



It's hard to believe we only have four months left in this club year. The time has flown and like Alice in Wonderland, I keep saying "I'm late! I'm late!"

Because there has been so much sickness and bad weather, it's easy to lose sight of our goals. So...let's put the train back on the track and chug on into the finish line.



Paula Constantini
President

Mary Stewart is looking for a few good women to serve on the Board. Why not pick up the phone today (314-221-6755) and see how you can help. There are going to be some vacancies among the chairs. Maybe you can fill one of them. As I have said before, it is a privilege and a blessing to work with these women. I believe I have the best Board ever.

Amy Lovig will start collecting 2025-2026 membership dues in March. You'll be happy to know that dues will remain at \$30. In order to do this, we must ask - no insist - that you pay promptly. Your dues are the Operating Fund of the Club. Our budget is bare bones and trust me, we look at every penny.

New Members are the blood of our club. Julie Lane -VanMeter put a lot of emphasis on welcoming new members and making them feel included. Let's not lose sight of her vision. Without new members, the club will wither and die. Please do your part by welcoming new faces; getting to know them; and being sure they are a part of your group. Offer them a seat at your table. Answer their questions. It really is very easy - Be a Friend.

(Continued on page 3)



Julie and her husband Chris moved from Milwaukee to the Lake of the Ozarks in 2017. Chris had promised Julie a move to a warmer climate. I mean, Milwaukee in winter?!! No brainer! The Lake of the Ozarks was the furthest south, and on water, in Chris' sales territory. And aren't we glad they found us?

Julie became involved, right away, in Newcomers/Longtimers at Kick-off 2017, the "Newbie" luncheon that followed and soon volunteered for various positions: Dining Out, Publicity, Happy Hour. In 2022 she was elected President of Newcomers/Longtimers at the Lake. During her presidency, Julie focused on making all members feel welcome and increasing membership. She was successful with her goals and served for two terms.

After her N/L presidency, Julie continued to serve on the Executive Board. She loved her N/L Book club and books in general. That love of books led to a volunteer position at Hope House, sorting and helping to organize their book section. Julie also worked on the Four Seasons POA Book Library and served on their Social Committee.

Julie loved art, a good glass of Pinot Noir, her two dogs: Jorja and Phil, her friends and family. She has two sons and two daughters-in-law that she adored. They live in the Milwaukee area. They'd often do online art classes, together, frequently faceted and were never far from her heart.

Julie, after a brief illness, passed at Boone County Hospital in Columbia January 8, 2025. Her loving companion/husband of 40+ years, Chris, was by her side. As always.

Pat Kreger
Co-Chair Happy Hour

(Continued from page 1)

In March the Board will be having a BS - for Brainstorming Session. We'll be talking about what's working and what's not. What changes need to be made. What's enough and what's too much. If you have any thoughts on our programs and our activities, please contact a Board Member so your thoughts can be heard. The Club will remain static and stale if we do not look to the future. Covid brought a lot of changes and we need to see where we fit in.

I couldn't let this end without a very special Valentine wish and hug to each of you. Will you be my Valentine?

Hugs, P



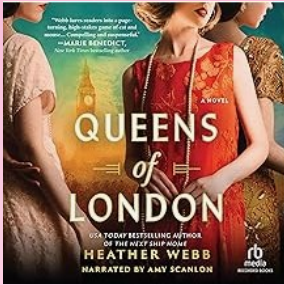
President Paula Constantini and Scholarship Chair Abbie Cobb are pleased to announce the 2024-2025 Scholarship to be given in May has been renamed "The Julie Lane VanMeter Scholarship." Julie was instrumental over the years in supporting and promoting the annual scholarship. It is only fitting that the Club remember her by recognizing her efforts.

Currently the Scholarship Fund stands at \$7867.05 (12/31/2024). Donations may be sent to Treasurer, Anita Kness, 611 Lazy Days Road, Apt 28, Osage Beach, MO 65065.

Read Between The Wines

The Queens of London

Heather Webb



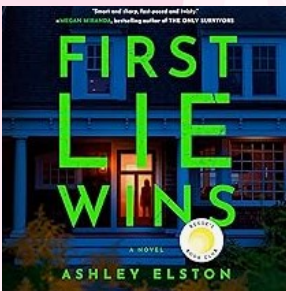
Ginny led a lively discussion on the historical novel that alluded to, maybe women can have it all, as long as they're willing to steal it. There were some interesting comments and talking points related to that subject

and the children involved in the book, including the police. The group voted to rate the book a 3.



First Lie Wins

Ashley Elston,



The Club discussed various compelling themes, including identity and deception, trust and betrayal, love and forgiveness, and the enduring impact of past actions. Through Evie's journey, we reflected on the complexities of

Hello Beautiful

Ann Napolitano

This was a story of four sisters written with the classic "Little Women" in mind. The author gave attention to the larger themes of longing, grief, friendships, joy, family and ultimately healing. The Group ended with a rating of 4.5 and would definitely recommend!

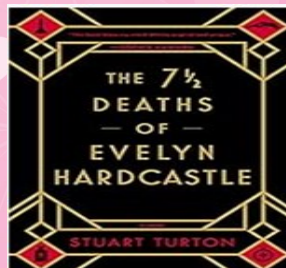


Happy Hour Hunnies

7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle

Stuart Turton

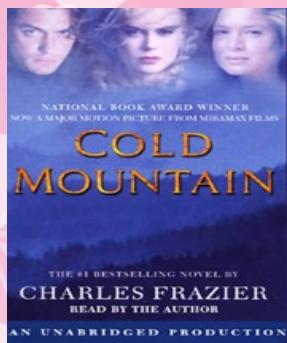
There was a ton of great discussion (maybe the most we have ever talked about a book!). Overall, the comments were positive as the story was captivating and one of a kind! Constructive criticism included that it was difficult to follow and the ending seemed abbreviated.



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Cold Mountain
Charles Frazier

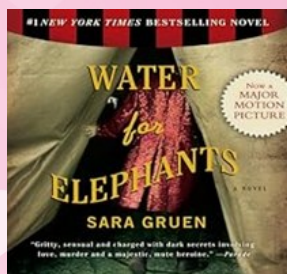
The Club also met to discuss *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. The reviews were mixed but overall, it was well liked. Of note, it was made into a movie starring Nicole Kidman and Jude Law.



Lit Chicks

Water for Elephants
Sara Gruen

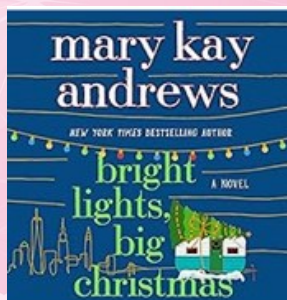
Water for Elephants follows Jacob Jankowski, a veterinary student who, after losing his parents, jumps onto a circus train during the Great Depression. There, he becomes the veterinarian for the Benzini Brothers Circus, encountering a world filled with misfits and cruelty, particularly from August, the abusive animal trainer. Jacob falls in love with Marlena, the circus's equestrian star, leading to a tumultuous romance. The story explores themes of love, survival, and the harsh realities of circus life, culminating in a dramatic confrontation that changes their lives forever. Rating of a 4



Ozark Bookies

Bright Lights Big Christmas
Mary Kay Andrews

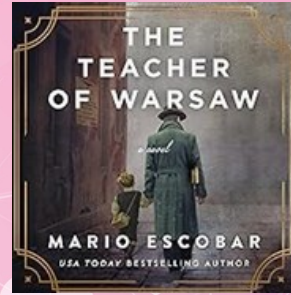
The story of Kerry, a young woman from North Carolina who travels to New York City with her brother to sell Christmas trees from their family farm, where she navigates the bustling city life while living in a vintage camper, forming close connections with the local community, and potentially finding romance with a single dad named Patrick in the process. We rated it a 3.68. It was a fun light-hearted book for the holidays.



The Teacher of Warsaw

Mario Escobar

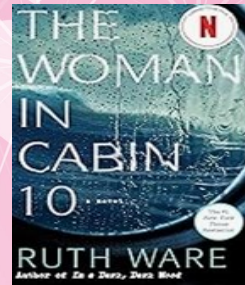
The true story of Janusz Korczak, a Polish educator and physician who saved Jewish orphans during World War II. We rated it a 4.2.



The Woman in Cabin 10

Ruth Ware

This book is a thriller murder mystery that takes place at sea. We rated it a 2.8 out of 5. We felt that it had too many characters and they weren't well developed.

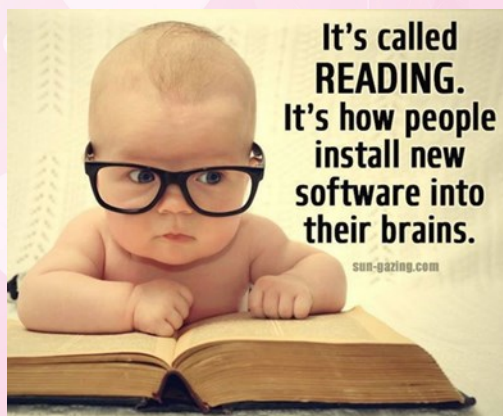
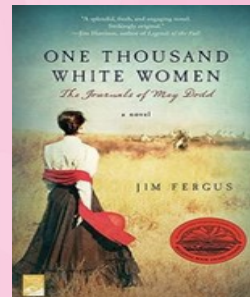


Boozy Bookworms

One Thousand White Women

Jim Fergus

As always you all amaze and educate me with your insights. This was a journey into an unknown world for women in 1875. Seeking freedom and redemption, the book introduced us to extraordinary women who choose to participate in a secret government program whereby women from "civilized" society became the brides of Cheyenne warriors. We all were very moved by this superb tale of sorrow, suspense and triumph and rated this book a solid 5.



Mary Stewart

Corresponding Secretary

Crafty Ladies Pillowcase Project

A friendly reminder that the annual pillowcase project is just around the corner! Your generous donations will go a long way in creating pillowcases for the local hospital. Fabric needed: cotton or flannel 1 yard main & 1/3 yard for trim, appropriate for children or teens. No sparkly fabric please. You can drop off donations by Friday, February 14th at the Osage Beach Library, 1064 Gutridge Ln, Osage Beach.

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help assemble the pillowcases on Tuesday, February 18th. You don't have to sew to participate as we also need people to cut, pin and iron. Check out the evite for details and to get signed up!

Thank you for your kindness and support!

Michelle Clauson & Teri Valladolid
Crafty Ladies Co-chairs





Open to All Members
Now Accepting Nominations
for the Executive Board
2025/2026 season

The following positions will be open for a 1-year term, 2025-2026.

- ♦ President
- ♦ 1st Vice President
- ♦ 2nd Vice President
- ♦ Recording Secretary

Please contact Mary Stewart, Nominating Committee Chair via email at

Mpatrickstewart@gmail.com to nominate yourself or someone that you think would be interested in making a valuable contribution to our amazing club and to discuss the job responsibilities. **Please email to Mary Stewart by February 28, 2025.**

LADIES BUNCO IS BACK IN THE GROOVE!

After two months off, 35 ladies were very happy to be playing bunco again!



The presence of a gentleman at the Bunco gathering was indeed a surprise for the ladies, adding an unexpected twist to their usual routine. Denise Strittmatter, who had recently suffered the loss of her husband, invited Rob and his wife, Pat Hoffman, as her guests to express her gratitude for their unwavering support during her difficult times. The Hoffmans had been a pillar of strength for Denise, and this gesture was her way of reciprocating their kindness. Rob and Pat enjoyed the camaraderie and warmth of the Bunco group and shared a delightful lunch with the ladies. Their positive experience suggests that they might even consider participating in "Everybody's

Bunco" in the future. This event exemplifies the unique and welcoming spirit of the Newcomers/Longtimers group, highlighting the meaningful connections and friendships that are fostered within such communities.



KENTUCKY

Derby Party



MAY 3, 2025

Come in your best Kentucky Derby attire
Ladies, it's time to start the search for that special hat!

Food, Drinks, Games, Hat Contest & More!

Look for your Evite in April!



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EVERYBODY BUNCO



Everybody Bunco met on Wednesday, January 15 at Mama Cita's. We had 18 fun players attend (25 signed up) and everyone had a terrific time. Our venue can comfortably accommodate up to 28 players, so be sure to respond promptly to Evite to secure your spot.

Lynne Johnston
Vice Chair—Everybody Bunco



Please Join Us!

NEWCOMERS/LONGTIMERS

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 20th

11:00-2:00



Encore Lakeside Grill & Sky Bar

3076 Bagnell Dam Blvd.

Lake Ozark, MO

N/L Jackie Zimmerman 913.306.5119



COME AND JOIN US

FYI
EVERYTHING YOU WANT
TO KNOW THIS YEAR,
BUT ARE AFRAID TO ASK

Monday, February 24, 2025

10 AM

Toad's at Camden on the Lake

📧 Watch for your Evite in early February

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It's All About Being Safe
 Don't let your grandkids
 know more about this than you do!
 Situational Awareness
 How to Defend Yourself

Scams and How to Recognize Them

Computer Safety
 Or Watch What Button You Push

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Membership Corner

While we don't have new members to welcome this month, it's indeed a perfect opportunity to reflect on how we might extend our community to those who could benefit from it. Whether it's a new neighbor seeking activities or someone experiencing a loss and in need of friendship, our group offers a welcoming environment and diverse activities that can make a positive impact. Our members' warmth and camaraderie are some of our greatest strengths. If you know someone who might be interested in joining, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to answer any questions or provide support in any way I can. Let's continue to grow our community together! PS If someone joins in March, their dues of \$30 not only pays for the remainder of '24-'25 season but '25-'26. Quite a bonus!

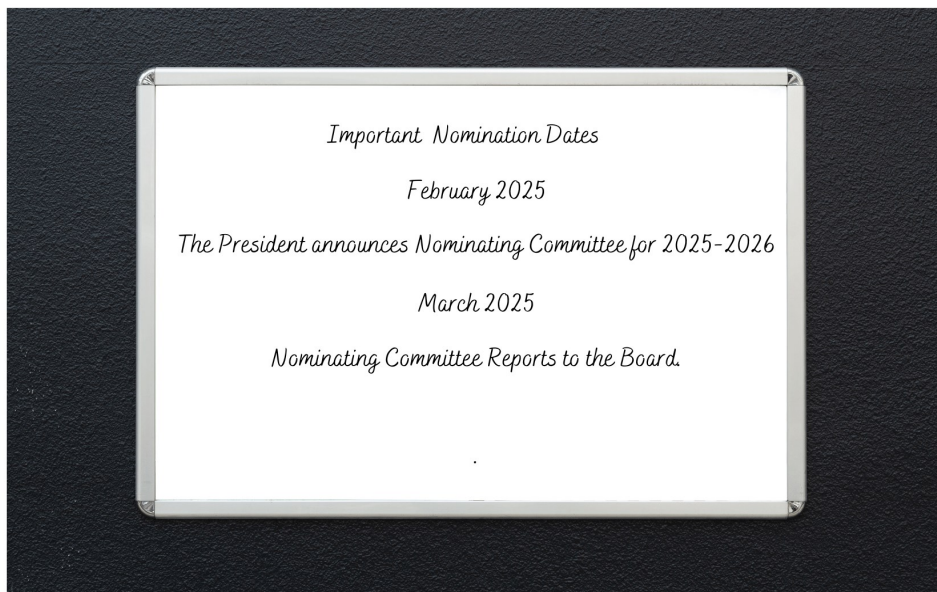
Amy Lovig
Membership Chair



**CONTRIBUTORS TO
THIS NEWSLETTER:**

Michelle Clauson
Paula Constantini
Patti Cook
Lynne Johnston
Pat Kreger
Amy Lovig
Mary Stewart
Pat Thompson
Teri Valladolid
Jackie Zimmerman

Susan Akscin
Newsletter Editor



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newcomerslongtimers.com

