THE GREAT AMERICAN READ is an eight-part PBS television series and nationwide campaign that explores the joy of books and the power of reading, told through the prism of America’s 100 best-loved books. It is designed to spark a national conversation about reading and the books that have inspired, moved and shaped American culture.

THE GREAT AMERICAN READ, hosted by television personality and journalist Meredith Viera, launched with a two-hour episode on May 22, 2018, and introduced viewers to the full list of America’s Top 100 Books, selected through a demographically representative national survey. The chosen books span five centuries, from Don Quixote (1603) to Ghost (2016). Authors from fifteen different countries are represented, with genres ranging from beloved children’s classics such as Charlotte’s Web to modern best-sellers such as Twilight.

Starting on June 4, 2018, and running for six consecutive Mondays, PBS will take the show on the road, to examine concepts common to groups of books on the list. The nation then gets the summer to read before the series returns for themed episodes in the fall, with America’s “best loved book” to be revealed on October 23, 2018.

Voting has already begun and will continue throughout the summer. Both the book list and the link to vote can be found at www.pbs.org/greatamericanread You can vote once a day on line, and through hashtag voting, via Facebook and Twitter using #GreatReadPBS.

How many of America’s Top 100 Books have you read? Are you willing to write a brief report on one or more of these 100 titles and become an active member of Epsilon Sigma Omicron?

Epsilon Sigma Omicron, or ESO, is an honorary reading society open to all GFWC and NJSFWC federated members. Joining ESO is easy and inexpensive; send your $2.00 check, payable to NJSFWC to the ESO Chairman. For just $2.00 more, you can obtain the official ESO reading list. Almost all of the GREAT AMERICAN READ books are on the ESO list. Select the books you have read or want to read and then submit a brief report, using the template found on the NJSFWC website. Certificates are awarded at the NJSFWC Annual Convention to those members achieving various reading levels. If you have any questions or would like additional information, contact NJSFWC ESO Chairman, Joyce Dreger.