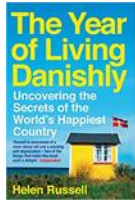


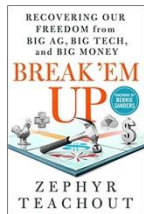
Marblehead League of Women Voters Book Discussion Group 10/2/20

The League of Women Voters of Marblehead recently held its book discussion group. Attendees shared information about books they have been reading.

Books discussed/ recommended to group:



1. “The Year of Living Danishly: Uncovering the Secrets of the World's Happiest Country” (2016) by Helen Russell A journalist that finds herself in Jutland, is surprised to discover that Denmark is one of the happiest places on earth. She decides to give herself a year to try to uncover the formula for Danish happiness.



2. “Break 'Em Up: Recovering Our Freedom from Big Ag, Big Tech, and Big Money” (2020) by Zephyr Teachout Author makes the case that monopolies are the root cause of many of the issues that face our country having an impact on courts, journalism, inequality, and politics, leaving little power for workers, and advocates for change.



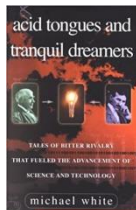
3. “Kindred” (2003) by Octavia E. Butler A contemporary black woman in California is transported to antebellum south and must deal with the reality of racism and sexism. Wonderful!



4. “Permanent Record” (2019) by Edward Snowden Autobiography of Snowden, growing up in the Beltway of Washington D.C. where working for the government provides a middle class income. It is an account of a bright young man who became a spy and whistleblower. He argues that because the Civil Service government workers take an oath to the Constitution, while private contractors brought into government do not, this is a serious security danger to the US.



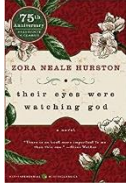
5. “The Lying Life of Adults” (2020) by Elena Ferrante and Ann Goldstein This book takes place in the same area and time as her highly successful Neapolitan trilogy. It is the story of adults who tell lies for a myriad of reasons and eventually suffer the consequences.



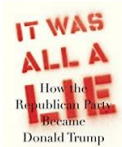
6. “Acid Tongues and Tranquil Dreamers: Tales of Bitter Rivalry That Fueled the Advancement of Science and Technology” (2001) by Michael White This nonfiction book covers eight pivotal advances in science and those people who fought each other to be first. He covers Edison and Tesla, Darwin and Wallace, and others.



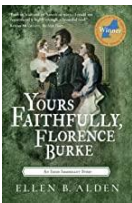
7. “Benito Cereno” (1856, 2020) by Herman Melville A short novel that takes place in a Pacific Ocean port. When a dilapidated mysterious vessel is spied, a good captain goes out to help with provisions from his own stores. The ship has many blacks and few whites on board, and all hold tight to a secret-- mutiny.



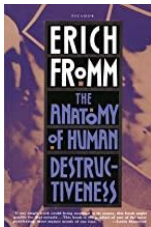
8. “Their Eyes Were Watching God” (1978, 2006) Zora Neale Hurston This novel brings to life a Southern love story. Jane Crawford was raised by her grandmother and traces her as she becomes a self-respecting strong woman.



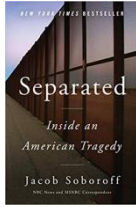
9. Stuart Stevens “It Was All a Lie: How the Republican Party Became Donald Trump” (2020) by Stuart Stevens A well-known Republican strategist became disillusioned with the party. Stevens asserts that for the last 50 years, the Republican party has put out a false narrative of supporting family values, when in reality it is a white elitist party that stands for nothing.



10. “Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke: An Irish Immigrant Story” (2016) by Ellen B Alden and Susan Leone The book is based on nineteen original letters from the author’s great, great grandfather to his wife and children. It is a story of an Irish immigrant struggling to make it in America at a time when the nation is divided.



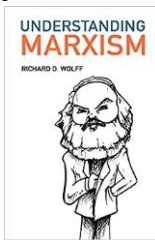
11. “The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness” (1992) Eric Fromm. Renowned psychoanalyst and social philosopher Erich Fromm examines the causes and effects of people’s violent tendencies. He lived through WWII and Hitler and has spent years dissecting the forces of human nature that permit such behavior.



12. “Separated: Inside an American Tragedy” (2020) Jacob Soboroff The author was among the first journalists to expose the reality of immigrant families separated at the border, after seeing firsthand the living conditions of the children in custody. A humanitarian tragedy that has yet to be addressed and awaits a major reckoning.



13. “Dear Church: A love letter from a black preacher to the whitest denomination in the US” (2019) Lenny Duncan The author, a minister, addresses an institution (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) that is blind to its issues and on the decline. He calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.



14. “Understanding Marxism” (2019) by Richard A. Wolff A book that delves into what Marxism actually posits, by looking at the models of distribution of resources/ wealth in slavery, feudalism, capitalism, worker cooperatives. The author says Marx never talked about government owning the means of production and deserves a second look.