



**GFWC INDIANA FEDERATION OF CLUBS**  
**INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM**  
**EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON**  
**SPECIAL READING LIST # 116**

**2026**

## 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.

Tric Heepe  
State ESO Chairman and Administrator  
5145 Esteb Rd.  
Richmond, IN 47374-9467  
Theepe@aol.com

## Group I World Affairs and History

**A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan** "With narrative elan, Egan gives us a riveting saga of how a predatory con man became one of the most powerful people in 1920s America, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, with a plan to rule the country—and how a grisly murder of a woman brought him down. Compelling and chillingly resonant with our own time." 30 points

**Daring to Be Free: Rebellion and Resistance of the Enslaved in the Atlantic World by Sudhir Hazareesingh** Daring to Be Free portrays the struggle for liberation from the perspective of the enslaved and, wherever possible, in their own words. It highlights the power of collective action, stressing the role of maroon communities, conspiracies, insurrections, and spiritual movements, from Haiti and Brazil to Cuba, Mauritius, and the American South. These acts of resistance involved entire communities, with women often at the heart of the story as warriors, organizers, and agents of radical change. 30 points

**Family of Spies: A World War II Story of Nazi Espionage and Betrayal, and the Secret History Behind Pearl Harbor by Christine Kuehn** It began with a letter from a screenwriter, asking about a story. Your family. World War II. Nazi spies. Christine Kuehn was shocked and confused. When she asked her seventy-year-old father, Eberhard, what this could possibly be about, he stalled, deflected, demurred, and then wept. He knew this day would come. 20 points

**Hetty: The Genius and Madness of America's First Female Tycoon by Charles Slack** When J. P. Morgan called a meeting of New York's financial leaders after the stock market crash of 1907, Hetty Green was the only woman in the room. The Guinness Book of World Records memorialized her as the World's Greatest Miser, and, indeed, this unlikely robber baron—who parlayed a comfortable inheritance into a fortune that was worth about 1.6 billion in today's dollars—was frugal to a fault. But in an age when women weren't even allowed to vote, never mind concern themselves with interest rates, she lived by her own rules. In Hetty, Charles Slack reexamines her life and legacy, giving us, at long last, a splendidly "nuanced portrait" (Newsweek) of one of the greatest—and most eccentric—financiers in American history. 20 points

**The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald by John U. Bacon (Author), Johnny Heller (Narrator)** On the fiftieth anniversary of the disaster, award-winning journalist John U. Bacon presents the definitive account of the disaster, drawing on more than 100 interviews with the families, friends, and former crewmates of those lost. Bacon explores the vital role Great Lakes shipping played in America's economic boom, the uncommon lives the sailors led, the sinking's most likely causes, and the heartbreaking aftermath for those left behind—"the wives, the sons, and the daughters," as Gordon Lightfoot sang in his unforgettable ballad. 30 points

**The Greatest Templar Tale Never Told: The Sinclair/Wemyss Journals (The Hooked X) by Scott Wolter** Comprised of twenty books written in Latin, Old, and Modern English, the stories told are not only enthralling and amazing, but give a deep look at the truth of the mission our Founding Fathers called the "Covenant." 20 points

**The History of the Vikings: The Epic Story of Norse Seafarers by Skriuwer.com Yahia Fathy, Jennifer Joseph** Forget horned helmets and mindless brutes. Discover the real Vikings: master navigators who raided Paris, traded with Byzantium, and reached America 500 years before Columbus. This unveils their epic sagas—written in storm waves and blood. 20 points

**The Kennedys and the Windsors: The Story of Two Dynasties, One Born, One Made (Coming June 2, 2026) by Caroline Halleman** For nearly a century, two families an ocean apart have captured the world's collective imagination: the British Windsors and the American Kennedys. Much ink has been spilled on their individual trysts, tragedies, and triumphs over the years, but no one has examined their powerful and intertwined legacies. Until now. 20 points

**We the Women: The Unstoppable Mothers of the Equal Rights Amendment by Julie C. Suk** Ruth Bader Ginsburg believed that the equal rights of women belonged in the Constitution. She stood on the shoulders of brilliant women who persisted across generations to change the Constitution. *We the Women* tells their stories, showing what's at stake in the current battle for the Equal Rights Amendment. 20 points

**WITNESS: JFK Jr.'s Fatal Flight: The Last Witness by Kyle Bailey** The book *WITNESS* offers a rare perspective on legacy, loss, and the haunting silence that followed. It's a tribute to three lives lost, a reflection of fate, and a deep personal narrative, from someone who was a humble witness to history. 20 points

### Group II About People

**Between Two Trailers by J. Dana Trent** A powerful, unforgettable memoir about a girl who escapes her childhood as a preschool drug dealer in rural Indiana—only to find that no one can really “make it out” until they make peace with where their story began: home. Home, it turns out, is where the war is. It's also where the healing begins. 20 points AS

**Bruce Springsteen\_The Stories Behind the Songs: Bruce Springsteen by Brian Hiatt** Updated to include the albums *Western Stars* and *Letter To You* and packed full of insightful stories from Springsteen's long career, *Bruce Springsteen: The Stories Behind the Songs* takes a detailed look at each and every one of his tracks, providing a unique look at this rock legend's method, as well as some of the many anecdotes and tales from his long music history. 20 points

**Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend by Rebecca Romney** Jane Austen's *Bookshelf* investigates the disappearance of Austen's heroes—women writers who were erased from the Western canon—to reveal who they were, what they meant to Austen, and how they were forgotten. Each chapter profiles a different writer...and recounts Romney's experience reading them, finding rare copies of their works, and drawing on connections between their words and Austen's. 30 points SH

**Joan: Life Beyond the Script by Joan Lunden** In this fearless and inspiring memoir, trailblazing journalist Joan Lunden pulls back the curtain on the defining moments that shaped her extraordinary life—from breaking barriers on national television to reshaping motherhood, survivorship, and aging on her own terms. 30 points

**Kids, Wait Till You Hear This! Liza Minnelli as told to Michael Feinstein** Global icon Liza Minnelli shares her inspiring story: stepping out from the long shadow of a mega-star mother and a legendary film director father, fighting a lifetime battle with addiction, and emerging from it all to become a once-in-a-lifetime artist. 30 points

**Nobody's Girl: A memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice by Virginia Roberts Giuffre**

An astonishing affirmation of Giuffre's unshakable will—first, to claw her way out of victimhood, and then to shine a light on wrongdoings and fight for a safer, fairer world. Equal parts intimate and fierce; it is a remarkable narrative of fortitude in the face of depravity and despair. 30 points

**Plagued by Fire: The Dreams and Furies of Frank Lloyd Wright**

Frank Lloyd Wright has long been known as a rank egotist who held in contempt almost everything aside from his own genius. Harder to detect, but no less real, is a Wright who fully understood, and suffered from, the choices he made. 30 points TH

**Stand:** by **Corey Booker** In *Stand*, Senator Cory Booker offers a hopeful and practical path forward, weaving together powerful stories and stirring personal reflections to remind us that our country's shared ideals can serve as a North Star to guide us, even when our journey feels especially dark and perilous. He argues that our principles are not luxuries; they are vital, strategic keys to our survival and success. By wielding these tools, we can reclaim our sense of common cause and change the course of our country's history. 20 points

**Strangers: A Memoir of Marriage by Belle Burden** With unflinching honesty and profound grace, Burden charts a path through heartbreak to show the power of a woman who refuses to give up on love. *Strangers* is a stunning, deeply moving, compulsively readable memoir heralding the arrival of a thrilling new literary talent. 20 points

**The Six Loves of James I by Mr. Gareth Russell** From the assassination of his father to the explosive political and personal intrigues of his reign, this fresh biography reveals as never before the passions that drove King James I. 30 points

**Where We Keep the Light Stories From a Life of Service by Josh Shapiro** Reflecting on what he's learned by knocking on doors, serving his community, and tackling the tough problems that no one wanted to touch in new and different ways, Shapiro reminds us that government can be a force for good, that conventional wisdom is rarely wise, and there's more that unites Americans than divides us. 20 points

**You with the Sad Eyes:** by **Kristina Applegate** Unflinchingly honest and darkly funny. This Memoir unveils a side of Christina Applegate we've never seen, forever cementing her formidable and iconoclastic legacy. 20 points

**Young Man in a Hurry by Gavin Newsom** "Go slow," his political elders advised him, but Gavin Newsom has never known such a speed. For Newsom, the California Dream is what lured his father's family from County Cork, Ireland, six generations ago. His great-great-grandfather, a cop, walked a beat in San Francisco, where almost 150 years later, Newsom would be elected as mayor, running on the values instilled in him by his family history: that California's open arms must continue to extend to each new generation. 20 points

### Group III Religion & Philosophy

**Being Aware of Being Aware (The Essence of Meditation Series) by Rupert Spira** Everybody is aware, all seven billion of us. We are aware of thoughts, feelings, sensations, and perceptions. All people share the experience of being aware, but relatively few people are aware that they are aware. Most people's lives consist of a flow of thoughts, images, ideas, feelings, sensations, sights, sounds, and so on. Very few people ask, 'What is it that knows this flow of thoughts, feelings, and perceptions? With what am I aware of my experience?' 20 points

**Beyond Good And Evil by Friedrich Nietzsche** In *Beyond Good and Evil*, Friedrich Nietzsche dismantles conventional notions of morality, truth, and authority. With razor-sharp wit and provocative insight, he explores the roots of human values and exposes the limits of dogmatic thinking. This philosophical masterpiece urges readers to rise above societal norms and forge their own paths, guided by intellect, strength, and self-overcoming. Unapologetic and visionary, it remains a cornerstone of modern philosophy. 20 points

**Boundaries Updated and Expanded Edition: When to Say Yes, How to Say No To Take Control of Your Life by Henry Cloud, John Townsend** In the New York Times bestseller, *Boundaries*, Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend help you learn when to say yes and know how to say no in order to take control of your life and set healthy, biblical boundaries with your spouse, children, friends, parents, co-workers, and even yourself. 20 points SH

**Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer** As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on "a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise" (Elizabeth Gilbert). 30 points

**Don't Believe Everything You Think: Why Your Thinking Is The Beginning & End Of Suffering by Joseph Nguyen** 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. Although pain is inevitable, suffering is optional. This book offers a completely new paradigm and understanding of where our human experience comes from, allowing us to end our own suffering and create how we want to feel at any moment. 20 points

**Einstein Never Used Flash Cards by Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, PhD & Roberta Michnick Golinkoff PhD.** Award-winning child-development experts, show how parents can help their children succeed while reducing pressures they each face. 20 points

**Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't by Simon Sinek** A compelling exploration of how great leaders foster trust and cooperation by prioritizing the needs of their teams over their own self-interest. 20 points

**The Daily Stoic: 366 Meditations on Wisdom, Perseverance, and the Art of Living by Ryan Holiday, Stephen Hanselman** Why have history's greatest minds—from George Washington to Frederick the Great to Ralph Waldo Emerson, along with today's top performers from Super Bowl-winning football coaches to CEOs and celebrities—embraced the wisdom of the ancient Stoics? Because they realize that the most valuable wisdom is timeless and that philosophy is for living a better life, not a classroom exercise. 30 points

**The Healing Power of Resilience: A New Prescription for Health and Well-Being by Tara Narula MD** A revolutionary, science-backed approach to living well from ABC News chief medical correspondent and cardiologist Dr. Tara Narula that bridges the gap between our physical and mental health to show how resilience is the key to both. 20 points

**The Let Them Theory: A Life-Changing Tool That Millions of People Can't Stop Talking About by Mel Robbins, Sawyer Robbins** One of the world's most respected experts on motivation, confidence, and mindset—this book 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

**The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life by David Brooks** In short, this book is meant to help us all lead more meaningful lives. But it's also a provocative social commentary. We live in a society, Brooks argues, that celebrates freedom, that tells us to be true to ourselves, at the expense of surrendering to a cause, rooting ourselves in a neighborhood, binding ourselves to others by social solidarity and love. We have taken individualism to the extreme—and in the process we have torn the social fabric in a thousand different ways. 20 points

#### **GROUP IV Special Interests**

**Go Higher: Five Practices for Purpose, Success, and Inner Peace by Big Sean** Multi-platinum artist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Big Sean shares his five key practices for inner work and self-acceptance in this “valuable” (Deepak Chopra) interactive guidebook on maintaining daily mental wellness. Sean Anderson, better known as Big Sean, has reached incredible levels of success in his music career. And while, from the outside, his life looks like a collection of enviable achievements, in truth, he has experienced the highest highs and the lowest lows that come with anxiety and depression. 20 points

**Handling A Narcissist: How To Break Free From Manipulation, Gaslighting and Narcissistic Abuse (Breaking Free: A Mental Health Series) by Damian Blair** Are you trapped in a relationship where manipulation, lies, and emotional chaos seem to rule your life? Maybe you're feeling confused, doubting your own perceptions, or struggling to regain a clear sense of self. Perhaps you're constantly walking on eggshells, unsure how to respond or communicate without sparking anger or blame. If this resonates, you might be facing the painful reality of narcissistic abuse. You're not alone, millions are quietly struggling with similar experiences, feeling exhausted and emotionally drained. The constant manipulation and shifting realities can feel overwhelming and isolating. 20 points

**How to Menopause : Take Charge of your Health, Reclaim Your Life, and Feel Even Better Than Before by Tamsen Fadal** EXPERT-DRIVEN, GIRLFRIEND-APPROVED • The perimenopause and menopause manual that cuts through the chaos so you can take back control of your body, your confidence, and your life—from Emmy award-winning journalist, documentary filmmaker, and social media powerhouse Tamsen Fadal. If you're ready to feel like yourself again, this book is "the talk" you never had. 20 points

**How to Stop Being Toxic: Unlock the Power of Self-Awareness to Break Manipulative Habits and Build Genuine Relationships by Jackson Porter** Perhaps, you quickly become defensive or get into a blame game whenever other people try to talk to you about their needs or talk about issues in your relationship. You lie, snap at other people, get sarcastic, guilt-trip, and do the silent treatment on default. And slowly, you're noticing — you're becoming the person you swore NEVER to be. 20 points

**The Birding Dictionary by Rosemary Mosco** Acclaimed science communicator and cartoonist Rosemary Mosco offers a clever, humorous “dictionary” that’s perfect for any birder. The Birding Dictionary is filled with hilarious and informative definitions for more than 200 birding terms, plus over 50 witty full-color illustrations. Terms range from bird species, anatomy, and behaviors to the insider jargon that all birders know and speak fluently, from “alpha code” to “zygodactyl.” With equal parts, quirky humor and accessible science, it’s a delightful gift for every bird enthusiast. 20 points

**The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer From the People Who’ve Lived the Longest by Dan Buettner** One of the most important and engaging stories you will ever read! You will visit locations where people live the longest, healthiest lives anywhere on the planet. More importantly, you will learn how to immediately incorporate those lessons from faraway places into your very own life. (GFWC Fayette County ESO is working to bring Blue Zones to Fayette County, Indiana. 20 points LF

**The Enabler: When Helping Hurts the Ones .... By Angelyn Miller** Co-dependency -- of which enabling is a major element -- can and does exist in families where there is no chemical dependency. Angelyn Miller's own experience is a dramatic example: neither she nor her husband drank, yet her family was floundering in that same dynamic. Despite her best efforts to fix everything (and everyone), the turmoil continued until she discovered that helping wasn't helping. Miller recounts how she learned to alter the way she responded to family crises and general neediness, forever breaking the cycle of co-dependency. Offering insights, practical techniques, and hope, she shows us how we can transform enabling relationships into healthy ones. 20 points

**The 5 Types of Wealth by Sahil Bloom** After three years of research, personal experimentation, and thousands of interviews across the globe, Sahil Bloom has created a groundbreaking blueprint to build your life around five types of wealth: Time Wealth, Social Wealth, Mental Wealth, Physical Wealth, and Financial Wealth. A life of true fulfillment engages all five types—working dynamically, in concert across the seasons of your journey. 30 points

**The Social Lives of Birds by Joan E. Strassmann** Strassmann explains how flocks provide safety in numbers, their roosts offer warmth and shelter, and colonies allow for protected breeding. But group behavior is not without its costs—including increased competition, tick infestations, and more. Strassmann exposes the conflicts birds face and the many ways in which they resolve these conflicts. 20 points

**Tiny Shifts by Elisha Goldstein, PhD** Recommended by Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler). Practical tips about the tiny shifts we can make to make sense of our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. 20 points

**You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World by Aba Limon** Published in association with the Library of Congress and edited by the twenty-fourth Poet Laureate of the United States, a singular collection of poems reflecting on our relationship to the natural world by fifty of our most celebrated contemporary writers. 20 points

### GROUP V Fiction

**11/22/63: A Novel by Stephen King** On November 22, 1963, three shots rang out in Dallas, President Kennedy died, and the world changed. What if you could change it back? In this brilliantly conceived tour de force, Stephen King—who has absorbed the social, political, and popular culture of his generation more imaginatively and thoroughly than any other writer—takes readers on an incredible journey into the past and the possibility of altering it. 40 points SH

**A Fall of Marigolds by Susan Meissner** September 1911. On Ellis Island in New York Harbor, nurse Clara Wood cannot face returning to Manhattan, where the man she loved fell to his death in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Then, while caring for a fevered immigrant whose own loss mirrors hers, she becomes intrigued by a name embroidered onto the scarf he carries...and finds herself caught in a dilemma that compels her to confront the truth about the assumptions she's made. What she learns could devastate her—or free her. 30 points AS

**Canary Girls by Jennifer Chiaverini** Rosie the Riveter meets A League of Their Own in New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini's lively and illuminating novel about the "munitionettes" who built bombs in Britain's arsenals during World War I, risking their lives for the war effort and discovering camaraderie and courage on the football pitch. 30 points AS

**Coeds and Cattails by Jana DeLeon** Mimi Clark was never going to win the most popular student award. The prolific tattletale seemed to cruise through university life, seeking out rule-breakers so she could bring their sins to the dean's attention. She probably never thought she'd be murdered for her favorite pastime. (You don't have to read the first 28 books in this series, but you will be glad you did.) 20 points

**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 passes away, her last words to him are, find where you belong. She also drops a bombshell, telling him the name of the father he never knew—and where to find him. 30 points

**Dear Bebbie by Freida McFadden** These days, Debbie's life seems to be spiraling out of control. She just lost her job. Something strange is happening with her teenage daughters. And her husband is keeping secrets, according to the tracking app she installed on his phone. Now, Debbie's done being the bigger person. 20 points

**DUNE: The Graphic Novel, Book 1: Dune: Book 1 (Volume 1) by Frank Herbert, Brian Herbert, Kevin J. Anderson** Frank Herbert's epic science-fiction masterpiece set in the far future amidst a sprawling feudal interstellar society, Dune tells the story of Paul Atreides as he and his family accept control of the desert planet Arrakis. 20 points

**Earth's Children\_The Clan of the Cave Bear** (Book 1 of 6) by **Jean M. Auel** Through Jean M. Auel's magnificent storytelling we are taken back to the dawn of modern humans, and with a girl named Ayla we are swept up in the harsh and beautiful Ice Age world they shared with the ones who called themselves The Clan of the Cave Bear. 30 points PU

**Earth's Children The Valley of Horses** (Book 2 of 6) by **Jean M. Auel** Cruelly cast out by the new leader of the ancient Clan that adopted her as a child, Ayla leaves those she loves behind and travels alone through a stark, open land filled with dangerous animals but few people, searching for the Others, tall and fair like herself. 30 points PU

**Earth's Children The Mammoth Hunters** (Book 3 of 6) by **Jean M. Auel** Set in the challenging terrain of Ice Age Europe that millions of Jean Auel's readers have come to treasure, The Mammoth Hunters is an epic novel of love, knowledge, jealousy, and hard choices—a novel certain to garner Jean Auel even greater acclaim as a master storyteller of the dawn of humanity. 30 points PU

**Earth's Children\_The Plains of Passage** (Book 4 of 6) by **Jean M. Auel** As sweeping and spectacular as the land she creates, Jean M. Auel's The Plains of Passage is an astonishing novel of discovery, danger, and love, a triumph for one of the world's most original and popular authors. 40 points

**Earth's Children The Shelters of Stone** (Book 5 of 6) by **Jean M. Auel** The Shelters of Stone opens as Ayla and Jondalar, along with their animal friends, Wolf, Whinney, and Racer, complete their epic journey across Europe and are greeted by Jondalar's people: the Zelandonii. The people of the Ninth Cave of the Zelandonii fascinate Ayla. Their clothes, customs, artifacts, even their homes—formed in great cliffs of vertical limestone—are a source of wonder to her. 40 points PU

**Earth's Children The Land of Painted Caves** (Book 6 of 6) by **Jean M. Auel** The extraordinary conclusion of the ice-age epic series, Earth's Children®, Ayla, Jondalar, and their infant daughter, Jonayla, are living with the Zelandonii in the Ninth Cave. Ayla has been chosen as an acolyte to a spiritual leader and begins arduous training tasks. 30 points PU

**Girl Braiding Her Hair: Inspired by the true story of a revolutionary female artist history forgot (Light & Life Series Book 2)** by **Marta Molnar, Dana Marton** She was an innocent. Until she met Renoir. The greatest artists in Paris never suspected that their favorite model was learning their techniques while she was posing for them. Art schools didn't accept female students, but Suzanne Valadon knew how to fight for what she wanted. By the time she was 15, she'd been a horse walker, a funeral wreath maker, and a circus acrobat. 30 points

**Great Big Beautiful Life: by Emily Henry** Two writers compete for the chance to tell the larger-than-life story of a woman with more than a couple of plot twists up her sleeve in this dazzling and sweeping novel. 30 points

**I Who Have Never Known Men by Jacqueline Harpman** Deep underground, thirty-nine women live imprisoned in a cage. Watched over by guards, the women have no memory of how they got there, no notion of time, and only a vague recollection of their lives before. 20 points SH

**In Death Series Fury in Death by J.D. Robb** (Number 63 of 63 to be out 9/8/2026) NYSPD lieutenant Eve Dallas never knows what to expect when she gets word of a body. It could be an elderly man who made the mistake of climbing a ladder in slippery footwear. And the next call could be a wealthy biotech executive beaten to death in his home office—but what was Larry Chu’s mistake? 20 points TH

**In Death Series Stolen In Death by J.D. Robb** (Number 62 of 63) A blow to the head with a block of amethyst has left multibillionaire Nathan Barrister dead—while nearby, a vault, its door ajar, sits filled with priceless paintings, jewelry, and other treasures has Eve Dallas struggling to solve crimes old and new. 20 points TH (I love this series)

**It Girl by Allison Pataki** A sweeping, sensational novel of America’s first “It Girl,” whose dramatic journey to center stage echoes through the decades. 30 points

**Judge Stone: A Novel by James Patterson, Viola Davis** Academy Award winning actress Viola Davis and the world's #1 bestselling author James Patterson’s Judge Stone “delivers first-class courtroom drama, small-town excitement, and strong characters all wrapped in a moral dilemma. Tense, readable, and relevant.” 30 points

**Lady Tremaine by Rachel Hochhauser** As if Bridgerton met Circe, and exhilarating to its core, Lady Tremaine reimagines the myth of the evil stepmother at the heart of the world’s most famous fairy tale. It is a battle cry for a mother’s love for her daughters, and a celebration of women everywhere who make their own fortunes. 20 points

**Last Bite by Amy S. Peele** A new book by the 2025 GFWC Convention author. A mouth-watering home run of a beach read, this lighthearted romantic comedy featuring a newly widowed fortysomething takes the reader on a joyful romp through-out some of Chicago’s finest eateries—with a dash of Cubs baseball on the side. 20 points Yes, Diane Addante

**No Second Chance by Harlan Coben** Explosive tension and breathless psychological suspense. No Second Chance is a breakneck ride where nothing is what it seems-and where hope and fear collide in the most surprising ways. 20 points

**Partita by Barbara Kingsolver** Release date (October 6, 2026) Livia Cable has made her peace with her marriage and modest livelihood in the farm country where she grew up, until a shocking phone call from an old lover shakes her to the core. Decades earlier, this man knew her as Livia Bohusz, a music conservatory student estranged from her home and family, uncertain of anything except her passion for music and promise as an extraordinary pianist. His request, now, to see her again stirs up ghosts she’s kept at bay for a lifetime. 30 points

**Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir** Now a #1 movie, A lone astronaut must save the earth from disaster in this “propulsive” (Entertainment Weekly), cinematic thriller full of suspense, humor, and fascinating science—from the author of The Martian. 30 points

**Say You’ll Remember Me by Abby Jimenez** There's no such thing as a perfect guy, but Xavier Rush comes disastrously close. A gorgeous veterinarian giving Greek god vibes—all while cuddling a tiny kitten? Immediate yes. That is until Xavier opens his mouth and proves that even sculpted gods can say the absolute wrong thing. Like, really wrong. Of course, there’s nothing Samantha loves more than proving an asshole wrong ... unless, of course, he can admit he made a mistake. 20 points AS

**Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman** A shocking discovery on a honeymoon in paradise changes the lives of a picture-perfect couple in this taut psychological thriller 20 points

**Sparks Like Stars by Nadia Hashimi** An Afghan American woman returns to Kabul to learn the truth about her family and the tragedy that destroyed their lives in this brilliant and compelling novel 30 points AS

**The 6:20 Man: A Thriller by David Baldacci** (Book 1 of 3) A cryptic murder pulls a former soldier turned financial analyst deep into the corruption and menace that prowl beneath the opulent world of finance. 30 points

**The Academy Series The Academy: A Novel (Book 1) by Elin Hilderbrand and her daughter Shelby Cunningham** A fresh, buzzy take on boarding school life, and a thrilling new direction the irresistible, deliciously scandalous story of one drama-filled year at a New England boarding school. 30 points

**The Academy Series The Thoroughbreds (Book 2 Release September 15, 2026) by Elin Hilderbrand and her daughter Shelby Cunningham** As the chapel bells ring in students and staff, everyone has something to look forward to—but in the midst of the anticipation and excitement, nagging questions and dark secrets lurk beneath the surface... 30 points

**The Astral Library by Kate Quinn** fantastical adventure which poses the question: Have you ever wished you could live inside a book? Welcome to the Astral Library, where books are not just objects, but doors to new worlds, new lives, and new futures. 20 points

**The Briar Club by Kate Quinn** a haunting and powerful story of female friendships and secrets in a Washington, DC, boardinghouse during the McCarthy era. 30 points

**The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn** An unforgettable work of WWII historical fiction about a quiet bookworm who becomes history's deadliest female sniper. Based on a true story. 30 points AS

**The Dinner Party: A Pick Your Poison Adventure by Freida McFadden** Choose from over 20 possible endings in this Pick Your Poison Adventure story! 20 points

**The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hill by Robert Dugoni** Sam Hill always saw the world through different eyes. Born with red pupils, he was called "Devil Boy" or Sam "Hell" by his classmates; "God's will" is what his mother called his ocular albinism. Her words were of little comfort, but Sam persevered, buoyed by his mother's devout faith, his father's practical wisdom, and his two other misfit friends. 30 points AS

**The Jackal's Mistress by Chris Bohjalian** In this Civil War love story, inspired by a real-life friendship across enemy lines, the wife of a missing Confederate soldier discovers a wounded Yankee officer and must decide what she's willing to risk for the life of a stranger. 20 points

**The Last Hitman by Robin Yocum** There was a time when being a “made man” meant something. Angelo Cipriani was a member of the inner circle of the powerful Fortunato Crime Family, which controlled the Upper Ohio Valley. Of course, Angelo would never admit that such an organization existed, let alone to all the bodies he dropped for his boss. Angelo was a loyal soldier, even after a rival family strafed him with bullets and put him in a coma for three weeks. This book features our GFWC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Jolie Frankfurth. 20 points

**The Last Sunday in May by Kate Clark Stone** Former racing star Mack Willoiams gets a second chance to qualify for the Indy 500 while juggling single motherhood, family responsibilities, and an attractive new teammate. 20 points

**The Magic of Ordinary Days by Ann Howard Creel** An extraordinary tale of one woman’s journey of resilience, courage, and self-discovery amidst the turmoil of World War II. 20 points TH ( Our club read this book and it evoked a discussion that took a surprising turn that had great meaning to everyone).

**The Magnola Palace by Fiona Davis** A tantalizing novel about the secrets, betrayal, and murder within one of New York City's most impressive Gilded Age mansions. 20 points AS Enjoyed by her book club.

**The Measure by Nikki Erlick** Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice. It seems like any other day. You wake up, drink a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. The contents of this mysterious box gives you the exact number of years you will live. 20 points AS (Read in book club, this will provoke many discussions)

**The Nurse’s Secret: A Thrilling Historical Novel of the Dark Side of Gilded Age New York City by Amanda Skenandore** A young female grifter in 1880s New York cons her way into America’s first nursing school, but a spate of unexplained murders follows in her wake 20 points AS

**The Quilter's Apprentice: A Novel (The Elm Creek Quilts Book 1) by Jennifer Chiaverini** A timeless tale of family, friendship, and forgiveness as two women weave the disparate pieces of their lives into a bountiful and harmonious whole, and begin the legacy of the Elm Street Quilters. 20 points TH (A new friend introduced me to this series of 24 books. You don’t have to love quilts to enjoy these stories.)

**The Secret Lives of Murderers’ Wives by Elizabeth Arnott** A remarkable trio whose lives have been cracked wide open by their husbands’ crimes unite to catch a serial killer in this dazzlingly captivating novel. 20 points

**The Underground Library by Jennifer Ryan** When the Blitz imperils the heart of a London neighborhood, three young women must use their fighting spirit to save the community’s beloved library in this novel based on true events. 20 points AS

**The Widow: A Novel by John Grisham** A small-time lawyer accused of murder races to find the real killer to clear his name. 30 points

**The Winemaker’s Wife by Kristin Harmel** ‘Love and betrayal, forgiveness and redemption combine in a heady tale of the ever present past’ set amid the champagne vineyards of northern France during the darkest days of World War II. 1 30 points

**The Women of Arlington Hall by Jane Healey** A female codebreaker puts her future and her heart on the line in a stirring novel about love, loyalty, betrayal, and Cold War spy games 20 points AS

**The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck** Amid the ashes of Nazi Germany's defeat, Marianne von Lingenfels returns to the once-grand castle of her husband's ancestors, an imposing stone fortress now fallen into ruin following years of war. The widow of a resister murdered in the failed July 20, 1944, plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, Marianne plans to uphold the promise she made to her husband's brave conspirators: to find and protect their wives, her fellow resistance widows. 30 points AS

**Theo of Golden by Allen Levi** A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, Theo of Golden is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. 20 points

**WEIRD: A Monster-Maker's Journey From Small Town to Hollywood With OCD by Lynette Eklund** One woman's battle with OCD and her climb to Hollywood success, creating the monsters that captivated millions. The guest speaker at the GFWC Indiana State Convention 2026, Lynette's book brings you into crafting monsters while dealing with OCD. A frank and fascinating book. 20 points TH

**Books recommended by:**

AS Andra Sudler, 1996-1998 GFWC Indiana State President

SH Shannon Harvey, GFWC Munster Junior Women's Club

LF Linda Fitzgerald, GFWC Fayette County ESO

TH Tric Heepe, GFWC Fayette County ESO

PU Phyllis Urich, GFWC Fayette County ESO

NOTES