

2024 CWC BOOK CLUB SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS:

Martha Bell:

The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger / A suspicious murder on Memorial Day in a Minnesota town leads to accusations, anger & threats of more violence. Many of the town's characters are harboring secrets!

Switchboard Soldiers by Jennifer Chiaverini / A novel about remarkable female soldiers – one of the great untold stories of WWI – women of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Their story has never been the focus of a novel until now.

Ruth Hoecker:

The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson / The book tells the story of the period of time between Lincoln's election and the start of the Civil War.

Carol Houck:

The Little Liar by Mitch Albom / Eleven year old Nico Krispis has never told a lie, but he is tricked by a German officer to persuade fellow Jewish residents in Greece to board the trains to Auschwitz. Nico escapes – but never tells the truth again. Through the war years, the concentration camps, and decades to follow, the author reveals the consequences of honesty and dishonesty of each character.

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman / Four charming sleuths in their seventies romp through the rolling hills of Kent where a peaceful retirement village becomes the backdrop to a ruthless murder. The club finds themselves in the middle of their first case. (The book was a best seller and the 1st in a series of 4.)

Malou Hurst:

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawton / Martha Ballard, a midwife in Maine, 1789, is asked to examine a body that was found frozen in the Kennebec River. The doctor says it was an accident, but Martha says it was murder. The victim was a prominent man in the town. Her diary becomes a centerpiece of the trial and she is forced to solve the murder on her own.

Diana Kaylor:

The Second Life of Miriella West by Amanda Skenandore / L.A. socialite Mirielle West, wife of an actor & mother of 2 children, is diagnosed with leprosy. Changing her name to shield her family, she is exiled to a leper hospital in Louisiana. Gradually she finds a community and purpose there.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt / An elderly widow, working nights at an aquarium, forms a remarkable friendship with Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus. The octopus tries to unearth the truth about Tova's missing son!

Marge Lane:

Mirror Image by Sandra Brown / After a Dallas bound jet crashes, a mix-up ensues between a TV reporter, Avery Daniels, and the glamorous wife of a U.S. senatorial candidate. Plastic surgery allows Avery to assume the identity of the politician's wife – and she learns of an assassination plot against the politician!

Judy Nassmacher:

Horse by Geraldine Brooks / Excellent story about a horse named Lexington & his slave trainer, Jarrett. The book follows Jarret & Lexington in the 1800's in Kentucky. The horse raced until he became blind & his line went on to become Kentucky Derby winners. The horse's skeleton is kept in the Smithsonian Museum.

Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey by Jane Goodall/ The book is a review of Jane Goodall's life and her contributions in the area of animal care and environmental concerns.

Margie Newman:

The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio by Terry Ryan/ Evelyn Ryan raised 10 children & kept poverty at bay by entering poetry contests in the 1950's and 60's. She won cars, bikes, TV's, etc. and many times pulled the family out of financial disaster... a very entertaining book!

Jean Short:

The Women by Kristin Hannah / The novel is a tribute to women! Frankie McGrath, a nursing student from Southern California, growing up in a conservative family, finds herself in Vietnam administering to injured soldiers. This novel is about deep friendships and patriotism throughout.

Willa Jean Smalley:

The Final Witness by Paul Landis / This is a true story of Paul Landis. He was a Kennedy secret service agent and he breaks his silence after 60 years!

Marsha Tolle:

The Vaster Wilds by Lauren Groff / A servant girl escapes from a colonial settlement in the 1600's where most have died from starvation. She miraculously is able to survive in the unforgiving terrain of early America.

The Animal Lovers Book of Beastly Murder by Patricia Highsmith / Each chapter is based on a different animal, all with great characteristics. The humans are on the margins of the stories which feature an elephant, camel, monkey, goat, ferret, and rat. Animals often get revenge on humans & you find yourself cheering them on.

My Life with the Herd in the African Wild by Lawrence Anthony / This is the true story of Anthony's experiences running an elephant game reserve in Sudan... from scary encounters with poachers to huge poisonous snakes in the owner's kitchen. Lots of great pictures!