**BGBG Book Selections 2019-2020**

**September 4** **A Woman of No Importance**: **The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II** by Sonia Purnell**.** Susan Scott. - Biography. "The never-before-told story of one woman's heroism that changed the course of the Second World War In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her."

**October 2** **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens. Lynne Walters – Fiction. The protagonist, Kya, is abandoned by her parents at age six, and grows up alone in a North Carolina swamp, learning camouflage and how to hunt from the animals there. The local townspeople call her "the marsh girl". She reads about ethology including an article entitled "Sneaky Fuckers", using her knowledge to navigate the tricks and dating rituals of the local boys; and she compares herself to a female firefly, who uses her coded flashing light signal to lure a male of another species to his death, or a female mantis, who starts eating her mate's head and thorax while his abdomen is still copulating with her. "Female insects, Kya thought, know how to deal with their lovers."

**November 6** **The** **Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World** by Melinda Gates. Roberta Beutel/Juel Bennewitz - Biography/autobiography. For the last twenty years, Melinda Gates has been on a mission. Her goal, as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has been to find solutions for people with the most urgent needs, wherever they live. Throughout this journey, one thing has become increasingly clear to her: If you want to lift a society up, invest in women.

In this candid and inspiring book, Gates traces her awakening to the link between women's empowerment and the health of societies. She shows some of the tremendous opportunities that exist right now to “turbo-charge" change. And she provides simple and effective ways each one of us can make a difference.

**December 4** Discussion of what we want or are buying for others for Christmas

**January 8 The Silent Patient** by Alex Michaelides. Paige Hadsall. - Fiction. Alicia Berenson writes a diary as a release, an outlet – and to prove to her beloved husband that everything is fine. She can’t bear the thought of worrying Gabriel, or causing him pain.

Until, late one evening, Alicia shoots Gabriel five times and then never speaks another word.

**February 5**-**Lake of the Ozarks: My Surreal Summers in a Vanishing America,** by Bill Geist. Linda Young - nonfiction. Before there was "tourism" and souvenir ashtrays became "kitsch," the Lake of the Ozarks was a Shangri-La for middle-class Midwestern families on vacation, complete with man-made beaches, Hillbilly Mini Golf, and feathered rubber tomahawks.

**March 4The Library Book** by Susan Orlean. Judy Griffin -nonfiction. *New Yorker* writer Susan Orlean’s fascinating, meandering, fact-filled book about libraries throughout history – and more specifically, about the Los Angeles Central Library and the fire that destroyed it in 1986 – is a lyrical must-read for any bibliophile. The fire that destroyed the Central Library was the United States’ largest library fire ever, and Orlean finds no lack of drama surrounding it. She reminds readers of the bounty and serendipity of libraries and their indispensable role in community building around the world. She will engage all readers who like curling up with a good book that’s part history, part whodunit, and those who regard libraries as repositories of magic and safe harbors against a cruel world.

**April 1** **Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor** by Temple Grandin. Suzanne Ligon -Non fiction. From world-renowned autism spokesperson, scientist, and inventor Temple Grandin -- a book of personal stories, inventions, and facts that will blow young inventors' minds and make them soar. .Have you ever wondered what makes a kite fly or a boat float? Have you ever thought about why snowflakes are symmetrical, or why golf balls have dimples? Have you ever tried to make a kaleidoscope or build a pair of stilts?

In *Calling All Minds*, Temple Grandin explores the ideas behind all of those questions and more. She delves into the science behind inventions, the steps various people took to create and improve upon ideas as they evolved, and the ways in which young inventors can continue to think about and understand what it means to tinker, to fiddle, and to innovate. And laced throughout it all, Temple gives us glimpses into her own childhood tinkering, building, and inventing.

April 9 – **We are Called to Rise by Laura McBride**

**May6** pick books for next year, Susan Scott

**June 3 Charlotte Walsh Likes to Win** by Jo Piazza. Fiction **June** - Alissa Williams/ Heather Thompson. From Jo Piazza, the bestselling author of *The Knock Off*, *How to Be Married*, and *Fitness Junkie*, comes an exciting, insightful novel about what happens when a woman wants it all—political power, a happy marriage, and happiness—but isn’t sure just how much she’s willing to sacrifice to get it.

A searing, suspenseful story of political ambition, marriage, class, sexual politics, and infidelity, this bookis an insightful portrait of what it takes for a woman to run for national office in America today. In a dramatic political moment like no other with more women running for office than ever before, Jo Piazza’s novel is timely, engrossing, and perfect for readers on both sides of the aisle.

Others suggested but not selected:

**Marilla of Green Gables** by Sarah McCoy

**Visionary Women**, by Andrea Barnett

biography

**Becoming.** By Michelle Obama. Biography

**The Spy and the Traitor**. By Ben Macintyre Espionage

**The Woman in the Window** by A.J Finn

**The Paris Architect** By Charles Belfoure

historical fiction

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry