

Book Recommendations from USNA 66 Ladies Group

July 2024

Topic	Title	Author
NOVELS		
A moving and intense novel of secrecy, misunderstanding, and love . This is a gorgeous story of a woman alone in a marriage and the deepest bonds she rekindles on her return to the place and people she left behind, to ways of living and loving she thought she'd lost. NOTE: it's not necessary to have read <i>Brooklyn</i> before picking up Long Island; the latter book stands well on its own.	Long Island, Eilis Lacey Series #2	Colm Tóibín
Set on the picturesque island of Nantucket , the book revolves around the impending retirement of the Chief of Police and the arrival of mysterious newcomers that shake up the tight-knit community. As the summer unfolds, we're treated to a delightful mix of drama, mystery, and the quintessential Nantucket charm that Hilderbrand's fans have come to adore.	Swan Song	Elin Hilderbrand
HISTORICAL FICTION		
Tricia is a shy newlywed, married to a rising attorney on loan to navy intelligence. Charlene is a practiced corporate spouse and mother of three, a beauty and a bully. In Saigon in 1963 , the two women form a wary alliance as they balance the era's mandate to be "helpmeets" to their ambitious husbands with their own inchoate impulse to do good for the people of Vietnam. Sixty years later, Charlene's daughter, spurred by an encounter with an aging Vietnam vet, reaches out to Tricia. Together, they look back at their time in Saigon. The book is about folly and grace, obligation, sacrifice, and, finally, the quest for absolution in a broken world.	Absolution	Alice McDermott
2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that tells the story of two teenagers during World War II , a blind French girl and a German orphan with a talent for radio technology who is conscripted into the German army. The book explores themes such as loss, isolation, and the power of radio waves. Critics have praised the book's lyrical writing style and extensive sensory details.	All the Light We Cannot See Book and Netflix miniseries.	Anthony Doerr
A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn , told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. While many narrative set pieces of Huckleberry Finn remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.	James	Percival Everett
A collection of six stories and a novella depicting the experiences of Americans in post-revolutionary Russia, turn-of-the-millennium New York City, and 1930s Los Angeles . They do not share characters, but they share common themes and motifs, such as attaining and experiencing happiness, power, money, and the individual, and following and subverting social expectations through a variety of characters across different times and locations in the US. It "delivers the kick of a martini served in the Polo Lounge".	Table for Two	Amor Towles

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Tells the story of Frances “Frankie” McGrath, a young nurse who serves in the United States Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War . Frankie enlists as a nurse after her older brother is killed in action, leaving her sheltered life in California to serve in a war-ravaged country. When she returns, she faces a hostile atmosphere in America, which is dismissive of women’s contributions in the war. The novel sheds light on the often-overlooked story of courageous women who served in Vietnam ¹² . It’s an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided, emphasizing that women can be heroes.	The Women	Kristin Hannah
This is the story of a family of French Algerian origin who were displaced after World War II and Algerian independence. Messud paints compelling portraits of internal conflicts and tangled relationships, dropping along the way tantalizing references to crucial events that will be clarified later, in a rich narrative that defies summary. Her tale unfolds over seven decades and two wars. This family saga has the added intrigue of being inspired in part by a family memoir written by Messud's grandfather.	This Strange Eventful History	Claire Messud
Set predominantly in New York City during the Great Depression , the novel focuses on a secretive financier and his wife. The story unfolds through multiple layers and revelations, engaging the reader in a quest for truth while exploring the gravitational pull of money and how power manipulates facts.	Trust	Hernan Diaz
HISTORY/NONFICTION/BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY		
Dick and Doris Goodwin were married for 42 years and married to American history even longer. In his 20s, Dick was one of the brilliant young men of JFK’s New Frontier. In his 30s he both named and helped design Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society and was a speechwriter and close advisor to Robert Kennedy. Doris Kearns was a 24-year-old graduate student when selected as a White House Fellow. She worked directly for Lyndon Johnson and later assisted on his memoir. The Goodwins’ last great adventure involved finally opening the more than 300 boxes of letters, diaries, documents, and memorabilia that Dick had saved for more than 50 years. They soon realized they had before them an unparalleled personal time capsule of the 1960s , illuminating public and private moments of a decade when individuals were powered by the conviction they could make a difference; a time, like today, marked by struggles for racial and economic justice, a time when lines were drawn, and loyalties tested.	An Unfinished Love Story. A Personal History of the 1960s	Doris Kearns Goodwin
A U.S. naval counterintelligence officer working to safeguard Pearl Harbor; a Japanese spy ordered to Hawaii to gather information on the American fleet. On December 7, 1941, their hidden stories are exposed by a morning of bloodshed that would change the world forever. Scrutinizing long-buried historical documents, NCIS star Mark Harmon and co-author Leon Carroll, a former NCIS Special Agent, have brought forth a true-life NCIS story of deception, discovery, and danger. The book explores the high stakes game of naval intelligence and the need to define what is real and what only appears to be real.	Ghosts of Honolulu: A Japanese Spy, A Japanese American Spy Hunter, and the Untold Story of Pearl Harbor	Leon Carroll and Mark Harmon

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<p>The book investigates a series of murders of wealthy Osage people that took place in Osage County, Oklahoma, in the early 1920s—after big oil deposits were discovered beneath their land. After the Osage are awarded headrights in court to the profits made from oil deposits found on their land, the Osage people prepare to receive the wealth to which they are legally entitled from sales of their oil deposits.</p>	<p>Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI</p>	<p>David Grann</p>
<p>Though Anna Rosenberg emerged from modest immigrant beginnings, equipped with only a high school education, she was the real power behind national policies critical to America winning the war and prospering afterwards. Astonishingly, her story remains largely forgotten. With a mix of charm and Tammany-hewn toughness, Rosenberg began her career in public relations in 1920s Manhattan. As FDR's unofficial adviser, Rosenberg soon wielded enormous influence—no less potent for being subtle. Her extraordinary career continued after his death. By 1950, she was tapped to become the assistant secretary of defense—the highest position ever held by a woman in the US military—prompting Sen. Joe McCarthy to wage an unsuccessful smear campaign against her. Until the end of her life, Rosenberg fought tirelessly for causes from racial integration to women's equality to national healthcare.</p>	<p>The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America</p>	<p>Chrisopher Gorham</p>
<p>The drama unfolds between Abraham Lincoln's election in November 1860 and the following April, when Confederate troops in Charleston, S.C., shelled Fort Sumter and started the Civil War. During those tense five months, Lincoln hoped, despite a pro-slavery mob's attempt to stop Congress from tallying the vote and decades of physical violence within the Senate and House chambers, that the war might narrowly be avoided. Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late.</p>	<p>The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War</p>	<p>Erik Larson</p>