



Wilmette League of Women Voters

July 11, 2018

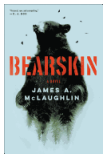
Book Stall Spring Reads

Fiction

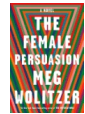


The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai (\$27) A beautiful novel of friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy and loss set during the AIDS crisis in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris. In 1985, Yale Tishman, the director for an art gallery in Chicago is about to pull off an amazing coup. But as his career begins to take off, the carnage of the AIDS epidemic grows around him. His friends are dying and the virus circles closer and closer to Yale himself. Soon the only person he has

left is, Fiona, the younger sister of a close friend. Thirty years later, Fiona is in Paris tracking down her estranged daughter. The two linked stories take us through the heartbreak of the eighties and the chaos of the modern world.

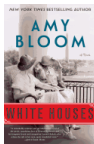


Bearskin by James A. McLaughlin (\$26.99) Rice Moore is just beginning to think his troubles are behind him. He's taken a job as a caretaker for a remote forest preserve in Virginia, tracking wildlife and refurbishing cabins. But when Rice finds the carcass of a bear killed on the grounds, his quiet life is upended. This thriller is beautifully written and takes you into the lush forests of Virginia.



The Female Persuasion by Meg Wolitzer (\$28) Charming and wise, knowing and witty, Meg Wolitzer delivers a novel about power and influence, ego and loyalty, womanhood and ambition. At its heart, *The Female Persuasion* is about the flame we all believe is flickering inside of us, waiting to be seen and fanned by the right person

at the right time. It's a story about the people who guide and the people who follow (and how those roles evolve over time), and the desire within all of us to be pulled into the light

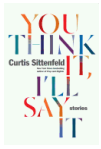


White Houses by Amy Bloom (\$27) Lorena Hickok meets Eleanor Roosevelt in 1932 while reporting on Franklin Roosevelt's first presidential campaign. She moves into the White House and takes a job in the Roosevelt administration, where her status as "first friend" is an open secret, as are FDR's own lovers. Through it all, even as Hick's

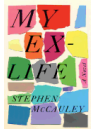
bond with Eleanor is tested, and as she grows as a woman and a writer, she never loses sight of the love of her life. From Washington, D.C. to Hyde Park, from a little white house on Long Island to an apartment on Manhattan's Washington Square, Amy Bloom's new novel moves elegantly through fascinating places and times, written in compelling prose and with emotional depth, wit, and acuity.



Circe by Madeline Miller (\$27) In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter, Circe, is born. But Circe is a strange child with extraordinary powers and Zeus banishes her to a deserted island. As she crosses paths with mythic figures, such as Daedalus, Odysseus and the Minotaur, she also unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods. With unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language and page-turning suspense, *Circe* is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world.



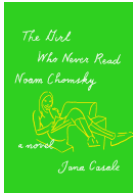
You Think It, I'll Say It by Curtis Sittenfeld (\$27) With keen insight and uncanny precision, Curtis Sittenfeld pinpoints the questionable decisions, missed connections, and sometimes extraordinary coincidences that make up a life. Indeed, she writes what we're all thinking--if only we could express it with the wit of a master satirist, the storytelling gifts of an old-fashioned raconteur, and the vision of an American original.



My Ex-Life by Stephen McCauley (\$25.99) In prose filled with hilarious and heartbreakingly accurate one-liners, Stephen McCauley has written a novel that examines how we define home, family, and love. Be prepared to laugh, shed a few tears, and have thoughts of your own ex-life triggered.

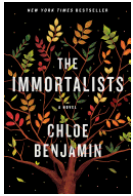


Clock Dance by Anne Tyler (\$26.95) Willa Drake can count on one hand the defining moments of her life. Then, one day, she receives a startling phone call from a stranger. Without fully understanding why, she flies across the country to Baltimore to look after a young woman she's never met, her nine-year-old daughter, and their dog, Airplane. This impulsive decision will lead Willa into uncharted territory--surrounded by eccentric neighbors who treat each other like family, she finds solace and fulfillment in unexpected places. A bewitching novel of hope and transformation, *Clock Dance* gives us Anne Tyler at the height of her powers.



The Girl Who Never Read Noam Chomsky by Jane Casale (\$27.95)

Funny, warm, wise and poignant, Noam Chomsky tells the story of a woman from early adulthood to the end of her days. Laced with humor and keen insight, I couldn't help but think of my daughter, my mother and myself. And Katie, my 21 year old daughter loved it too.



The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin (\$26) In New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children--four adolescents on the cusp of self-awareness--sneak out to hear their fortunes. A sweeping novel of remarkable ambition and depth, *The Immortalists* probes the line between destiny and choice, reality and illusion, this world and the next. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unrelenting pull of familial bonds.



Sometimes I Lie by Alice Feeney (\$26.99) Amber wakes up in a hospital. She can't move. She can't speak. She can't open her eyes. Amber doesn't remember what happened, but she has a suspicion her husband had something to do with it.

Alternating between her paralyzed present, the week before her accident, and a series of childhood diaries from twenty years ago, this brilliant psychological thriller asks:

Is something really a lie if you believe it's the truth?

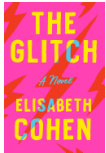


A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza (\$27) A deeply moving and resonant story of love, identity and belonging, *A Place for Us* unfolds the lives of an Indian-American Muslim family, gathered together in their Californian hometown to celebrate the eldest daughter, Hadia's, wedding - a match of love rather than tradition.

It is here, on this momentous day, that Amar, the youngest of the siblings, reunites with his family for the first time in three years. *A Place for Us* is truly a book for our times: a moving portrait of what it means to be an American family today, a novel of love, identity and belonging that eloquently examines what it means to be both American and Muslim.



The High Season by Judy Blundell (\$27) This domestic drama is set on Long Island during the height of summer vacation. We are introduced to Ruthie, a woman determined to hang on to her beach house by renting it to wealthy Manhattanites during the best months of the year. Ruthie must reckon with her ex-husband, a teen daughter in over her head, scheming work colleagues, and other who do not seem to appreciate her worth and talent. So what is Ruthie going to do about it? The unfolding of Ruthie's resolutions against the backdrop of high-end art and artists makes for a breezy, but insightful, read.



The Glitch by Elizabeth Cohen (\$26.95) A fast, funny, deeply hilarious debut--*The Glitch* is the story of a high-profile, TED-talking, power-posing Silicon Valley CEO and mother of two who has it all under control, until a woman claiming to be a younger version of herself appears, causing a major glitch in her over-scheduled, over-staffed, over-worked life.

Paperback



The Arrangement by Sarah Dunn (\$15.99) A hilarious and emotionally charged novel about a couple who embark on an open marriage-what could possibly go wrong?



Rich People Problems (\$16.99) A sweeping novel that takes us from the elegantly appointed mansions of Manila to the secluded private islands in the Sulu Sea, from a kidnapping at Hong Kong's most elite private school to a surprise marriage proposal at an Indian palace, caught on camera by the telephoto lenses of paparazzi, Kevin Kwan's hilarious, gloriously wicked new novel reveals the long-buried secrets of Asia's most privileged families and their "rich people" problems.



The Marsh King's Daughter by Karen Dionne (\$16) Helena Pelletier has a loving husband, two beautiful daughters, and a business that fills her days. But she also has a secret: she is the product of an abduction. Her mother was kidnapped as a teenager by her father and kept in a remote cabin in the marshlands of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. More than twenty years later, she has buried her past so soundly that even her husband doesn't know the truth.



Mrs. Fletcher by Tom Perrotta (\$16.99) "Tom Perrotta is a truth-telling, unshowy chronicler of modern-day America." (*The New York Times Book Review*). Sharp, witty, and provocative, *Mrs. Fletcher* is a gentle but piercing satire from "the Jane Austen of 21st century sexual mores."



The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne (\$17) Adopted by a well-to-do if eccentric Dublin couple who remind him that he is not a real member of their family, Cyril embarks on a journey to find himself and where he came from, discovering his identity, a home, a country, and much more throughout a long lifetime.

Stephanie Hochsc..., 6/28/2018 11:54 AM
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The Windfall by Diksha Basu (\$16) A heartfelt comedy of manners, Diksha Basu's debut novel unfolds the story of a family discovering what it means to "make it" in modern India.



Start Up by Doree Shafrir (\$15.99) An assured, observant debut from the veteran online journalist Doree Shafrir, *Startup* is a sharp, hugely entertaining story of youth, ambition, love, money and technology's inability to hack human nature.

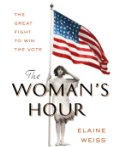


The Dry by Jane Harper (\$15.99) After getting a note demanding his presence, Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his hometown for the first time in decades to attend the funeral of his best friend, Luke. Amid the worst drought in a century, Falk and the local detective question what really happened to Luke. As Falk reluctantly investigates to see if there's more to Luke's death than there seems to be, long-buried mysteries resurface, as do the lies that have haunted them. And Falk will find that small towns have *always* hidden big secrets.



Less by Andrew Sean Greer (\$15.99) A scintillating satire of the American abroad, a rumination on time and the human heart, a bittersweet romance of chances lost, by an author *The New York Times* has hailed as "inspired, lyrical," "elegiac," "ingenious," as well as "too sappy by half." *Less* shows a writer at the peak of his talents raising the curtain on our shared human comedy.

Non-Fiction



The Woman's Hour by Elaine Weiss (\$28) Following a handful of remarkable women who led their respective forces into battle, along with appearances by Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Frederick Douglass, and Eleanor Roosevelt. *The Woman's Hour* is an inspiring story of activists winning their own freedom in one of the last campaigns forged in the shadow of the Civil War, and the beginning of the great twentieth-century battles for civil rights.



Dear Madam President by Jennifer Palmieri (\$20) The former Director of Communications for Hillary Clinton's campaign offers an open letter to the first woman president, and all women striving to achieve something; containing advice

and inspiration for future women leaders.



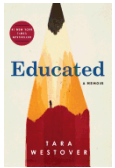
The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border by Francisco Cantu (\$26)

For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Haunted by the landscape of his youth, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners are posted to remote regions crisscrossed by drug routes and smuggling corridors, where they learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. Cantú tries not to think where the stories go from there. Searing and unforgettable, *The Line Becomes a River* goes behind the headlines, making urgent and personal the violence our border wreaks on both sides of the line



Mothers of Sparta by Dawn Davies (\$24.99) If you're looking for a typical parenting book, this is not it. This is not a treatise on how to be a mother. Author Dawn Davies is a woman who finds humor in difficult pregnancies and post-partum depression (after reading "Pie" you might never eat Thanksgiving dessert the same way). She is a divorcee who unexpectedly finds second love. She is a happily married suburban wife who nevertheless makes a mental list of all the men she

would have slept with. And she is a parent who finds herself tested in ways she could never imagine. In stories that cut to the quick, Davies explores passion, loss, illness, pain, and joy, told from her singular, gimlet-eyed, hilarious perspective.



Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover (\$28) Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills" bag. When another brother got himself into college and came back with news of the world beyond, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. She taught herself enough mathematics, grammar, and science to take

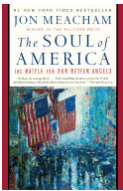
the ACT and was admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University.

Educated is a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one's closest ties. Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.



Fascism: A Warning by Madeleine Albright (\$27.99) A Fascist, observes Madeleine Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and

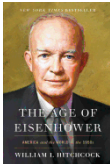
whatever other means necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have." Contemporary leaders such as Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un are employing many of the tactics used by Fascists in the 1920s and 30s. **Fascism: A Warning** is a book for our times that is relevant to all times. Written by someone who has not only studied history but helped to shape it, this call to arms teaches us the lessons we must understand and the questions we must answer if we are to save ourselves from repeating the tragic errors of the past.



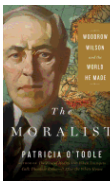
The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels by Jon Meacham (Hardcover, \$30.00). The divisiveness, fear, and lack of civility that characterizes contemporary politics, and colors our ability to talk to one another is disconcerting, destabilizing, and destructive...but it not new. And in that, Meacham takes comfort. From the crisis of the Civil War, the Great Depression, two World Wars, the battles for civil rights...these and other periods of crisis have threatened to permanently rend the delicate fabric that unites us. And with each crisis, we have emerged changed but often better and stronger. So it is that Meacham views the present stresses with hope and a continuing faith in what Lincoln called "our better angels."

Note: The perceived threats to democracy and the role of the current administration in weakening the norms that have guided us, has led me to a number of additional books listed here:

- a. **A Higher Loyalty: Truth Lies, and Leadership** by James Comey
- b. **Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire – A 500 Year History** by Kurt Anderson
- c. **The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America** by Timothy Snyder
- d. **On Tyranny** by Timothy Snyder
- e. **How Democracies Die** by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt
- f. **Tyrant** by Stephen Greenblatt
- g. **The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For** by David McCullough

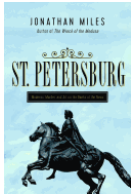


The Age of Eisenhower: America and the World in the 1950's by William I. Hitchcock (Hardcover, \$35.00) It is time to begin the process of reassessing the Eisenhower presidency. Until recently, the period has been viewed as rather bland and Eisenhower as disengaged. Hitchcock's biography argues that neither perception is correct. Rather, Eisenhower's behind the scenes activities suggest a very hands-on style. Hitchcock views it as a continuation of the quiet decision-making that helped forge and maintain the alliances necessary to plan and implement D-Day.



The Moralist: Woodrow Wilson and the World He Made by Patricia O'Toole (Hardcover, \$35.00) There are any number of good biographies about Woodrow Wilson; most describe a man of lofty ideals and purpose, the man who sought to

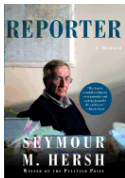
make the world safe for Democracy. His stress on the importance of morality in politics may strike us as naïve. Despite his idealism, Wilson was also a man of his times. On matters of race, women's suffrage, and the limitations on rights during wartime, Wilson stumbles. We warm to the notion of a highly principled politician even as we recognize the need to engage in the rough and tumble world of real politics.



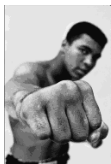
St. Petersburg: Madness, Murder, and Art on the Banks of the Neva by Jonathan Miles (Hardcover, \$29.95) To Peter the Great, “drain the swamp” meant something very different than it does to us today. In siting his new Russian capital, Peter sought to move closer to Europe. But this glittering new city would also foster a uniquely Russian canon of literature, art and music. In counterpoint, Peter's city reflects the violence of its namesake with the blood of thousands shed in its streets. The historian David McCullough declared “Cities are civilization,” despite the uncivilized elements that create and inhabit them.



Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man's First Journey to the Moon by Robert Kurson (Hardcover, \$28.00) It was not a great year in America's history: the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, a record death toll in Vietnam, and angry protests in the streets all made 1968 a year many would rather forget. As Christmas dawned, three intrepid travelers would send a message of hope to the world as they circled the moon. The story of Apollo 8's mission to the moon is not so much about the wonders of science and technology, though there is no shortage of that. Rather, it is the story of the indomitable courage of three men and their journey to the moon and back. Since that journey, many other missions have taken place, but none has given us a greater gift than the picture of Earth-rise taken from Apollo 8.

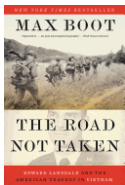


Reporter: A Memoir by Seymour H. Hersh (Hardcover, \$27.95) For over fifty years, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh has tried to find the truth in the stories he covered. From Vietnam to Watergate to the more recent Abu Ghraib prison, Hersh dug behind the official and often deceptive, “spin” a task that. It was neither easy nor popular. And he was not always successful. The traps and pitfalls along with the often considerable pressures, can discourage even hardened professionals. Hersh's story is not only about his obvious success. It is about his failures as well. But mostly it is about integrity, respect for the truth, and the importance of a free and independent press.

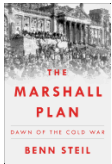


Ali: A Life by Jonathon Eig (Hardcover, \$30.00) Recently named Sports Book of the Year, Eig's life of Muhammed Ali captures the flaws and contradictions in one of the most colorful sports figures of modern times. Ali was perhaps one of the finest

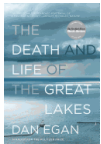
boxers of all time, though many remember him only for his brashness. For all that, he was also naïve and child-like in much of his approach to life... a combination that led to exploitation and manipulation. His affiliation with the Black Muslim movement and his refusal to accept induction into the military infuriated the powers that be and he found himself banned from boxing for three critical years. His return to the ring showed the toll those years had taken. And though he continued to have success, he was no longer the fighter he was. As his speed and agility declined, he took to absorbing punches unnecessarily. Eig estimates he took over 200,000 blows in his career. In Atlanta in 1996, the true impact of that punishment was evident to all as a shaking unsteady Ali strove to light the Olympic torch.



The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam by Max Boot (Hardcover, \$35.00) Few have ever heard of Edward Lansdale. He was a covert operative, said to be the model for Graham Greene's *The Quiet American*. He was no stranger to the harsher side of his calling but he also understood early that blunt force was counterproductive when dealing with guerrilla warfare. Success depended on winning the hearts and minds at the local level. It was a strategy that succeeded brilliantly in the Phillipines. Assigned to deal with the growing crisis in Vietnam, Lansdale soon found himself at odds with traditional military leaders who favored massive troop engagement and firepower. The destruction of the countryside, while propping up a government few felt was legitimate, did nothing to build support in the hamlets and villages. In the end, Lansdale was marginalized, his warnings unheeded, and the U.S. found itself mired in a war it could not win.



The Marshall Plan: Dawn of the Cold War by Ben Steil (\$35.00) We tend to think of the Marshall Plan as a humanitarian effort, providing food, medicine, and other necessary supplies to a Europe ravaged by war. Its main purpose was more hard-nosed, contends Steil. Under the direction of General George C. Marshall, the plan sought to create a bulwark against the spread of communism by strengthening the military, social, and political structures in Western Europe. In this first challenge of the Cold War, Stalin moved aggressively but with only minimal success, to undercut the Marshall Plan. The plan, as implemented, would lead to the creation of NATO, the European Union, and the sense of Western identity that continues today. The legacy of the Marshall Plan continues into the present and provides context for the understanding today's post-Cold War international landscape.



Death and Life of The Great Lakes by Dan Egan (\$17.95) They are the largest body of fresh water in the world. Their shores are home to millions. They supply us with the water critical to life as well as business and industry. They are the source of food, recreation, jobs. They are the Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior or HOMES). Despite their size and extent, the lakes are fragile and sensitive eco-systems. Assaults on their integrity have included invasive species and industrial and domestic pollution. Yet they have survived. Multi-state and international agreements between the US and Canada have done much to preserve and protect the lakes, but they remain under threat. A changing global environment could devastate the lakes. And the demand for water to be pumped

to water-poor areas would alter the lakes in ways we only dimly understand. The threats are real and our stewardship of the lakes will be tested and challenged by powerful interests. Dan Egan, an award winning journalist with the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, will be at the Book Stall on July 18 at 6:30 to talk about the book.



\$5 off your purchase of \$25 or more on your next in-store purchase!

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