Hello, my literary friends, September 5, 2021

As of this week we are halfway through our well-selected group of books for this season. What a remarkable variety we have been experiencing. The ones I have read so far include: the trials and tribulations of a poetic genius trapped in a body afflicted with cerebral palsy in *Places I've Taken My Body*, the privileged yet often tragic lives of the royals in *Lady in Waiting*, and the heart-breakingly honest portrayal of growing up in poverty in *Shuggie Bain*. I hope you are as eager as I am to read the rest of this season's selections.

We must congratulate ourselves on a successful past year of book club despite the obstacles presented to us by the pandemic. We were able to have two face-to-face meetings: one outdoors at the Centennial Farm pavilion and one indoors in the sanctuary of the Presbyterian Church where we could practice social distancing. From there on we moved to some wonderful Zoom presentations. In May we had a delightful trip to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle followed by lunch at the Detroit Yacht Club. We had five husbands come along for the day and they seemed to have enjoyed it as well. As we begin this season we again have to worry about the next invader, the Delta variant of COVID. We know that we are resourceful and we will forge ahead with continued awareness of health concerns.

Your board has met a couple times this summer to plan this season. Kathy Campbell and her committee have set up three wonderful speakers for our programs. Leigh Krauss has organized the first book discussion and with Darlene Glowczewski is planning the venues and refreshments for our events. Jill Craig and her group are madly reading recently published books to finalize our selections for next year's season. Secretary Judy Ventro has kept us on track with her wonderful minutes and Ilona Macek has tended our finances and set up this year's budget. Always in the wings is my dear friend and past president Chris Dowhan-Bailey with ready advice for the workings of our club. Robin Brown will soon be working on our spring outing though she has been sidelined recently.

Now you are no doubt anxious to hear what we have in store for this season.

Friday, September 17, at 1 pm at Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church, Green Room, we will be discussing *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. Our discussion leader will be our own Flora Case. The church has asked that we wear our masks and not serve refreshments. The Green Room is a lovely homey space to sit around in comfortable chairs and sofas to revisit those four dear children who made their escape from a cruel orphanage to search for a better life.

Saturday, October 16, 1 pm in Galloway Hall at St. James Church our speaker will be Tobin Buhk, author of *Felonious Females: The Most Notorious Women in Michigan History.* It is sure to put us in the Halloween spirit. We are hoping to see some of our "9 to 5" career-gal members who might be able to come to our first ever Saturday program.

Friday, February 18 at Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club we will hold our annual dinner meeting with speaker Frances Trix. She is the author of Growing up on Grosse Ile, an ode to mid-twentieth century life on the Island. Cocktails start at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 and presentation at 7:30. Details will follow nearer the event. Husbands, friends, and potential new members are welcome.

Friday, March 18, 1 pm Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church, Green Room, we will have another book discussion. The book discussed will be selected at a later date from *The Night Watchman*, *The Smallest Lights in the Universe,* and *Lady in Waiting*. Location and discussion leader TBD but save the date.

Friday, April 8, 1 pm at St. James, Galloway Hall we will have a heart-warming poetry reading by a friend of many in our group since she was a former boutique owner and resident of the island. Trish Flavin will do a poetry reading of her own creations, which have been featured at River's Edge Gallery in Wyandotte. We hope you will all get in the spirit of the historic days of the book club when we partake, after the reading, in a lovely ladies' tea. Hats and gloves are not required but it would be so fun in celebrating 87 years of our club.

Of course, all these wonderful plans are subject to change if situations change regarding gathering. We will keep in touch via email and you can always go to our beautiful and informative website at www.gibookclub.com.

As we lost one of long time members Kathy Pachota this past July, we will be giving our annual scholarship to a Grosse Ile High School graduate in memory of her. Kathy was a past president of the club and an active member for many years.

And now let's talk about dues. The board has decided to give members who were onboard this past season a $10 rebate for our not being able to give all the amenities we had hoped this past season. See the included form for what your dues will be. Please pay them by October 5. Why not do it today? You know the saying, "Only handle it once." Just do it. Ilona and I will love you for it.

All my best,

Katie Hartwell, your president

P.S. Here's something that is repeated in every president's letter and all minutes back to the beginning of our club. Please be considerate of your fellow members by passing your books on time according the schedule in the back of your books. If you will be out of town on a passing date, let your members before and after you know and make the necessary arrangements. Cooperation is what makes this grand system work!