FICTION:

_The Body in the Wardrobe: A Faith Fairchild Mystery_ by Katherine Hall Page: Engaging characters with interesting lives involved in a satisfying mystery provide a charming, fast-paced story, set in the backdrop of southern living in Savannah. An extra bonus for foodies are the delectable descriptions of local cuisine with recipes included. I plan to seek out more Faith Fairchild Mysteries. Davonne’s pick

_Everything I Never Told You_ by Celeste Ng: This thought-provoking book begins with the statement of sixteen-year-old Lydia’s death, and the questions behind it -- murder? suicide? accident? As the characters struggle with their lives and the influences and motives projected onto others, the reader considers how well one really knows the inner lives of other people, even those closest to us. Davonne’s pick

_A Hero of France_ by Alan Furst: An exciting and suspenseful book that follows a French resistance cell in Paris during the German Occupation. Furst does an excellent job of writing about the danger and risks each member was taking. He makes them human through description of why they decided to join the resistance and what they were hoping to accomplish. _A Hero in France_ is a fast paced read that you will find hard to put down. Talia’s pick

_Girl Against the Universe_ by Paula Stokes: Well-written novel about Maguire, a girl who suffers from PTSD and depression, and realistically works through it. There is romance and humor, especially when a boy named Jordy is involved, but overall this book is really well done and focuses on Maguire’s progress. Kaylee’s pick

_Our Souls at Night_ by Kent Haruf: In this short but eloquent novel two lonely people find healing and companionship. Addie and Louis have both known heartache and disappointment; sharing their stories brings late-in-life happiness to them both. When Addie’s six-year-old grandson arrives for the summer, their relationship is tested but ultimately strengthened. Addie’s adult son’s judgment, however, is not so easily overcome. This tender story about the conflict between duty and love was, unfortunately, the last book written by this excellent writer. Beth’s pick

_The Queen of the Tearling (#1)_ by Erika Johanssen: Kelsea Raleigh has known little except the cottage she was raised in, the kindly man and stern woman who raised her, and the fact that she is heir to the Tearling throne. After her mother, Queen Elyssa Raleigh, died, Kelsea was sent into hiding to be protected until her nineteenth birthday, when she would be returned to the castle and assume her role as queen. Meanwhile, both her uncle, the current Raleigh Regent, and the Red Queen of Mortmesne, a powerful witch queen, want to see her dead, and her only protection is a Queen’s Guard with a known traitor amongst its rank, and the Tear sapphire, a mysterious amulet with unknown abilities. A surprisingly great fantasy series! Lots of action and intrigue. Kaylee’s pick

_Sparrow Hill Rd_ by Seanan McGuire: A light but interesting fantasy about Rose, a girl who was killed at 16 in an auto accident. The story is about her afterlife as a ghost. While fiction, the book reads like a memoir. She’s a likable character who has some interesting adventures as she hitchhikes across the U.S. from truck stop to truck stop. Carrie’s pick

_To the Bright Edge of the World_ by Eowyn Ivey: This book follows the separate stories of Colonel Alan Forrester and his wife, Sophie. The colonel is tasked with an exploring expedition in the uncharted territory of Alaska while his wife is left at the Vancouver Barracks. The story is told not through a traditional narrative, but through the diaries of the colonel and Sophie as well as letters, photographs, and news clippings. This unique way of storytelling leaves the reader to piece together dates and happenings as their two stories run parallel. A wonderful read for someone who craves adventure with a bit of mysticism. Talia’s pick

_The Verdict_ by Nick Stone: Set in London, with the Old Bailey as the trial venue, legal clerk Terry Flynt (who has aspirations of getting the scholarship to Law School that his major firm offers to promising employees) gets himself embroiled in the case of a lifetime. Turns out the famous defendant accused of murdering a woman was a former school mate that Terry holds a grudge against. How will he navigate the ethics of being involved with the defense of this man he hates? Then there are the buried secrets within the firm that threaten to derail everything. Fans of legal thrillers should enjoy trying this new author. Judith’s pick
**NON-FICTION:**

*Complete Book of Home Organization by Toni Hammersley:* This is a beautifully laid out book with great pictures to illustrate all the suggestions Hammersley has for organizing every room in the house. She even includes sections for the garage and car. Creator of the popular website, *A Bowl Full of Lemons: Organized Homekeeping*, Hammersley’s main concept is to containerize everything in the home so that it is easily found. I agree with her philosophy that reducing clutter and keeping things clean helps create a calm and inviting sanctuary for every family member. Each chapter has a weekly challenge category to motivate, and there are easy recipes for natural cleaners. Baking soda, lemons, and white vinegar do most anything. *Judith’s pick*

*Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War by Mary Roach:* Answers to all the questions you never knew you had about the modern military. Grunt delves into a behind the scenes look in the military like how they make the uniforms, how they prepare medics for combat wounds, and the gains made on the medical side of things such as hearing loss and amputation. Mary Roach goes through all of this with humor and wit to keep the book entertaining and moving along quickly. *Talia’s pick*

*How To Be A Person In The World: Ask Polly’s Guide Through the Paradoxes of Modern Life by Heather Havrilesky:* Hilarious, brilliant, snarky, yet compassionate, describe Heather Havrilesky’s responses in the advice column called “Ask Polly” which she writes for *The Awl*, a website that publishes smart, original takes on modern culture. Written by a millennial, this is a fun read that adults of all ages and stages can enjoy. *Judith’s pick*

*The People’s Lawyer: The Life and Times of Frank J. Kelly, the Nation’s Longest-Serving Attorney General by Jack Lessenberry:* For any native of Michigan, Frank Kelly is a familiar name, but most will want to know the story behind the man. This is a human interest story and an excellent overview of Michigan politics and the man who helped shape an era in Michigan history. Lessenberry writes in a way that helps us know and admire the man who served us for 37 years. Jack and his wife Elizabeth have a home in Charlevoix. He will talk about this book at the Charlevoix Library on Saturday, September 17 at 2 pm. *Linda’s pick*

*Notorious RBG by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik (Audiobook):* Breezy, yet thoughtful mixture of contemporary culture references and in-depth research offers wonderful insight into the life and character of the fascinating Ruth Bader Ginsburg, including her struggles as a woman doing a job in a male dominated field, and the admiring support of her loving husband. The addition of photos and annotations in the print version beckons to me. *Davonne’s pick*

*Seven Brief Lessons On Physics by Carlo Rovelli:* I am not at all a science and math person and the last time I touched physics was probably in high school. This book was made for people like me. Rovelli does a wonderful job of condensing down the theories of physics so that those who have not spent a lot of time studying the subject can understand them. This book gives a greater understanding of the world and universe and is a good, quick read. *Talia’s pick*

*Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution by Nathaniel Philbrick:* What could be a plot for a Shakespearean play or great opera is the true-life account of the middle years of the American Revolution. It has been a long time since I studied American history but I don’t remember being aware of all the political messiness that accompanied the birth of our nation. Treachery, greed and incompetence fought alongside valor, courage and the highest of ideals-- and sometimes they were found in the same person. This is a book full of “what-ifs” that gives new perspective on some of our greatest heroes and villains. *Beth’s pick*

*Winning Arguments: What Works and Doesn’t Work in Politics, the Bedroom, the Courtroom, and the Classroom by Stanley Fish:* An intellectual romp that traces the beginning of argument from Aristotle and Adam & Eve in Milton’s *Paradise Lost* to *The Honeymooners, I Love Lucy, and All in the Family*. Professor Fish’s ideas are stimulating: “...Argument, the clash of opposing views, is unavoidable because the state of agreement that would render argument unnecessary — a universal agreement brought about by facts so clear that no rational being could deny them — is not something we mortals will ever achieve... any statement any of us makes is an argument because it can always be ... challenged. Conflict, not agreement, is the default condition of mortality.” This is a relatively short book packed with insights that are essential to consider, and is a perfect book for our current election season. *Judith’s pick*