

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Book Group 2025-2026 Books

September 24, 2025, ***House Lessons***, by Erica Bauermeister

led by Zee Straight-Weiss

In this memoir-in-essays, New York Times bestselling author Erica Bauermeister renovates a trash-filled house in the eccentric town of Port Townsend, WA, and in the process takes readers on a journey into the ways our spaces subliminally affect us, ultimately showing us how to make our houses (and lives) better

October 22, 2025, ***West With Giraffes***, by Lynda Rutledge

led by Sheridan Botts

Historical fiction

Two giraffes must travel to San Diego by bus in the 1930's. The book is about the people who take them and adventures on the way.

December 3, 2025, (November/December meeting) ***Miss Morgan's Book Brigade***, by Janet

Skeslien Charles

led by Sheridan Botts

Historical fiction

After World War I, Americans joined millionaire Anne Morgan (J. P. Morgan's daughter) to build libraries for France as thanks for being allies in the war. A young woman leaves her job at the New York Library to join the effort. She built the first children's libraries in France and turns ambulances into bookmobiles.

January 28, 2026, ***Mask of the Deer Woman***, by Laurie Dove

led by Catherine Ramsey

Fiction/ crime thriller

Police woman takes a job on the Indian Reservation where her father was raised. Reviews mention powerful storytelling, complex plot, rich descriptions, emotional depth. Brings up issues surrounding the disappearance and loss of indigenous women.

February 25, 2026, ***Lulu Dean's Library of Banned Books***, by Kirsten Miller

led by Trish Hunter

This is a satire based in a southern town with a battle over banned books and a little free library. Light and easy read.

March 25, 2026, ***I Must Betray You***, by Ruta Sepetys

led by Linda Brown

Historical fiction

Amid the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolai Ceaușecue in Romania, 17-year-old Christian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country.

Many are unaware of this sad recent history of Romania. This moving story informs us of what life was like during the decades under Ceaușecue and what helped Romanians learn about the free world.

April 22, 2026, ***The Exiles***, by Jane Harper  
led by Trish Hunter

This is a mystery set in Australia. It's the 3rd book in a series with an investigator Aaron Falk; however the book stands alone and doesn't need information from the earlier books. Lots of twists and turns but also discussion about domestic violence, parents protecting children (right / wrong?), reinventing a life.

May 27, ***The Feather Thief***, by Kirkland Wallace Johnson  
led by Catherine Ramsey

Nonfiction, but reads like fiction because it seems too weird to be true.  
A musician becomes fascinated by the making of "flies" for fly fishing and the high end of a subculture that values rare feathers for making unique flies. In order to feed his growing obsession, he steals rare birds from a museum collection.

June 24, ***The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club***, by Helen Simonson  
led by Sheridan Botts

Historical fiction  
An impoverished young woman on the English coast is invited to participate with a merry group of women after the first world war. The women had been active in the war effort and are not ready to step out of the workforce to become passive wives.

(no meeting in July)

August 26, 2026, choose books for upcoming year

September 23, 2026, ***Storybook Ending***, by Moira McDonald  
led by Sheridan Botts

Fiction  
Moira McDonald is an arts writer for the Seattle Times. Her book is a delightful tale of a bookstore and its employees and patrons. There are mistaken Identities and new community.

### **Books suggested but not chosen for the upcoming year**

***Band of Sisters***, by Lauren Willig

Suggested by Catherine who has not read it, and whose daughter went to Smith.  
Historical fiction

"A group of young women from Smith College risk their lives in France at the height of WWI in this sweeping novel based on a true story." Heart and humor.

***Eden Undone***, by Abbott Kahler

Sheridan Botts  
Non-fiction

Floreana is an island in the Galapagos where three European family groups settled in the 1930s. Diaries, memoirs, and newspaper clippings were used to put together this narrative. I found the personalities of the people and their perspectives and conflicts fascinating.

***Mexican Gothic***, by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Sheridan Botts

Mystery

A young woman in Mexico City is swept off her feet, marries, and moves to a remote house in rural Mexico. Her father receives a strange letter from her and sends her sister to check out the situation. The husband, his father, and his aunt are secretive and rigid. The sister talks to town residents and brings in a different doctor to examine the young wife, enraging the husband and his family. The mystery deepens...

***State of Terror***, by Louise Penny, a Canadian author (with collaboration of Hillary Rodham Clinton) in 2021

Trish Hunter

This is very much fiction but set in a political environment we will all recognize. Louise Penny has an ongoing series that also weaves in current events so this one follows.

***The Names***, by Florence Knapp in 2025

Trish Hunter

This is a first novel of fiction; the author (British) has written one non-fiction. The book looks at 3 scenarios based on the choice of name for a new baby. Each scenario is based on the overall family situation.