

## League of Women Voters' Book Group 2012

**December 15:** No meeting.

**January 19:** “**Comrades and Chicken Ranchers,**” by Kenneth L. Kann, 1996, 303 pages. The story of a California Jewish Community. Proposed by Mary. Moderated by Anita.

**February 16:** “**Nothing to Envy, Ordinary Lives in North Korea,**” by Barbara Demick, 2009, 314 pages. Follows the lives of six North Koreans over 15 years, illustrating what it means to live under the most repressive totalitarian regime today. Proposed by Sukey and Mary.

**March 15:** “**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lack,**” by Rebecca Skloot, 2010, 369 pages. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. Proposed by Jane and Mary.

**April 19:** Topic: **Current Economics and Politics.**

“**A Governor’s Story: The Fight for Jobs and America’s Economic Future,**” by Jennifer Granholm, 2011, 336 pages. Granholm was the governor of Michigan, 2002-2010, during a financial crisis that threatened to put all America’s major car companies into bankruptcy. She presents a formula for growth and prosperity. Proposed by Sukey.

“**Atlas Shrugged,**” by Ayn Rand, 1957, 1,168 pages. Rand's fourth and last novel, it was also her longest, and the one she considered to be her magnum opus. Rand has had a strong influence on libertarians and on some of the tea party types. Proposed by Lynda.

“**Cornered: The New Monopoly Capitalism and the Economics of Destruction,**” by Barry Lynn, 2010, 311 pages. Monopolization of the U.S. economy is striking at the very foundations of our social and economic system. Proposed by Mary.

“**Reckless Endangerment,**” By Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner, 2011, 331 pages. This is the story of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the financial crisis. Proposed by Carrie.

“**So Damn Much Money,**” by Robert Kaiser, 2009, 398 pages. The story of the monumental growth of lobbying in Washington, by a reporter and editor who spent 46 years at the Washington Post. Proposed by Mary.

“**That Used to Be Us – How America fell behind in the world it invented and how we can come back,**” by Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum, 2011, 380 pages. Proposed by Anita.

“**Third World America - How Our Politicians Are Abandoning the Middle Class and Betraying the American Dream,**” by Arianna Huffington, 2010, 288 pages. Proposed by Carrie.

**May 17:** Topic: **U.S. Constitution.**

**“James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights,”** by Richard Labunski, 2006, 352 pages. Includes synopsis of how the interpretation of the Bill of Rights has changed over the years. Proposed by Sukey.

**“Miracle at Philadelphia: The story of the Constitutional Convention, May to September 1787,”** by Catherine Drinker Bowen, 1986, 346 pages. Proposed by Sukey.

**“Signing Their Rights Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the United States Constitution,”** by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D’Agnese, 2011, 256 pages. Mini-biographies of 39 elected officials, just as quirky and flawed as today. Proposed by Juanita.

**“The Federalist Papers,”** 1787-1788, 688 pages. A series of 85 articles or essays promoting the ratification of the United States Constitution, The general consensus is that Alexander Hamilton wrote 52, James Madison wrote 28, and John Jay contributed the remaining five. Proposed by Anita.

**June 21: Topic: Energy and the Environment.**

**“Internal Combustion – How Corporations and Governments Addicted the World to Oil and Derailed the Alternatives,”** by Edwin Black, 2006, 432 pages. Proposed by Jane.

**“The Quest - Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World,”** by Daniel Yergin, 2011, 816 pages. This is the latest from Yergin, an energy consultant who received the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction for “The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power.” Proposed by Lynda.

**“Whole Earth Discipline – An Ecopragmatist Manifesto,”** by Stewart Brand, 2009, 336 pages. Shatters myths and presents counterintuitive observations on why cities are actually greener than countryside, how nuclear power is the future of energy, and why genetic engineering is the key to crop and land management. Proposed by Lynda.

**July 19: Topic: U.S. History.**

**“1493 - Uncovering the New World Columbus Created,”** by Charles C. Mann, 2011, 560 pages. Columbus accidentally set off an ecological convulsion that researchers call the Columbian Exchange, as European vessels carried thousands of species to new homes across the oceans. Proposed by Jane.

**“American Nations: A History of the 11 Rival Regional Cultures of North America,”** by Colin Woodard, 2011, 384 pages. Identifies the original cultural settlements that became the U.S. and shows how they played a pivotal role in clashes stretching back to Revolutionary times. Proposed by Sukey.

**“A People’s History of the United States, 1492-Present,”** by Howard Zinn, 2003, 752 pages. Tells America's story from the point of view of -- and in the words of -- America's women, factory workers, African Americans, Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant laborers. Proposed by Anita.

**“Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid that Sparked the Civil War,”** by Tony Horwitz, 2011, 384 pages. Rousing narrative about a pivotal moment in U.S. history, with parallels to today in terms of politics, religion and terrorism. Proposed by Lynda.

**August 16: Topic: The World Wars.**

**"A Train in Winter - An Extraordinary Story of Women, Friendship and Resistance in Occupied France,"** by Caroline Moorehead, 2011, 384 pages. Nazis sent these 230 brave French women to prison, where they found strength in each other, and in January 1943 sent them to Auschwitz. Only 49 returned. Proposed by Carrie.

**"In the Garden of Beasts - Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin,"** by Erik Larson, 2011, 464 pages. U.S. Ambassador to Germany William E. Dodd and his family are attracted, then repelled, by the Third Reich. Proposed by Carrie.

**"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society,"** by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, 2009, 290 pages. A remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name. Proposed by Juanita.

**"To End All Wars - A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918,"** by Adam Hochschild, 2011, 480 pages. Focuses on the long-ignored moral drama of the senseless war's critics, alongside its generals and heroes. Proposed by Jane.

**September 20: Topic: Women.**

**"Cleopatra, A Life,"** by Stacy Schiff, 2011, 432 pages. Separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order. Proposed by Juanita.

**"Extraordinary, Ordinary People,"** by Condoleezza Rice, 2010, 342 pages. Rice writes about growing up in segregated Alabama and credits her parents for her success. Covers 1953-2001, does not include the Bush White House years. Proposed by Mary.

**"Sisters of the Sinai,"** by Janet Soskice, 2009, 316 pages. Scottish twins whose 1892 travels to the Sinai desert resulted in the discovery of one of the oldest manuscripts of the Gospels ever found. Proposed by Mary.

**October 18: Topic: How We Think.**

**"The Social Animal – The Hidden Sources of Love, Character, and Achievement,"** by David Brooks, 2011, 448 pages. The New York Times columnist tells the story of how success happens, told through the lives of one composite American couple. Proposed by Juanita.

**"Thinking, Fast and Slow,"** by Daniel Kahneman, 2011, 512 pages. Kahneman, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, takes us on a groundbreaking tour of the mind and explains the two systems that drive the way we think. Proposed by Juanita.

**November 15: Choose books for 2013.**

**December 20: No meeting.**