



Feb 14, 2025 LWV Book Group List

1. **"The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams"** by Stacy Schiff (2023) Highly recommended biography. Sam Adams was the voice of the American Revolution, hidden from view.
2. **"Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness"** by Peter Godfrey-Smith (2017) Explores how early animals took different paths as they developed intelligence; makes you appreciate intelligence in other creatures. It is a bit technical in spots, short, and fascinating.
3. **"The Impossible Man: Roger Penrose and the Cost of Genius"** by Patchen Barss (2024) Penrose developed the theory of Black Holes along with Stephen Hawking. The book is the story of a scientist on the quest for knowledge, and the personal costs. Our reader found it fascinating.
4. **"Novelist as a Vocation"** by Haruki Murakami (2023) A beautifully written book about how author became a writer, written almost as a conversation. Our reader marveled and loved it!
5. Niall Williams author (we all loved **"This is Happiness"** and now a reader has recommended the following:
 - a. **"Four Letters of Love: A Novel"** by Niall Williams (2015)
 - b. **"History of the Rain: A Novel"** by Niall Williams
6. **"The Winter Soldier"** by Daniel Mason (2019) 1914, a young medical student enlists and then World War I breaks out and spreads across Europe. The student is called up to man the station on the Eastern Front, alone.
7. **"Brightly Shining"** by Ingvild Rishøi (2024) A Norwegian Christmas tale of two sisters, told through the eyes of the 10 year old. Beloved, with makings of a classic.
8. **"The Women: A Novel"** by Kristin Hannah (2024) A young nurse in the 1960's follows her brother and joins the Army. It is the story of women, war, courage, patriotism, brokenness, and friendship.
9. **"First Friends: The Powerful, Unsung (And Unelected) People Who Shaped Our Presidents"** by Gary Ginsberg (2022). Our reader loved the untold stories of the confidants and counselors of American Presidents, some were friends who listened, some were friends who gave advice. Examples: Nixon- Bebe Rebozo, Harry Truman and Edie Jacobson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Daisy Suckley, John Kennedy and David Ormsby-Gore
10. **"Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis"** by Timothy Egan (2013). The story of Edmond Curtis who photographed Native Americans in the late 1800s and early 20th century to record their lives with a grant from J.P. Morgan, creating 20 volumes of photos and text, with no profit to himself. He also recorded songs and language, some of which is being used today to revive Native languages. He died poor but was much loved.
11. **"The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present"** by David Treuer (2019) A counter-narrative to the myths about Native Americans.

12. **“No Right to An Honest Living (Winner of the Pulitzer Prize): The Struggles of Boston’s Black Workers in the Civil War Era”** by Jacqueline A. Jones (2023) Details the struggles of former slaves living in Boston during the Civil War
13. **“Do I Stay Christian?: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned”** by Brian D. McLaren (2022). The author, a skeptical Christian, examines the basic tenants of organized religion bringing readers along with him to evaluate the state of their own faith...or not! Our reader was fascinated.
14. **“The Demon of Unrest”** by Erik Larson (2024). The epic story of the initiation of the Civil War, based on diaries, journals—amazing.
15. **“Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago”** by Mike Royko (1988) Engrossing biography, high recommendations for this book!
16. **“The Backyard Bird Chronicles” by Amy Tan** (2024) Sketches and notes record her observations of backyard feeders while withdrawn during COVID
17. **“The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World”** by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2024) A beautiful alternate way to view how the world really works, not from scarcity, but from abundance.
18. **“On Freedom”** by Timothy Snyder (2024) A deep dive into the meaning of freedom- dense, erudite, meaningful by an eminent historian of autocracies.
19. **“Tomorrow, Tomorrow and Tomorrow: A novel”** by Gabrielle Zevin (2024) A book about gaming told from the vantage of the intersecting lives of Sadie, Sam and Mark that includes the unequal status of women in the field. Our reader found it a fascinating look inside the world of gaming.