

## Book Recommendations from USNA 66 Ladies Group

November 2021

Topic	Title	Author
<b>NOVELS</b>		
A moving, family drama about learning to love again after terrible heartbreak and loss in this classic New York Times best seller - soon to be a Hallmark original movie.	One Summer	David Baldacci
A life-affirming novel about an unforgettable character, a wise and loving man whose humor and unconditional love create for himself and others second chances at happiness.	The Story of Arthur Truluv	Elizabeth Berg
"This is a book about Heaven," says Jayber Crow, "but I must say too that... I have wondered sometimes if it would not finally turn out to be a book about Hell." It is 1932 and he has returned to his native Port William. This book is a clear-sighted depiction of humanity's gifts--love and loss, joy and despair--is seen through his intimate knowledge of the Port William Membership.	Jayber Crow	Wendell Berry
Lydia Perez owns a bookshop in Acapulco, Mexico, and is married to a fearless journalist. Luca, their eight-year-old son, completes the picture. But it only takes a bullet to rip them apart. An extraordinary story of the lengths to which a mother will go to save her son.	American Dirt	Jeanine Cummins
An Amazon Best Book of 2020, it is a prequel to The Pillars of the Earth. Set in England at the dawn of a new era: the Middle Ages. It is 997 CE, the end of the Dark Ages. England is facing attacks from the Welsh in the west and the Vikings in the east. Those in power bend justice according to their will, regardless of ordinary people and often in conflict with the king. Without a clear rule of law, chaos reigns. In these turbulent times, three characters find their lives intertwined.	The Evening and the Morning: Kingsbridge, Book 4	Ken Follett
What if you had the chance to live out every version of your life that was ever possible? Would you still be wishing that you could have done things differently? Or would you be grateful for the turns you've taken in life? This is a charming, funny, inventive novel about making life choices and accepting regrets.	The Midnight Library	Matt Haig
A richly imagined novel that tells the story behind The Wonderful Wizard of Oz , the book that inspired the iconic film, through the eyes of author L. Frank Baum's intrepid wife, Maud--from the family's hardscrabble days in South Dakota to the Hollywood film set where she first meets Judy Garland.	Finding Dorothy	Elizabeth Letts
A sweeping family saga of dreams, titanic struggles, dark passions, and forbidden love in the Australian Outback.	The Thorn Birds	Colleen McCullough
Wall Street Journal Best Book of Summer 2021, it is an intimately told story about a woman who defiantly believes in happiness, despite it all. An appealing indulgence in nature, food and drink, and, above all, friendships.	Fresh Water for Flowers	Valérie Perrin
Rooney's delectably theatrical fictionalization is laced with strands of tart poetry and emulates the dark sparkle of Dorothy Parker, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Truman Capote. Effervescent with verve, wit, and heart, this nimble novel celebrates insouciance, creativity, chance, and valor.	Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk	Kathleen Rooney
From Shanghai to Nanking to the Great Wall, Rutherford chronicles the turbulent rise and fall of empires as the colonial West meets the opulent and complex East in a dramatic struggle between cultures and people.	China: The Novel	Edward Rutherford

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Extraordinarily researched and majestically told, he paints a thrilling portrait of one of the most singular and remarkable countries in the world.		
Populated by a cast of endearing and quirky characters that tug at your heart strings, this is a marvelous story that is at once an adventure novel while being a tale of hopes and dreams fulfilled or dashed. At the heart of the story are 2 young brothers, one a teenager and one a child of 8, who are about to set out to find their mother after the death of their father.	The Lincoln Highway	Amor Towles
<b>HISTORICAL FICTION</b>		
A captivating novel based on the story of the extraordinary real-life American woman who secretly worked for the French Resistance during World War II - while playing hostess to the invading Germans at the iconic Hôtel Ritz in Paris.	Mistress of the Ritz	Melanie Benjamin
An instant New York Times, Washington Post, and USA Today best seller - based on the true story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris during World War II - The Paris Library is a moving and unforgettable "ode to the importance of libraries, books, and the human connections we find within both".	The Paris Library	Janet Skeslien Charles
An exciting, dual-timeline historical novel about the creation of one of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous paintings, Portrait of a Lady with an Ermine, and the woman who fought to save it from Nazi destruction during World War II.	The Night Portrait	Laura Morelli
Of all the stories that argue and speculate about Shakespeare's life...here is a novel...so gorgeously written that it transports you. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award	Hamnet	Maggie O'Farrell
The story of Lucy Stone, an early women's right advocate and abolitionist who influenced Susan B. Anthony. Beautiful writing with exquisite scenes and relatable characters and themes of human, women, and civil rights that ring true today.	Leaving Coy's Hill	Katherine Sherbrooke
<b>HISTORY/NONFICTION/BIOGRAPHY</b>		
Jennifer Doudna and her French colleague, Emmanuel Carpentier, won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for their work in CRISPR technology, gene editing, and ultimately for Coronavirus testing & vaccines. Isaacson traces the history of gene editing while simultaneously tracking Doudna's life and includes mini bios for many of the scientists included in her story.	The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race	Walter Isaacson
A national bestseller and soon to be a major motion picture from America's "forgotten war" in Korea, this is the inspirational story of the U.S. Navy's most famous aviator duo, Lieutenant Tom Hudner and Ensign Jesse Brown, and the Marines they fought to defend.	Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship & Sacrifice	Adam Makos
Offers reasons for, and impact of, political violence in Ireland. It goes deep into the minds and lives of IRA operatives. It is terribly sad, chillingly	Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and	Patrick Radden Keefe

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detailed and provides a warning for those in America who ever consider the use of paramilitary violence to achieve extreme ends.	Memory in Northern Ireland	
In this Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, historian Barbara Tuchman brings to life the people and events that led up to World War I. This was the last gasp of the Gilded Age, of Kings and Kaisers and Czars, of pointed or plumed hats, colored uniforms, and all the pomp and romance that went along with war. How quickly it all changed...and how horrible it became.	The Guns of August	Barbara Tuchman
This accessible introduction to the subject of history offers striking insights into America's past and present, trenchant observations on the international scene, and thoughtful pieces on the historian's role. Here is a splendid body of work, the story of a lifetime spent "practicing history".	Practicing History : Selected Essays	Barbara Tuchman
<b>MYSTERY</b>		
Readers who share her interest in exploring the lives of flawed and compelling characters will find much to love in the atmospheric story of a retired cop who moves to Ireland for relaxation, only to be asked to find a missing teen	The Searcher	Tana French
<b>IMAGINING THE FUTURE</b>		
Gripping and destined to be celebrated for its characters, realism, writing, and well researched scenarios, the book grabs hold from the first page and does not let go. Action starts in Chile, moves to South Carolina and high Canada, before plunging to the tip of South America and Antarctica.	A Tree for Antarctica	VJ (Ginny) Michaux – <i>One of our Band of Sisters!</i>
Every milestone of civilization - from the end of slavery to the beginning of democracy - was once considered a utopian fantasy. The Dutch wunderkind of new ideas, Bregman, shows that we can construct a society with visionary ideas that are, in fact, wholly implementable.	Utopia for Realists	Rutger Bregman
<b>Cooking</b>		
A how-to guide for crafting beautiful and delicious cheese boards for entertaining and self-care. This beautifully designed book goes beyond preparation techniques. It celebrates the ways in which cheese brings people together, and how crafting a cheese plate can be a calming, creativity-bolstering act.	That Cheese Plate Will Change Your Life	Marissa Mullen