Hello again. This is our last edition of Bookgroup News before we vote on April 25th. These are new non-fiction recommendations from our group members and a few titles from popular book groups. You can always bring more suggestions to the meeting. If you can’t attend on the 25th, you can vote by email.

Email Renee at: rnxon@htlibrary.org

Non-fiction Suggestions
(from out group members.)

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (2021)

In this novel, Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray tell the story of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J. P. Morgan. The novel explores Greene's life as a woman of color in the early 20th century and her role in building Morgan’s extensive art and manuscript collections. The novel raises questions about identity, race, and power, and sheds light on a little-known figure from history.

The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson (2020)

In this non-fiction book, Erik Larson provides a detailed account of Winston Churchill’s first year as prime minister of England during World War II. The book explores Churchill's leadership during the Blitz and the personal and political challenges he faced during this time. The book offers a new perspective on a well-known historical figure and sheds light on the importance of leadership in times of crisis.
The Yellow House by Sarah Broom (2019)

In this memoir, Sarah Broom tells the story of her family and their home in New Orleans East, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The memoir explores the history of the city and the impact of the storm on Broom’s family and community. The book raises questions about race, class, and the power of place in shaping our lives.

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict (2019)

In this novel, Marie Benedict tells the story of Hedy Lamarr, an actress and inventor who played a key role in the development of Wi-Fi and Bluetooth technology. The novel explores Lamarr’s life as an actress in Hollywood and her work as an inventor during World War II, and raises questions about the role of women in science and technology.

A Swim in the Pond in the Rain by George Saunders (2021)

In this book, George Saunders shares his insights on the art of storytelling by examining seven classic Russian short stories. Saunders uses these stories as a springboard for exploring the elements of great fiction, such as character, plot, and setting. The book also includes Saunders’ own reflections on the writing process and the role of literature in our lives. The book offers a unique and insightful perspective on the craft of writing and the power of storytelling.
Fledgling by Octavia Butler (2005)

In this novel, Octavia Butler tells the story of a young girl named Shori who is a member of a genetically engineered race of vampires known as Ina. As Shori tries to uncover the truth about her past and the mysterious attack that nearly killed her, she grapples with questions about identity, race, and belonging. The novel explores themes of power, consent, and the complexities of relationships in a unique and thought-provoking way. Read by Belletrist book club.

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb (2021)

In this novel, Brendan Slocumb tells the story of a young woman named Maria who discovers a violin with a mysterious past. As Maria investigates the instrument's history, she uncovers a conspiracy involving a famous musician and a long-lost composition. The novel explores themes of music, art, and the power of secrets in a gripping and suspenseful way. Read by "Read with Jenna" book club.

The Way of Integrity: Finding the Path to Your True Self by Martha N. Beck (2021)

In this self-help book, Martha N. Beck provides a guide for discovering and living by one's true self. Using personal anecdotes and insights from her years as a life coach, Beck offers practical advice for overcoming societal pressures and aligning one's actions with one's values. The book encourages readers to embrace their unique selves and to live with greater authenticity and purpose. From Ophrah’s Book Club.