pp. Mr. Gingrich provides unique insight into how the new president's past experiences have shaped his life and style of governing. This book also includes Mr. Gingrich's thorough analysis of how President Trump thinks and makes decisions, as well as the president's philosophy, doctrine, and political agenda going forward.

EDUCATION

Explosive Child, The: A New Approach for Understanding and Parenting Easily Frustrated, Chronically Inflexible Children, Ross W. Greene, 307pp. provides a new conceptual framework for understanding their difficulties, based on research in the neurosciences. He explains why traditional parenting and treatment often don't work with these children, and he describes what to do instead.

Prize, The: Who is In Charge of America's schools, Dale Russakof, 272pp. is an absorbing portrait of a titanic struggle, indispensable for anyone who cares about the future of public education and the nation's children.

Why Don't Student's Like School, A Cognitive Scientist answers questions about how the mind works and what it means for the classroom, Daniel Willingham, 240pp. focuses his acclaimed research on the biological and cognitive basis of learning. His book will help teachers improve their practice by explaining how they and their students think and learn. It reveals-the importance of story, emotion, memory, context, and routine in building knowledge and creating lasting learning experiences.

LITERATURE: CLASSIC, POETRY, DRAMA, SHORT STORIES

Anne of Greene Gables, L.M. Montgomery, 336pp. In this beloved coming-of-age story, Lucy Maud Montgomery drew from her own experiences growing up in Canada during the nineteenth century to introduce generations of readers to one of literature's most original and inspiring characters.

Arrowsmith, Sinclair Lewis, 440pp. 80 years ago, Nobel Prize winning author, Sinclair Lewis, was writing about the ethical dilemmas of medical research and clinical trials, in this Pulitzer Prize winning novel. The issues confronting his young medical student still resound today. Should he go into practice or study pure science in order to understand how

life works? Should he take a big salary from a pharmaceutical company to support his research or maintain his autonomy from the snares of big business? Should he be a hero and provide the lifesaving treatment he developed to all without a sufficient amount of controlled experiments? The world has not changed!

Beowulf: A New Verse Translation, Seamus Heaney, 208pp. Nobel laureate Heaney presents a finely wrought, controversial (for having won a prize over a children's book) modern English version, one which retains the archaic strengths of its warrior world

Brave New World, Aldous Huxley, 121pp. It's an incredible and frightening book about the world of future. Children are not born by mothers now, they all are born from eggs at fertility centres. There are no families now. All people at state of embryos are divided into five castes from Alpha to Gamma. Every caste has their life mission. This story is about an extraordinary man Bernard Marx, who decided to visit one of the small places where no "civilization" or people have lived a thousand years ago.

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, The Simon Stephens, 112pp. Simon Stephens's adaptation of Mark Haddon's bestselling, award-winning novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* offers a richly theatrical exploration of this touching and bleakly humorous tale

Faithful and Virtuous Night, Louise Gluck, 81pp. tells a single story but the parts are mutable, the great sweep of its narrative mysterious and fateful, heartbreaking and charged with wonder.

Gulliver's Travels, Johathan Swift, 198pp. Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World. It is both a satire on human nature and a parody of the "traveler's' tales" literary subgenre. It is Swift's best known full-length work, and a classic of English literature

Hamilton: The Revolution, Lin Manuel Miranda, 288pp. gives readers an unprecedented view of both revolutions, from the only two writers able to provide it. Miranda, along with Jeremy McCarter, a cultural critic and theater artist who was involved in the project from its earliest stages. In addition, Miranda has written more than 200 funny, revealing footnotes for his award-winning libretto, the full text of which is published here.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child-Parts one and two: the Official playscript of the original West End Production, J.K. Rowling, 336pp. This definitive and final playscript updates the 'special rehearsal edition' with the conclusive and final dialogue from the play, as well as a conversation piece between director John Tiffany and writer Jack Thorne, who share stories and insights about reading playscripts.

Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits, Laila Lalami, 208pp. A linked series of 4 fictional profiles connected by a single thread: the desire to emigrate from Morocco to Spain, where there are jobs. Near the shores of Spain, the boat capsizes and the passengers are forced to swim for their lives and freedom. What follows is an exploration of pasts that led to this passage, and the futures that emerge from this voyage.

How Green Was My Valley, Richard Llewellyn, 512pp. 1939 classic about growing up in a Welsh coal-mining village. The Morgan family struggles with unionization, anti-Welsh prejudice, environmental devastation, and modernization breaking up families and bringing the allures of the "outside" world to the valley.

In Cold Blood, Truman Capote, 368pp. On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces. There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues. Capote reconstructs the murder and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers. In *Cold Blood* yields poignant insights into the nature of American violence.

Man for All Seasons, A, Robert Bolt, 192pp. Sure, you've seen the movie; but have you read the original? A spare and powerful play about Sir Thomas More, the Lord chancellor who refused to compromise his conscience and was executed by Henry VIII

Place, Jorie Graham, 96pp. explores the ways in which our imagination, intuition, and experience aid us in navigating a world moving towards its own annihilation and a political reality where the human person and its dignity are increasingly disposable.

Prince, The Nicolai Machiavelli, 178pp. A timeless explication of how government and politics really work. With just a little imagination, readers can discern parallels between a 16th-century principality and a modern presidency.

Reading, Writing, and Leaving Home: Life on the Page, Lynn Freed, 256 pp. Freed offers insights into her writing and her life in 11 clean, incisive essays that mix the personal with the instructional without going too deeply into either.

Secret Garden, The Frances Hodgson, 250pp. The orphaned Mary Lennox is sullen, ill tempered, and unloved when she's sent to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven. A man consumed by grief over the death of his wife, Archibald has allowed his sprawling estate on the moors to fall into grim disrepair. It's when Mary begins tending to her late aunt's mysterious garden—locked up and neglected for years—that she discovers its life-changing secrets and a flowering rejuvenation of the human spirit.

Snowflake/ Different Streets, Eileen Myles, 232pp. Two books meet as one in Myles' newest collection. In a world overflowing with technology and its mutant offspring, moments of human ecstasy and connection are as indelible as they are fleeting.

Soul of a Doctor, The Harvard Medical Students Face Life and Death, editors S.Poires, S. Jain, G. Harper, J. Groopman, 236pp. (local – authors) The moving stories of 44 doctors-in-training collected by two M.D.s (Pories and Harper) and one medical student (Jain), all at Harvard, are accounts written by medical students. Their tales convey lessons both emotional and medical, from learning how to communicate and empathize with those afflicted by illness to ways to ease suffering and loss.

Sweat, Lynn Nottage, 144pp. No stranger to dramas both heart-felt and heart-wrenching, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage has written one of her most exquisitely devastating tragedies to date. Set in one of the poorest cities in America, Reading, PA, a group of down-and-out factory workers struggle to keep their present lives in balance, tragically ignorant of the financial devastation looming in their futures.

Thousand Years of Good Prayers, A: Stories, Yiyun Li, 224pp. A beautifully executed debut collection of 10 stories explores the ravages of the Cultural Revolution on modern Chinese, both in China and America. She gets down to business quickly, sketching characters with swift, deft strokes, immediately setting them off on journeys that are as compelling as they are tragic.

Woman at the Washington Zoo, The: Writings on Politics, Family, and Fate, Marjorie Williams, 384pp. This posthumous collection presents a series of remarkably well-observed and intelligent profiles of the great and minor figures who have made D.C. for the past two decades. Williams, a longtime writer for the Washington Post and Vanity Fair, has a fine eye for telling details. Underlying each representation is Williams's ability to make her characters as complicated on the page as they are in real life. The last third of the book, which covers Williams's losing battle with cancer.

FICTION: GENERAL

Book Thief, The Marcus Zusak, 560pp. The narrator of The Book Thief, Death is as afraid of humans as humans are of him. Death meets the book thief, a 9-year-old girl named Liesel Meminger, when he comes to take her little brother, and she becomes an enduring force in his life, despite his efforts to resist her.

Brick Lane, Monica Ali, 432pp. Combines the scope of a social novel about the struggles of Islamic immigrants in pre- and post-9/11 England with the story of Nazneen, one of the more memorable heroines to come along in a long time.

Broken for You, Stephanie Kallos, 400pp. Elderly Margaret Hughes learns that she has a malignant brain tumor. She refuses treatment and takes a young tenant into her huge, lonely Seattle mansion for company. What she gets is Wanda

Schultz, a tough-as-nails stage manager. The two women slowly build an extraordinary friendship. - peopled by lovably imperfect and eccentric characters.

March, Geraldine Brooks, 304pp. (local – author), Imagines the Civil War experiences of Mr. March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* -novel drives home the intimate horrors and ironies of the Civil War and the difficulty of living honestly with the knowledge of human suffering.

Nest, The Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, 368pp. A warm, funny and acutely perceptive debut novel about four adult siblings and the fate of the shared inheritance that has shaped their choices and their lives.

Separation, A Katie Kitamura, 240pp. A searing, suspenseful story of intimacy and infidelity.

Shadow Land, Elizabeth Kostova, 497pp. is a tale of immense scope that delves into the horrors of a century and traverses the culture and landscape of this mysterious country. Suspenseful and beautifully written, it explores the power of stories, the pull of the past, and the hope and meaning that can sometimes be found in the aftermath of loss.

Space Between Us The, Thrity Umrigar, 336pp. Alternatively told through the eyes of Sera, a Parsi widow whose pregnant daughter and son-in-law share her elegant home, and Bhima, the elderly housekeeper who supports her orphaned granddaughter; two sympathetic characters whose bond goes far deeper than that of employer and employee. Through the triumphs and tragedies, Sera and Bhima always shared a bond that transcended class and race.

Suite Francaise, Irene Nemirovski, 416pp. This extraordinary work of fiction about the German occupation of France is embedded in a real story as gripping and complex as the invented one. Composed in 1941-42 by an accomplished writer who had published several well-received novels, *Suite Française*, her last work, was written under the tremendous pressure of a constant danger that was to catch up with her and kill her before she had finished.

Swimming Lessons, Claire Fuller, 356pp. Ingrid Coleman writes letters to her husband, Gil, about the truth of their marriage, but instead of giving them to him, she hides them in the thousands of books he has collected over the years, then she disappears from a Dorset beach. Flora, who has never believed her mother drowned, returns home to care for her father and to try to finally discover what happened to Ingrid.

Things that Happened before the Earthquake, Chiara Barzini, 322pp. Mere weeks after the 1992 riots in Los Angeles, Eugenia, a typical Italian teenager, is rudely yanked from her privileged Roman milieu by her filmmaker parents and transplanted to the strange world of the San Fernando Valley. She must navigate her new high school, complete with Cripss, Bloods and Persian gang members, and a car-based environment of 99-cent stores, fast-food and all-night raves. She forges friendships with Henry, who runs his mother's movie memorabilia store, and the bewitching Deva, who introduces her to the alternate cultural universe that is Topanga Canyon. And then the 1994 earthquake rocks the foundations not only of Eugenia's home but of the future she'd been imagining for herself.

Turtles All The Way Down, John Green, 298pp. In his long-awaited return, John Green, the acclaimed author *The Fault in Our Stars*, shares Aza's story with shattering, unflinching clarity in this brilliant novel of love, resilience, and the power of lifelong friendship.

With Love from the Inside, Angela Pisel, 320pp. poignant debut explores the complex relationship between a mother and a daughter, and their quest to discover the truth and whether or not love can prevail—even from behind bars.

FICTION: HISTORICAL

Alice Network, The, Kate Quinn, 528pp. two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania, Erik Larson, 450pp. it is a story that many of us think we know but don't. Full of glamour and suspense, *Dead Wake* brings to life a cast of evocative characters, from famed Boston

bookseller Charles Lauriat to pioneering female architect Theodate Pope to President Woodrow Wilson, a man lost to grief, dreading the widening war but also captivated by the prospect of new love.

Flight of the Sparrow, Amy Belding Brown, 354pp. Based on the compelling true narrative of Mary Rowlandson, *Flight of the Sparrow* is an evocative tale that transports the reader to a little-known time in early America and explores the real meanings of freedom, faith, and acceptance.

Forgotten Seamstress, The, Liz Trenow, 336pp. A shy girl with no family, Maria knows she's lucky to have landed in the sewing room of the royal household. Before World War I casts its shadow, she catches the eye of the Prince of Wales, her life takes a darker turn, and soon all she has left is a fantastical story about her time at Buckingham Palace. Decades later, Caroline Meadows discovers a beautiful quilt in her mother's attic. When she can't figure out the meaning of the message embroidered into its lining, she embarks on a quest to reveal its mystery, Caroline pieces together the secret history of the quilt, she comes closer and closer to the truth about Maria.

Georgia, Dawn Tripp, 337pp. A breathtaking work of the imagination, *Georgia* is the story of a passionate young woman, her search for love and artistic freedom, the sacrifices she will face, and the bold vision that will make her a legend.

Hamilton Affair, The, Elizabeth Cobbs, 408pp. Set against the dramatic backdrop of the American Revolution, and featuring a cast of legendary characters, The sweeping, tumultuous, true story of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler, from passionate and tender beginnings to his fateful duel on the banks of the Hudson River.

Kiss Carlo, Adriana Trigiani, 549pp. Told against the backdrop of some of Shakespeare's greatest comedies, this novel brims with romance as long buried secrets are revealed, mistaken identities are unmasked, scores are settled, broken hearts are mended and true love reigns. Trigiani's consummate storytelling skill and her trademark wit, along with a dazzling cast of characters will enthrall readers. Once again, the author has returned to her own family garden to create an unforgettable feast. *Kiss Carlo* is a jubilee, resplendent with hope, love, and the abiding power of *la famiglia*.

Memory of Violets, A , A Novel of London's Flower Sellers, Hazel Gaynor, 432pp. Step into the world of Victorian London, where the wealth and poverty exist side by side. This is the story of two long-lost sisters, whose lives take different paths, and the young woman who will be transformed by their experiences.

Midwife's Revolt, The, Jodi Daynard, 427pp. On a dark night in 1775, Lizzie Boylston is awakened by the sound of cannons. From a hill south of Boston, she watches as fires burn in Charlestown, in a battle that claimed her husband's life. Alone in a new town, Lizzie grieves privately but takes comfort in her friendship with Abigail Adams. Word spreads of Lizzie's extraordinary midwifery and healing skills. When two traveling patriots are poisoned, Lizzie suspects a political plot intended to harm Abigail and her family. Determined to uncover the truth, Lizzie becomes entangled in a conspiracy that could destroy her livelihood, her chance at finding love again but also lead to the downfall of a new nation.

Minds of Winter, Ed O'Loughlin 500pp., In a narrative that crosses time and space, O'Loughlin delves deep into the history of Franklin's expedition through the eyes of the explorers themselves, addressing questions that have intrigued historians and readers for centuries. What motivated these men to strike out on dangerous campaigns in search of the unknown? What was at stake for them, and for those they left behind? And when things went wrong--things that couldn't be shared--what would they do to protect themselves and their discoveries?

Stars are Fire ,The Anita Shreve, 257pp. an exquisitely suspenseful new novel about an extraordinary young woman tested by a catastrophic event and its devastating aftermath--based on the true story of the largest fire in Maine's history.

Swans of Fifth Avenue ,Melanie Benjamin, 341pp. Of all the glamorous stars of New York high society, none blazes brighter than Babe Paley. Enter Truman Capote. This diminutive golden-haired genius with a larger-than-life personality explodes onto the scene, setting Babe and her circle of Swans aflutter.

These is My Words, The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prime 1881- 1901, Nancy E. Turner, 402pp. A moving, exciting, and heartfelt American saga inspired by the author's own family memoirs, these words belong to Sarah Prine, a woman of spirit and fire who forges a full and remarkable existence in a harsh, unfamiliar frontier. Scrupulously recording her steps down the path Providence has set her upon—from child to determined young adult to loving mother—she shares the turbulent events, both joyous and tragic, that molded her, and recalls the enduring love with cavalry officer Captain Jack Elliot that gave her strength and purpose.

Under the Wide and Starry Sky, Nancy Horan, 498pp. tells the improbable love story of Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson and his tempestuous American wife, Fanny.

FICTION: MYSTERY / THRILLER

Among the Ruins, Ausma Zehanat Khan, 368pp. On leave from Canada's Community Policing department, Esa Khattak is traveling in Iran, reconnecting with his cultural heritage and seeking peace in the country's beautiful mosques and gardens. But Khattak's supposed break from work is cut short when he's approached by a Canadian government agent in Iran, asking him to look into the death of renowned Canadian-Iranian filmmaker Zahra Sobhani. Zahra was murdered at Iran's notorious Evin prison, where she'd been seeking the release of a well-known political prisoner. Khattak quickly finds himself embroiled in Iran's tumultuous politics and under surveillance by the regime, but when the trail leads back to Zahra's family in Canada, Khattak calls on his partner, Detective Rachel Getty, for help.

Before the Fall, Noah Hawley, 401pp. On a foggy summer night, eleven people—ten privileged, one down-on-his-luck painter—depart Martha's Vineyard on a private jet headed for New York. Sixteen minutes later, the unthinkable happens: the plane plunges into the ocean. The only survivors are the painter Scott Burroughs and a four-year-old boy, who is now the last remaining member of an immensely wealthy and powerful media mogul's family

Final Girls, Riley Sager, 350pp. Ten years ago, college student Quincy Carpenter went on vacation with five friends and came back alone, the only survivor of a massacre. In an instant, she became a member of a club known in the press as the Final Girls. Lisa, who lost nine sorority sisters to a college dropout's knife; Sam, who went up against the Sack Man during her shift at the Nightlight Inn. The three girls are all attempting to put their nightmares behind them. Now, Quincy is doing well, until Lisa, is found dead in her bathtub, wrists slit; and Sam, the second, appears on Quincy's doorstep. Sam seems intent on making Quincy relive the past. Why is Sam seeking her out? When new details about Lisa's death come to light, Quincy's life becomes a race against time as she tries to remember what happened.

Fool me Once, Harlan Coben, 392pp. Former special ops pilot Maya, home from war, sees an unthinkable image on her nanny cam: her two-year-old daughter playing with Maya's husband, Joe—who was brutally murdered two weeks earlier. Can you believe everything you see with your own eyes, even when you desperately want to? To find the answer, Maya must finally come to terms with deep secrets and deceit in her own past before she can face the truth about her husband—and herself.

Great Reckoning, A, Louise Penny, 400pp. an intricate old map is found stuffed into the walls of the bistro in Three Pines. The closer the villagers look, the stranger it becomes. Given to Armand Gamache as a gift the map eventually leads him to shattering secrets. He finds four young cadets and a dead professor. With the body, a copy of the map. Everywhere Gamache turns, he sees Amelia Choquet, one of the cadets. Tattooed, pierce, guarded and angry. She's a protégée of the murdered professor. The focus of the investigation soon turns to Gamache himself, his mysterious relationship with Amelia, and his possible involvement in the crime. The frantic search for answers takes the investigators back to Three Pines and a stained-glass window with its own horrific secrets.

How To Murder Your Contractor, Neal Sanders, 246pp. is the story of a battle of wits between Anne and Joey. Joey's goal is simple: stretch the job out and keep inventing 'up-charges'. But Joey hasn't planned on Anne's determination or Matt's legal prowess. Neither has he taken into account Anne's unusual circle of friends. They bring an arsenal of ideas – many of them deadly – to the task of either getting Joey to do his job right, or to get Joey out of the way once and for all.

Iron House, John Hart, 433pp. At the Iron Mountain Home for Boys, there was nothing but time. Time to burn and time to kill, time for two young orphans to learn that life isn't won without a fight. Julian survives only because his older brother, Michael, is fearless and fiercely protective. When tensions boil over and a boy is brutally killed, there is only one sacrifice left for Michael to make: He flees the orphanage and takes the blame with him.,

One Perfect Lie, Lisa Scottoline, 366pp. On paper, Chris Brennan looks perfect. But everything about Chris Brennan is a lie. There are issues with the teammates and their families. At the center of all of them is Chris Brennan. Why is he there? What does he want? And what is he willing to do to get it

Red Hunter, The Lisa Unger, 368pp. What is the difference between justice and revenge? Claudia seeking a fresh start with a home restoration and Zoey whose nightmare took place in the old house. Strangers to each other, and walking very different paths in the wake of trauma, these two women are on a collision course-- As Zoey seeks justice, and Claudia seeks peace, both will confront the terrifying monsters at the door.

Since We Fell, Dennis Lehane, 432pp. By turns this book is heart- breaking, suspenseful, romantic, and sophisticated, *it* is a novel of profound psychological insight and tension. Dennis Lehane at his very best.

Sleepwalker, The, Chris Bohjalian, 305pp. When Annalee Ahlberg goes missing, her children fear the worst. Annalee is a sleepwalker whose affliction manifests in ways both bizarre and devastating. The morning of Annalee's disappearance, a search party combs the nearby woods. Lianna her daughter is questioned by a young detective. When the police discover a small swatch of fabric, a nightshirt, ripped and hanging from a tree branch, it seems certain Annalee is dead, but Gavin Rikert, the detective, continues to call, continues to stop by the Ahlbergs' home. As Lianna peels back the layers of mystery surrounding Annalee's disappearance, she finds herself drawn to Gavin, but she must ask herself: Why does the detective know so much about her mother? Why did Annalee leave her bed only when her father was away? And if she really died while sleepwalking, where was the body?

FICTION: NON

Council of Dads, The, Bruce Feiler, 260pp. is Feiler's personal story of illness and recovery, a book that touches on life and death, love and fatherhood, and offers inspiration for us all.

Dead Mountain: The Untold True Story of the Dyatlov Pass Incident, Donnie Eichar 290pp., is a gripping work of literary nonfiction delves into the mystery through unprecedented access to the hikers' own journals and photographs, rarely seen government records, dozens of interviews, and the author's retracing of the hikers' fateful journey in the Russian winter.

Fatal Decision: Edith Cavell WWI Nurse, Terri Arthur, 504pp. Based on historical fact, this captivating novel tells the story of the legendary Edith Cavell, a British nurse whose duties as a healer clashed with the demands of a ruthless occupying regime during World War I. At the request of a surgeon, Edith went from to Brussels to create Belgium's first school of nursing. At the height of her success, the German army marched into neutral Belgium and took over her hospital and school. Edith joined the Resistance movement. Her life was then plunged into the dangerous and clandestine world of the Belgian Underground, where she became a key link in the rescuing of Allied soldiers separated from their units. For nine months, this quiet, religious nurse went about saving over a thousand soldiers under the very noses of the German command

Last Castle, The, Epic Story of Love, Loss and American Royalty, Denise Kiernan,401pp. The story of Biltmore spans World Wars, the Jazz Age, the Depression, and generations of the famous Vanderbilt family, and features a captivating cast of real-life characters including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Wolfe, Teddy Roosevelt, John Singer Sargent, James Whistler, Henry James, and Edith Wharton. *The Last Castle* is the unique American story of how the largest house in America flourished, faltered, and ultimately endured to this day

Party of the Century, The Fabulous Story of Truman Capote and His Black and White Ball, Deborah Davis, 320pp. In 1966, everyone who was anyone wanted an invitation to Truman Capote's "Black and White Dance" in New York, and

guests included Frank Sinatra, Norman Mailer, C. Z. Guest, Kennedys, Rockefellers, and more. Lavishly illustrated with photographs and drawings of the guests, this portrait of revelry at the height of the swirling, swinging sixties is a must for anyone interested in American popular culture and the lifestyles of the rich, famous, and talented.

Short Bus, The: A Journey Beyond Normal, Jonathan Mooney 292pp. , young man once called unteachable journeys across America to investigate the lives of those, like himself, who are forced to create new ways of living in order to survive

Taking My Life Back: My Story of Faith, Determination, and Surviving the Boston Marathon Bombing, Rebekah Gregory, and Anthony Flacco, 241. Despite the extraordinary trauma she underwent and the nightmares she continues to have, Rebekah sees it as just another part of her personal journey, a journey that has led her through abuse, mistakes, and pain and into the arms of Jesus. This stirring memoir tells the story of her recovery, including her triumphant return to Boston two years later to run part of the race, and explores the peace we experience when we learn to trust God with every part of our lives--the good, the bad, and even the terrifying.

Trapped Under the Sea, Neil Swidey, 434pp. A quarter-century ago, Boston had the dirtiest harbor in America. Fisheries collapsed, wildlife fled, and locals referred to floating tampon applicators as "beach whistles." In the 1990s, work began on a state-of-the-art treatment plant and a 10-mile-long tunnel to carry waste out of the harbor. With this impressive feat of engineering, Boston was poised to show the country how to rebound from environmental ruin. But when bad decisions and clashing corporations endangered the project, a team of commercial divers was sent on a perilous mission to rescue the stymied cleanup effort. Five divers went in; not all of them came out alive.

Year We Disappeared, The, Eylon and John Busby, 351pp. When Eylon Busby was nine years old, she was obsessed with Izod clothing, the Muppets, and a box turtle she kept in a shoebox. Things changed overnight. Her police officer father, John, was driving to his shift when someone leveled a shotgun at his window. The blasts that followed left John's jaw on the passenger seat of his car. While clinging to life, he managed to write down the name of the only person he thought could have pulled the trigger. The suspect? A local ex-con with rumored mob connections. The motive? Officer Busby was scheduled to testify against the suspect's family in an upcoming trial. The Busby's went from being the "family next door" to one under 24-hour armed guard. The shooter was still on the loose, and it seemed only a matter of time before he'd come after John or his family-again. With few choices left to them, the Busby family went into hiding, severing all ties to the only life they had known.

HOME / GARDEN

America: The Cookbook, Gabrielle Langholtz, 768pp. is the first book to document comprehensively – and celebrate – the remarkable diversity of American cuisine and food culture. 800 home-cooking recipes for delicious and authentic American dishes, explores the country's myriad traditions and influences, regional favorites and melting-pot fusion – the culinary heritage of a nation, from appetizers to desserts and beyond. A unique state-by-state section features essays and menus from a 'who's who' of 100 foremost food experts and chefs.

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Douglas W. Tallamy, 360pp. As development and subsequent habitat destruction accelerate, there are increasing pressures on wildlife populations. there is an important and simple step toward reversing this alarming trend: Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife—native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plants disappear, the insects disappear, impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. In many parts of the world, habitat destruction has been so extensive that local wildlife is in crisis and may be headed toward extinction.

PARENTING / FAMILY

Whole Brain Child, The, Daniel J. Siegel, 192pp. In this pioneering, practical book, Daniel J. Siegel, neuropsychiatrist and parenting expert Tina Payne Bryson offer a revolutionary approach to child rearing with twelve key strategies that foster

healthy brain development, leading to calmer, happier children. The authors explain the new science of how a child's brain is wired and how it matures. The "upstairs brain," which makes decisions and balances emotions, is under construction until the mid-twenties. And especially in young children, the right brain and its emotions tend to rule over the logic of the left brain. No wonder kids throw tantrums, fight, or sulk in silence. By applying these discoveries to everyday parenting, you can turn any outburst, argument, or fear into a chance to integrate your child's brain and foster vital growth.

Why Won't You Apologize, Healing Big Betrayals and Everyday Hurts, Dr. Harriet Lerner PH. D, 209pp. has been studying apologies—and why some people won't give them. Now she offers compelling stories and solid theory that brings home how much the simple apology matters and what is required for healing when the hurt we've inflicted (or received) is far from simple. Readers will learn how to craft a deeply meaningful "I'm sorry" and avoid apologies that only deepen the original injury.

TRAVEL / GEOGRAPHY

Close to Shore, The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916, Michael Capuzzo, 317pp. interweaves a vivid portrait of the era and meticulously drawn characters with chilling accounts of the shark's five attacks and the frenzied hunt that ensued. From the unnerving inevitability of the first attack on the esteemed son of a prosperous Philadelphia physician to the spine-tingling moment when a farm boy swimming in Matawan Creek feels the sandpaper-like skin of the passing shark.

Cork Boat: A True Story of the Unlikeliest Boat Ever Built, John Pollack, 304pp. 165,321 corks; 1 boat - Most people have childhood dreams; few ever pursue them. At the age of 34, Pollack quit a speechwriting job on Capitol Hill to pursue an idea he had harbored since the age of six: to build a boat out of wine corks and take it on an epic journey. Cork Boat tells the uplifting story of this unlikely adventure.

Finding George Orwell in Burma, Emma Larkin, 304pp. Larkin (a pseudonym), claims it was George Orwell's stint as an imperial policeman in British-ruled Burma during the 1920s that turned him into a writer of conscience. To prove her theory, she bravely journeyed throughout the now brutally totalitarian state to visit the places Orwell lived and worked. A meticulous observer, she captures the masked spirit of a people monitored by military spies and constantly threatened.

Last Gentleman Adventurer, The: Coming of Age in the Arctic, Edward Beauclerk Maurice, 416pp. Maurice was a 16-year-old boy from a struggling British family when a missionary from the Canadian Arctic paid a visit to his boarding school in 1930. At sixteen, Edward Beauclerk Maurice impulsively signed up with the Hudson's Bay Company -- the Company of Gentleman Adventurers -- and was sent to an isolated trading post in the Canadian Arctic, where there was no telephone or radio and only one ship arrived each year. But the Inuit people who traded there taught him how to track polar bears, build igloos, and survive expeditions in ferocious winter storms. He learned their language and became so immersed in their culture and way of life that children thought he was Inuit himself. When an epidemic struck, Maurice treated the sick using a simple first aid kit.

Mapmaker's Wife, The A True Tale of Love, Murder, and Survival in the Amazon, Robert Whitaker, 288pp. (local – author) French scientists journeyed to the Andes in 1735 to measure the lines of latitude and longitude there and settle the question of the shape of the Earth. Isobel Godin was a Peruvian who married one of the younger members of the mapmaking expedition. After waiting 20 years for him to return, she set out across the Amazon jungle to find him. Her journey became one of the great survivor stories of the century.

Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe, Laurence Bergreen, 480pp. Based on the diary of Venetian scholar Antonio Pigafetta and the pilot's log of Francisco Albo. A day-by-day account of the hardships, misfortunes, and triumphs of life on the sea in the sixteenth century as Magellan and his crew sought a water route to the fabled Spice Islands

Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala, Daniel Wilkinson, 320pp. Wilkinson, now a lawyer with Human Rights Watch, writes in the vein of a travel journal. His book traces Guatemala's 36-year

internal struggle through interviews with plantation owners, army officials, guerrillas and the wretchedly poor peasants stuck in the middle. Heart-wrenching.

Vets and Pets, Wounded Warriors and the Pets that Help them Heal, Dava Guerin, 232pp. tells fifteen emotional and entertaining stories of the incredible bonds between wounded warriors, veterans, and other service members and their service and companion animals. Whether these special relationships are with dogs, cats, horses, pigs, or even birds of prey, readers will discover how these remarkable animals help veterans return to civilian life and live independently while simultaneously bringing joy and confidence into their lives.

Walking Zero: Discovering Cosmic Space and Time along the Prime Meridian, Chet Raymo, 208pp. (local – author) This walk along the prime meridian is a meditation on the ways that humans have measured and understood space and time, stopping here and there at some of the most prominent landmarks in the history of science - a combination of popular history, travelogue and intellectual memoir, as invigorating as a brisk country walk.

Wide Open world, How Volunteering Around the Globe Changed One Family's Lives Forever, John Marshall, 372pp. comes the inspiring story of an ordinary American family that embarks on an extraordinary journey. *It* follows the Marshall family as they volunteer their way around the globe, living in a monkey sanctuary in Costa Rica, teaching English in rural Thailand, and caring for orphans in India. There's a name for this kind of endeavor—*voluntourism*—and it might just be the future of travel.

PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & INSPIRATIONAL

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths, Bruce Feiler, 240pp. As we struggle to find a path to peace among three religions, all warring in Jerusalem, near the stone where Abraham brought his son for sacrifice, this captivating biography speaks to Abraham as the metaphor he is: the historically elusive man who embodies three religions.

Between Heaven and Mirth, Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life, James Martin, SJ, 272pp. will make any reader smile. A revolutionary look at how joy, humor, and laughter can change our lives and save our spirits. A Jesuit priest, Martin understands the intersections between spirituality and daily life. He uses scriptural passages, the lives of the saints, the spiritual teachings of other traditions, and his own personal reflections to show us why joy is the inevitable result of faith, because a healthy spirituality and a healthy sense of humor go hand-in-hand with God's great plan for humankind.

End of Your Life Book Club, The, Will Schiolabe, 354pp. Will and Mary Anne share their hopes and concerns with each other—and rediscover their lives—through their favorite books. When they read, they aren't a sick person and a well person, but a mother and a son taking a journey together. The result is a profoundly moving tale of loss that is also a joyful, and often humorous, celebration of life: Will's love letter to his mother, and theirs to the printed page.

Godless: The Church of Liberalism, Ann H. Coulter, 320pp. Liberalism is a comprehensive belief system denying the Christian belief in man's immortal soul. Their religion holds that there is nothing sacred about human consciousness. It's just an accident no more significant than our possession of opposable thumbs.

It's in the Little things, Gayle Suzanne, 220pp. With nearly 50 humorous or emotional stories from her personal experiences, Gayle Suzanne shares ideas and lessons that have had the most transforming impact on her life. Most stories have messages of how to appreciate seemingly insignificant events and how to take minor steps to improve your own circumstances.

John Paul II, A Personal Portrait of the Pope and the Man, Ray Flynn, 240pp. Unlike any other pope, John Paul II has reached out, creating dialogue or uproar, but always striving to unite the human community. Drawing on years of personal interaction with the Pope, and on his unique understanding of the intersection of religion and politics, Flynn, with co-authors Robin Moore and Jim Vrabel, shows how John Paul II changed the papacy, perhaps forever.

Journey to the Well, Diane Wallis Taylor, 338pp. One of the most well-known stories of Jesus's ministry is the encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Taylor imagines how the Samaritan woman got there in the first place. Marah is just a girl of thirteen when her life is set on a path that will eventually lead her to a life-changing encounter with the

Messiah. But before that momentous meeting she must traverse through times of love lost and found, cruel and manipulative men, and gossiping women. This creative and accurate portrayal of life in the time of Jesus opens a window into a fascinating world.

Our Endangered Values, Jimmy Carter, 224pp. Connected essays outline Carter's worldview while pondering key problems - war, environmental negligence, civil liberties, the rich-poor divide, and the separation of church and state

Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism, Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster, 384pp.

Connecticut parish priest who helped to transform American Catholicism. McGivney never forgot the devastation of his family's poverty and devoted much of his priestly life to helping the Catholic poor. He founded the Knights of Columbus, an organization that simultaneously met two critical needs of Catholics in the late 19th century: it was an insurance policy for the indigent, and its devotion to America and patriotic ideals helped to assuage anti-Catholic prejudice

Proof of Heaven, Eben Alexander, 209pp. This story sounds like the wild and wonderful imaginings of a skilled fantasy writer. But it is not fantasy. Before Alexander underwent his journey, he could not reconcile his knowledge of neuroscience with any belief in heaven, God, or the soul. Today he is a doctor who believes that true health can be achieved only when we realize that God and the soul are real and that death is not the end of personal existence but only a transition.

Star of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish, Abigail Pogrebin, 400pp. 60 interviews explore the thoughts of well-known artists, politicians and others on the complexities of Jewish identity - from the legacy of the Holocaust to the Middle East, Jewish traditions, intermarriage and more.

Universe in a Single Atom, The The Convergence of Science and Spirituality, Dalai Lama, 224pp. The Dalai Lama's wisdom in one book on the nature of science, ethics, are as potent as they are profound. A significant questioning from a compassionate heart on the role of higher spirit in the application of science. One of those books to read over and over again.

Woman of God, James Patterson, 401pp. Spanning the globe--from the drug dens, high-powered law firms, and churches of Boston to the horrific brutality of a civil war in the Sudanese desert to the beauty, violence, and spiritual enlightenment of the Holy Land--*Woman of God* is an epic, thrilling tale of perseverance, love, trust and nothing less than what it means to live in a fallen world.

SCIENCE, NATURE

Age-proof Your Mind, Zaldy Tan, 304pp. Offers information, exercises, resources and advice to help sort out whether memory loss is minor or indicates a deeper problem. Includes a test for readers to check their mental mettle and provides tips for improving short-term memory. Lots of information

Another Day On the Frontal Lobe: A Brain Surgeon Exposes Life on the Inside, Katrina Firlik, 271pp. (local – author), by one of the only 5% of neurosurgeons who are women, the path to her career, her thoughts on the nature of intelligence, ethical dilemmas & more.

Being Mortal, Medicine and What Matters in the End, Atul Gawande, 297pp. Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

Big Year, The: A Tale of Man, Nature & Fowl Obsession, Mark Obmascik, 288pp. The competition of a lifetime for birders, grows on readers. The 1998 competition was a race between three rivals that led to a new record—learn about the sport and the people who pursue it.

Change of Heart: How the People of Framingham, Mass Helped Unravel the Mysteries ... Daniel Levy, Susan Brink 272pp. (local – author) The first account of this heroic cooperation between the U.S. Public Health Service and the people of Framingham.

Every Second Counts: The Race to Transplant the First Human Heart, Donald McRae, 368pp. through life histories, flashbacks, personal interviews, and compelling narration, recounts a real-life race to the death. Much more dramatic than any fiction about its subject could be.

Fever 1793, Laurie Hasle Anderson, 257pp. It's late summer 1793, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Mattie Cook doesn't get a moment to mourn the passing of her childhood playmate. The coffee shop is busy with new customers. Mattie dreams of growing her family business. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggle to build a new life must give way to a new fight—the fight to stay alive.

Grail Bird, The: The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Tim Gallagher, 304pp. The book is a unique and personal perspective on what could be one of the most significant ornithological events of the last 100 years. It is an enjoyable and easy read, a good introduction to the ecology of the ivory-billed woodpecker, a powerful call for conservation, and an exciting birding adventure.

Have No Fear of the Dental Chair, Dr. Susan Cushing, 166pp. A Guide for Reducing Dental Fear is written to answer questions you have about dental anxiety. It is designed to offer you options currently available and a "road map" for finding them. This book allows those with dental anxiety to identify their specific fears and to feel understood, validated and hopeful that they can do something about it.

Little Book of Big Change, The, No Willpower approach of Breaking any habit, Amy Johnson, 234pp. If you want to understand the science behind your habit, make the decision to end it, and commit to real, lasting change, this book will help you to finally take charge of your life—once and for all.

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World, Tracy Kidder and Paul Farmer, 336pp. (local – author) Doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur “genius” grant, world-class Robin Hood. The book takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity" - “Here is a genuine hero alive in our times... it is as hard to put down as any good and true story.”—Annie Dillard

Movement of Stars, A, Amy Brill, 400pp. Inspired by the work of Maria Mitchell, the first professional female astronomer in America. It is a richly drawn portrait of desire and ambition in the face of adversity.

Murmurs from the Deep: Scientific Adventure in the Caribbean, Gilles Fonteneau, 264pp. 1st person narrative is a window on oceanography of the type that Jacques Cousteau used to provide.

Other Einstein, The, Marie Benedict, 304pp. offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. It is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight.

Patient H.M. The Story of memory madness and Family Secrets, Luke Dittrich, 480pp. combines the best of biography, memoir, and science journalism to create a haunting, endlessly fascinating story, one that reveals the wondrous and devastating things that can happen when hubris, ambition, and human imperfection collide.

Remarkable Creatures, Tracy Chevalier 353pp. is a stunning historical novel that follows the story of two extraordinary 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever.

Thing with Feathers: The, Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal About Being Human, Noah Stricker, 290pp. Drawing deep from personal experience, cutting-edge science, and colorful history, Strycker spins captivating stories about the birds in our midst and shares the startlingly intimate coexistence of birds and humans. With humor, style, and grace, he shows how our view of the world is often, and remarkably, through the experience of birds.

Women in Science 50 Fearless Pioneers who changed the world, Rachel Ignotofsky, 128pp. celebrates the achievements of the intrepid women who have paved the way for the next generation of female engineers, biologists, mathematicians, doctors, astronauts, physicists, and more!

Zombie Curse, The: A doctor's 25yr Journey into the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic, Arthur M. Fournier and David Herlihy, 336pp. From Miami to Haiti Dr. Fournier struggles to understand a mysterious disease and help its victim.

Wave, The, Susan Casey, 390pp. In this mesmerizing account, the exploits of Hamilton and his fellow surfers are juxtaposed against scientists' urgent efforts to understand the destructive powers of waves—from the tsunami that wiped out 250,000 people in the Pacific in 2004 to the 1,740-foot-wave that recently leveled part of the Alaskan coast.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Bread and Roses: Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream, Bruce Watson, 352pp (local – topic). Studiously balanced narrative of the 1912 strike against the textile mills of Lawrence, Mass. What started as a spontaneous protest against a reduction in pay rapidly escalated into a battle between labor and capital. Only a year after the Triangle sweatshop fire in Manhattan, the Lawrence strike drew attention to the lot of the mill workers, whose low wages left them almost destitute.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American city, Mathew Desmond, 432pp. Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

Glock, Paul M Barret, 306pp. Based on fifteen years of research, *Glock* is the riveting story of the weapon that has become known as American's gun. Today the Glock pistol has been embraced by two-thirds of all U.S. police departments, glamorized in countless Hollywood movies, and featured as a ubiquitous presence on prime-time TV. It has been rhapsodized by hip-hop artists, and coveted by cops and crooks alike.

Missula, Rape and the Justice System in a College Town, Joh Krakauer, 418pp. Krakauer's dispassionate, carefully documented account of what these women endured cuts through the abstract ideological debate about campus rape. College-age women are not raped because they are promiscuous, drunk, send mixed signals, feel guilty about casual sex, or seek attention. They are the victims of a terrible crime and deserving of compassion from society and fairness from a justice system that is clearly broken.

Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace, The, A Brilliant Young Man Who left Newark for the Ivy League, Jeff Hobbs, 433pp. A compelling and honest portrait of Robert's relationships—with his struggling mother, with his incarcerated father, with his teachers and friends. It encompasses the most enduring conflicts in America: race, class, drugs, community, imprisonment, education, family, friendship, and love. It's about the collision of two fiercely insular worlds—the ivy-covered campus of Yale University and the slums of Newark, New Jersey, and the difficulty of going from one to the other and then back again. It's about trying to live a decent life in America.

White Trash The 400 Year untold History of Class in America, Nancy Isenberg, 496pp. Surveying political rhetoric and policy, popular literature and scientific theories, Isenberg upends assumptions about America's supposedly class-free society. Where liberty and hard work were meant to ensure real social mobility. Poor whites were central to the rise of the Republican Party in the early 19th century, and the Civil War itself was fought over class issues as much as it was fought over slavery. Reconstruction pitted poor white trash against newly freed slaves, which factored in the rise of

eugenics—a widely popular movement embraced by Theodore Roosevelt that targeted poor whites for sterilization. These poor were at the heart of New Deal reforms and LBJ's Great Society; they haunt us in reality TV shows like *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo* and *Duck Dynasty*. Marginalized as a class, white trash has always been at or near the center of major political debates over the character of the American identity.

SPORTS, RECREATION & HUMOR

\$64 Tomato, The: How One Man Nearly Lost His Sanity, William Alexander, 288pp After years of fighting pests, Alexander realized that there was no such thing as an organic garden in the Northeast, and that for each tomato he'd taken from his garden he'd spent \$64; ultimately, what was once a hobby became a second full-time job. The author manages to maintain a sense of humor

Deep, Freediving, renegade Science and what the Ocean tells us about ourselves, James Nestor, 290pp. is a voyage from the ocean's surface to its darkest trenches. The sport of freediving—in which competitors descend great depths on a single breath. Nestor embeds with a gang of oceangoing extreme athletes and renegade researchers. He finds whales that communicate with other whales hundreds of miles away, sharks that swim in unerringly straight lines through pitch-black waters, and other strange phenomena. Most illuminating of all, he learns that these abilities are reflected in our own remarkable, and often hidden, potential—including echolocation, directional sense, and the profound bodily changes humans undergo when underwater.

Education of a Coach, The, David Halberstam, 277pp. (local – topic), focuses on Bill Belichick, one of the NFL's most successful coaches, and the game of football as a team sport with rich detail, exacting research and colorful anecdotes. He shows what the New England Patriots' fans have always known: the roots of Belichick's coaching lie in the essential mentoring by his father.

Feeding the Monster Seth Mnookin, 448pp. (local – topic), The soap opera that is the Boston Red Sox is in full bloom in Mnookin's tale about how the organization coalesced to finally bring Red Sox Nation its first world championship since 1918.

Field Guide to Sports Metaphors, The A Compendium of Competitive Words and Idioms, Josh Chetwynd, 226pp. There are many metaphors we can quickly identify from the realm of sports: *covering all the bases* (baseball), *game plan* (football), and *par for the course* (golf). But the English language is also peppered with the not-so-obvious influence of sports and games, such as *go-to guy* (basketball) and *dead ringer* (horse racing). Filled with pithy entries on each idiom, plus quotes showing how big talkers from President Obama to rapper Ice-T use them.

Gorge: My Journey up Kilimanjaro at 300 LBS, Kara Richardson Whitely, 274pp. Kara knew she could reach the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. She had done it once before. That's why, when she failed in a second attempt, it brought her so low. As she struggled with food addiction and looked-for ways to cope with feelings of failure and shame, Kara's weight shot to more than 300 pounds. Deep in her personal gorge, Kara realized the only way out was up. She resolved to climb the mountain again—and this time, she would reach the summit without waiting for her plus-sized status to disappear.

Heat: An Amateur's Adventures as Kitchen Slave, Line Cook, Pasta-Maker, and Apprentice, Bill Buford, 336pp. More proof that fact is stranger than fiction. You just couldn't make these nutty food people up. The odyssey from food amateur to bowing at the apron hem of food Gods was remarkable, not only for the journey, but the wit and palpable love of food and its history.

It's All About The Bike, The Pursuit of Happiness on Wheels, Robert Penn, 209pp. Penn's journey, but this book is more than the story of his hunt for two-wheel perfection. In route, Penn brilliantly explores the culture, science, and history of the bicycle. From artisanal frame shops in the United Kingdom to California, where he finds the perfect wheels, via Portland, Milan, and points in between, his trek follows the serpentine path of our love affair with cycling. It explains why we ride.

Made in America, Bill Bryson 434pp the book that reveals once and for all how a dusty western hamlet with neither woods nor holly came to be known as Hollywood . . . and exactly why Mr. Yankee Doodle called his befeathered cap "Macaroni."

Perfect Mile, The: Three Athletes, One Goal and Less Than 4 Minutes to Achieve It, Neal Bascomb, 352pp. The attempt by three men in the 1950s to become the first to run the mile in less than four minutes is a classic 20th century sports story. Bascomb's excellent account captures all of the human drama and competitive excitement of this legendary racing event.

Praying for Gil Hodges: A Memoir of the 1955 World Series and One Family's, Thomas Oliphant, 288pp (local – author), Story of a team, a neighborhood and a family. The book intertwines the drama of the 7th game of the world series between the Dodgers and the Yankees with family tales. The heart of the story is the love of a family for a place, a baseball team, but mostly for each other.

Rivalry, The: Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, and the Golden Age of Basketball John Taylor, 432pp. (local – topic), Few individual rivalries in sports match the legendary basketball duels between Boston Celtic Bill Russell and the much-traveled Wilt Chamberlain. Russell led his team to 11 championships in 13 seasons, and Chamberlain became the poster child for individual accomplishment--he scored 100 points in a single game--but Russell, 35 years after his retirement, still epitomizes the ultimate winner, the teammate for the ages.

She's Got Next: A Story of Getting, Staying Open, and Taking a Shot, Melissa King, 180pp. King grew up in Arkansas shooting baskets in the driveway with her brother. At 27, she moved to Chicago and found herself yearning for the court in an effort to erase an inner emptiness. Her tender memoir chronicles her playing pickup basketball, meandering from playground to gym to YMCA. King first joins an amateur league, but soon branches out to Chicago's many and various multicultural neighborhood pickup games.

Trophy Son, Douglas Brunt, 285pp. Private lessons. Professional coaches. Specialized camps for sports, math, music, and other fields. Today's children are pushed to achieve excellence—or else. But at what cost? It tells the story of a tennis prodigy, from young childhood to the finals of the US Open, Wimbledon, and other tournaments around the world. *Trophy Son* offers an inside look at the dangers of extraordinary pressure to achieve, whether in sports or any field, through the eyes of a young man defying his parents' ambitions as he seeks a life of his own.

Walking with Peety, The Dog Who Saved my Life, Eric O' Grey, 320pp. Eric was 150 pounds overweight, depressed, and sick. After a lifetime of failed diet attempts, and the onset of type 2 diabetes, Eric went to a new doctor, who surprisingly prescribed a shelter dog. And that's when Eric met Peety: an overweight, middle-aged, and forgotten dog who, like Eric, had seen better days. The two adopted each other and began an incredible journey together, forming a bond of unconditional love that forever changed their lives. Over the next year, by going on walks, playing together, and eating plant-based foods, Eric lost 150 pounds, and Peety lost 25. As a result, Eric reversed his diabetes, got off all medication, and became happy and healthy for the first time in his life.

You Can't Make This Stuff Up, Al Michaels, 315pp. In this highly entertaining and insightful memoir, one of television's most respected broadcasters interweaves the story of his life and career with lively firsthand tales of some of the most thrilling events and fascinating figures in modern sports.

Young at Heart: The Story Johnny Kelley, Boston's Marathon Man, Frederick Lewis, 214pp. (Local – topic) Named "Runner of the Century" by Runner's World magazine, Kelley participated in over 60 Boston marathons, winning the event twice and running it well into his 80's. His persistence and warm good nature endeared him to millions. The heart and soul of the Boston Marathon.

WOMEN'S HISTORY/ISSUES

Bad Girls Throughout History, Ann Shen, 216pp. Aphra Behn, first female professional writer. Sojourner Truth, activist and abolitionist. Ada Lovelace, first computer programmer. Marie Curie, first woman to win the Nobel Prize. Joan Jett, godmother of punk. The 100 revolutionary women highlighted in this gorgeously illustrated book were bad in the best

sense of the word: they challenged the status quo and changed the rules for all who followed. From pirates to artists, warriors, daredevils, scientists, activists, and spies, the accomplishments of these incredible women vary as much as the eras and places in which they effected change.

Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America, Linda Lawrence Hunt, 336pp. When she learned that a mysterious sponsor would pay \$10,000 to a woman who walked across America, Helga and her teenaged daughter Clara, with little more than a compass, red-pepper spray, a revolver, and Clara's curling iron, set out on foot from Eastern Washington.

Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Wally Lamb and the Women of the York Correctional, editor Wally Lamb, 368pp (local – author), writings gleaned from a workshop he conducted for the female inmates of a Connecticut prison. The women who wrote these memoirs did a variety of illegal, immoral and awful things. However, if you read these stories, you will begin to wonder who the victims really are.

Finding Betty Crocker: The Secret Life of America's First Lady of Food. Susan Marks, 304pp. The 1920s brainchild of a group of advertising types looking for a leg up in what came to be called the flour wars, Betty Crocker surpassed all expectations, not only by becoming the first lady of the kitchen but also by serving as a barometer of America's changing attitudes toward women's work. pick this up and have a grand time seeing how an icon came to be. Entwined in Marks' absorbing review of Crocker's evolution are a sampling of favorite recipes and letters from Crocker's loyal radio, TV, and cookbook following,

Girl Who Married the Moon, The, Tales from Native North America, Joseph Bruchac and Gayle Ross, 115pp. Young women are featured in 16 stories intended "to reach the daughters and granddaughters who will come after." Becoming a woman and marrying correctly are common themes: Resourceful heroines escape monsters and kidnappers, comically avoid marriage to a trickster or tragically die with their husbands.

Girls of Atomic City, The, The Untold story of the Women who helped win WWII, Denise Kiernan, 402pp. The incredible story of the young women of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The town of Oak Ridge was created in 1942, one of the Manhattan Project's secret cities, it didn't appear on any maps until 1949, and yet at the height of World War II it was using more electricity than New York City and was home to more than 75,000 people, many of them young women recruited from small towns across the South.

Girls of Murder City (Chicago), The, Douglas Perry, 323pp. there was nothing surprising about men turning up dead in the Second City. Life was cheaper than a quart of gin in the gangland capital of the world. But two murders that spring were special, So believed Maurine Watkins, Newspaperwomen were supposed to write about clubs, cooking and clothes, but Miss Watkins, a minister's daughter from a small town, zeroed in on murderers instead. Looking for subjects to turn into a play, she would make "Stylish Belva" Gaertner and "Beautiful Beulah" Annan - both of whom had brazenly shot down their lovers - the talk of the town. Love-struck men sent flowers to the jail and newly emancipated women sent impassioned letters to the newspapers. Soon more than a dozen women preened and strutted on "Murderesses' Row" as they awaited trial, desperate for the same attention that was being lavished on Maurine Watkins's favorites.

Let Me Play – the Story of Title IX, Karen Blumenthal, 160pp. The history and future of Title IX, which bans sex discrimination in U.S. education. Profiles of groundbreaking female athletes and legislators alternate with highlights of the women's movement, from the early twentieth century through today. Gripping photos and political cartoons.

Off the Cliff, How the Making of Thelma and Louise Drove Hollywood to the Edge, Becky Aikman, 317pp. Becky Aikman tells the full extraordinary story behind this feminist sensation, which crashed through barricades and upended convention. Drawing on 130 exclusive interviews with the key players from this remarkable cast of actors, writers, and filmmakers, Aikman tells an inspiring and important underdog story about creativity, the magic of cinema, and the unjust obstacles that women in Hollywood continue to face to this day.

Peabody Sisters, The,: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism, Megan Marshall, 624pp. The Peabody sisters were bright, gifted, independent and influential; they knew a host of notables, from Abigail Adams to Ralph Waldo Emerson. Oldest sister Elizabeth, who according to Marshall helped start the Transcendentalist movement, ran a

school with Bronson Alcott, who named his third daughter in her honor. Marshall has distilled 20 years of research into a book that brings the sisters to life, along with their extended family and friends, and the time in which they matured: a time, Marshall notes, that allowed women to be on a more equal footing than they would enjoy later in the century.

Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future, Katie Schatz and Miriam Klein Stahl, 64pp. Like all A-Z books, this one illustrates the alphabet— A is for Angela—as in Angela Davis, the iconic political activist. B is for Billie Jean King, who shattered the glass ceiling of sports; C is for Carol Burnett, who defied assumptions about women in comedy.

Radium Girls, The, Kate Moore, 399pp. The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War. Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toiled amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these “shining girls” are the luckiest alive — until they begin to fall mysteriously ill. But the factories that once offered golden opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. The fatal poison of the radium takes hold, the brave shining girls find themselves embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights that will echo for centuries to come.

Secret History of Wonder Woman, The, Lapore, Jill, 449pp. A riveting work of historical detection revealing that the origin of Wonder Woman, one of the world's most iconic superheroes, hides within it a fascinating family story—and a crucial history of twentieth-century feminism.

WORLD HISTORY

Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu, The, and their Race to Save the World's most Precious Manuscripts, Joshua Hammer, 289pp. To save ancient Arabic texts from Al Qaeda, a band of librarians pulls off a brazen heist. In the 1980s, a young adventurer and collector for a government library, Abdel Kader Haidara, journeyed across the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River, tracking down and salvaging tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that were crumbling in the trunks of desert shepherds. His goal: to preserve this crucial part of the world's patrimony in a gorgeous library. But then Al Qaeda showed up at the door. Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist from the legendary city of Timbuktu, became one of the world's greatest smugglers by saving the texts from sure destruction. With bravery and patience, Haidara organized a dangerous operation to sneak all 350,000 volumes out of the city to the safety of southern Mali. His heroic heist “has all the elements of a classic adventure novel”

Cold War, The, A New History, John Lewis Gaddis, 400pp. The Cold War was historically significant as much for what didn't happen as for what did. Terrifying though the great global showdown sometimes was, the United States and the Soviet Union never waged a full-scale war. "Prior to 1945, great powers fought great wars so frequently that they seemed to be permanent features of the international landscape,"

Day the World Came to Town, The, 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland, Jim DeFede, 260pp. Over the course of those four days, many of the passengers developed friendships with Gander residents that they expect to last a lifetime. As a show of thanks, scholarship funds for the children of Gander have been formed and donations have been made to provide new computers for the schools. This book recounts the inspiring story of the residents of Gander, Canada, whose acts of kindness have touched the lives of thousands of people and been an example of humanity and goodwill.

Dear World, A Syran Girl's Story of war and Plea for Peace, Bana Alabed, 225pp. In Bana's own words, and featuring short, affecting chapters by her mother, Fatemah, *Dear World* is not just a gripping account of a family endangered by war; it offers a uniquely intimate, child's perspective on one of the biggest humanitarian crises in history. Bana has lost her best friend, her school, her home, and her homeland. But she has not lost her hope—for herself and for other children around the world who are victims and refugees of war and deserve better lives.

Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship, Jon Meacham, 512pp. Meacham's engaging account argues that personal bonds between leaders are crucial to international politics. It is an amazingly well researched and organized book, encompassing their lives in and out of politics. Through a timeline of events and quotes, letters, transcripts, and documents one witnesses the forging of the friendship that saved democracy.

Long Walk to Water, A: Based on a True Story, Linda Sue Park, 133pp. begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

Night, Elie Wiesel, 148pp. a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. This new translation by Marion Wiesel, Elie's wife. *Night* offers much more than a litany of the daily terrors, everyday perversions, and rampant sadism at Auschwitz and Buchenwald; it also eloquently addresses many of the philosophical as well as personal questions implicit in any serious consideration of what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be.

Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that explain everything About the world, Tim Marshall, 320pp. Marshall explains the complex geo-political strategies that shape the globe. Why is Putin so obsessed with Crimea? Why was the US destined to become a global superpower? Why does China's power base continue to expand? Why is Tibet destined to lose its autonomy? Why will Europe never be united? The answers are geographical. "In an ever more complex, chaotic, and interlinked world, *Prisoners of Geography* is a concise and useful primer on geopolitics" (*Newsweek*) and a critical guide to one of the major determining factors in world affairs.

Addendum: These books have been removed from the active book list.
All books (from any ESO List) may be used for ESO purposes.

A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War. Victor Davis Hanson, 416pp. How two great peoples (the Athenians and Spartans) largely destroyed their own cultures over a 30-year war. Makes enlightening comparisons between the mind-sets of the two great adversaries, with the American Civil war leaders, the Europeans in World War I, the battles of WWII, and more.

Arthur and George, Julian Barnes, 400pp. Novel about love, guilt, identity and honor is a triumph of storytelling - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji, also a real person, whose paths crossed. Edalji the son of a Parsi father and a Scots mother was convicted of criminal behavior in a blatant miscarriage of justice based on racial prejudice.

Blue Shoes and Happiness: (No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency), Alexander McCall Smith, 240pp. Smith's series has enchanted readers everywhere with its warmth, simple truths, dry humor, and depictions of life in Botswana. His familiar characters offer their gentle, tolerant approach to life. The author's love for his creations and for his Botswana setting are evident on every page

Charlemagne, Derek Wilson, 256pp. Christian warrior, scholar prince, pilgrim saint and emperor, Charlemagne (742–814) has influenced modern rulers from Napoleon to Charles de Gaulle. An acquisitive king intent on expanding Francia's borders and connecting politics and religion, he is, according to Wilson, is responsible for the shape of Europe as we know it today.

Clara's Grand Tour: Travels with a Rhinoceros in Eighteenth-Century Europe, Glynis Ridley, 249pp. Clara covered most of the Holy Roman Empire, the Dutch Republic, France, and finally London, becoming an international sensation.

Clemente: The Passion & Grace of Baseball's Last Hero, David Maraniss, 416pp. Clemente's nobility, charity and determination make him appropriate for a postage stamp. After 18 distinguished seasons, the Pirate star with the astonishing throwing arm died in a 1972 plane crash while in route to deliver relief supplies to Nicaraguan earthquake victims.

Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide, Gerard Prunier, 212pp. Provides a thorough account of the crisis' origins, its unfolding, and the world's reaction to it, in a way that will be both appealing to the informed layperson and to the scholar specialized in African politics. His story is the Darfur crisis made simple, not by way of simplification but through rational understanding.

Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions, Sr. Helen Prejean, 336pp. The book challenges a system of justice which is so caught up in process and procedure it appears to have left human beings out of the equation. A "machinery of death" puts obstacles in the way of men desperately fighting for a fair hearing of evidence never elicited at their trials (e.g. O'Dell was denied appellate review by the highest court in Virginia because his lawyers typed one wrong word on his petition's title page)

Democracy's Edge, Frances Moore Lappé, 496pp. With an abundance of inspiring, well-told stories, Lappé sweeps the disempowering myth that an individual can't make a difference and demonstrates that democracy is a living practice. Her challenge to us is to reinvigorate our thinking, to take individual actions, and to participate every day as citizens

Does Measurement Measure Up? How Numbers Reveal and conceal the Truth, John M Henshaw, 248pp. History of measurement, its current roles, and the possible dangers of measuring everything

Dry: Life Without Water, Ehsan Masood & Daniel Schaefer, 192pp. Each chapter tells a story from around the globe of a community's survival techniques in an environment without water supplies. A lively presentation.

East Wind, Rain, Caroline Paul, 272pp. In the wake of Pearl Harbor, an isolated Hawaiian community realizes new fears and questions old loyalties - based on actual events.

Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women's Success in the Law, Lauren Stiller Rikleen (local – author), 437pp. Discusses the challenges that women lawyers face and the challenges that the profession as a whole, faces in a thoughtful, honest and fair voice. Most of the time, behaviors that hold women back aren't motivated by bad intentions, merely cluelessness. Yet these behaviors hurt women and, consequently, the legal profession.

Esther's Children: A Portrait of Iranian Jews, Houman Sarshar, 468pp. This elegant book's 25 essays by Persian Jews detail Iranian Jewish history and culture, as well as some of the repressions that arrived with Islam's advent. Only 20,000 Jewish people remain in Iran today--the remnant of the Middle East's oldest Jewish community outside Israel.

Girl Sleuth: Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her, Melanie Rehak, 384pp. Behind the scenes of the girl sleuth's creation, her transformation as different writers took on the series, and the publishing phenomenon, the Stratemeyer Syndicate, that made her possible. Reflections on how Nancy Drew mirrors girls' lives and changes in the women's movement.

Hungry Planet, Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio 288pp. A portrait of 30 families in 24 countries, interviewed about what they eat, why they eat it, and how much it costs to bring that food to the table. These ordinary life stories from all over the world are so compelling that once you pick the book up, it's hard to put down.

I Got Somebody in Staunton: Stories, William Henry Lewis, 224pp. A thoughtful, appealing collection deeply concerned with the pride and pain of African-American heritage. dramatizes the oppression still faced by millions of people today, especially in the conservative small towns of America. Lewis is not a trendy hip-hop stylist or a viciously satirical postmodernist with a knack for making fun of America's racial obsession. He is a quieter sort of writer who reminds us that beneath the hype are ordinary people struggling with racist employers, lost fathers, lack of education and fears of stepping out of line and threatening the status quo.

John Paul the Great: Remembering a Spiritual Father, Peggy Noonan, 256pp. Drawing on frequently told John Paul stories while linking his pontificate to its impact on herself, she writes, "John Paul walked into my life and served, unknowingly, as my spiritual father. Interspersed within the interior castle of Noonan's spirituality are stories from the life and times of John Paul, some of his wit and wisdom and a précis of some of his writing.

Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen, Julie Powell, 320pp. An attempt to revitalize her marriage, restore her ambition, and save her soul by cooking all 524 recipes in Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking, in a period of 365 days, with delicious hilarious results

Lao-tzu's Taoteching: with Selected Commentaries of the Past 2000 Years, Lao-tzu and Red Pine, 208pp. The TAO TE CHING is one of the most translated books in the world, surpassed only by the BIBLE and the BHAGAVAD-GITA. In his reflective verse, Lao-tzu speaks to those searching for a meaningful way of mastering one's life in a society degraded by economic, militaristic and modern values

Losing America: Confronting a Reckless and Arrogant Presidency, Robert Byrd, 320pp. While it would be easy to fill a sizable bookcase with books published in 2004 that were highly critical of George W. Bush, few of those authors carry the gravity of Senator Robert Byrd, who first came to congress when Truman was president. In Losing America, the veteran Democrat offers scathing criticism of Bush, whom he sees as undeserving of the office, unfit to lead, "callow and reckless," and "incredibly dangerous."

Lost in the Forest: a Nove.I Sue Miller, 272pp. (local – author) Examines love and betrayal in idyllic wine country in another minutely observed, finely paced exploration of domestic relationships.

Many Ways to Nirvana: Reflections and Advice on Right Living, Dalai Llama, 224pp. Wise, compassionate, and always pragmatic, His Holiness offers advice on the many issues that confront us every day: how to free ourselves from emotional afflictions and petty cravings, how to transform anxiety into contentment, and how to initiate and keep alive interfaith dialogue in the troubled times we live in.

Michelangelo's Mountain: The Quest for Perfection in the Marble Quarries of Carrara, Eric Scigliano, 368pp. Scigliano combines art history with a personal quest: a great-grandfather toiled in Carrara as a stonecutter. He covers every conceivable aspect of the world of stone and Michelangelo's art-making.

Monkeyluv, Robert M. Sapolsky, 224pp, Essays that view the human condition through the lens of our evolutionary background. With wit, curiosity & compassion, the author takes us from genetic determinism to the reasons why older folks won't like "what passes for music among young people nowadays." Charming and erudite.

More Than Meets the Ear: How Symphony Musicians Made Labor History, Julie Ayer, 312pp. The story of a grassroots movement that transformed labor relations and the professional lives of U.S. and Canadian symphony musicians

Music in Rural New England: Family and Community Life, 1870-1940, Jennifer C. Post, 313pp. Today music in New England homes and communities is broadcast preserved on recordings, and reinforced in jam sessions and dance clubs. Before 1940, however, residents in rural New England communities listened to and performed music in more limited social spheres. Jennifer Post's book puts songs and instrumental music into the context of everyday life in rural communities in northern New England

My Life in France, Julia Child & Alex Prud'homme, 336pp. (local – author) A playful memoir of the famous chef's first, formative sojourn in France with her new husband, Paul Child, in 1949; written by her grandnephew

North of Ithaka: A Granddaughter Returns to Greece and Discovers Her Roots, Eleni Gage, 304pp The author returns to the remote Greek village of Lia, where her father was born and her grandmother was murdered, to rebuild the ruins of her namesake's home and come to terms with her family's tragic history. In doing so, she leaves behind a successful career to continue the tale of a family and a place which her father, Nicholas Gage, made famous over twenty years ago with his international bestseller, Eleni.

Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books, Azar Nafisi, 368pp. after leaving her professorship at a university due to repressive policies, the author invited several female students to a weekly study of great Western literature in her home. They read banned books, so the women met in secret, sharing photocopied pages of the illegal novels.

responded to the events of September 11 and its aftermath. Women at Ground Zero provides a unique perspective on the events of that terrible day through the eyes of women rescuers who risked their lives to save others.

Robert Oppenheimer: A Life, Abraham Pais and Robert P. Crease, 400pp. Head of atomic bomb commission, statesman for science, & victim of McCarthyism

S Is for Silence, Sue Grafton, 384pp. Kinsey Millhone, Sue Grafton's no-nonsense gumshoe, takes on a cold case - what happened to a shady lady who disappeared 30 years earlier.

Saturday, Ian McEwan, 304pp. A cerebral novel about an ominous day seen through the eyes of Henry Perowne, a reflective neurosurgeon. His ruminations on surgery, lovemaking, music, war (he's pro-war), and literature (he's clueless) rise to a crescendo as he slowly questions his own motives and actions.

Sea of Faith: Islam and Christianity in the Medieval Mediterranean World, Stephen O'Shea (local – author), 320pp. O'Shea chronicles both the meeting of minds and the collisions of armies that marked the interaction of Cross and Crescent in the Middle Ages—the better to understand their apparently intractable conflict today.

Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story of Tibet, Xinran, 224pp. Inspired by a brief 1994 interview with an aged Chinese woman named Shu Wen, Beijing-born, London-based journalist Xinran (The Good Women of China) offers a delicately wrought account of Wen's 30-year search for her husband in Tibet, where he disappeared in 1958. Woven through with fascinating details of Tibetan culture and Buddhism, Xinran's story portrays a poignant, beautiful attempt at reconciliation.

Son of a Witch, Gregory Maguire, 352pp (local – author), The death of Elphaba Thropp, the Wicked Witch of the West, brings about changes in this imaginative sequel to Maguire's 1995 blockbuster Wicked. Tucked into Maguire's

enchanting fable are carefully calibrated object lessons in forgiveness, retribution, love, loss and the art of moving on despite tragic circumstances.

St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts Of Everyday Benedictine Living, Jane Tomaine, 206pp. Each chapter examines one aspect of the Rule of Benedict, from ways of praying to ways of embracing humility, and offers suggestions for prayer, reflection, journaling, and action. As they learn to use Benedict's tools, readers will discover the power--and the timeliness--of this ancient way of life.

Steeplechase, Jane Langton, 304pp. Harvard professor and occasional detective, Homer Kelly, is researching a book about old churches and their steeples in the historic Concord area, when he hears the tale of a missing church. The story line alternates between present day and post Civil War "Nashoba, MA" in a tale of early photography, religious disagreement, and post war trauma. As always, entertaining, interesting and clever

Teacher Man: A Memoir, Frank McCourt, 272pp. It may have taken him three decades to figure out how to be an effective teacher, but he ultimately saved his most valuable lesson for himself: how to be his own man

The Accidental President of Brazil: A Memoir, Fernando Cardoso, 291pp. Not long after his father's death, Cardoso made Brazil's future his mission, as a senator, as finance minister and finally as president where he took on pharmaceutical companies over AIDS treatment. His story is that of a maverick whose curious mind and patriotism helped bring Brazil into the 21st Century as a formidable economic and political power

The Bookseller of Kabul, Asne Seierstad, 320pp. After living for three months with a Kabul bookseller in the spring of 2002, Seierstad penned this astounding portrait of a recovering nation.

The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair, Martin Meredith, 800pp. The value of Meredith's towering history of modern Africa rests not so much in its incisive analysis, or its original insights; it is the sheer readability of the project, combined with a notable lack of pedantry.

The Georgics of Virgil, David Ferry translator, 224pp. (local – author), Ferry's new translations of ancient poets make them "appear, as if they were in the room with the reader, talking about recognizable human life." The 4 "georgics" from 29BC celebrate the world of farming and rural life. They also explore the brutal uncertainty of man's place in nature.

The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History, John M. Barry, 560pp. A meticulous description of the dire consequences that resulted when short-term political expediency trumped the health of the public during the 1918 influenza pandemic. Barry reminds his us that the government response to an epidemic is often colored by the politics of the moment.

The Guynd: A Scottish Journal, Belinda Rathbone (local – author), 293pp. When Rathbone got married it wasn't so much to a man as to his ancestral house in Scotland and the deeply ingrained way of life that came with it. Her attitude toward the enormous project of restoring the manor while also figuring out and trying to fit in with the clannish Scots is at turns enthusiastic and exasperated, and her anecdotes about the renovation will have home improvement fanatics mad with jealousy.

The Most Exclusive Club: A History of the Modern United States Senate, Lewis Gould, 417pp. The history of the U.S. Senate in the 20th century is one of evolution from a genteel debating society into a collection of bitterly partisan politicians. A number of themes recur, including periodic battles over the filibuster (especially its use by Southern Democrats defending Jim Crow from the 1930s to the 1960s) and too many senators' chronic alcoholism, sexism and egomania. Inevitably, the book focuses on shifting institutional mores rather than the substance of policy debates.

The Penolopiad, Margaret Atwood, 224pp. In this sly updating of a famous Greek myth, Odysseus's wife, Penelope, gets to tell her version of events.

The Story of a Life: A Memoir, Aharon Apelfeld, 208pp. Only the most artful writer could relate nearly seven decades of life—a life that encompasses the Holocaust, resettlement in Palestine, army service, university studies with the likes of Gershom Scholem and Martin Buber, finding his writer's voice—in barely more than 200 pages

The Widow of the South, Robert Hicks, 432pp. This novel is based on real events – Carrie's home was a field hospital near a horrific Civil War battle. She reburies the dead in her own cemetery when the landowner plans to plow under the battlefield.

The World as I See It, Albert Einstein, 125pp. The twentieth century's most brilliant scientific thinker shares his views on the meaning of life, governments, economics, disarmament, war, and Judaism. Written mostly in 1932, these short pieces are affecting mainly because they predate WWII, the Holocaust, Israeli-Palestinian wars. Einstein believed in the possibility of a peaceful world and in the high mission of science to serve human well-being.

Then Sings My Soul, Book 2: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories, Robert J. Morgan These devotional-style stories brim with emotion and drama about the people whose faith led them to write the hymns, and about the people whose lives were changed by them.

Twelve Sharp (Stephanie Plum Novels), Janet Evanovich, 320pp The mixture of slapstick and gunplay that has put Evanovich's series about a sassy, less than competent New Jersey bounty hunter once again works its magic in Stephanie Plum's latest caper.

Village of the Dammed: The Fight for Open Space and the Flooding of a Connecticut Town, James Lomuscio, 172pp. Since the early 1940s, the remains of Valley Forge, Connecticut have lain one hundred feet beneath the waters of the Saugatuck Reservoir. The town was a victim to the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company's post-World War I plan for the scenic valley. Historic glass plates lay unnoticed for decades. The author has used these images and other remarkable primary sources to tell the story of the rise and fall of Valley Forge, the proud Yankee residents' resistance in the late 1930s to the proposed flooding and its life-altering repercussions

Village of the Small Houses, Ian Ferguson, 192pp. Ian Ferguson considers himself born lucky, despite having grown up poor in far northern Canada and having spent part of his childhood in an iron lung because of the Thalidomide his mother took for morning sickness. His father is a conman who passes himself off as a teacher.

Water for Elephants: A Novel, Sara Gruen, 335pp. Told in flashback by nonagenarian Jacob Jankowski, recounts the wonderful period he spent with the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a traveling circus he joined during the Great Depression. With its spotlight on elephants, Gruen's romantic page-turner hinges on the human-animal bonds.

We Are All Welcome Here: A Novel, Elizabeth Berg, 208pp. A polio victim and her 13-year-old daughter work miracles from their Tupelo, Miss., home during the summer of 1964 - based on a true story

Why Birds Sing, David Rothenberg, 272pp. In a unique approach to the study of birdsong, jazz musician and philosopher Rothenberg attacks this question through the medium of music. At the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, his music attracted a thrush. The bird began to sing along with the author's clarinet and to actually improvise as he did. This interaction led to a journey, both intellectual and physical, as Rothenberg investigated birdsong.

Without Precedent: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission, Thomas H. Keen & Lee H. Hamilton, 384pp. Details the 9/11 commission's work. The issues the commission wrestled with—official incapacity to prevent disaster, the government's use and misuse of intelligence, presidential accountability—are still in the headlines, which makes this lucid, absorbing account of its work very timely.

Women at Ground Zero: Stories of Courage and Compassion, Susan Hagen and Mary Corouba, 336pp. This book is a powerful collection of first-person stories told by female firefighters, police officers, paramedics, EMTs, and others who

Yellow Fever: A Deadly Disease Poised to Kill Again, James Dickerson, 271pp. History and prospective reemergence of a dread killer due climate change or terrorism