

GFWC of Massachusetts ESO Book List

• AMERICAN HISTORY

- *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*
 - Charles C. Mann, 480pp (local – author)
 - In a riveting and fast-paced history, massing archeological, anthropological, scientific and literary evidence, Mann debunks much of what we thought we knew about pre-Columbian America.
- *1776*
 - David McCullough, 400pp (local – author)
 - Focusing on a year rather than an individual: a momentous 12 months in the fight for independence. How did a group of ragtag farmers defeat the world's greatest empire? As McCullough vividly shows, they did it with a great deal of suffering, determination, ingenuity
- *A Great and Noble Scheme: The Tragic Story of the Expulsion of the French Acadians...*
 - John Mack Faragher, 544pp
 - The story of how the French Acadians were run out of their Nova Scotia homes—a story known to most from Longfellow's *Evangeline*. Hundreds died on their voyages; only small, scattered communities, like the Cajuns of Louisiana, survived into the modern era.
- *A Is for American: Letters and Other Characters in the Newly United States*
 - Jill LePore, 256pp (local – author)
 - Historian LePore explores the significant and unsettling ways language was used to define national character and boundaries in the early republic. Focusing on 7 men and their complex underlying stories: Noah Webster, Samuel F.B. Morse, William Thornton, Sequoyah, Thomas Gallaudet, Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim and Alexander Bell, Lepore analyzes how they devised alphabets, syllabaries, codes and signs.
- *Adams vs. Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800*
 - John Ferling, 304pp
 - In 1800 the nation was struggling amidst an array of threats from foreign governments and a host of constitutional struggles. Against this backdrop, President John Adams, an elite, strong-willed Federalist, set to square off against his vice president, Thomas Jefferson, a populist Republican. The campaign was brutal. Republicans assailed the Federalists as scare-mongers. Federalists attacked Republicans as godless
- *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*
 - Jon Meacham, 416pp
 - His book will serve as a launching pad for continued debate on the place of religion in American society, in particular, in government, law, and politics. It certainly won't end the debate, but it has the potential to make it more intelligent. The writing is tight, creative, and imaginative,
- *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-68*
 - Taylor Branch, 1056pp
 - The engrossing final installment of Branch's three-volume biography of Martin Luther King Jr. maintains the high standards set in the previous volumes (*Parting the Waters* and *Pillar of Fire*).. The series is both a biography of Martin Luther King Jr. and a history of his age.
- *The Best Year of Their Lives: Kennedy, Johnson & Nixon in 1948*
 - Lance Morrow, 312pp
 - *Time* essayist Morrow does an excellent job of showcasing three future presidents as young congressmen standing at the threshold of power.
- *Brutal Journey: The Epic Story of the First Crossing of North America*
 - Paul Schneider, 384pp (local – author)
 - In 1528, the Spanish conquistador Pánfilo de Narváez marched an army of 300 men north from Tampa Bay in search of great cities to conquer and gold to amass. Eight years later and 2,000 miles away, four survivors walked out of the hills on the western coast of Mexico.
- *House of War*
 - James Carroll, 672pp (local – author)
 - In this "biography" of the Pentagon, he creates a fuguelike history of American military power from Hiroshima to Iraq.

Carroll is careful to tell this story with unwavering truthfulness, but Carroll has an obvious affection for the place and for the military as an institution. His style flows and carries you along effortlessly.

- ***Mayflower***
 - Nathaniel Philbrick, 480pp (local – author)
 - In this remarkable effort, National Book Award–winner Philbrick (*In the Heart of the Sea*) examines the history of Plymouth Colony.
- ***The Most Exclusive Club: A History of the Modern United States Senate***
 - Lewis Gould, 417pp
 - The history of the U.S. Senate in the 20th century is one of evolution from a genteel debating society into a collection of bitterly partisan politicians. A number of themes recur, including periodic battles over the filibuster (especially its use by Southern Democrats defending Jim Crow from the 1930s to the 1960s) and too many senators' chronic alcoholism, sexism and egomania. Inevitably, the book focuses on shifting institutional mores rather than the substance of policy debates.
- ***Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq***
 - Stephen Kinzer, 400pp
 - Long before Iraq, U.S. presidents, spies, corporate types had honed the art of deposing foreign governments. America's century of regime changing began not in Iraq but Hawaii. Hawaii's white minority -- in cahoots with the U.S. Navy, the White House and Washington's local representative -- conspired to remove Queen Liliuokalani from her throne in 1893 as a step toward annexing the islands.
- ***Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution***
 - Simon Schama, 496pp
 - In the Revolutionary War, the British promised freedom to slaves who managed to escape and reach British controlled territory. Somewhere between eighty and a hundred thousand did so. Unfortunately they had picked the losing side. It is a well written tale of a side of American history that has been generally ignored
- ***Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln***
 - Doris Kearns Goodwin, 529pp (local – author)
 - Doesn't just tell the story of Abraham Lincoln. It is a multiple biography of the entire team of personal and political competitors that he put together to lead the country through its greatest crisis.
- ***The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl***
 - Timothy Egan, 320pp
 - How America's great, grassy plains turned to dust, like a biblical plague. The plains weren't suited to farming, and plowing up the grass to plant wheat, along with a confluence of economic disaster-the Depression-and natural disaster-eight years of drought-resulted in an ecological and human catastrophe. Egan's interviews with survivors produce tales of courage and suffering.

• ARTS AND CULTURE

- ***The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa***
 - Michael Kimmelman, 256pp
 - The chief art critic of the *New York Times*, Kimmelman (*Portraits*) delivers an uplifting art-is-good-for-you message that is surprisingly easy to swallow. Intelligent but not obscure, warm but not intrusively personal, Kimmelman manages in 10 chapters to cover a lot of ground, with a working definition of "art" that goes far beyond what's found in galleries and museums.
- ***American Gothic: A Life of America's Most Famous Painting***
 - Stephen Biel and Grant Wood, 215pp (local – author)
 - from its first appearance before the public in 1930, *American Gothic* has been regarded not as a work of art but as a work of rhetoric: a crafted, compelling statement about American life with which the viewer may or may not agree. Which aspect of that life and what kind of statement has fluctuated, as Biel's lively history shows. He does a terrific job laying out the various aesthetic and political preoccupations of the relentlessly self-regarding American century, and how they attached themselves to the work, which just turned 75.
- ***Leonardo and the Mona Lisa Story: the History of a Painting Told in Pictures***
 - Donald Sassoon, 352pp
 - revered, imitated, exploited, stolen, recovered & hidden from the Nazis in WWII – Sassoon provides the context for each period of the painting's life, using pictures to tell the story from daVinci's 1st draft to today.
- ***The Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece***
 - Jonathan Harr, 288pp (local – author)
 - In 1992 a young art student uncovered a clue that led to the discovery of Caravaggio's original *The Taking of the Christ*,

which was presumed lost for over 200 years. How this clue--a single entry in an old listing of family possessions--led to restoration of this Baroque masterpiece is the subject of this enthralling detective story.

- ***Michelangelo's Mountain: The Quest for Perfection in the Marble Quarries of Carrara***
 - Eric Scigliano, 368pp
 - Scigliano combines art history with a personal quest: a great-grandfather toiled in Carrara as a stonecutter. He covers every conceivable aspect of the world of stone and Michelangelo's art-making.
- ***More Than Meets the Ear: How Symphony Musicians Made Labor History***
 - Julie Ayer, 312pp
 - The story of a grassroots movement that transformed labor relations and the professional lives of U.S. and Canadian symphony musicians
- ***Music in Rural New England: Family and Community Life, 1870-1940***
 - Jennifer C. Post, 313pp
 - Today music in New England homes and communities is broadcast preserved on recordings, and reinforced in jam sessions and dance clubs. Before 1940, however, residents in rural New England communities listened to and performed music in more limited social spheres. Jennifer Post's book puts songs and instrumental music into the context of everyday life in rural communities in northern New England.
- ***The Ongoing Moment***
 - Geoff Dyer, 285pp
 - Dyer's insight that photographers return to the same key subjects is not necessarily a new one. The great strength of this book lies not in the striking fact, but in what Dyer does with it...in his hands a detail willfully migrates toward a larger pattern. Dyer makes us want to look at photographs, and then look again, and from them to see the world anew.
- ***Strapless***
 - Deborah Davis, 320pp
 - The dress! The painting! The scandal! This book tells the story behind John Singer Sargent's infamous portrait of American expatriate and exotic beauty Amelie Gautreau. It provides fascinating details of Paris society in the late 19th century. Bostonians are in luck because Madam X is visiting the MFA through 9/24/06. See the controversial portrait, read the fabulous book!
- ***Then Sings My Soul, Book 2: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories***
 - Robert J. Morgan
 - These devotional-style stories brim with emotion and drama about the people whose faith led them to write the hymns, and about the people whose lives were changed by them.
- ***Why Birds Sing***
 - David Rothenberg, 272pp
 - In a unique approach to the study of birdsong, jazz musician and philosopher Rothenberg attacks this question through the medium of music. At the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, his music attracted a thrush. The bird began to sing along with the author's clarinet and to actually improvise as he did. This interaction led to a journey, both intellectual and physical, as Rothenberg investigated birdsong.

• **BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS**

- ***The Accidental President of Brazil: A Memoir***
 - Fernando Cardoso, 291pp
 - Not long after his father's death, Cardoso made Brazil's future his mission, as a senator, as finance minister and finally as president where he took on pharmaceutical companies over AIDS treatment. His story is that of a maverick whose curious mind and patriotism helped bring Brazil into the 21st Century as a formidable economic and political power.
- ***All Will Be Well: A Memoir***
 - John McGahern, 304pp
 - regarded as one of Ireland's finest contemporary writers. His difficult childhood informs much of his work -- he seeks not to exploit his past but to understand it and to make it pertinent and meaningful to others.
- ***Becoming Justice Blackmun : Harry Blackmun's Supreme Court Journey***
 - Linda Greenhouse, 288pp
 - Blackmun embraced equal protection for women and came to reject capital punishment. A Nixon appointee, Blackmun became the Supreme Court's most liberal justice after the retirement of William Brennan and Thurgood Marshall. The personality that emerges is that of a self-effacing and scholarly judge, devoid of partisanship, willing to follow his ideas wherever they led him.

- ***The Boy Who Fell Out of the Sky***
 - Ken Dornstein, 320pp (**local – author**)
 - Characterized by a surpassing drive to express truths as he investigates the emotional landscape of loss following the death of his older brother. on Pan Am Flight 103.
- ***Charlemagne***
 - Derek Wilson, 256pp
 - Christian warrior, scholar prince, pilgrim saint and emperor, Charlemagne (742–814) has influenced modern rulers from Napoleon to Charles de Gaulle. An acquisitive king intent on expanding Francia's borders and connecting politics and religion, he is, according to Wilson, is responsible for the shape of Europe as we know it today.
- ***Clemente: The Passion & Grace of Baseball's Last Hero***
 - David Maraniss, 416pp
 - Clemente's nobility, charity and determination make him appropriate for a postage stamp. After 18 distinguished seasons, the Pirate star with the astonishing throwing arm died in a 1972 plane crash while en route to deliver relief supplies to Nicaraguan earthquake victims.
- ***Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance***
 - Barack Obama, 480pp
 - Barack Obama, a black man raised by his white mother and grandparents, journeyed to Kenya to learn more about his African father after receiving news of his death. This memoir is not about his father's life, but about Obama's, and he brings that home with an intimate tone rather than that of his public speeches. Obama, the first black president of Harvard Law Review, wrote this memoir before his recent election to the US Senate.
- ***Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen***
 - Julie Powell, 320pp
 - An attempt to revitalize her marriage, restore her ambition, and save her soul by cooking all 524 recipes in Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, in a period of 365 days, with delicious hilarious results.
- ***Mirror to America***
 - John Hope Franklin, 416pp
 - 90 year old Franklin recounts the story of his rise from a childhood in Oklahoma to a career as a pioneering African-American historian, whose work on the history of segregation formed part of the N.A.A.C.P.'s brief in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Descended from slaves, he studied at Harvard, taught at some of the nation's most prestigious universities, served on committees for FDR and Bill Clinton, published seminal histories of blacks in America and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in civil rights.
- ***My Life in France***
 - Julia Child & Alex Prud'homme, 336pp (**local – author**)
 - A playful memoir of the famous chef's first, formative sojourn in France with her new husband, Paul Child, in 1949; written by her grandnephew
- ***Rosa Parks***
 - David Brinkley, 256pp
 - Brinkley pinpoints the origins of Parks's strength and strong social commitment as he details the legalized segregation that tainted every aspect of Southern life.
- ***the Story of A Life: A Memoir***
 - Aaron Appelfeld, 208pp
 - Only the most artful writer could relate nearly seven decades of life—a life that encompasses the Holocaust, resettlement in Palestine, army service, university studies with the likes of Gershom Scholem and Martin Buber, finding his writer's voice—in barely more than 200 pages
- ***Teacher Man: A Memoir***
 - Frank McCourt, 272pp
 - It may have taken him three decades to figure out how to be an effective teacher, but he ultimately saved his most valuable lesson for himself: how to be his own man
- ***Village of the Small Houses***
 - Ian Ferguson, 192pp
 - Ian Ferguson considers himself born lucky, despite having grown up poor in far northern Canada and having spent part of his childhood in an iron lung because of the Thalidomide his mother took for morning sickness. His father is a con-man who passes himself off as a teacher.
- ***The Wisdom of Our Fathers: Lessons and Letters from Daughters & Sons***
 - Tim Russert, 304pp

- A collection of letters he received recounting relationships between fathers and their sons and daughters. Russert, host of NBC's *Meet the Press*, received 60,000 letters and e-mails from readers with their own touching memories of filial love. The contributors are decidedly ordinary Americans, many with recollections that highlight generational differences of a time when fathers were less than demonstrative.
 - ***The Year of Magical Thinking***
 - Joan Didion, 240pp
 - Didion's husband died of a heart attack, just after they had returned from the hospital where their only child, Quintana, was lying in a coma. This book is a memoir of death, illness, and Didion's efforts to make sense of the senseless. This book is about getting a grip and getting on; it's also a tribute to an extraordinary marriage.
- **CURRENT EVENTS, POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**
 - ***102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers***
 - Kevin Flynn and Jim Dwyer, 384pp
 - A dramatic account of the survival efforts of thousands of people who were inside the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11 draws on hundreds of interviews as well as phone, e-mail, and radio transcripts, in an account that also raises questions about building safety and New York's emergency preparedness.
 - ***Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution***
 - Stephen Breyer, 176pp
 - Breyer examines several areas of ongoing controversy before the high court: free speech and campaign finance, federalism, privacy, affirmative action and how much deference courts should show when reviewing actions by federal agencies. In each instance, he attempts either to justify the court's course in terms of the Constitution's democratic purpose or to critique the court for taking a more narrowly interpretive tack. The justice is more successful in some of these areas than in others
 - ***Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City***
 - Jed Horne, 432pp
 - New insights into how a ferocious storm, governmental ineptitude and racial inequities permanently jeopardize one of the nation's cultural gems. Quickly moves past the melodrama of a striking disaster to the stories of individuals caught in the storm's hellish aftermath or mired in the government's hamstrung response.
 - ***The Bookseller of Kabul***
 - Asne Seierstad, 320pp
 - After living for three months with a Kabul bookseller in the spring of 2002, Seierstad penned this astounding portrait of a recovering nation.
 - ***Courtroom 302: A Year Behind the Scenes in an American Criminal Courthouse***
 - Steve Bogira, 416pp
 - The horrific injustice of the flawed system cries out from almost every page, as honorable and intelligent, yet all too human court officers work diligently within it. The author provides the historical background and rationale for the plea bargaining, the unintended consequences of "drug courts" resulting in more arrests for criminals holding small amounts of drugs, and the pressures, political and administrative, that judges face.
 - ***Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide***
 - Gerard Prunier, 212pp
 - Provides a thorough account of the crisis' origins, its unfolding, and the world's reaction to it, in a way that will be both appealing to the informed layperson and to the scholar specialized in African politics. His story is the Darfur crisis made simple, not by way of simplification but through rational understanding.
 - ***Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions***
 - Sr. Helen Prejean, 336pp
 - The book challenges a system of justice which is so caught up in process and procedure it appears to have left human beings out of the equation. A "machinery of death" puts obstacles in the way of men desperately fighting for a fair hearing of evidence never elicited at their trials (e.g. O'Dell was denied appellate review by the highest court in Virginia because his lawyers typed one wrong word on his petition's title page) -
 - ***Democracy's Edge***
 - Frances Moore Lappé, 496pp
 - With an abundance of inspiring, well-told stories, Lappé sweeps the disempowering myth that an individual can't make a difference and demonstrates that democracy is a living practice. Her challenge to us is to reinvigorate our thinking, to take individual actions, and to participate every day as citizens.
 - ***Dispatches from the Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters, and Survival***
 - Anderson Cooper, 224pp

- Cooper tells us of how he went to the world's dangerous places: Bosnia, Somalia, Niger, Rwanda. His memoir talks about the year of 2005 and its events: the Tsunami, Niger's hunger crisis, Iraq, and Hurricane Katrina. On how it changed him profoundly. He gracefully interwove these stories with imagery and honest reflection about his personal journey and struggle to find happiness and meaning in life with so much loss.
- ***Freakonomics***
 - Steven Levitt & Stephen Dubner, 242pp
 - The topics - why crime REALLY went down in the 90's, the impact parents can REALLY have on their kids, and several others. Whether one ultimately agrees with the authors' conclusions or not, the book certainly encourages you to think about everyday things more critically and not just accept the conventional wisdom.
- ***Guantanamo and the Abuse of Presidential Power***
 - Joseph Margulies, 336pp
 - by one of the lawyers who fought - and won - the right for prisoners to have judicial review, this book will be of immense interest to liberals and conservatives alike. Traces arguments on both sides of the debate
- ***Human Cargo: A Journey Among Refugees***
 - Caroline Moorehead, 352pp
 - a landmark overview of the fate of refugees as millions of people all around the world are either searching for a better life or seeking asylum after surviving persecution. She finds that refugees who remain in the Third World—the majority—are preoccupied with the struggle for survival. Those who make it to Western countries face an equally daunting task, caught in a legal limbo between asylum and deportation, forbidden to work, grappling with a strange language, loneliness and a society that views them as alien interlopers
- ***Losing America: Confronting a Reckless and Arrogant Presidency***
 - Robert Byrd, 320pp
 - While it would be easy to fill a sizable bookcase with books published in 2004 that were highly critical of George W. Bush, few of those authors carry the gravity of Senator Robert Byrd, who first came to congress when Truman was president. In *Losing America*, the veteran Democrat offers scathing criticism of Bush, whom he sees as undeserving of the office, unfit to lead, "callow and reckless," and "incredibly dangerous."
- ***The Sewing Circles of Herat: A Personal Voyage Through Afghanistan***
 - Christina Lamb, 384pp
 - A vivid picture of Taliban rule and a broader sense of life devastated by two decades of war. Her moving account reveals the heroism of the Afghans, who not only survived but also resisted their Soviet occupiers
- ***The Survivor: Bill Clinton in the White House***
 - John Harris, 448pp
 - *The Survivor* is the rare book with positive recommendations from both liberal historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. and Brit Hume of the Fox News Channel. Harris peppers the book with both fact and anecdote, moving swiftly from subject to subject. *The Survivor* shows Clinton's growth as a leader throughout the eight years of his presidency, and how his personal failings almost brought them to a close. Far from being a milquetoast summary of events, *The Survivor* is a gripping read set behind the scenes in the West Wing.
- ***Truth, Torture and the American Way***
 - Jennifer Harbury, 240pp
 - Jennifer Harbury's investigation into torture began when her husband disappeared in Guatemala in 1992; she told the story of his torture and murder in *Searching for Everardo*. For over a decade since, Harbury has used her formidable skills to press for the U.S. government's disclosure of America's involvement in abuses in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East.
- ***Without Precedent: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission***
 - Thomas H. Keen & Lee H. Hamilton, 384pp
 - Details the 9/11 commission's work. The issues the commission wrestled with—official incapacity to prevent disaster, the government's use and misuse of intelligence, presidential accountability—are still in the headlines, which makes this lucid, absorbing account of its work very timely.

• FICTION

- ***Arthur and George***
 - Julian Barnes, 400pp
 - novel about love, guilt, identity and honor is a triumph of storytelling - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji, also a real person, whose paths crossed. Edalji the son of a Parsi father and a Scots mother was convicted of criminal behavior in a blatant miscarriage of justice based on racial prejudice.
- ***Blue Shoes and Happiness: (No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency)***

- Alexander McCall Smith, 240pp
 - Smith's series has enchanted readers everywhere with its warmth, simple truths, dry humor, and depictions of life in Botswana. His familiar characters offer their gentle, tolerant approach to life. The author's love for his creations and for his Botswana setting are evident on every page.
- ***the Book Thief***
 - Marcus Zusak, 560
 - The narrator of *The Book Thief*, Death is as afraid of humans as humans are of him. Death meets the book thief, a 9-year-old girl named Liesel Meminger, when he comes to take her little brother, and she becomes an enduring force in his life, despite his efforts to resist her.
- ***Brick Lane***
 - Monica Ali, 432pp
 - combines the scope of a social novel about the struggles of Islamic immigrants in pre- and post-9/11 England with the story of Nazneen, one of the more memorable heroines to come along in a long time.
- ***Broken For You***
 - Stephanie Kallos, 400pp
 - Elderly Margaret Hughes learns that she has a malignant brain tumor. She refuses treatment and takes a young tenant into her huge, lonely Seattle mansion for company. What she gets is Wanda Schultz, a tough-as-nails stage manager. The two women slowly build an extraordinary friendship. - peopled by lovably imperfect and eccentric characters
- ***East Wind, Rain***
 - Caroline Paul, 272pp
 - In the wake of Pearl Harbor, an isolated Hawaiian community realizes new fears and questions old loyalties - based on actual events.
- ***The Known World***
 - Edward P Jones, 400pp
 - Set in Manchester County, Virginia, 20 years before the Civil War began, explores an oft-neglected chapter of American history, the world of blacks who owned blacks in the antebellum South.
- ***Lost in the Forest: a Novel***
 - Sue Miller, 272pp (**local – author**)
 - examines love and betrayal in idyllic wine country in another minutely observed, finely paced exploration of domestic relationships.
- ***March***
 - Geraldine Brooks, 304pp (**local – author**)
 - imagines the Civil War experiences of Mr. March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* -novel drives home the intimate horrors and ironies of the Civil War and the difficulty of living honestly with the knowledge of human suffering.
- ***The Penolopiad***
 - Margaret Atwood, 224pp
 - In this sly updating of a famous Greek myth, Odysseus's wife, Penelope, gets to tell her version of events.
- ***S Is For Silence***
 - Sue Grafton, 384pp
 - Kinsey Millhone, Sue Grafton's no-nonsense gumshoe, takes on a cold case - what happened to a shady lady who disappeared 30 years earlier.
- ***Saturday***
 - Ian McEwan, 304pp
 - A cerebral novel about an ominous day seen through the eyes of Henry Perowne, a reflective neurosurgeon. His ruminations on surgery, lovemaking, music, war (he's pro-war), and literature (he's clueless) rise to a crescendo as he slowly questions his own motives and actions.
- ***Son of a Witch***
 - Gregory Maguire, 352pp (**local – author**)
 - The death of Elphaba Thropp, the Wicked Witch of the West, brings about changes in this imaginative sequel to Maguire's 1995 blockbuster *Wicked*. Tucked into Maguire's enchanting fable are carefully calibrated object lessons in forgiveness, retribution, love, loss and the art of moving on despite tragic circumstances.
- ***The Space Between Us***
 - Thrity Umrigar, 336pp
 - Alternatively told through the eyes of Sera, a Parsi widow whose pregnant daughter and son-in-law share her elegant

home, and Bhima, the elderly housekeeper who supports her orphaned granddaughter; two sympathetic characters whose bond goes far deeper than that of employer and employee. Through the triumphs and tragedies, Sera and Bhima always shared a bond that transcended class and race..

- ***Suite Francaise***
 - Irene Nemirovski, 416pp
 - This extraordinary work of fiction about the German occupation of France is embedded in a real story as gripping and complex as the invented one. Composed in 1941-42 by an accomplished writer who had published several well-received novels, *Suite Française*, her last work, was written under the tremendous pressure of a constant danger that was to catch up with her and kill her before she had finished.
- ***Twelve Sharp (Stephanie Plum Novels)***
 - Janet Evanovich, 320pp
 - The mixture of slapstick and gunplay that has put Evanovich's series about a sassy, less than competent New Jersey bounty hunter once again works its magic in Stephanie Plum's latest caper.
- ***Water for Elephants: a Novel***
 - Sara Gruen, 335pp
 - Told in flashback by nonagenarian Jacob Jankowski, recounts the wonderful period he spent with the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a traveling circus he joined during the Great Depression. With its spotlight on elephants, Gruen's romantic page-turner hinges on the human-animal bonds.
- ***We Are All Welcome Here: a Novel***
 - Elizabeth Berg, 208pp
 - A polio victim and her 13-year-old daughter work miracles from their Tupelo, Miss., home during the summer of 1964 - based on a true story
- ***The Widow of the South***
 - Robert Hicks, 432pp
 - This novel is based on real events – Carrie's home was a field hospital near a horrific Civil War battle. She reburies the dead in her own cemetery when the landowner plans to plow under the battlefield.
- ***Zorro: A Novel***
 - Isabel Allende, 400pp
 - A lively retelling of the Zorro legend - Though born into privilege, Diego has deep ties to California's exploited natives, both through blood and friendship, that account for his abiding sense of justice.
- **LITERATURE (classics, drama, poetry, essays, short stories)**
 - ***A Man For All Seasons***
 - Robert Bolt, 192pp
 - Sure, you've seen the movie; but have you read the original? A spare and powerful play about Sir Thomas More, the Lord chancellor who refused to compromise his conscience and was executed by Henry VIII
 - ***A Thousand Years of Good Prayers: Stories***
 - Yiyun Li, 224pp
 - A beautifully executed debut collection of 10 stories explores the ravages of the Cultural Revolution on modern Chinese, both in China and America. She gets down to business quickly, sketching characters with swift, deft strokes, immediately setting them off on journeys that are as compelling as they are tragic.
 - ***Arrowsmith***
 - Sinclair Lewis, 440
 - 80 years ago, Nobel Prize winning author, Sinclair Lewis, was writing about the ethical dilemmas of medical research and clinical trials, in this Pulitzer Prize winning novel. The issues confronting his young medical student still resound today. Should he go into practice or study pure science in order to understand how life works? Should he take a big salary from a pharmaceutical company to support his research or maintain his autonomy from the snares of big business? Should he be a hero and provide the life saving treatment he developed to all without a sufficient amount of controlled experiments? The world has not changed!
 - ***Beowulf: A New Verse Translation***
 - Seamus Heaney, 208pp
 - Nobel laureate Heaney presents a finely wrought, controversial (for having won a prize over a children's book) modern English version, one which retains, the archaic strengths of its warrior world
 - ***The Georgics of Virgil***
 - David Ferry translator, 224pp (local – author)
 - Ferry's new translations of ancient poets make them "appear, as if they were in the room with the reader, talking about

recognizable human life.” The 4 “georgics” from 29BC celebrate the world of farming and rural life. They also explore the brutal uncertainty of man’s place in nature.

- ***Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits***
 - Laila Lalami, 208pp
 - A linked series of 4 fictional profiles connected by a single thread: the desire to emigrate from Morocco to Spain, where there are jobs. Near the shores of Spain, the boat capsizes and the passengers are forced to swim for their lives and freedom. What follows is an exploration of pasts that led to this passage, and the futures that emerge from this voyage.
- ***How Green Was My Valley***
 - Richard Llewellyn, 512pp
 - 1939 classic about growing up in a Welsh coal-mining village. The Morgan family struggles with unionization, anti-Welsh prejudice, environmental devastation, and modernization breaking up families and bringing the allures of the “outside” world to the valley.
- ***I Got Somebody in Staunton: Stories***
 - William Henry Lewis, 224pp
 - A thoughtful, appealing collection deeply concerned with the pride and pain of African-American heritage. dramatizes the oppression still faced by millions of people today, especially in the conservative small towns of America. Lewis is not a trendy hip-hop stylist or a viciously satirical postmodernist with a knack for making fun of America's racial obsession. He is a quieter sort of writer who reminds us that beneath the hype are ordinary people struggling with racist employers, lost fathers, lack of education and fears of stepping out of line and threatening the status quo.
- ***Leaves of Grass***
 - Walt Whitman, 184pp
 - The first great American poem and indeed, to this day, the greatest and most essentially American poem in all our national literature. The publication of *Leaves of Grass* in July 1855 was a landmark event in literary history. Ralph Waldo Emerson judged the book “the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom America has yet contributed.” One of the great innovative figures in American letters, Walt Whitman created a daringly new kind of poetry that became a major force in world literature.
- ***The Prince***
 - Nicolai Machiavelli, 178pp
 - A timeless explication of how government and politics really work. With just a little imagination, readers can discern parallels between a 16th-century principality and a modern presidency.
- ***Profiles in Courage***
 - John F. Kennedy, 272pp (local – author)
 - Kennedy obviously admired the men profiled in this book, not for their great successes but for the personal price they all paid as a result of choosing to do what they felt was right. He manages to show us the human, less than perfect, side of each while convincing us of their moral strength. Each chapter leaves you wanting to know more about these men, who helped to shape American history.
- ***Reading, Writing, and Leaving Home: Life on the Page***
 - Lynn Freed, 256 pp
 - offers insights into her writing and her life in 11 clean, incisive essays that mix the personal with the instructional without going too deeply into either.
- ***The Soul of a Doctor: Harvard Medical Students Face Life and Death***
 - editors S.Poires, S. Jain, G. Harper, J. Groopman, 236pp (local – authors)
 - The moving stories of 44 doctors-in-training collected by two M.D.s (Pories and Harper) and one medical student (Jain), all at Harvard, are accounts written by medical students. Their tales convey lessons both emotional and medical, from learning how to communicate and empathize with those afflicted by illness to ways to ease suffering and loss.
- ***The Woman at the Washington Zoo: Writings on Politics, Family, and Fate***
 - Marhorie Williams, 384pp
 - This posthumous collection presents a series of remarkably well-observed and intelligent profiles of the great and minor figures who have made D.C. for the past two decades. Williams, a longtime writer for the *Washington Post* and *Vanity Fair*, has a fine eye for telling details. Underlying each representation is Williams's ability to make her characters as complicated on the page as they are in real life. The last third of the book, which covers Williams's losing battle with cancer.
- **LOCAL (authors & topics)** look for other “LOCAL” titles in other sections
 - ***Bread and Roses : Mills, Migrants, and the Struggle for the American Dream***
 - Bruce Watson, 352pp

- Studiously balanced narrative of the 1912 strike against the textile mills of Lawrence, Mass. What started as a spontaneous protest against a reduction in pay rapidly escalated into a battle between labor and capital. Only a year after the Triangle sweatshop fire in Manhattan, the Lawrence strike drew attention to the lot of the mill workers, whose low wages left them almost destitute.
 - ***North of Ithaca: A Granddaughter Returns to Greece and Discovers Her Roots***
 - Eleni Gage, 304pp
 - The author returns to the remote Greek village of Lia, where her father was born and her grandmother was murdered, to rebuild the ruins of her namesakes home and come to terms with her family's tragic history. In doing so, she leaves behind a successful career to continue the tale of a family and a place which her father, Nicholas Gage, made famous over twenty years ago with his international bestseller, *Eleni*.
 - ***Steeplechase***
 - Jane Langton, 304pp
 - Harvard professor and occasional detective, Homer Kelly, is researching a book about old churches and their steeples in the historic Concord area, when he hears the tale of a missing church. The story line alternates between present day and post Civil War "Nashoba, MA" in a tale of early photography, religious disagreement, and post war trauma. As always, entertaining, interesting and clever.
 - ***Young at Heart: The Story Johnny Kelley, Boston's Marathon Man***
 - Frederick Lewis, 214pp
 - Named "Runner of the Century" by *Runner's World* magazine, Kelley participated in over 60 Boston marathons, winning the event twice and running it well into his 80's. His persistence and warm good nature endeared him to millions. The heart and soul of the Boston Marathon.
 - ***Village of the Damned: The Fight for Open Space and the Flooding of a Connecticut Town***
 - James Lomuscio, 172pp
 - Since the early 1940s, the remains of Valley Forge, Connecticut have lain one hundred feet beneath the waters of the Saugatuck Reservoir. The town was a victim to the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company's post-World War I plans for the scenic valley. Historic glass plates lay unnoticed for decades. The author has used these images and other remarkable primary sources to tell the story of the rise and fall of Valley Forge, the proud Yankee residents' resistance in the late 1930s to the proposed flooding and its life-altering repercussions
- **PEOPLE & PLACES (travel & geography)**
 - ***Cork Boat: A True Story of the Unlikeliest Boat Ever Built***
 - John Pollack, 304pp
 - 165,321 corks; 1 boat - Most people have childhood dreams; few ever pursue them. At the age of 34, Pollack quit a speechwriting job on Capitol Hill to pursue an idea he had harbored since the age of six: to build a boat out of wine corks and take it on an epic journey. *Cork Boat* tells the uplifting story of this unlikely adventure.
 - ***The Guynd: A Scottish Journal***
 - Belinda Rathbone, 293pp (local – author)
 - When Rathbone got married it wasn't so much to a man as to his ancestral house in Scotland and the deeply ingrained way of life that came with it. Her attitude toward the enormous project of restoring the manor while also figuring out and trying to fit in with the clannish Scots is at turns enthusiastic and exasperated, and her anecdotes about the renovation will have home improvement fanatics mad with jealousy.
 - ***Finding George Orwell in Burma***
 - Emma Larkin, 304pp
 - Larkin (a pseudonym), claims it was George Orwell's stint as an imperial policeman in British-ruled Burma during the 1920s that turned him into a writer of conscience. To prove her theory she bravely journeyed throughout the now brutally totalitarian state to visit the places Orwell lived and worked. A meticulous observer, she captures the masked spirit of a people monitored by military spies and constantly threatened.
 - ***Hungry Planet***
 - Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio 288pp
 - A portrait of 30 families in 24 countries, interviewed about what they eat, why they eat it, and how much it costs to bring that food to the table. These ordinary life stories from all over the world are so compelling that once you pick the book up, it's hard to put down.
 - ***The Last Gentleman Adventurer: Coming of Age in the Arctic***
 - Edward Beauclerk Maurice, 416pp
 - Maurice was a 16-year-old boy from a struggling British family when a missionary from the Canadian Arctic paid a visit to his boarding school in 1930. At sixteen, Edward Beauclerk Maurice impulsively signed up with the Hudson's Bay

Company -- the Company of Gentleman Adventurers -- and was sent to an isolated trading post in the Canadian Arctic, where there was no telephone or radio and only one ship arrived each year. But the Inuit people who traded there taught him how to track polar bears, build igloos, and survive expeditions in ferocious winter storms. He learned their language and became so immersed in their culture and way of life that children thought he was Inuit himself. When an epidemic struck, Maurice treated the sick using a simple first aid kit.

- ***The Mapmaker's Wife: A True Tale of Love, Murder, and Survival in the Amazon***
 - Robert Whitaker, 288pp (local – author)
 - French scientists journeyed to the Andes in 1735 to measure the lines of latitude and longitude there and settle the question of the shape of the Earth. Isobel Godin was a Peruvian who married one of the younger members of the mapmaking expedition. After waiting 20 years for him to return, she set out across the Amazon jungle to find him. Her journey became one of the great survivor stories of the century.
- ***Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe***
 - Laurence Bergreen, 480pp
 - Based on the diary of Venetian scholar Antonio Pigafetta and the pilot's log of Francisco Albo. A day-by-day account of the hardships, misfortunes, and triumphs of life on the sea in the sixteenth century as Magellan and his crew sought a water route to the fabled Spice Islands.
- ***The Places in Between***
 - Rory Stewart, 320pp
 - In January 2002, Stewart began a walk across Afghanistan from Herat to Kabul. The Taliban had been ousted several weeks earlier, and he traveled through a devastated, unsettled, and unsafe landscape. The recounting of that journey makes for an engrossing, surprising, and often deeply moving portrait of the land and the peoples who inhabit it. Stewart relates his encounters with ordinary villagers, security officials, students, displaced Taliban officials, foreign-aid workers, and rural strongmen.
- ***The Ride of Our Lives***
 - Mike Leonard, 240pp
 - This book is the author's attempt to give his elderly parents one last great adventure! It is filled with memories both interesting, funny, and painful. His parents seem to be such opposites but somehow they mesh. the physical trials & comedies of driving two huge RVs across America out of tourist season; the emotional engagement with both his parents & grown children; the recounting of how his parents enjoy each other's company after so long a marriage, as well as the memories of who they once were & the stories of his family. In some instances, the old saying: "You can't ever go home" rang out loud & clear, while in other instances, it was the best of medicine.
- ***Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala***
 - Daniel Wilkinson, 320pp
 - Wilkinson, now a lawyer with Human Rights Watch, writes in the vein of a travel journal. His book traces Guatemala's 36-year internal struggle through interviews with plantation owners, army officials, guerrillas and the wretchedly poor peasants stuck in the middle. Heart-wrenching.
- ***Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story of Tibet***
 - Xinran, 224pp
 - Inspired by a brief 1994 interview with an aged Chinese woman named Shu Wen, Beijing-born, London-based journalist Xinran (*The Good Women of China*) offers a delicately wrought account of Wen's 30-year search for her husband in Tibet, where he disappeared in 1958. Woven through with fascinating details of Tibetan culture and Buddhism, Xinran's story portrays a poignant, beautiful attempt at reconciliation.
- ***Walking Zero: Discovering Cosmic Space and Time along the Prime Meridian***
 - Chet Raymo, 208pp (local – author)
 - This walk along the prime meridian is a meditation on the ways that humans have measured and understood space and time, stopping here and there at some of the most prominent landmarks in the history of science - a combination of popular history, travelogue and intellectual memoir, as invigorating as a brisk country walk.
- **PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & INSPIRATIONAL**
 - ***Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths***
 - Bruce Feiler, 240pp
 - As we struggle to find a path to peace among three religions, all warring in Jerusalem, near the stone where Abraham brought his son for sacrifice, this captivating biography speaks to Abraham as the metaphor he is: the historically elusive man who embodies three religions.
 - ***Godless: The Church of Liberalism***
 - Ann Coulter, 320pp

- Liberalism is a comprehensive belief system denying the Christian belief in man's immortal soul. Their religion holds that there is nothing sacred about human consciousness. It's just an accident no more significant than our possession of opposable thumbs.
- ***John Paul the Great: Remembering a Spiritual Father***
 - Peggy Noonan, 256pp
 - Drawing on frequently told John Paul stories while linking his pontificate to its impact on herself, she writes, "John Paul walked into my life and served, unknowingly, as my spiritual father. Interspersed within the interior castle of Noonan's spirituality are stories from the life and times of John Paul, some of his wit and wisdom and a précis of some of his writing.
- ***Lao-tzu's Taoteching: with Selected Commentaries of the Past 2000 Years***
 - Lao-tzu and Red Pine, 208pp
 - The TAO TE CHING is one of the most translated books in the world, surpassed only by the BIBLE and the BHAGAVAD-GITA. In his reflective verse, Lao-tzu speaks to those searching for a meaningful way of mastering one's life in a society degraded by economic, militaristic and modern values.
- ***Many Ways to Nirvana: Reflections and Advice on Right Living***
 - Dalai Llama, 224pp
 - Wise, compassionate, and always pragmatic, His Holiness offers advice on the many issues that confront us every day: how to free ourselves from emotional afflictions and petty cravings, how to transform anxiety into contentment, and how to initiate and keep alive interfaith dialogue in the troubled times we live in.
- ***Our Endangered Values***
 - Jimmy Carter, 224pp
 - connected essays outline Carter's worldview while pondering key problems - war, environmental negligence, civil liberties, the rich-poor divide, and the separation of church and state
- ***Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism***
 - Douglas Brinkley and Julie M. Fenster, 384pp
 - Connecticut parish priest who helped to transform American Catholicism. McGivney never forgot the devastation of his family's poverty and devoted much of his priestly life to helping the Catholic poor. He founded the Knights of Columbus, an organization that simultaneously met two critical needs of Catholics in the late 19th century: it was an insurance policy for the indigent, and its devotion to America and patriotic ideals helped to assuage anti-Catholic prejudice.
- ***St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts And Bolts Of Everyday Benedictine Living***
 - Jane Tomaine, 206pp
 - Each chapter examines one aspect of the Rule of Benedict, from ways of praying to ways of embracing humility, and offers suggestions for prayer, reflection, journaling, and action. As they learn to use Benedict's tools, readers will discover the power--and the timeliness--of this ancient way of life.
- ***Sea of Faith: Islam and Christianity in the Medieval Mediterranean World***
 - Stephen O'Shea, 320pp (local – author)
 - O'Shea chronicles both the meeting of minds and the collisions of armies that marked the interaction of Cross and Crescent in the Middle Ages—the better to understand their apparently intractable conflict today.
- ***Star of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish***
 - Abigail Pogrebin, 400pp
 - 60 interviews explore the thoughts of well-known artists, politicians and others on the complexities of Jewish identity - from the legacy of the Holocaust to the Middle East, Jewish traditions, intermarriage and more.
- ***The Universe in a Single Atom: The Convergence of Science and Spirituality***
 - Dalai Llama, 224pp
 - The Dalai Lama's wisdom in one book on the nature of science, ethics, are as potent as they are profound. A significant questioning from a compassionate heart on the role of higher spirit in the application of science. One of those books to read over and over again.
- ***The World As I See It***
 - Albert Einstein, 125pp
 - The twentieth century's most brilliant scientific thinker shares his views on the meaning of life, governments, economics, disarmament, war, and Judaism. Written mostly in 1932, these short pieces are affecting mainly because they predate WWII, the Holocaust, Israeli-Palestinian wars. Einstein believed in the possibility of a peaceful world and in the high mission of science to serve human well-being.

● **SCIENCE, NATURE & HEALTH**

- ***Age-proof Your Mind***

- Zaldy Tan, 304pp
 - Offers information, exercises, resources and advice to help sort out whether memory loss is minor or indicates a deeper problem. Includes a test for readers to check their mental mettle and provides tips for improving short-term memory. Lots of information
- ***An Inconvenient Truth***
 - Al Gore, 328pp
 - brings together leading-edge research from top scientists; photographs, charts, and other illustrations; and personal anecdotes to document the fast pace and wide scope of global warming. The fact of global warming is not in question and its consequences for the world we live in will be disastrous if left unchecked. Written in an accessible, entertaining style, it will open the eyes of even the most skeptical.
- ***Another Day On the Frontal Lobe: A Brain Surgeon Exposes Life on the Inside***
 - Katrina Firlik (local – author)
 - by one of the only 5% of neurosurgeons who are women, the path to her career, her thoughts on the nature of intelligence, ethical dilemmas & more.
- ***The Big Year: a Tale of Man, Nature & Fowl Obsession***
 - Mark Obmascik, 288pp
 - the competition of a lifetime for birders, grows on readers. The 1998 competition was a race between three rivals that led to a new record-learn about the sport and the people who pursue it
- ***Change of Heart: How the People of Framingham, Mass Helped Unravel the Mysteries ...***
 - Daniel Levy, Susan Brink, 272pp (local – author)
 - the first account of this heroic cooperation between the U.S. Public Health Service and the people of Framingham.
- ***Clara's Grand Tour: Travels with a Rhinoceros in Eighteenth-Century Europe***
 - Glynis Ridley, 249pp
 - Clara covered most of the Holy Roman Empire, the Dutch Republic, France, and finally London, becoming an international sensation.
- ***Does Measurement Measure Up? How Numbers Reveal and conceal the Truth***
 - John M Henshaw, 248pp
 - history of measurement, its current roles, and the possible dangers of measuring everything
- ***Dry: Life Without Water***
 - Ehsan Masood & Daniel Schaefer
 - Each chapter tells a story from around the globe of a community's survival techniques in an environment without water supplies. A lively presentation.
- ***Every Second Counts: The Race to Transplant the First Human Heart***
 - Donald McCrae, 368pp
 - Through life histories, flashbacks, personal interviews, and compelling narration, recounts a real-life race to the death. Much more dramatic than any fiction about its subject could be.
- ***The Grail Bird: The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker***
 - Tim Gallagher, 304pp
 - The book is a unique and personal perspective on what could be one of the most significant ornithological events of the last 100 years. It is an enjoyable and easy read, a good introduction to the ecology of the ivory-billed woodpecker, a powerful call for conservation, and an exciting birding adventure.
- ***The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History***
 - John M. Barry, 560pp
 - A meticulous description of the dire consequences that resulted when short-term political expediency trumped the health of the public during the 1918 influenza pandemic. Barry reminds his us that the government response to an epidemic is often colored by the politics of the moment.
- ***Monkeyluv***
 - Robert M. Sapolsky, 224pp
 - Essays that view the human condition through the lens of our evolutionary background. With wit, curiosity & compassion, the author takes us from genetic determinism to the reasons why older folks won't like "what passes for music among young people nowadays." Charming and erudite.
- ***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World***
 - Tracy Kidder, 336pp (local – author)
 - At the center of **Mountains Beyond Mountains** stands Paul Farmer. Doctor, Harvard professor, renowned infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, the recipient of a MacArthur "genius" grant, world-class Robin Hood. The book takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the

philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity" - "Here is a genuine hero alive in our times... it is as hard to put down as any good and true story."—Annie Dillard

- ***Murmurs From the Deep: Scientific Adventure in the Caribbean***
 - Gilles Fonteneau
 - 1st person narrative is a window on oceanography of the type that Jacques Cousteau used to provide.
- ***The Omnivore's Dilemma: the Natural History of 4 Meals***
 - Michael Pollan, 464pp (local – author)
 - To Pollan, the omnivore's dilemma is twofold: what we choose to eat and how we let that food be produced. He touches on a vast array of subjects, from food fads and taboos to our avoidance of not only our food's animality, but also our own... his writing is compelling.
- ***Robert Oppenheimer: a Life***
 - Abraham Pais and Robert P. Crease, 400pp
 - Head of atomic bomb commission, statesman for science, & victim of McCarthyism
- ***Yellow Fever: A Deadly Disease Poised to Kill Again***
 - James Dickerson, 271pp
 - History and prospective reemergence of a dread killer due climate change or terrorism
- ***The Zombie Curse: A doctor's 25yr Journey into the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic...***
 - Arthur M. Fournier and David Herlihy
 - from Miami to Haiti Dr. Fournier struggles to understand a mysterious disease and help its victim.

• SPORTS, RECREATION & HUMOR

- ***The \$64 Tomato: How One Man Nearly Lost His Sanity, ...the Quest for the Perfect Garden***
 - William Alexander, 288pp
 - After years of fighting pests, Alexander realized that there was no such thing as an organic garden in the Northeast, and that for each tomato he'd taken from his garden he'd spent \$64; ultimately, what was once a hobby became a second full-time job. The author manages to maintain a sense of humor.
- ***The Education of a Coach* (local – topic)**
 - David Halberstam, 277pp
 - focuses on Bill Belichick, one of the NFL's most successful coaches, and the game of football as a team sport with rich detail, exacting research and colorful anecdotes. He shows what the New England Patriots' fans have always known: the roots of Belichick's coaching lie in the essential mentoring by his father.
- ***Feeding the Monster* (local – topic)**
 - Seth Mnookin, 448pp
 - The soap opera that is the Boston Red Sox is in full bloom in Mnookin's tale about how the organization coalesced to finally bring Red Sox Nation its first world championship since 1918.
- ***Futebol: Soccer: The Brazilian Way***
 - Alex Bellos, 256pp
 - Is soccer the common religion of Brazil? Perhaps more apt would be to say that Brazil is the temple for those who worship world soccer. Mr. Bellos interviewed hundreds of people for this book: famous players, priests, soothsayers, a superfan, presidents of local teams, coaches, and everyday Brazilians whose lives are defined by soccer
- ***Heat: An Amateur's Adventures as Kitchen Slave, Line Cook, Pasta-Maker, and Apprentice...***
 - Bill Buford, 336pp
 - More proof that fact is stranger than fiction. You just couldn't make these nutty food people up. The odyssey from food armateur to bowing at the apron hem of food Gods was remarkable, not only for the journey, but the wit and palpable love of food and it's history.
- ***Marley & Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog***
 - John Grogan, 304pp
 - Labrador retrievers are generally considered even-tempered, calm and reliable; and then there's Marley, the subject of this delightful tribute to one Lab who doesn't fit the mold. Dog lovers will delight in the antics of Marley, a yellow lab, as he happily terrorizes the Grogan household.
- ***The Perfect Mile: Three Athletes, One Goal and Less Than 4 Minutes to Achieve It***
 - Neal Bascomb, 352pp
 - The attempt by three men in the 1950s to become the first to run the mile in less than four minutes is a classic 20th-century sports story. Bascomb's excellent account captures all of the human drama and competitive excitement of this

legendary racing event.

Praying for Gil Hodges: A Memoir of the 1955 World Series and One Family's ...

- Thomas Oliphant, 288pp (local – author)
- Story of a team, a neighborhood and a family. The book intertwines the drama of the 7th game of the world series between the Dodgers and the Yankees with family tales. The heart of the story is the love of a family for a place, a baseball team, but mostly for each other.
- ***The Rivalry: Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, and the Golden Age of Basketball*** (local – topic)
 - John Taylor, 432pp
 - Few individual rivalries in sports match the legendary basketball duels between Boston Celtic Bill Russell and the much-traveled Wilt Chamberlain. Russell led his team to 11 championships in 13 seasons, and Chamberlain became the poster child for individual accomplishment--he scored 100 points in a single game--but Russell, 35 years after his retirement, still epitomizes the ultimate winner, the teammate for the ages.
- ***She's Got Next: A Story of Getting, Staying Open, and Taking a Shot***
 - Melissa King, 180pp
 - King grew up in Arkansas shooting baskets in the driveway with her brother. At 27, she moved to Chicago and found herself yearning for the court in an effort to erase an inner emptiness. Her tender memoir chronicles her playing pickup basketball, meandering from playground to gym to YMCA. King first joins an amateur league, but soon branches out to Chicago's many and various multicultural neighborhood pickup games.

• **WOMEN'S HISTORY/ISSUES**

- ***Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America***
 - Linda Lawrence Hunt, 336pp
 - When she learned that a mysterious sponsor would pay \$10,000 to a woman who walked across America, Helga and her teenaged daughter Clara, with little more than a compass, red-pepper spray, a revolver, and Clara's curling iron, set out on foot from Eastern Washington.
- ***Couldn't Keep It To Myself: Wally Lamb and the Women of the York Correctional***
 - editor Wally Lamb, 368pp (local – author)
 - writings gleaned from a workshop he conducted for the female inmates of a Connecticut prison. The women who wrote these memoirs did a variety of illegal, immoral and awful things. However, if you read these stories, you will begin to wonder who the victims really are.
- ***Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women's Success in the Law***
 - Lauren Stiller Rikleen, 437pp (local – author)
 - Discusses the challenges that women lawyers face and the challenges that the profession as a whole faces in a thoughtful, honest and fair voice. Most of the time, behaviors that hold women back aren't motivated by bad intentions, merely cluelessness. Yet these behaviors hurt women and, consequently, the legal profession.
- ***Finding Betty Crocker: The Secret Life of America's First Lady of Food***
 - Susan Marks, 304pp
 - The 1920s brainchild of a group of advertising types looking for a leg up in what came to be called the flour wars, Betty Crocker surpassed all expectations, not only by becoming the first lady of the kitchen but also by serving as a barometer of America's changing attitudes toward women's work. pick this up and have a grand time seeing how an icon came to be. Entwined in Marks' absorbing review of Crocker's evolution are a sampling of favorite recipes and letters from Crocker's loyal radio, TV, and cookbook following,
- ***Girl Sleuth: Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her***
 - Melanie Rehak, 384pp
 - Behind the scenes of the girl sleuth's creation, her transformation as different writers took on the series, and the publishing phenomenon, the Stratemeyer Syndicate, that made her possible. Reflections on how Nancy Drew mirrors girls' lives and changes in the women's movement.
- ***The Girl Who Married the Moon: Tales from Native North America***
 - Joseph Bruchac and Gayle Ross, 115pp
 - Young women are featured in 16 stories intended "to reach the daughters and granddaughters who will come after." Becoming a woman and marrying correctly are common themes: Resourceful heroines escape monsters and kidnappers, comically avoid marriage to a trickster or tragically die with their husbands.
- ***Let Me Play – the Story of Title IX***
 - Karen Blumenthal, 160pp

- The history and future of Title IX, which bans sex discrimination in U.S. education. Profiles of groundbreaking female athletes and legislators alternate with highlights of the women's movement, from the early twentieth century through today. Gripping photos and political cartoons.
- ***Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America***
 - Kareena Gore Schiff, 528pp
 - These women are inspiring, not just because of the worthiness of their causes but also because they doggedly continued their advocacy in the face of major personal setbacks and significant public hostility. And it is amazing to contemplate just how much these women were able to accomplish. They were intimately involved in some of the defining crusades of the 20th century, agitating for the end of Jim Crow laws in the South, basic worker protections and child labor regulations. The fact that it's almost incomprehensible today that those policies were ever controversial speaks to the lasting nature of these women's legacies
- ***The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism***
 - Megan Mashall, 624pp
 - The Peabody sisters were bright, gifted, independent and influential; they knew a host of notables, from Abigail Adams to Ralph Waldo Emerson. Oldest sister Elizabeth, who according to Marshall helped start the Transcendentalist movement, ran a school with Bronson Alcott, who named his third daughter in her honor. Marshall has distilled 20 years of research into a book that brings the sisters to life, along with their extended family and friends, and the time in which they matured: a time, Marshall notes, that allowed women to be on a more equal footing than they would enjoy later in the century.
- ***Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books***
 - Azar Nafisi, 368pp
 - after leaving her professorship at a university due to repressive policies, the author invited several female students to a weekly study of great Western literature in her home. They read banned books, so the women met in secret, sharing photocopied pages of the illegal novels.
- ***Women at Ground Zero: Stories of Courage and Compassion***
 - Susan Hagen and Mary Corouba, 336pp
 - This book is a powerful collection of first-person stories told by female firefighters, police officers, paramedics, EMTs, and others who responded to the events of September 11 and its aftermath. Women at Ground Zero provides a unique perspective on the events of that terrible day through the eyes of women rescuers who risked their lives to save others.

• WORLD HISTORY

- ***A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War***
 - Victor Davis Hanson, 416pp
 - How two great peoples (the Athenians and Spartans) largely destroyed their own cultures over a 30-year war. Makes enlightening comparisons between the mind-sets of the two great adversaries, with the American Civil war leaders, the Europeans in World War I, the battles of WWII, and more.
- ***The Cold War: A New History***
 - John Lewis Gaddis, 400pp
 - The Cold War was historically significant as much for what didn't happen as for what did. Terrifying though the great global showdown sometimes was, the United States and the Soviet Union never waged a full-scale war. "Prior to 1945, great powers fought great wars so frequently that they seemed to be permanent features of the international landscape,"
- ***Esther's Children: A Portrait of Iranian Jews***
 - Houman Sarshar, 468pp
 - This elegant book's 25 essays by Persian Jews detail Iranian Jewish history and culture, as well as some of the repressions that arrived with Islam's advent. Only 20,000 Jewish people remain in Iran today--the remnant of the Middle East's oldest Jewish community outside Israel.
- ***The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair***
 - Martin Meredith, 800pp
 - The value of Meredith's towering history of modern Africa rests not so much in its incisive analysis, or its original insights; it is the sheer readability of the project, combined with a notable lack of pedantry.
- ***Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship***
 - Jon Meacham, 512pp
 - Meacham's engaging account argues that personal bonds between leaders are crucial to international politics. It is an amazingly well researched and organized book, encompassing their lives in and out of politics. Through a timeline of events and quotes, letters, transcripts, and documents one witnesses the forging of the friendship that saved democracy

and halted Hitler and the Axis Powers

o **Guests of the Ayatollah: The First Battle in America's War with Militant Islam**

- Mark Bowden, 704pp
- chronicles the takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran by student militants, who held 66 Americans hostage from November 1979 till January 1981 - no academic tome, but a briskly written human story told from every conceivable point of view.

ESOR REPORTING FORM

NAME: _____ CLUB: _____
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ADDRESS: _____ DISTRICT: _____

- o **Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945**
Catherine Merridale, 448pp
30 million served in the Red Army during WWII. Over 8 million of them died. Combines interviews, letters and diaries with research in previously closed official archives for the first comprehensive portrait of the Red Army's fighters. Frontline soldiers increasingly hoped their sacrifices would bring about postwar reform. What they got instead was a Soviet crackdown—and a long silence, broken now by this book

o **Life along the Silk Road**

- | <u>1. TITLE</u> | <u>AUTHOR</u> | <u>LIST#</u> |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| ▪ Susan Whitfield, 253pp | | |
| ▪ Mixing narrative and historic minutiae, each chapter introduces an inhabitant of the Silk Road at the end of the 10th century. Following the lives and stories of the Merchant, the Soldier, the Monk, the Courtesan, and others, the author brings the dramatic history of pre-Islamic central Asia down to a human scale. | | |

o **Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery and Murder in Medieval England**

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| ▪ Alison Weir, 528pp | | |
| ▪ Isabella of France (1295?-1358) married the bisexual Edward II of England as a 12-year-old, lived with him for 17 years, bore him four children, fled to France in 1327, returned with her lover, Roger Mortimer, led a rebellion and place her son on the throne and eventually saw Mortimer executed as her son asserted his power. Veteran biographer, Weir presents a fascinating rewriting of a controversial life that should supersede all previous accounts. Isabella is so intertwined with the greatest figures of her century and the next | | |

o **What We Knew**

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| ▪ Eric Johnson and Karl-Heinz Reuband, 434pp (local author) | | |
| ▪ presents 40 out of 200 interviews with Germans, Jews and non-Jews, about their experiences during the Hitler years - it's the gripping immediacy of the interviews, laid out as they are with anger, guilt, sadness and, still among some Christian Germans, pride, that carries the book | | |

For GFWC's list go to: http://www.gfwc.org/images/gfwc/imageuploads/GFWC_ESORReadingList2008.pdf

<u>4. TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>LIST#</u>

<u>5. TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>LIST#</u>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?

