

**The Book Club of Grosse Ile**  
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gibookclub.com

January 11, 2020

Dear Members,

Your calendar may say 2020, but the Book Club of Grosse Ile will be taking you back to Detroit in the early 1970's on **February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club**. Don't miss the opportunity to have Notable Michigan Book Award author Michael Zadoorian help you relive your fond memories of Korvettes and the Grande Ballroom as well as our less happy recollections of a city hit hard by racial division and economic decline. If by chance you didn't live in the Detroit in that era, surely you will relate to the inextricable tangle of music with the teenage experience. For our *Beautiful Music* main character, rock and roll sustains him, nourishes him, and speaks to him as he navigates a tough journey through high school. We expect a great turnout, so please return the enclosed form as soon as possible, but no later than February 7, 2020. You are encouraged to bring your spouse and/or friends. Bring \$16 (cash or check) if you would like to purchase a signed copy of the book from Mr. Zadoorian. Woohoo!

**March** winds typically signal that it's time for our second book discussion. **On Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM**, member Robin Brown will lead us in the greatly anticipated exploration of *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. We look forward to your thoughts and insights regarding Ms. Westover's remarkable story at the **Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church**.

Save the date for our **annual meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM at St. James Episcopal Church**. We will vote on the new slate of officers as well as proposed changes to the by-laws. Our club has historically considered the Program and Book Discussion chairpersons to be part of the Board of Directors, so we are proposing to align the wording of the by-laws with that practice. The current language in ARTICLE VI, Section 1., "The Board of Directors shall be elected for a two-year term and shall consist of the following offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Chairs of Hospitality, Book Selection and Book Circulation." will be amended to read "...Chairs of Hospitality, Book Selection, Book Circulation, Book Discussion, and Program." ARTICLE VIII, Section 5 will also change from "The Program Committee shall provide all programs and book discussions for the year and shall be responsible for publicity for those programs." to "The Program and Book Discussion Committees will provide all programs and book discussions...." This letter will serve as your official notice of the proposed change required at least 2 weeks before the vote.

Following the conduct of business, we look forward to our speaker, **Suzanne Dalton**, author of *A Year Lost, A Life Gained: Fighting Cancer with Wit, Humor, Friends, and a Perky Poodle*. No doubt this topic will strike a personal chord with many of you. If you wish to swap your book from the 2019-2020 list, bring it to the April meeting.

Wrapping up our program year, our Vice-President, Katie Hartwell, has planned a wonderful **spring trip on Wednesday, May 13th**. The **Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle** will open for our private tour followed by **lunch** at the nearby exquisite **Detroit Yacht Club**. Details including cost, time, and driving arrangements will be sent to you via email closer to the event.

The Board met with newcomers to our club at the Colony Clubhouse on January 9<sup>th</sup>. We now boast **11 new active members** for a grand total of 62! **Four new associate members** also came onboard. You may recall from the fall letter that the Board devised this inaugural “meet and greet” to welcome newbies and walk them through the book passing and distribution procedures. It was a delightful evening, and we are thrilled to have each of these women participating. Thank you, one and all, for actively recruiting. Your efforts ensure a vibrant club and energize our program. Keep the party going!

Please remember that you will **PICK UP YOUR NEW BOOK AT THE FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING**. If you cannot attend, ask someone to obtain your book for you. In it you will find the Members Roster, the 2020-21 Book Lists, and your Personalized Book Passing Schedule. You will pass the book on April first and it will be yours to keep when it is returned to you at the end of next February. **Do not pass the Members Roster, Book Lists, and the Personalized Book Passing Schedule**. We are providing those items in your book rather than mailing them to save postage. The roster, book lists, our events, and board meeting minutes are also posted on the website. Use the **Personalized Book Passing Schedule** to track the books coming to you. We recommend checking off each book as it arrives. This is especially helpful for staying organized if you receive more than one book at a time or travel.

Volunteers power our club. Your participation brings us fresh ideas and prevents burnout by our “Steady Eddies” who have held positions for several years. We need a hospitality chair for next year, and the book selection committee would like to have more readers. Furthermore, we need to have future officers in the queue to step up when some of our faithful step back. Please contact me with your interest in serving and say yes if we call you. Our wonderful board members are fun, interesting, capable, and supportive.

As a final note, the theme for me this year has been the **courage to be educated**. From Tara Westover’s personal story of bootstrapping herself from an isolated mountain in Idaho to a PhD at Cambridge, to the phenomenally driven female pilots in *Fly Girls*, we read profiles in courage. These individuals endured hardship and loss while transforming themselves. But in doing so, each gained a phenomenal life. When

we read, we learn. When we learn, we may have a new point of view or goal. Regardless of how reading affects you, this year I am applauding the courage to be educated, wherever that leads.

Warm regards,

Christine Dowhan-Bailey  
President