**Fiction:**

**Dog Gone, Back Soon by Nick Trout:** Dr. Cyrus Mills returns to his hometown in Vermont after inheriting his deceased father’s ailing veterinary practice, Bedside Manor. There are many obstacles and adjustments, but the main one is the chain vet practice, Healthy Paws, located in a neighboring larger town, which is doing everything it can to nix the competition. Nick Trout has written a fun story including great canine, feline, and people characters, lots of snappy dialogue, and challenging cases to keep the good doctor (and the reader) on his toes. *Judith’s pick*

**Here to Stay, by Melissa Tagg:** Sometimes a book that can be read in an afternoon, contains snappy and realistic dialogue, a little bit of tension and heartbreak, and plenty of humor (as well as romance!) is just what is called for. In this novel, set in the fictitious Lake Michigan resort town of Whisper Shore, Autumn Kingsley is running the family inn and hoping an offer from an investor will make her dream of living in Paris come true, while Blake Hunziker has returned to town, hoping to leave his past behind. Of course the two meet and complications develop. *Here to Stay*, with its unobtrusive inclusion of faith woven throughout, is a perfect light read for a beach chair afternoon. *Beth’s pick.*

**I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes:** In a blog on the publisher’s website, Hayes cited three thriller authors who inspired him – LeCarre, Forsyth, Ludlum. He humbly declined to put his debut novel in their company, but I think he’s a shoe-in. In addition, I would add Bernard Cornwell, Lee Child and Vince Flynn to the list. Like Cornwell, Hayes puts the reader in the situation, in real time. His protagonist is a loner CIA agent working deep undercover in fascinating settings around the world. This is a wonderful thriller. The agent is a smart, complex, sympathetic character with mysteries in his life that get revealed slowly as he stalks his prey - the loner terrorist who creates enough smallpox virus to wipe out the population of the United States; it is well-worth the 600 pages. *Judith’s pick*

**The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman**

With a sprinkle of magic, Hoffman blends historical fiction, social realism, mystery and romance. This fast-paced and dramatic novel is filled with colorful characters and vivid scenes of life in New York more than a century ago. This was the first novel by Hoffman that I read and I found it to be almost impossible to put down. I have read five more since and found each one to be just as mesmerizing. *Sarah’s Pick*

**Peaches for Father Francis by Joanne Harris:** This is the third book/episode featuring the expansive character, Vianne Rocher, who journeys back to visit her old home in the rural French community of Lansquenet. The story is told alternately by Vianne and Father Francis, offering up new conundrums concerning Muslim immigrants and other town inhabitants including Vianne’s old friend, Josephine. As in the previous novels, *Chocolat* and *The Girl With No Shadow*, Vianne applies her mystical methods to unravel dark secrets and bring people together. *Davonne’s pick*

**Serena by Ron Rash:** Set in 1929, in the rugged mountains of North Carolina, this depression era saga of industrial development, greed, and betrayal has been characterized as an ’Appalachian retelling of Macbeth’ – both beautiful and brutal. The title character’s unrelenting drive, greed and ruthlessness is both fascinating and appalling. *Davonne’s pick*

**Still Life with Breadcrumbs by Anna Quindlen:** A once famous photographer, Rebecca Winter finds herself a lonely ‘has-been,’ and seeks a change by escaping the city and renting a rural run-down cabin. Told with a touch of light humor, Rebecca struggles to recreate and find new meaning in her life, and learns to embrace second chances. A beach read! *Davonne and Beth’s pick.*
**Non-Fiction**

*Broken Rib Ranch, a memoir by Timothy Parsel:* I picked up this book from our local author section. Parsel’s memoir centers on his difficult but rewarding experience with horses. In the beginning, he conjures up an interest in horses only to win over his future wife’s affection. Over the years, his wife’s love and passion for horses grows, and so do Parsel’s expenses, chores, injuries, and herd size. The couple’s devotion to one another, and their horses, is really incredible. Parsel has a gift for storytelling; as I read the pages of this memoir, I felt like I was listening to a funny friend share stories of his life’s mishaps.

*Sarah’s pick*

*Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant by Roz Chast:* This recently published book treats the sensitive subject of managing elderly parents with humor and honesty. Ms. Chast is a cartoonist for the New Yorker magazine and uses her cartoons to describe current events. The book follows her life dealing with her parents health, finances and emotions, beginning when they lived independently in an apartment and ending when both parents pass away. This graphic novel is a quick read and I found myself both laughing and crying throughout the pages. I highly recommend it to anyone who has an elderly parent or has been through this experience.

*Susan’s pick*

*Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert:* In descriptive, layperson language, the author outlines the science of the 5 mass extinctions over the last half a billion years, including theories about their causes. She concisely describes her field reporting experiences concerning the 6th extinction which is unfolding before our eyes, caused by cataclysmic human actions. An engrossing and moving account about the future of the world, Kolbert also illuminates the beauty and characteristics of some of the species that humans propelled (or are propelling) to extinction.

*Davonne’s pick*

*Unremarried Widow: a Memoir by Artis Henderson:* In this powerful memoir, a young woman loses her husband twenty years after her own mother was widowed, and overcomes two generations of tragedy to discover that both hope and love endure. The book is beautifully written and it is both a love story and a study on grief. For anyone who has lost a part of themselves through death, this story will touch you in a profound way.

*Linda’s pick*

*Wear No Evil - How to Change the World with Your Wardrobe by Greta Eagan:* “Every year in the United States 13.1 million tons of textile waste goes into landfills, and 95 percent of that is recyclable.” This EPA statistic quoted in Greta Eagan’s new book is astonishing. Since I have recycled my family’s old unusable clothes through the transfer station in Emmet County for over a decade, I find the 95% still going in the landfill distressing. Eagan’s book begins with some horrors of how our clothes are produced, but this section, while necessary and eye-opening, is thankfully brief. After one chapter, *Wear No Evil* details an easy system of how to be conscious of what we buy, where we buy, what we donate or recycle, and what we throw away. Since clothes are a significant part of all our lives, we all need to be more aware of our choices. Read this book and you’ll find at least one thing you can easily do.

*Judith’s Pick*