**Fiction:**

*Amazing Gracie* by Dan Dye and Mark Beckloff

Yep another dog story... love 'em! and I really enjoyed THIS one, it was quick (which I need or I fall to sleep) it was funny (which everyone needs) and it was also heart-warming and inspiring. I think everyone has heard something of the business "Three Dog Bakery". Now I know where this name came from... Three dogs named Dottie, Sarah and Gracie, all rescues, inspired dog owners to try out making their own dog food for the picky (and deaf) Great Dane Gracie. This little step of love for the health of their Gracie turned into a multi-million dollar business adventure. The two authors even hosted a Pawdy (that's a dog party) invited friends with their dogs in tow. Having a few dogs myself I could relate and giggle to the comical happenings when you have a houseful of canines plus the great feeling you get when you save a dog's life. After finishing this book I rushed to order the "Three Dog Bakery Cook Book" and yes I DID make spinach noodles for my little Husky "Po". *Rebecca’s pick*

*Brat Farrar* by Josephine Tey

This is a well-written, short read. Tey, a master at writing British mystery, keeps you guessing up until the very end. It is a great portrayal of English life in the mid 1950's. *Audrey’s pick.*

*Bread and Butter,* by Michelle Wildgen. If you are a foodie or a restaurant person, you will love this book. I grew up in a restaurant family. My dad and two brothers were partners and so when I read that this book was the story of three brothers in the restaurant business I had to read it. Wildgen brings the reader into the lives of the restaurateurs and highlights the anxiety and nerves it takes to put your whole life on the line of something so risky. Although the brothers are nothing like my dad and uncles, the anxiety is the same. My favorite part though has to be the description of the front and back of restaurant life. Wildgen, in detail, describes plating the food and how important each detail is for the life of the restaurant, as well as the importance of a great host. Having a successful restaurant is all in the details of creating the perfect ambiance. That perfection begins at the front door and all the scrumptious details in between must be seamlessly presented so there are smiles of satisfaction upon leaving through that same front door. I thoroughly enjoyed this book as it brought me back to a world that I truly love. Bon appétit! *Val’s pick*

*The Cartographer of No Man’s Land* by P.S. Duffy: When his beloved brother-in-law Ebben goes missing in the “Great War”, Angus MacGrath puts aside his pacifist upbringing in a small fishing village in Nova Scotia and joins the army to search for him. Instead of becoming a cartographer working from London as he has been promised, Angus is thrust into the trenches in France. Back home, those who are left waiting are subjected to tension and hostility. As the 100th anniversary of this terrible war is observed, this book is worth reading as the author beautifully explores the circles of hell opened up by war, both on the battlefield and at home. *Beth’s pick*
**Cinder by Marissa Meyer:** The first in the Lunar Chronicles series, this mixture of sci-fi, fantasy and fairy tale is an enjoyable teen book with brave characters and interesting scenarios wrapped up in a futuristic world. *Davonne’s pick*

**Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands by Chris Bohjalian:** It’s remarkable to me that a middle aged man can write the quintessential teenage girl voice. While no stranger to female protagonists, Emily Shepard’s character is a tour de force for Bohjalian. There is a nuclear meltdown at a plant in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont; Emily’s parents, who worked there, are killed in the explosion. Now an orphan, she joins the hundreds of homeless refugees. The book is a realistic imagining of the events and effect on individuals and society that would follow a catastrophe of this magnitude. It’s not something I really wanted to finish, but Emily’s voice compelled me to do so. Whether you read it or listen to it, the impact is equally stunning. We have both options at the library. The audio book is skillfully read by Grace Blewer, a drama major at NYU, who happens to be Bohjalian’s daughter. *Judith’s pick*

**Landline by Rainbow Rowell:** How does anyone balance career and marriage and family? Georgie McCool, a professional screenplay writer, knows her marriage is in trouble when she and her writing partner finally have their ship come in for their own comedy TV show. The problem is, they have to write it through Christmas, and Georgie is supposed to go with her husband and children to Omaha for the holiday. She stays behind in LA, and a bizarre turn of events results in writer’s block. Discovering that the telephone line in her childhood bedroom is magic, Georgie is able to talk to her husband and work through her thoughts. Most of the story is told through dialog. Because Rainbow Rowell writes stunning dialog, the pace is delightfully fast. Through her magical realism journey, Georgie’s introspection reveals lessons valuable for all of us. *Judith’s pick*

**Margot by Jillian Cantor:** Everyone who’s read The Diary of Anne Frank knows that Anne and her sister, Margot, died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. But what if Margot didn’t die? What if she somehow survived and immigrated to Philadelphia? What if she continued to hide? That’s the premise of Cantor’s daring new novel. The story starts in 1959 and includes flashbacks to the time in the annex, in the concentration camps and how she escaped. It is a fascinating story of “what ifs”. – *Linda’s pick*

**Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates:** A depiction of a young couple’s dreams in the optimistic 1950s time period. As Frank and April Wheeler seek fulfillment in their lives, they discover the difficulties of remaining true to oneself while pursuing the American Dream. Originally published in 1961, the story experienced a resurgence with the 2008 movie of the same name, starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Frank and Kate Winslet as April. *Davonne’s pick*

**Storied Life of AJ Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin:** The Storied Life includes a bookstore on an island with a cantankerous, widowed owner, coupled with a young determined bookseller, and an abandoned child. Highlighted throughout is the joy of reading and the world of books, as we watch AJ Fikry’s life transform, relearning how to interact with people, and experience as well as express joy. *Davonne’s pick*

**Thousand Words by Jennifer Brown:** The title reflects the well-known quote: "A picture is worth a thousand words," which frames the story of a teen who sends a provocative photo/picture to her boyfriend, suffering devastating consequences when the couple breaks up. The author offers a realistic portrayal of teen relationships and how easily a momentary bad decision can go viral, changing people’s futures. *Davonne’s pick*
Non –Fiction:

Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, Or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do by Wallace J. Nichols: This is news?!? We live in Charlevoix surrounded by water, so this is NOT news. However, Nichols, advocating to preserve the tremendous resource of water, has now got all the science to support the fact that not only do we need water to sustain our physical lives, but we also need it to sustain our emotional and intellectual lives as well. After reading this, folks who don’t live close to the water will hopefully believe the necessity of doing all we can to preserve this great and precious resource. Judith’s pick

The Boom: How Fracking Ignited the American Energy Revolution and Changed the World by Russell Gold: Gold’s book is a must-read for anyone interested in energy issues. It is both a thorough and fascinating examination of the fracking economy and an overview of the technological innovations that have made these new riches accessible. It is a thoughtful, well-written and carefully researched book that provides the best overview yet of the pros and cons of fracking. The audio version of the book is excellent, but I would have preferred print so I could reread certain sections and skip lightly over others. –Linda’s Pick

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants by Malcolm Gladwell: Are there unsung advantages to being disadvantaged and overlooked disadvantages to being "advantaged"? These are the questions raised and explored in the latest book by the author of “The Tipping Point” and “Outliers”. Gladwell begins with an analysis of the story of the giant and the shepherd boy and continues with examples as seemingly disparate as cancer researchers, Ireland’s battlefields, dyslexic students, and civil rights leaders to demonstrate the hidden truths behind the weak and the powerful. He contends that conditions that are often seen as adverse or limiting can actually be turned into well-springs of strength. This book is full of surprising insights and provocative ideas. Beth’s pick

Kitchen Ideas You Can Use: Inspiring Designs & Clever Solutions for Remodeling Your Kitchen by Chris Peterson: Great Pictures with detailed captions form the majority of the pages of this new book. It is organized with cool chapter titles; as far as I’m concerned, any author who uses the word scintillating in a chapter heading, as in “Scintillating Kitchen Styles”, is bound to have creative insights. Even if you are not in the market to remodel your kitchen, this is an entertaining book that will introduce you to the latest trends in kitchens, from countertops to storage ideas to lighting tips, and could fuel dreams for the most used room in your home. Judith’s Pick

Little Ship of Fools: Sixteen Rowers, One Improbable Boat, Seven Tumultuous Weeks on the Atlantic by Charles Wilkins is the often humorous account of a human-powered voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in 2011. The crew of Big Blue set off from Morocco headed to Barbados attempting to set a new world rowing record. What ensued was a grueling expedition demonstrating that the greatest challenges to the trip were not out in the waves and storms but aboard the vessel. Beth’s pick
In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette, by Hampton Sides. The author offers a vivid historical depiction of the U.S. Arctic Expedition in search of the open polar sea toward the North Pole, with a crew of 33 men on the USS Jeannette. The preparations and horrendous hardships of this little-known journey are well-outlined and documented. This riveting account brings to life the personalities of Lieutenant Commander George Washington De Long and many other crew members, including the breathtaking stamina and courage required in undertaking such an expedition. Sides is an excellent storyteller, artfully weaving suspense throughout the epic narrative.

*Davonne’s pick*

The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food by Dan Barber: A groundbreaking chef at one of Manhattan’s first farm-to-table restaurants, Barber shares his vision of good food’s future. He cares about where foods come from, how they’re grown, and whether they can be harvested into the future. He visits farms to learn the best practices that produce the most flavorful and healthy foods. All this leaves Barber with some innovative ideas about how people ought to be eating—a third plate of grains, vegetables, and some meat or fish, all grown with ecological awareness and commitment to sustainability. If you liked the Omnivore’s Dilemma and Michael Pollan’s works, this book is for you. –*Linda’s Pick.*