Fiction:

*And the Mountains Echoed* - *Khaled Hosseini*  
I liked this a little more than the *Kite Runner* and definitely more than *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. It is written switching back and forth, from the past and to the present. The writing and the story are both excellent, so the reader has no problem staying engaged. *Audrey’s pick.*

*The Art Forger* by *B.A. Shapiro*: This literary thriller is full of relationships, fine art and foolish choices. I found myself looking up fine art masterpieces as they were mentioned in the book. Very entertaining. *Linda’s pick*

*Astrid & Veronika* by *Linda Olsson*: A thoughtful, introspective novel about the unusual friendship between two women; a friendship that comforts and heals the painful pasts of each woman with simple acts of companionship. *Audrey and Davonne’s pick*

*The Cookbook Collector* by *Allegra Goodman* “is about appetite, temptation, fulfillment, and the lives of two sisters, Emily, 28, and Jessamine, 23.” (publisher’s description). This book has been on my list to read since it came out in 2007, not only because of the comparisons of the author to Jane Austen and the glowing reviews that accompanied its publication, but because anything with the word “cooking” in the title is bound to attract my attention. I finally “read” the book when I downloaded it to my iphone; it contains a large cast of well-developed characters, secrets kept and betrayed, clashing values, love and loss, humor and tragedy. *Beth’s pick.*

*The Enchanted Life of Adam Hope*, *Rhonda Riley, 2013*: I loved this book! It follows the fantastical family saga of Evelyn, starting as a young girl in the mid 1940's. The story is unbelievable yet this author makes it possible. The writing is wonderful. The historical and cultural references to small town America are vivid and true. It is a love story that is felt in your core. Not to be missed. *Linda’s pick*

*Flight Behavior* by *Barbara Kingsolver*  
Drawing on both her Appalachian roots and her background in biology, Kingsolver delivers a passionate novel on the effects of global warming. Depicting interesting characters and family dynamics in the Appalachian setting, Kingsolver exudes a sincere love of nature as she explores the potential effects of global warming on scientific, financial and psychological communities, as well as creatures such as Monarch butterflies. *Davonne’s pick*

*Life After Life* by *Kate Atkinson*: This novel opens first in Germany in 1930 with an English woman taking a shot at Hitler; then in England in 1910 when a baby arrives, stillborn. And then it opens yet again: still in 1910, still in England, but this time the baby lives. Ursula Todd lives and dies many times throughout the years as “World War II draws ever closer. The author hopscotches through time, circling back to offer alternate versions of Ursula's life. She drowns, falls off a roof, is beaten to death by an abusive husband (for starters), but is always reborn back into the same loving family, sometimes with the knowledge that allows her to escape past poor decisions, sometimes not. Her lives/experiences during the London Blitz (and the war in Germany) are especially chilling and horrifying. I listened to the audio version; narrator Fenella Woolgar was excellent at bringing this challenging novel and its many well-drawn characters to life, and I highly recommend it-- in any format. *Beth’s pick*

*Night Circus* by *Erin Morgenstern* -- A fairy tale of a wandering magical circus that is open only from sunset to sunrise, set in Victorian England. Vivid language describes fantastic circus exhibits and intriguing dueling characters that the surreal narrative follows over a period of years to a grand finale. *FIC Morg -- Davonne’s pick*

*Perks of Being a Wallflower* by *Stephen Chboskey* -- An epistolary novel addressed to an anonymous friend, Charlie's letters cover his first year in high school, a time haunted by the recent suicide of his best friend, all the struggles that high school and coming of age brings, and a personally tragic circumstance that Charlie finally faces. Originally published in 1999, the book resurfaced in popularity with the release of the movie in 2012, directed by the book's author. T FIC Chbo  *Davonne's pick*
We Are all Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler:  Medical Research on Animals, Psychology, Parenting Choices – these are all themes that resonate in Fowler’s unique book.  IU psychology professor chooses to bring home a three month old chimp to be raised as part of the family, wondering if the chimp can learn language.  There is a newborn daughter, and a six year old son.  The consequences of this action have tremendous effects – intended and unintended – on the entire family.  The narrator is the daughter, and she tells the story from her many perspectives – as a 5-year old, a college student, and a 40-year-old adult.  I began this book with interest, but no real enthusiasm, thinking it might be too negative. However, I became enthralled with the story, and ended up experiencing a tremendous emotional and intellectual impact.  Judith’s pick

Non-Fiction

After Visiting Friends: a Son’s Story by Michael Hainey:  Hainey’s father, newspaper man for the Chicago Sun Times in the sixties, dies at the age of 35, leaving behind his wife and two sons, aged 8 and 6.  The younger of the two, Michael, never gets over the fact that he doesn’t really understand how his father died.  His mother will not answer his questions.  He grows up with all kinds of anxiety around his conflicting feelings: wanting to know some answers vs fear of hurting his mother.  Finally he begins his quest to discover the details of his father’s death.  Hainey has an interesting writing style and is skilled at weaving the details which set up the mystery.  Upon completion, my belief that no matter the age, when a child asks questions, tell him the truth, was reinforced.  Bio Hain Judith’s pick

The Bite of the Mango by Mariatu Kamara with Susan McClelland:  Not even a teen yet, young Mariatu survives rebel attacks on her village in Sierra Leone.  Her hands are cut off, but she manages to overcome this, along with dealing with the deaths of her family members.  She moves to Canada and gets an education and a shot at life.  When reading this book one has to say to oneself “And I thought I have it hard at times”. What an inspiring young gal Mariatu is!  T 921 Kama Rebecca’s pick

Bootstrapper: From Broke to Badass on a Northern Michigan Farm by Mardi Jo Link:  Bootstrapper follows the author’s first year after her divorce.  She is broke and raising 3 young boys on a small farm in northern Michigan.  The story is witty and charming and true to life.  It is a memoir about survival and self discovery from a woman who never loses sight of what matters most.  Mardi is the author of several true crime books and has spoken at the Charlevoix Library on three occasions.  This book shows the true range of her talent.  630.92 Link Linda’s pick

DiBruno Bros. House of Cheese: a Guide to Wedges, Recipes, and Pairings by Tenaya Darlington:  This is a fascinating guide to great cheeses made in the USA and also imported from abroad. The Di Bruno Brothers started a grocery and delicatessen in Philadelphia, and their descendants have embraced and expanded their successful business model to fit the tastes of the 21st century.  Tenaya Darlington started a cheese blog after visiting the Di Bruno Bros store, and it became so successful that she decided to do a book of her postings.  The pictures of the cheese will whet your appetite, along with the tasty recipes and suggestions for cheese board selections and beer and wine pairings.  641.673 Darl Judith’s pick

Genius of Dogs: How Dogs Are Smarter Than You Think by Brian Hare:  Brian Hare is an evolutionary anthropologist, founder of Duke University Canine Cognition Center, who has done significant research on the brain function of dogs.  In the past decade, his studies have changed the way dogs should be viewed.  Hare’s stunning discovery is that when dogs domesticated themselves 40,000 years ago, they became far more like human infants than their wolf ancestors.  Domestication gave dogs a whole new kind of social intelligence.  Good writing makes the ideas and science easily accessible.  A must read for any dog lover.  636.7083 Hare Judith’s pick

The Telling Room: a tale of love, betrayal, revenge, and the world’s greatest piece of cheese by Michael Paterniti:  Here’s one for all the writers and would be writers, and those of us who are neither, but who enjoy reading about the process as part of the storytelling.  Paterniti goes to ground to give us the roller coaster ride of his writing life as he searched for a great story which he found in the life of Ambrosio – Spanish cheese maker who was at the forefront of the artisanal cheese movement currently all the rage.  The subtitle tells it all…a fascinating read, and “pairs well” with the book on the DiBruno Bros. House of Cheese.  Bio Pate Judith’s pick