

MVAH ZOOM BOOK CLUB

September 9, 2021

Next MVAH ZOOM Book Club October 14th at 3PM

<p>Attendees: Host: Barbara Brennan Cher Terry Betsy Stephens Louise & Robert McLean</p>	<p>Carol Mattaino Norma Brodsky</p>
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NOTE: I think in the beginning we decided to limit the books discussed to one or maybe two, but no more. It was suggested to expand a bit more on the book, the author – at least a paragraph about it and why you are recommending it. Thank you!

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1. Betsy – **Featherhood by Charlie Gilmore** – nonfiction, memoir 2020. 304 pages
In this moving, critically acclaimed memoir, a young man saves a baby magpie as his estranged father is dying, only to find that caring for the mischievous bird saves him. One spring day, a baby magpie falls out of its nest and into Charlie Gilmour's hands.

2. Carol – **Saved at the Seawall by Jessica DuLong. 2021. 270 pages**
Saved at the Seawall is the definitive history of the largest ever waterborne evacuation the day of 9/11. Jessica DuLong reveals the dramatic story of how the New York Harbor maritime community heroically delivered stranded commuters, residents, and visitors out of harm's way.

3. Louise – **The Plum Tree by Ellen Weiseman. 2012. 400 pages**
A deeply moving and masterfully written story of human resilience and enduring love, The Plum Tree follows a young German woman through the chaos of World War II and its aftermath. "Bloom where you're planted," is the advice Christine Bolz receives from her beloved Oma.

4. Norma – **How to Dunk a Donut by Len Fisher – non-fiction 2003. 272 pages**
How To Dunk A Doughnut is the title of a popular science tome by British physicist Len Fisher who, in 2002, sought to spice up topics that would by in large fall outside the realms of a serious scientific mulling over.
Len Fisher attracted media attention around the world with his experiments on the physics of biscuit dunking. His studies resulted in the receipt of a spoof 'Ig Nobel Prize' award, a letter of commendation from the Government Chief Scientist, a nomination by The Times newspaper as an 'Enemy of the People', and an award from the American Institute of Physics for Popular Science Book of the Year by a scientist.

Here he tells the true story behind this and other projects in which he looks at everyday phenomena and reveals how they can be used as a key to open a door to science. In doing so he shares his insider's perspective of what scientists do, why they do it and how they go about it.

The book provides scientific answers to such familiar questions as how to dunk a biscuit, how to check a supermarket bill quickly, how to use DIY tools more efficiently and how to use the laws of thermodynamics to boil the perfect egg. It shows the reader how to catch a ball scientifically, which vegetables absorb the most gravy, and even how science can improve your sex life.

Science is all around us, and this brilliant book shows you where to find it and how to put it to good use.

5. Cher – *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald. Fiction – tragedy, 1925. 180 pages. Films 1974 and 2013.

The Great Gatsby is a 1925 novel by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the Jazz Age on Long Island, near New York City, the novel depicts first-person narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's obsession to reunite with his former lover, Daisy Buchanan.

The novel was inspired by a youthful romance Fitzgerald had with socialite Ginevra King, and the riotous parties he attended on Long Island's North Shore in 1922. Following a move to the French Riviera, Fitzgerald completed a rough draft of the novel in 1924. He submitted it to editor Maxwell Perkins, who persuaded Fitzgerald to revise the work over the following winter. After making revisions, Fitzgerald was satisfied with the text, but remained ambivalent about the book's title and considered several alternatives. Painter Francis Cugat's cover art greatly impressed Fitzgerald, and he incorporated aspects of it into the novel.

6. Barbara – ***The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. 2020. 464 pages. Winner of Pulitzer Prize for fiction.**

Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.