

Book Recommendations from USNA '66 Ladies Group
July 2025

Genre/Description	Title	Author
NOVELS		
Readers find this book to be a perfect getaway or beach read, with delightful characters that become friends as the series progresses. The story features true-to-life plot lines that are heartwarming and refreshing to the spirit.	At Home in Mitford: Mitford Years #1	Jan Karon
An emotionally complex, heart-wrenching novel about love, motherhood, loss, and new beginnings, <i>Fly Away</i> reminds us that where there is life, there is hope, and where there is love, there is forgiveness.	Fly Away	Kristin Hannah
Questions linger about Theo, a pleasant but mysterious stranger, after his arrival in the southern city of Golden. Who is he, and why is he here? He arrives early one spring and by chance - or is it? - he visits a coffee shop where 92 framed pencil portraits are on display. Inspired, Theo sets out on a mission of purchasing all the portraits one at a time and quietly bestowing them on their 'rightful owners.' Stories are told; friendships are born; and lives are changed. Theo of Golden is a beautifully crafted story about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness.	Theo of Golden	Allen Levi
HISTORICAL FICTION		
<i>She took on titans, battled generals, and changed the world as we know it...</i> <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Stephanie Dray returns with a captivating and dramatic new novel about an American heroine Frances Perkins.	Becoming Madame Secretary	Stephanie Dray
Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, <i>The Correspondent</i> is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime. Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read. (NOTE: the audio version is a delight and Sybil's voice is spot-on)	The Correspondent	Virginia Evans
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER GMA BOOK CLUB PICK AN NPR BOOK OF THE YEAR From the <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of <i>I Was Anastasia</i> and <i>Code Name Hélène</i> comes 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.	The Frozen River	Ariel Lawhon
The story is quiet, seeming ordinary, yet full of life and extraordinary characters. You could easily say what a terrific sense of place is depicted in Port William, Kentucky, but actually it's the people there that make this place. It's a remarkable depiction of the time from 1937- 1986, the events of the country reflected in this small town and the lives of the people. The writing is beautiful and engaging. A first person, intimate narrative gives it the feel of a true memoir telling of grief and loss, loneliness, friendship, the need to belong, and what it means to love.	Jayber Crow	Wendell Berry
The author of award-winning <i>Hamnet</i> brings the world of Renaissance Italy to jewel-bright life in this unforgettable fictional portrait of the captivating	The Marriage Portrait	Maggie O'Farrell

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young duchess Lucrezia de' Medici as she makes her way in a troubled court.		
Spanning decades and continents, Kamali's richly imagined novel immerses us in the blossoming love affair between two Iranian teenagers, set against the political upheaval of 1950s Tehran. Evocative, devastating, and hauntingly beautiful, it explores love's power to transcend time and distance—and the ways fate can tear people apart and bring them back together.	The Stationery Shop	Marjan Kamali
From the #1 <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of <i>A Calamity of Souls</i> comes David Baldacci's newest novel, 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. According to one reviewer, "This is very different from anything I've read by him. This story was both heartwarming and heartbreaking. As a listener, my emotions ran the full range. The narration was outstanding, and the author narrated the Author's note. The narration definitely added another layer to the book."	Strangers in Time	David Baldacci
MYSTERY		
The first in a series of eighteen historical mystery novels. The novels, set between 1929 and 1945, follow the adventures of private investigator and former World War I field nurse Maisie Dobbs, and examine the impacts of war on ordinary people. The entire series is engaging and easy to read, with terrific writing and great character development.	Maisie Dobbs #1	Jacqueline Winspear
Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec digs beneath the idyllic surface of village life in Three Pines, finding long buried secrets--and facing a few of his own ghosts. Louise Penny's highly acclaimed, <i>New York Times</i> bestselling mystery series has won the New Blood Dagger as well as multiple Agatha, Anthony, Dilys, Arthur Ellis, and other prestigious awards. In 2010 the first book, <i>Still Life</i> , was cited as one of the five Mystery/Crime Novels of the Decade by <i>Deadly Pleasures</i> magazine.	Still Life (the first of 20 in this series)	Louise Penny
The President of the United States is up for reelection. Her husband is on trial for murder. Is the First Gentleman a killer? A pair of brilliant investigative journalists set out to answer that burning question about the NFL star-turned-political spouse. <i>The First Gentleman</i> has all the twists and turns, and the authenticity, one expects from the authors of <i>The President Is Missing</i> and <i>The President's Daughter</i> .	The First Gentleman: A Thriller	Bill Clinton & James Patterson
Grisham is the acclaimed master of the legal thriller. Now, he's back with his first-ever whodunit, even more suspenseful than his courtroom dramas, as a small-time lawyer accused of murder races to find the real killer to clear his name.	The Widow	John Grisham
HISTORY/NONFICTION/BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY		
A fascinating, revelatory portrait of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and its treasures by a former <i>New Yorker</i> staffer who spent a decade as a museum guard. In the tradition of classic workplace memoirs, it is a surprising, inspiring portrait of a great museum, its hidden treasures, and the people who make it tick, by one of its most intimate observers.	All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me	Patrick Bringley

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America's preeminent naval historian offers a history of the Second World War based on the experiences of the young officers--fresh out of the United States Naval Academy--who served on its front lines. They arrived in Annapolis as teenagers the year Hitler re-occupied the Rhineland and graduated as young men the week the British Army evacuated Dunkirk. This is the story of their 4 transformative years at USNA, and then 4 more annealing years in the cauldron of war.	Annapolis Goes to War: The Naval Academy Class of 1940 and Its Trial by Fire in World War II	Craig Symonds
Drawing on Twain's bountiful archives, including thousands of letters and hundreds of unpublished manuscripts, Chernow masterfully captures the man whose career reflected the country's westward expansion, industrialization, and foreign wars, and who was the most important white author of his generation to grapple so fully with the legacy of slavery. Today, more than one hundred years after his death, Twain's writing continues to be read, debated, and quoted. In this brilliant work of scholarship, a moving tribute to the writer's talent and humanity, Chernow reveals the magnificent and often maddening life of one of the most original characters in American history.	Mark Twain	Ron Chernow
The author of the #1 <i>New York Times</i> bestseller <i>Saved</i> tells the remarkable story of his harrowing recovery after surviving a deadly Russian missile attack in Ukraine and shares the most profound lessons he learned about the power of resilience.	Resolute: How We Humans Keep Finding Ways to Beat the Toughest Odds	Benjamin Hall
<i>Their Duty Is Sacred. Their Standard Is Perfection.</i> An extraordinary journey behind the scenes of Arlington National Cemetery, Senator Tom Cotton's <i>Sacred Duty</i> offers an intimate and inspiring portrait of "The Old Guard", the revered US Army unit whose mission is to honor our country's fallen heroes on the most hallowed ground in America.	Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington National Cemetery	Tom Cotton
HEALTH/SPIRITUALITY		
Footprints, a moving poem expressing God's unfailing love for us, has inspired countless people across the world. Yet few whose lives have been touched by its gentle words know the story behind the poem. This deeply moving and beautiful book tells of the circumstances in which the author discovered the depths of God's love and of the poem's mysterious loss and miraculous rediscovery.	Footprints	Margaret Fishback Powers
Weaving together cutting-edge research and personal stories, as well as groundbreaking data, the book offers a better understanding of the true cause of illness. It presents a four-week plan to optimize your ability to live well and stay well at every age.	Good Energy: The Surprising Connection Between Metabolism and Limitless Health	Casey Means, MD
How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with our private disappointments and the anger we feel over an unjust world? In his most personal book yet, Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, showing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a path forward today.	The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage	Richard Rohr