



GFWC INDIANA FEDERATION OF CLUBS

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON

SPECIAL READING LIST # 115

2025

Epsilon Sigma Omicron

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) began as an adult education program of the GFWC Indiana Federation of Clubs to assist and encourage clubwomen, individually or as a club, to read and study systematically. The meaning of the Greek letters is: “Enlighten Your Own Pathway.”

A Federation clubwoman qualifies for membership by following the authorized ESO reading courses, which list books as well as a point value assigned to each book. To obtain the current list, please write the State ESO Chairman.

The reader sends a report on each book (no longer an actual book report, but the name of the book and author, the number of the book, group and number of points assigned to the book if it is on the official reading list) to the State ESO Chairman. If the book is not on the list, the report should contain the name of the author and book title along with the number of pages-if known. If the book is read electronically, the number of pages can be determined by the State ESO Chairman.

The chairman keeps a record of the books read and points earned, and a certificate is awarded when the reader has earned 140 points. A reader may order back reading lists and read and report on any book from any list. When the reader has accumulated points sufficient to earn four certificates, she is eligible to purchase and wear the Epsilon Sigma Omicron pin.

Further awards include Star (10 certificates); Torch (16 certificates); First Century (100 books); Second Century (200 books); and further Century awards.

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Group I World Affairs and History

1. Antisemitism in America: A Warning (March 18, 2025) by Chuck Schumer In an urgent and personal new book, Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, the highest-elected Jewish official in America, sheds light on the Jewish American experience and sounds the alarm about the troubling resurgence of antisemitism 20 points

2. Leadership: In Turbulent Times by Dori Kearns Goodwin Pulitzer Prize-winning author and esteemed presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, an invaluable guide to the development and exercise of leadership from Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. 30 points

3. Operation Paperclip: The Secret Intelligence Program that Brought Nazi Scientists to America by Annie Jacobsen In the chaos following World War II, the U.S. government faced many difficult decisions, including what to do with the Third Reich's scientific minds. These were the brains behind the Nazis' once-indomitable war machine. So began Operation Paperclip, a decades-long, covert project to bring Hitler's scientists and their families to the United States. 30 points

4. Revenge: The Inside Story of Trump's Return to Power by Alex Isenstadt, Journalist Alex Isenstadt takes readers deep into Mar-a-Lago, inside the courtroom, and aboard “Trump Force One” to show how Trump and his revamped team responded, overcame, and in some cases orchestrated each and every surreal moment in this one-of-a-kind presidential campaign. Based on extraordinary access and over 300 interviews, Isenstadt paints a unique and deeply revealing portrait of a man bent on returning to the White House at all costs – and who successfully portrayed himself as an avatar of vengeance for the millions of Americans who voted for him. 20 points

5. Teddy and Booker T.: How Two American Icons Blazed a Path for Racial Equality by Brian Kilmeade This Tells the story of how two wildly different Americans faced the challenge of keeping America moving toward the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation. 20 points PC

6. The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition by Anne Frank Updated with enlightening new material, this is the complete, definitive edition of Anne Frank’s diary, “the single most compelling personal account of the Holocaust” (The New York Times Book Review) 30 points

7.The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune—an unlikely friendship that changed the world. (Mrs. Roosevelt was a member of GFWC) 30 points AS

8.The Watchmaker's Daughter: The True Story of World War II Heroine Corrie Ten Boom by Larry Loftis A Dutch watchmaker who saved the lives of hundreds of Jews during WWII—at the cost of losing her family and being sent to a concentration camp, only to survive, forgive her captors, and live the rest of her life as a Christian missionary. 20 points

9.The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies by Jason Fagone Joining the ranks of Hidden Figures and In the Garden of Beasts, the incredible true story of the greatest codebreaking duo that ever lived, an American woman and her husband who invented the modern science of cryptology together and used it to confront the evils of their time, solving puzzles that unmasked Nazi spies and helped win World War II. NPR book of the year. 30 points

10.White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America by Nancy Isenberg In her groundbreaking bestselling history of the class system in America, Nancy Isenberg upends history as we know it by taking on our comforting myths about equality and uncovering the crucial legacy of the ever-present, always embarrassing—if occasionally entertaining—poor white trash. 30 pages

Group II About People

11.Ask Not: The Kennedys and the Women They Destroyed by Maureen Callahan Drawing on years of explosive reportage and written in electric prose, Ask Not is a long-overdue reckoning with this fabled family and a consequential part of American history that is still very much with us. At long last, Callahan redirects the spotlight to the women in the Kennedys' orbit, paying homage to those who freed themselves and giving voice to those who, through no fault of their own, could not. 30 pages

12.Be Ready When the Luck Happens: A Memoir by Ina Garten In her long-awaited memoir, Ina Garten—aka the Barefoot Contessa, author of thirteen bestselling cookbooks, beloved Food Network personality, Instagram sensation, and cultural icon—shares her personal story with readers hungry for a seat at her table. 20 points

13.Brothers by Alex van Halen In this intimate and open account—nothing like any rock-and-roll memoir you've ever read—Alex Van Halen shares his personal story of family, friendship, music and brotherly love in a remarkable tribute to his beloved brother and band mate. 20 points

14. Heretic Queen: Queen Elizabeth I and the Wars of Religion by Susan Ronald

Extravagant, witty, and hot-tempered, Elizabeth was the ultimate tyrant. Yet at the outset, in religious matters, she was unfathomably tolerant for her day. "There is only one Christ, Jesus, one faith," Elizabeth once proclaimed. "All else is a dispute over trifles." Heretic Queen is the highly personal, untold story of how Queen Elizabeth I secured the future of England as a world power. Susan Ronald paints the queen as a complex character whose apparent indecision was really a political tool that she wielded with great aplomb. 20 points

15. I'll Have What She's Having by Chelsea Handler Surprisingly vulnerable and always outrageous, Chelsea Handler captures the antic-filled, exhilarating, and joyful life she's built—a life that makes the rest of us think, I'll have what she's having. 20 points

16. Lorne: The Man Who Invented Saturday Night Live (February 18, 2025) by Susan Morrison Drawn from hundreds of interviews—with Lorne Michaels, his friends, and SNL's iconic stars and writers, from Will Ferrell to Tina Fey to John Mulaney to Chris Rock to Dan Aykroyd—Lorne is a deeply reported, wildly entertaining account of a man singularly obsessed with the show that would define his life and have a profound impact on American culture. 30 points

17. On the Origin of Time: Stephen Hawking's Final Theory by Thomas Hertog Stephen Hawking's closest collaborator offers the intellectual superstar's final thoughts on the cosmos—a dramatic revision of the theory he put forward in A Brief History of Time. 20 points

18. Saved: A War Reporter's Mission to Make It Home by Benjamin Hall When veteran war reporter Benjamin Hall woke up in Kyiv on the morning of March 14, 2022, he had no idea that, within hours, Russian bombs would nearly end his life. As a journalist for Fox News, Hall had worked in dangerous war zones like Syria and Afghanistan, but with three young daughters at home, life on the edge was supposed to be a thing of the past. Yet when Russia viciously attacked Ukraine in February 2022, Hall quickly volunteered to go. A few weeks later, while on assignment, Hall and his crew were blown up in a Russian strike. With Hall himself gravely injured and stuck in Kyiv, it was unclear if he would make it out alive. 20 points

19. The Boys of Riverside: A Deaf Football Team and a Quest for Glory by Thomas Fuller The incredible story of an all-deaf high school football team's triumphant climb from underdog to undefeated, their inspirational brotherhood, a fascinating portrait of deafness in America, and the indefatigable head coach who spearheaded the team. 20 points

20. The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine by Janice Nimura Elizabeth Blackwell believed from an early age that she was destined for a mission beyond the scope of "ordinary" womanhood. Though the world at first recoiled at the notion of a woman studying medicine, her intelligence and intensity ultimately won her the acceptance of the male medical establishment. In 1849, she became the first woman in America to receive an M.D. She was soon joined in her iconic achievement by her younger sister, Emily, who was a more brilliant physician. 20 points AS

21.The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women (Harrowing Historical Nonfiction Bestseller About a Courageous Fight for Justice) by Kate Moore A masterful blend of historical account and heartfelt tribute. Moore's vivid prose brings these forgotten heroines back to life, ensuring that their sacrifices and triumphs are forever etched in our collective memory. As you turn each page, you'll be captivated by their indelible legacy and inspired by their enduring spirit. The Radium Girls is a must-read for history enthusiasts, feminists, and anyone seeking a remarkable story of resilience and empowerment. 30 points AS

22.Twelve Years A Slave by Samuel Northrup This is the true story of Solomon Northup, who was born and raised as a freeman in New York. He lived the American dream, with a house and a loving family - a wife and two kids. Then one day he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery in the deep south. These are the true accounts of his twelve hard years as a slave - many believe this memoir is even more graphic and disturbing than the film. His extraordinary journey proves the resiliency of hope and the human spirit despite the most grueling and formidable of circumstances. 20 points AS

Group III Religion & Philosophy

23.A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis, foreword by Madeline L'Engle Lewis's honest reflection on the fundamental issues of life, death, and faith, while in the midst of loss. Written after his wife's tragic death as a way of surviving the "mad midnight moments," A Grief Observed is an unflinchingly truthful account of how loss can lead even a stalwart believer to lose all sense of meaning in the universe, and how he can gradually regain his bearings. 20 points

24.Breaking the Habit of Being Yourself: How to Lose Your Mind and Create a New One by Joe Dispenza Not only will you be given the necessary knowledge to change any aspect of yourself, but you also will be taught the step-by-step tools to apply what you learn in order to make measurable changes in any area of your life. Dr. Joe demystifies ancient understandings and bridges the gap between science and spirituality. Through his powerful workshops and lectures, thousands of people in 25 different countries have used these principles to change from the inside out. Once you break the habit of being yourself and truly change your mind, your life will never be the same! 20 points

25. CSB She Reads Truth Bible, by Raechel Myers and Amanda Bible Williams Since 2012, the global She Reads Truth community has been opening their Bibles together every day with the desire to know God and His Word. Born out of this same mission, the CBS She Reads Truth Bible seeks to help you read and understand Scripture for yourself. Featuring gospel-centered devotionals, and curated Bible reading plans that include supplemental passages for deeper understanding, this Bible invites every woman to count herself among the She Reads Truth community of "Women in the Word of God every day." 60 points

26. Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again by Lysa TerKeurst Have you ever felt stuck in a cycle of unresolved pain, playing offenses over and over in your mind? You know you can't go on like this, but you don't know what to do next. Lysa TerKeurst wrestled through this journey. But in surprising ways, she's discovered how to let go of bound-up resentment and overcome the resistance to forgiving people who aren't willing to make things right. 20 points

27. Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as he did. By John Mark Comer This introduction to spiritual formation is full of John Mark Comer's trademark mix of theological substance and cultural insight as well as practical wisdom on developing your own Rule of Life. 20 points

28. Seeing the Supernatural: Investigating Angels, Demons, Mystical Dreams, Near-Death Encounters, and Other Mysteries of the Unseen World by Lee Strobel Discover solid answers to the provocative questions you have been asking about the supernatural world-- healings, angels, demons, mystical dreams, near-death experiences, heaven, hell, and more-- through the investigative work of a former spiritual skeptic. 20 points

29. The Man the Moment Demands: Master the 10 Characteristics of the Comprehensive Man (January 28, 2025) by Jason Wilson This book will empower you to become the right man in every moment by embodying the ten characteristics of the comprehensive man: the Fighter, the Provider, the Leader, the Lover, the Nurturer, the Gentleman, the Friend, the Husband, the Father, and the Son. 20 points

30. The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment by Eckhart Tolle. More than simple principles and platitudes, the book takes readers on an inspiring spiritual journey to find their true and deepest self and reach the ultimate in personal growth and spirituality: the discovery of truth and light. In the first chapter, Tolle introduces readers to enlightenment and its natural enemy, the mind. He awakens readers to their role as a creator of pain and shows them how to have a pain-free identity by living fully in the present. 20 points

31. The Way: The Essential Classic of Opus Dei's Founder by Josemaria Escrivá A meaningful Lenten resource from Saint Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei, full of timeless reflections that point the way to a life that is infused with faith. 20 points

32. When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times by Pema Chodron This perennially best-selling classic on overcoming life's difficulties cuts to the heart of spirituality and personal growth--now in a newly designed 20th-anniversary edition with a new afterword by Pema--makes for a perfect gift and addition to one's spiritual library. 20 points

GROUP IV Special Interests

33.Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones , by James Clear Clear is known for his ability to distill complex topics into simple behaviors that can be easily applied to daily life and work. Here, he draws on the most proven ideas from biology, psychology, and neuroscience to create an easy-to-understand guide for making good habits inevitable and bad habits impossible. Along the way, readers will be inspired and entertained with true stories from Olympic gold medalists, award-winning artists, business leaders, life-saving physicians, and star comedians who have used the science of small habits to master their craft and vault to the top of their field. 20 points

34.Don't Believe Everything You Think: Why Your Thinking Is The Beginning & End Of Suffering (Beyond Suffering) by Joseph Nguyen Learn how to overcome anxiety, self-doubt & self-sabotage without needing to rely on motivation or willpower. In this book, you'll discover the root cause of all psychological and emotional suffering and how to achieve freedom of mind to effortlessly create the life you've always wanted to live. 20 points

35.Forgotten Home Apothecary: 250 Powerful Remedies at Your Fingertips by Dr. Nicole Apelian. The only complete herbal medicine book that covers the most important remedies that used to be made by our grandparents back when apothecaries hadn't been replaced by pharmacies. It lays the strongest foundation for someone who wants to recover all that forgotten knowledge. Unlike others, this book is very easy to use! The first thing you'll see when you open the book is your new Apothecary. Here you'll find all the 250 remedies, organized on shelves by specific ailments. Each page of the appendix displays the remedies found inside the book, and the page you're going to find it. There, you will find step-by-step instructions, color pictures, measurements and dosages. 20 points

36.Layered Leadership: Drive Double-Digit Growth and Dominate Your Competition with Creative Strategies and Execution, by Lawrence R. Armstrong. One of the world's most successful global leaders in architecture and design; gives a holistic, humanist approach to leadership, centering on an unwavering commitment to developing well-rounded leaders within any organization. Lawrence Armstrong's vision for competitive excellence is animated by investing in and caring about the development of the whole person and their surrounding community. Under his creative, layer-based approach, Ware Malcomb has become a global leader in the industrial building sector, one of the world's most successful and admired businesses of its kind. 20 points

37. Martha Stewart's Gardening Handbook: The Essential Guide to Designing, Planting, and Growing— Beautiful Plants and Vegetables (March 18, 2025) by Martha Stewart

Master the art of gardening with Martha Stewart's Gardening Handbook: an in-depth guide that will teach you the knowledge and skills to cultivate a flourishing garden. From understanding soil composition to learning about different types of plants and gardening methods, you'll discover the secrets to creating a stunning outdoor oasis. 20 points (I have not listened to anything she has said since she walked into an antique shop and purchased a beautiful wooden-framed mirror and told how nice it would look painted white-but I am supposed to be giving you options to read.) Sorry. TH

38. Maybe You Should Talk To Someone: A Therapist, HER Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed by Lori Gottlieb.

A New York Times best-selling author, psychotherapist, and national advice columnist, a hilarious, thought-provoking, and surprising new book that takes us behind the scenes of a therapist's world--where her patients are looking for answers (and so is she). 30 points

39. National Geographic Photo Basics: The Ultimate Beginner's Guide to Great Photography by Joel Sartore.

For digital camera and smartphone users, this easy how-to guide, written by an experienced National Geographic photographer, imparts the essentials of taking great pictures.

This entertaining book from beloved National Geographic photographer and Photo Ark founder Joel Sartore shows aspiring photographers how to take great pictures, from framing and F-stops to editing and archiving. Whether you're using a phone or a DSLR camera, you'll learn fundamentals that you'll put to work every day. 20 points

40. The House of My Mother: A Daughter's Quest for Freedom by Shari Franke, Yes, That Franke!

As the family's YouTube notoriety grew, so too did Ruby's delusions of righteousness. Fueled by the sadistic influence of relationship coach Jodi Hildebrandt, together they implemented an inhumane and merciless disciplinary regime. Ruby and Jodi were arrested in Utah in 2023 on multiple charges of aggravated child abuse. On that fateful day, Shari shared a photo online of a police car outside their home. Her caption had one word: "Finally." 20 points

41. The Let Them Theory: A Life-Changing Tool That Millions of People Can't Stop Talking About by Mel Robbins and Sawyer Robbins

This bestselling author and one of the world's most respected experts on motivation, confidence, and mindset—teaches you how to stop wasting energy on what you can't control and start focusing on what truly matters: YOU. Your happiness. Your goals. Your life. 20 points

42. The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More. (March 18, 2025) by Jefferson Fisher

No matter who you're talking to, The Next Conversation gives you immediately actionable strategies and phrases that will forever change how you communicate. Jefferson Fisher, trial lawyer and one of the leading voices on real-world communication, offers a tried-and-true framework that will show you how to transform your life and your relationships by improving your next conversation. (A guest on GMA) 20 points

GROUP V Fiction

43.1984 by George Orwell Maybe it is time we read it again. 20 points

44.25 Alive: A Women's Murder Club Thriller (A Women's Murder Club Thriller, 25) April 28, 2025 by James Patterson “Those who haven’t read any of the novels in the Women’s Murder Club series are cheating themselves” (Book Reporter). Sergeant Lindsay Boxer, medical examiner Claire Washburn, Assistant District Attorney Yuki Castellano, and crime reporter Cindy Thomas investigate the shocking murder of a former SFPD chief in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park. 20 points

45.All the Colors of the Dark: by Chris Whitaker. A missing person mystery, a serial killer thriller, a love story, a unique twist on each, Chris Whitaker has written a novel about what lurks in the shadows of obsession and the blinding light of hope. 30 points

46.Barefoot: A Novel by Elin Hilderbrand Marriage, infidelity, and the mayhem of motherhood to scandal, tragedy, and illness—three women seek peace and comfort in Nantucket as they cope with life's challenges. 30 pages (I have never found one of her books I didn’t like. TH)

47.Blood Moon (March 4, 2025) by Sandra Brown An unruly detective and an ambitious TV show producer work against the clock to prevent another young woman from disappearing before the next blood moon—while trying to resist the attraction between them. 30 points

48.Bonded in Death (In Death, 60) by J. D. Robb. His passport read Giovanni Rossi. But decades ago, during the Urban Wars, he was part of a small, secret organization called The Twelve. Responding to an urgent summons from an old compatriot, he landed in New York and eased into the waiting car. And died within minutes... 20 points (I am addicted. I pre-buy all her In Death Series books. But, I don’t like Nora Roberts’ books.TH)

49.Broken Country (March 4, 2025) by Clare Leslie Hall. An unforgettable story of love, loss, and the choices that shape our lives...but it’s also a masterfully crafted mystery that will keep you guessing until the very last page. Seriously, that ending?! I did not see it coming.” Reese Witherspoon... 20 points

50.By Any Other Name: A Novel by Jodi Picoult Young playwright Melina Green has just written a new work inspired by the life of her Elizabethan ancestor Emilia Bassano. But seeing it performed is unlikely, in a theater world where the playing field isn’t level for women. As Melina wonders if she dares risk failure again, her best friend takes the decision out of her hands and submits the play to a festival under a male pseudonym. 30 points

51.Carrie Soto is Back: A Novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid “Gorgeous. The kind of sharp, smart, potent book you have to set aside every few pages just to catch your breath. I’ll take a piece of Carrie Soto forward with me in life and be a little better for it.”—Emily Henry 30 points AS

52.Count My Lies by Sophie Stava After deceiving her way into a nanny gig with wealthy New Yorkers Jay and Violet Lockhart, compulsive liar Sloane Caraway finds herself on the tantalizing edge of a life willed with luxury. It's only when things start to get creepy that Sloane wonders "What if I'm not the only one who is lying?" A GMA pick. 20 points

53.Counting Miracles: A Novel by Nicholas Sparks, Tanner Hughes was raised by his grandparents, following in his grandfather's military footsteps to become an Army Ranger. His whole life has been spent abroad, and he is the proverbial rolling stone: happiest when off on his next adventure, zero desire to settle down. But when his grandmother passed away, her last words to him were to find where you belong. She also drops a bombshell, telling him the name of the father he never knew—and where to find him. 20 points

54. Cut: A Medical Murder Mystery by Amy S. Peele While the federal government is launching a national investigation on the "equity" of organ distribution, a female tech CEO flies across the country to get a liver transplant. Soon, well-respected transplant nurse Sarah Golden and her best friend, Jackie, find themselves tangled up in an intense plot to uncover the answer to the question on everyone's mind: Can you buy your way up to the top of the waiting list? Amy S. Peele is the Honorary Chairman of GFWC Education & Libraries and ESO for this administration. She will also be speaking at the 2025 International Convention. (Book 1 of 3) 20 points TH

55.Far From Home: A Novel by Danielle Steel. In July 1944, Arielle von Auspeck arrives at the glamorous Hotel Ritz in occupied Paris. Half French, half German, she is happy to be back in France, where her husband, Gregor, a retired colonel, will join her soon from Germany. Arielle and Gregor have thus far been able to hide their private opposition to Hitler. Then her world falls apart. She receives word that Gregor was part of Operation Valkyrie, a failed attempt to assassinate Hitler in Poland, and has been shot as a traitor. 20 points

56.Funny Story by Emily Henry Daphne always loved the way her fiancé Peter told their story. How they met (on a blustery day), fell in love (over an errant hat), and moved back to his lakeside hometown to begin their life together. He really was good at telling it...right up until the moment he realized he was in love with his childhood best friend Petra. 30 points

57.Hold: A Medical Mystery by Amy S. Peele Sarah Golden and Jackie Larsen promised their partners they were out of the detective business. They declared "game over" after both almost lost their lives trying to solve their last medical mystery, and they're happy with that decision: Sarah has finally allowed love and romance into her life, Jackie's marriage is solid, and Jackie's son, Wyatt, is still doing great with his year-old kidney transplant. (Book 3 of 3) TH

58.If Cats Disappeared from the World by Genki Kawamura This timeless tale is a moving story of loss and reconciliation, and of one man's journey to discover what really matters most in life. 20 points

59.Iron Flame (The Empyrean, 2) by Rebecca Yarros . Everyone expected Violet Sorrengail to die during her first year at Basgiath War College—Violet included. But Threshing was only the first impossible test meant to weed out the weak-willed, the unworthy, and the unlucky. Now the real training begins, and Violet’s already wondering how she’ll get through. It’s not just that it’s grueling and maliciously brutal, or even that it’s designed to stretch the riders’ capacity for pain beyond endurance. It’s the new vice commandant, who’s made it his personal mission to teach Violet exactly how powerless she is—unless she betrays the man she loves. Book 2 of 3
30 points

60.James: A Novel by Percival Everett A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. 20 points

61.Malibu Rising: A Read by Jenna Pick: A Novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid. A story about one unforgettable night in the life of a family: the night they each have to choose what they will keep from the people who made them . . . and what they will leave behind. 20 points AS

62.Martyr!: A novel by Kaveh Akbar A newly sober, orphaned son of Iranian immigrants, guided by the voices of artists, poets, and kings, embarks on a remarkable search for a family secret that leads him to a terminally ill painter living out her final days in the Brooklyn Museum. Electrifying, funny, and wholly original, Martyr! heralds the arrival of an essential new voice in contemporary fiction. 20 points

63.Match: A Medical Murder Mystery by Amy S. Peele Armed with smarts, tenacity, big hearts, and their raucous senses of humor, the pair gets the help of a few colorful friends to pursue the killer and take on the mission in the only style they both know how: straight on and arm-in-arm as the friends they’ve always been. (Book 2 of 3) 20 points TH

64.Never Flinch by Stephen King. (Out May 27, 2025) This new book brings back fan favorite Holly Gibney and threads together two storylines—a vigilante celebrity stalker and an avenging killer on the loose. 30 points

65.Never Say Never: A Novel by Danielle Steel . Oona Kelly Webster has much to be grateful for. A striking woman with red hair and green eyes, she has a loving family and a job she adores, editing a prestigious line of books. To celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, she and her husband, Charles, have planned a visit to France. But then Charles drops a bombshell. He has been living a lie—hiding an affair for a year—and he is leaving Oona for a younger male lover. 20 points

66.Nobody’s Fool by Harlan Coben. detective Sami Kierce has been haunted by memories of a college backpacking trip to Spain gone very, very wrong., for many years. When he spots a familiar face in a New York City crowd, Sami must finally turn around and face the past...the hard way. 20 points

67.None of This is True by Lisa Jewell. This story follows a woman who finds herself the subject of her own popular true crime podcast. 20 points AS

68.No Way Out: A Gripping Novel of Suspense by Fern Michaels Ellie Bowman barely remembers the incident that put her into a coma. When she awoke, filled with unease, all she knew for certain was that her boyfriend, Rick, was missing. She knew she needed to get away from her old life and recover in safety. With the proceeds of a video game she helped develop, Ellie starts over in rural Missouri, working from her cottage and trusting no one except her friend and business partner. 20 points

69.Onyx Storm: DISCOVER THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE GLOBAL PHENOMENONS, FOURTH WING AND IRON FLAME! (The Empyrean) by Rebecca Yarros. After being nearly eighteen months at Basgiath War College, Violet Sorrengail knows there's no more time for lessons. No more time for uncertainty. Because the battle has truly begun, and with enemies closing in from outside their walls and within their ranks, it's impossible to know who to trust. Book 3 of 3 30 points

70.Paranoia: A Michael Bennett Thriller (A Michael Bennett Thriller, 17) by James Patterson and James O. Born. NYPD Detective Michael Bennett will stop at nothing to protect family: his wife, his kids—and his fellow officers—in the latest psychological thriller from bestselling author James Patterson. 20 points

71.Remarkable Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. For the fans of A Man Called Ove, a charming, witty and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. 20 points PC

72.Strangers in Time: A World War II Novel (April 15, 2025) by David Baldacci. Set in London in 1944, about a bereaved book shop owner and two teenagers scarred by the second world war—and the healing and hope they find in one another. 30 points

73.Sunrise on the Reaping (A Hunger Games Novel) Available (March 18, 2025)by Suzanne Collins Book 5 of 5 As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes. 30 points

74.Switchboard Soldiers by Jennifer Chiaverini “An eye-opening and detailed novel about remarkable female soldiers. . . Chiaverini weaves the intersecting threads of these brave women's lives together, highlighting their deep sense of pride and duty.”—Kirkus Reviews 30 points AS

75.The Big Bang Theory: The Definitive, Inside Story of the Epic Hit Series by Jessica Radloff To the casual viewer, it's a seemingly effortless comedy, with relatable characters tackling real-life issues, offering a kind of visual comfort food to its millions of dedicated fans. But the behind-the-scenes journey of the show from a failed pilot to a global sensation is a fascinating story that even the most die-hard fans don't know in its entirety. Foreword by Chuck Lorre 30 points (I literally go to sleep every night watching BBT reruns, TH)

76.The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. From the New York Times-bestselling author of Cutting for Stone comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret. “One of the best books I’ve read in my entire life. It’s epic. It’s transportive . . . It was unputdownable!”—Oprah Winfrey 30 points MM

77.The Exchange: After The Firm (The Firm Series) by John Grisham What became of Mitch and Abby McDeere after they exposed the crimes of Memphis law firm Bendini, Lambert & Locke and fled the country? The answer is found in The Exchange, the riveting sequel to The Firm, the blockbuster thriller that launched the career of America’s favorite storyteller. (Book 2 of 2) 30 points

78.The Flower Sisters by Michelle Collins Anderson Drawing on the little-known true story of one tragic night at an Ozarks dance hall in the author’s Missouri hometown, this beautifully written, endearingly nostalgic novel picks up 50 years later for a folksy, character-driven portrayal of small-town life, split second decisions, and the ways family secrets reverberate through generations. 20 points

79.The Firm: A Novel (The Firm Series) by John Grisham. Mitch McDeere ,has worked hard to get where he is: third in his class at Harvard Law. Aggressively recruited by all the top firms, and initially headed for Wall Street, Mitch surprises everyone by joining Bendini, Lambert & Locke, a very private, very rich tax firm in Memphis. Mitch and his wife, Abby, move to Tennessee and quickly settle into their new life: they’re young, happy, and on the fast track. Or so they think. (Book 1 of 2) 30 points (I think it is time to read this one again! TH)

80.The Frozen River: by Ariel Lawhorn. A gripping historical mystery, inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. "Fans of Outlander’s Claire Fraser will enjoy Lawhon’s Martha, who is brave and outspoken when it comes to protecting the innocent. Impressive says " The Washington Post 30 points

81.The God of the Woods: A Novel by Liz Moore "A long novel that at first is hard to put down. By page 200, impossible." Says Stephen King “Extraordinary . . . Reminds me of Donna Tartt’s 1992 debut, The Secret History . . . I was so thoroughly submerged in a rich fictional world, that for hours I barely came up for air.” —Maureen Corrigan, Fresh Air, NPR 30 points

82.The Good Left Undone: A Novel by Arlana Trigiani. From “a master of visual and palpable detail” (The Washington Post), comes a lush, immersive novel about three generations of Tuscan artisans with one remarkable secret. Epic in scope and resplendent with the glorious themes of identity and belonging, The Good Left Undone unfolds in breathtaking turns. 30 points. PC

83.The Henna Artist: A Reese's Book Club Pick (The Jaipur Trilogy, 1) by Alka Joshi

Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist—and confidante—to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own. 30 points AS

84.The Hope: A Novel (Hope and Glory) by Herman Wouk this saga spans from 1948 to 1967, the early decades of the state of Israel as it struggles for its life, outmatched and surrounded by enemies—the first of the two-part epic that concludes with The Glory. 30 points Recommended by SS

85.The Housemaid by Freida McFadden Customers find the book engaging and addictive. They praise the writing quality as sharp and well-written, with no wasted filler words. Readers appreciate the fast pacing and mention it's a page-turner. The characters are well-developed with easy-to-remember names. Overall, customers describe the book as an amazing and interesting read that keeps them hooked until the end. (Book 1 of 3) 20 points

86.The Housemaid's Secret by Freida McFadden Douglas Garrick has done wrong. He is going to pay. It's simply a question of how far I'm willing to go.... An unbelievably twisty read that will have you glued to the pages late into the night. (Book 2 of 3) 20 points

87.The Housemaid Is Watching by Freida McFadden. The Lowell's new maid isn't the only strange thing on our street. I'm sure I see a shadowy figure watching us. My husband leaves the house late at night. And when I meet a woman who lives across the way, her words chill me to the bone: Be careful of your neighbors. Did I make a terrible mistake moving my family here? I thought I'd left my darkest secrets behind. But could this quiet suburban street be the most dangerous place of all? (Book 3 of 3) 30 points

88.The Last Child: A Novel by John Hart. Heralded by the Washington Post as a "a magnificent creation, Huck Finn channeled through Lord of the Flies", John Hart's The Last Child is his most significant work to date, an intricate, powerful story of loss, hope, and courage in the face of evil. Book 1 of 2 20 points SS

89.The Little Liar by Mitch Album. Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis has never told a lie. When the Nazis invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico is to do is persuade his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading "north," where new jobs and safety await. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy reassures passengers on the station platform every day. It's by Mitch Album, need I say more? 20 points TH, AS

90.The Missing Half by Ashley Flowers with Alex Kiester. A True Crimes podcaster teams with Kiester for a twisted and twisty mystery-thriller. Two missing persons, two determined sisters, and an investigation that uncovers a series of terrible secrets in a small town. 20 points

91.The Oligarch's Daughter: A Novel by Joseph Finder. "This is Finder at his finest— perfect everyman-in-peril story, first building an ominous drumbeat of menace, then exploding in action and intrigue and triumph. As good as it gets, says "Lee Child “. 30 points

92.The Perfumist of Paris: A Novel (The Jaipur Trilogy, 3) by Alki Joshi. The final chapter in Alka Joshi's New York Times bestselling Jaipur trilogy takes readers to 1970s Paris, where Radha's budding career as a perfumer must compete with the demands of her family and the secrets of her past. 20 points AS

93.The President's Wife by Tracey Emerson Wood. Socialite, Edith Bolling has been in no hurry to find a new husband since she was widowed, preferring to fill her days with good friends and travel. But the enchanting courting of President Woodrow Wilson wins Edith over and she becomes the First Lady of the United States. 20 points AS

94.The Ragpicker King (Chronicles of Castellane) by Cassandra Clare. The epic follow-up to the bestselling Sword Catcher, praised by George R. R. Martin as "everything I look for in fantasy," Lin and Kel must chart a perilous course between love and lies. (Book 2 of 2) 30 points

95.The Secret Keeper of Jaipur (The Jaipur Trilogy, 2) by Alki Joshi . It is the spring of 1969, and Lakshmi, now married to Dr. Jay Kumar, directs the Healing Garden in Shimla. Malik has finished his private school education. At twenty, he has just met a young woman named Nimmi when he leaves to apprentice at the Facilities Office of the Jaipur Royal Palace. Their latest project: a state-of-the-art cinema. 20 points AS

96.The Secret of Secrets by Dan Brown. (available 9-5-2025) Robert Langdon, esteemed professor of symbology, travels to Prague to attend a groundbreaking lecture by Katherine Solomon—a prominent noetic scientist with whom he has recently begun a relationship. Katherine is on the verge of publishing an explosive book that contains startling discoveries about the nature of human consciousness and threatens to disrupt centuries of established belief. But a brutal murder catapults the trip into chaos, and Katherine suddenly disappears along with her manuscript. Book 6 of 6 30 points

97.The Seven Rings: The Lost Bride Trilogy, Book 3 (The Lost Bride Trilogy, 3) (November 18, 2025) by Nora Roberts The conclusion of her compelling Lost Bride trilogy as two women—one dead, one alive—prepare for a terrifying final showdown... 30 points

98.The Tiffany Girls: A Novel by Shelley Noble New York Times bestselling author Shelley Noble wows with a gripping historical novel about the real-life "Tiffany Girls," a fascinating and largely unknown group of women artists behind Tiffany's most legendary glassworks. 30 points PC

99.The Waiting: A Ballard and Bosch Novel (A Renée Ballard and Harry Bosch Novel, 6) by Michael Connelly LAPD Detective Renée Ballard tracks a serial rapist whose trail has gone cold, and enlists a new volunteer to the Open-Unsolved Unit: patrol officer Maddie Bosch, Harry's daughter 30 points

100.The Wedding People: A Novel by Alison Espach. Absurdly funny and devastatingly tender, Alison Espach's The Wedding People is ultimately an incredibly nuanced and resonant look at the winding paths we can take to places we never imagined—and the chance encounters it sometimes takes to reroute us. 20 points

101.The Wife Upstairs by Freida McFadden. A great career as a nurse practitioner. A handsome and loving husband. A beautiful home in the suburbs and a plan to fill it with children. Life is perfect—or so it seems. Then she's in a terrible accident... and her life is forever changed. Sylvia Robinson is hired as a caregiver for Victoria. Sylvia moves into a spare room, feeds Victoria, and takes her on long walks. The two women become friends. But as it turns out, this simple nursing job is more than it seems. As Sylvia and Victoria's friendship grows, Sylvia realizes that Victoria is desperately trying to tell her something. If only she could speak. 20 points MM

102.The Women by Kristin Hannah. The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, The Women is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. 30 points, AS and DJ

103.Wild Side (Rose Hill, 3) by Elise Silver She's always dreamed of her wedding day. And those dreams never included saying "I do" to a man she hates. But when Tabitha's nephew's guardianship is contested, she decides she'll do whatever it takes to keep him in Rose Hill. Even if it means marrying the enemy. 30 points

Books recommended by:

AS Andra Sudler 1996-1998 GFWC Indiana State President

DJ Dana Jones 2014-2016 GFWC Indiana State President

PC Patty Cato GFWC Alabama

MM Michelle Munoz 2014-2016 GFWC Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs

TH Tric Heepe