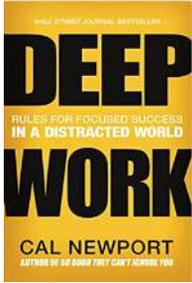


RGT Wealth Advisors
2020 Annual Summer Reading List

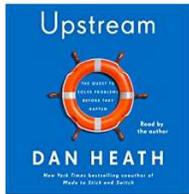
Business



Deep Work by Cal Newport

Cal Newport explains how distracted our world has become as the use of social media, changing structure of the workplace, and adoption of digital information flow increases relentlessly. In this new paradigm, Newport makes that case “deep work” will become more and more valuable and noticeable in an increasingly distracted world. He provides tangible examples of those who have fought through the difficulty in tuning out the noise and concentrating on a specific task for prolonged periods of time. Finally, Newport offers practical tips to help those interested in improving their ability to be more productive, add more value to an organization, and accomplish complex and important work, regardless of one’s role.

-Matt Krauss, Managing Director

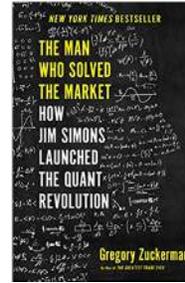


Upstream: The Quest to Solve Problems Before They Happen by Dan Heath

I like to think I am good at problem solving. Taking an issue and investigating the root cause and either reducing its effects or mitigating it all together. Problem solving is a key aspect of Information Technology Management. That is probably why I read this book in less than a week. I really enjoyed Dan Heath’s take to problem solving. You go “Upstream” of the problem and find the underlying fault in the process. In a sense, you are solving the problem before it happens.

The book has very good “real life” examples to underscore the thesis, most of which are from companies that you have either heard of or have likely done business with. I have always enjoyed the books Dan Heath has co-written and even though he is solo on this project, it did not disappoint. The advice is universal and can apply to any industry and even to personal day to day issues. It will be well worth your time.

-Rick Staples, Director of Technology

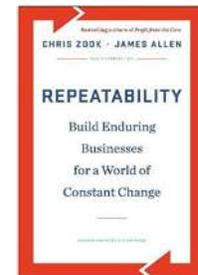


The Man Who Solved the Market: How Jim Simons Launched the Quant Revolution by Gregory Zuckerman

When asked who the greatest modern investor is, many people might name Warren Buffett, George Soros, or Carl Icahn. Few outside of finance would probably be able to name Jim Simons, arguably the greatest investor alive. Since 1988, Simons’ Renaissance Technologies Medallion fund has generated average annual gross returns of 66% and earned more than \$100 billion in profits, making Simons a billionaire many times over.

The Man Who Solved the Market, chronicles the journey of Simons, a former mathematics professor and government code breaker, from his first hedge fund office in a Long Island strip mall to becoming a key player in the quant revolution. Simons and his secretive team of PhDs pioneered a data-driven, algorithmic approach to investing that swept across the investing world and highlights how markets have been shaped by mathematicians and supercomputer-equipped data scientist over the past 50 years. *The Man Who Solved the Market* is a great read for anyone interested in quantitative investing and how it has impacted not only financial markets, but the country.

-Tyler Young, Financial Planner

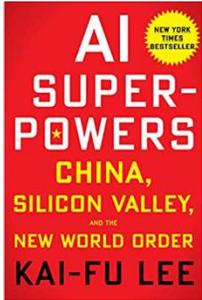


Repeatability: Build Enduring Businesses for a World of Constant Change by Chris Zook and James Allen

I once heard someone say there are complicators and there are simplifiers, the simplifiers make the most money. Complexity is often a death sentence for growth strategies. The speed of business environments, and the need to respond, scale and constantly iterate to improve cannot withstand the slowness of complexity. This book provides a peek behind the curtain into how some of the best-known companies apply speed, adaptive iteration and simplification to create repeatability...and success!

-Colleen Affeldt, Managing Director

Non-Fiction



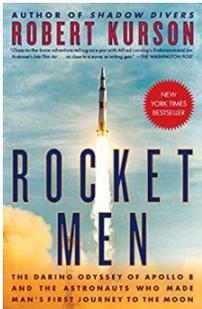
AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order by Kai-Fu Lee

We've all heard that Artificial Intelligence will have a devastating impact on blue-collar jobs, but in *AI Superpowers*, Dr. Kai-Fu Lee, one of the most respected experts on AI, details the race for dominance between the U.S. and China and the impact that it will have on all jobs, not just blue-collar ones.

Dr. Lee highlights the differences in approach to AI between Silicon Valley and China and argues that China may now have the upper-hand in the arms race due to its looser data protection laws, more aggressive startup culture with fewer intellectual property restrictions, central government participation in backing and funding the AI industry, and access to large quantities of software engineers that are required for the brute force innovation in deep learning AI models.

Beyond the political implications of the race between the two countries, Dr. Lee also describes in detail the blue and white-collar jobs that he thinks will be most impacted by AI, which jobs can be enhanced by AI, and more importantly how we might be able to manage and approach one of the most profound changes in human history that he believes is right around the corner.

-Tyler Young, Financial Planner



Rocket Men by Robert Kurson

Rocket Men explores the early days of NASA, details the origins of the Apollo program, and takes you through the Apollo 8 mission while maintaining a level of suspense throughout the entire book, even if you already know the outcome.

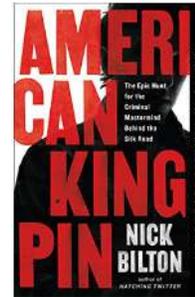
-Chris Rachfal, Senior Research Analyst



Pleased to Meet Me: Genes, Germs, and the Curious Forces That Make Us Who We Are by Bill Sullivan

This book is a real eye-opener and great explanation as to why we are the way we are, things we like and other behaviors. It explains how our DNA shapes our likes and dislikes, how certain bacteria in our system influences our affinity for certain foods, intolerance for alcohol, etc. It is a fascinating book that reveals secrets about human nature that ultimately can help us become better human beings. All of this knowledge is delivered in a very simple and sometimes funny way that will keep you interested!

-Joanna Lucas, Data Management Administrator



American Kingpin: The Epic Hunt for the Criminal Behind the Silk Road by Nick Bilton

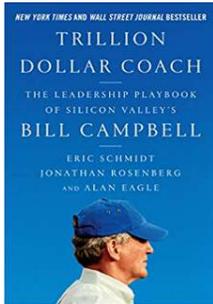
\$1.2 billion – that was the ultimate size of the enterprise created in 2011 by Ross Ulbricht, a 26-year-old programmer, Texas native, and UT Dallas alum. Under the pseudonym “Dread Pirate Roberts,” the libertarian Ulbricht built the now infamous Silk Road, a site hosted on the Dark Web that sold anything and everything – drugs, hacking software, fake passports, poisons, and more – all free from the government’s watch.

American Kingpin not only tells the story of how the boy next door, driven by ambition and money, created the world’s most famous digital black market from his bedroom, but also the 2-year government manhunt to bring him and the Silk Road down. It’s a story of the clash between the new world of libertarian-leaning, anonymous and decentralized Web advocates with the old world of government control, order, and the rule of law.

American Kingpin is filled with twists, turns, close calls, greed, hitmen, and scenes that seem too outrageous to have happened, but they did. It’s an incredible read for anyone who loves true crime novels.

-Tyler Young, Financial Planner

Leadership



Trillion Dollar Coach by Eric Schmidt, Jonathan Rosenberg, and Alan Eagle

A story of former college football coach Bill Campbell, and the impact he made on the leaders of companies with a combined market capitalization of a trillion dollars. Bill's lessons on bringing a coaching mindset to the business world allowed for each of these leaders and their respective companies to build teams with safety, clarity, meaning, dependability, and impact. Truly a great reminder of the importance of teams and the lasting impact that a great leader can have on the trajectory of careers.

-Craig Cardwell, Director of Finance

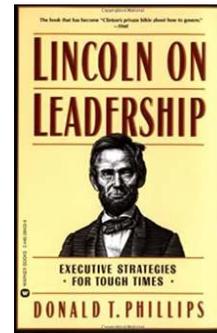
Work is Love Made Visible by Frances Hesselbein, Marshall Goldsmith and Sarah McArthur

I enjoy Frances' books – she is the former CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA among other leadership roles. I was in Girl Scouts from kindergarten through my senior year in high school, and her guideposts on leadership have stuck with me from a very young age. This book is a collection of essays about the power of finding your purpose from the world's greatest thought leaders.

Take-aways include:

- Helping us focus on who we are, not just on what we do
- Reminding us that true leaders serve others
- Life offers a myriad of moments that will define your identity and purpose in the years to come
- Leaders should always open doors for others
- Be optimistic about the future

-Dana Pingnot, Senior Director of Financial Planning



Lincoln on Leadership – Executive Strategies for Tough Times by Donald T. Phillips

Lincoln has been my favorite President to read about, and I often quote him. Phillips gives an expert, detailed record of Lincoln's leadership qualities:

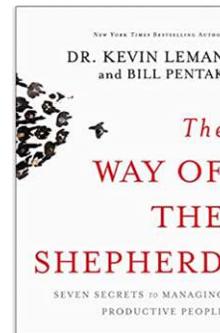
- People (get out of the office and circulate; build strong alliances; persuade rather than coerce)
- Character (honesty and integrity are the best policies; never act out of vengeance or spite; have the courage to handle unjust criticism; be a master of paradox)
- Endeavor (exercise a strong hand--be decisive; lead by being led; set goals and be results-oriented; keep searching until you find your "Grant"; encourage innovation)
- Communication (master the art of public speaking; influence people through conversation and storytelling; preach a vision and continually reaffirm it)

-Dana Pingnot, Senior Director of Financial Planning

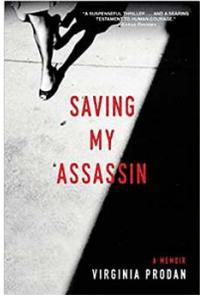
The Way of the Shepherd: Seven Secrets to Managing Productive People by Dr. Kevin Leman and Bill Pentak

I received this book in the mail from our CEO during quarantine. The whole book can be summarized with a quote from Colin Powell, "The essence of leadership is holding your people to the highest possible standard while taking the best possible care of them." Loved it!

-Colleen Affeldt, Managing Director



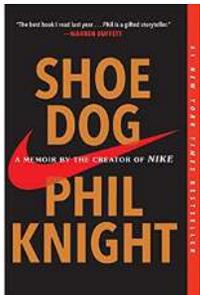
Memoirs



Saving My Assassin by Virginia Prodan

A must-read for all generations. *Saving My Assassin* is the unforgettable account of one woman's search for truth, her defiance in the face of evil, and a surprise encounter that proves without a shadow of a doubt that nothing is impossible with God.

-Chip Tardy, Managing Director

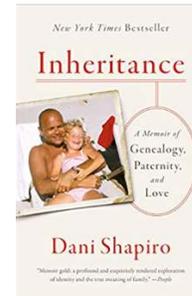


Shoe Dog: A Memoir by the Creator of Nike by Phil Knight

I picked up this book expecting an exhaustive, yet compelling, narrative of athlete stories. What I found was even more compelling than that. From Knight's early days and start of career decisions the reader understands Knight's foundational model of *never quit* is something that drove him and that he was driven to by his journey. Each chapter reads as a life and business lesson that when read collectively explains the iconic success that is Nike.

-Colleen Affeldt, Managing Director

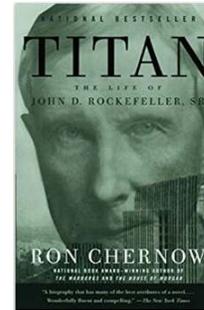
Biography



Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love by Dani Shapiro

What will genealogy testing do next? It has helped solve age old crimes, and based on this memoir by Dani Shapiro, it uncovered that her dad is not her biological dad. Unfortunately for her, when she learns this, both of her parents are dead. Thus begins her quest to find out how she came to be. But researching a 50-year old mystery, where the key players are no longer alive, is tricky. Sometimes you uncover the facts, but not the motives behind the facts, or for that matter who knew what. This book gets you thinking about all sorts of ethical dilemmas that will start popping up based on sperm and egg donation. What rights do donors have to privacy when there is no more privacy? Some may find the author's identity crisis a bit taxing, but if you can persevere, then it is worth it.

-Ashley Blanchette, Managing Director



Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller, Sr. by Ron Chernow

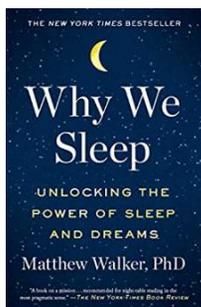
Titan by Ron Chernow, the award-winning author of biographies on Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, and JP Morgan, chronicles the personal life and business career of the most famous industrialist and robber baron of the early 20th century.

From his upbringing as the son of a snake-oil salesman to becoming the richest man in America by creating one of the most powerful monopolies in history, the Standard Oil Company, Chernow paints a portrait of the complex man behind the cold-blooded capitalist stereotype that his critics often claimed him to be.

The story of John D. Rockefeller highlights a pivotal period in American history when post-civil war small business was replaced by the giant corporations that would come to shape the nation. Titan is a must read for anyone interested in business, American history, or the oil industry.

-Tyler Young, Financial Planner

Personal Development



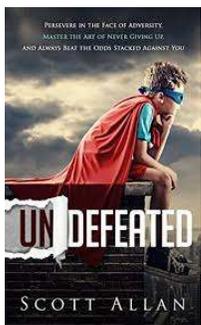
Why We Sleep – Unlocking The Power of Sleep and Dreams by Matthew Walker, Ph.D.

A scholarly – though eminently readable – account of why we sleep, what happens when we do and what happens when we don't. A strong underlying theme is that chronic sleep deprivation has become epidemic among us, to our detriment in many ways. Walker cites dozens of studies to substantiate his points, many of which may surprise you. For example, our ability to memorize and retain information is aided not only by good sleep the night before, but the night after as well.

Walker helpfully provides an Appendix with twelve tips for healthy sleep. Spoiler alert: you may not like what you read here about schedules, exercise, caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, late dinners, sleeping pills or electronic devices.

But if you want to understand what's happening to you as you sleep – or don't – and how it changes as you age, this book is – forgive me – anything but a snoozer.

-Pete Bricker, Managing Director



Undeclared: Persevere in the Face of Adversity, Master the Art of Never Giving Up, and Always Beat the Odds Stacked Against You by Scott Allan

Most people who quit, have merely forgotten why they started. It all happens in the mind. This book helps create clarity around self-imposed limitations, including overcoming fear by encouraging you to persevere and understand the power of resilience.

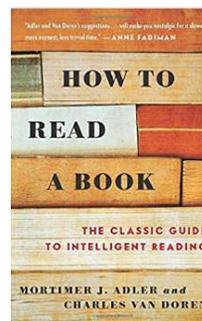
- Colleen Affeldt, Managing Director



Out of our Minds – Learning to be Creative by Ken Robinson

I've always been fascinated with how to be creative and curious. Robinson describes the paradox of creativity in children vs. adults – a paradox because most adults don't think they are creative, and that they were highly creative, but only as children. As we grow up, we need creativity, innovation and flexibility to compete in a world of economic and technological change that is accelerating.

-Dana Pingnot, Senior Director of Financial Planning



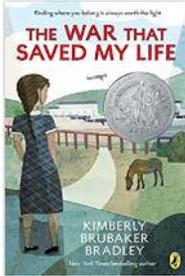
How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading by Mortimer J Adler and Charles Van Doren

This is not a book you pick up, start chapter 1 and complete after having read the last page. It's a book that you read out of order and in very small pieces. It has inspired me to read more and has taught me how to read books differently depending on the content. It motivated me to seek the "gains" of reading by challenging myself with more thought provoking books.

One of my favorite parts of this book is the recommended reading list in the index if you're up for a challenge.

-Sean Kight, Operations Specialist

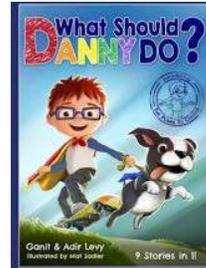
Just for Kids



The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

My 10-year old daughter and her friends loved this story of a club footed girl and her brother growing up in and outside of London at the start of WWII. Ada and Jamie are being raised by an uncaring mother until they need to be sent to the English countryside to escape the Blitz. This story could have been sad at so many turns, but the author gives us enough positives to keep it from getting too heavy. Initially Ada's mom, who is embarrassed by Ada's club foot and has never let her go outside or attend school, does not intend for Ada to journey to the countryside with her brother. But Ada is far too clever to be kept down for long and catches a train with Jamie. The story focuses around the broken woman who brings these broken kids into her house. There is a lot of hurt and neglect to heal. You root for them to find a way to help each other. Of course, it couldn't be as simple as that. And what will happen when Ada's mom comes to re-claim her kids? It is a bit dramatic at times, which is a telltale sign of middle grade books, but the audience can relate to the big emotions. Ripe for a sequel, which spoiler alert, is available for your child to promptly pick up! C.S. Lewis famously said, "A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest." This book can be enjoyed by all ages, so enjoy it with your kids this summer.

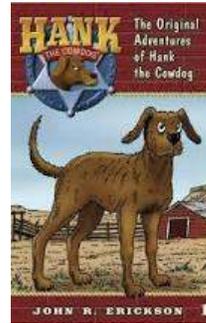
-Ashley Blanchette, Managing Director



What Should Danny Do? by Adir Levy

My 1st grade son loves reading this book over and over again. For those of us that grew up with Choose Your Own Adventure books, this will resonate with you. Danny learns that he can change his day by changing his choices. It allows kids to safely make bad choices and see how it affects the outcome of Danny's day. Lots of good discussion for younger kids in this book. Bonus there is a 2nd in the series, where you can see Danny's good and bad choices while he is at school.

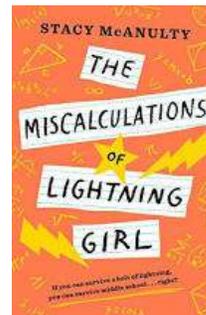
-Ashley Blanchette, Managing Director



The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog by John R. Erickson

My husband had some nostalgia hit during our quarantine time and he pulled out a book from his childhood. We started a chapter a night read aloud and had so much fun with this book. A major Texas drawl came out as I inhabited Hank, a cowdog and head of ranch security at a Texas ranch. When a "murder" happens and all signs seem to point to Hank, he decides to give up his ranch life and become an outlaw. Or does he? Sweet fun. 1st and 4th graders enjoyed this. Now on to book #2 in the series.

-Ashley Blanchette, Managing Director

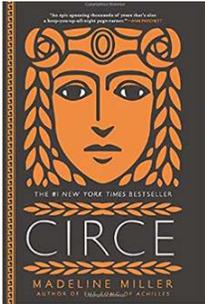


The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl by Stacy McAnulty

This was a sweet book I read with my 4th grader for our mother-daughter book club. Lucy was hit by lightning and that event changed her personality. She becomes a math genius but struggles socially. Her grandmother decides to home school her until middle school, where she is thrown back in headfirst. An assigned school project teaches her about friendship and love, via a dog that opens her heart. Feel good book for girls.

-Ashley Blanchette, Managing Director

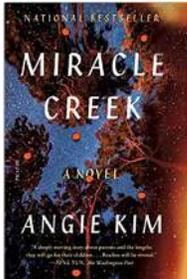
Fiction



Circe by Madeline Miller

This was my favorite read of 2019. Madeline Miller revisits many of the Greek mythology stories we read in high school; but from the much-humanized voice of Helios' banished daughter Circe. If that sentence immediately lost your interest, don't let it deter you. What seems like potentially dry content, in Ms. Miller's hands, is full of beautiful writing, unforgettable characters, and action that keeps you turning the pages late into the night. As a side note, if you have a summer road trip planned, the audio version is just as good. The title character, Circe, doesn't belong anywhere and thus goes in search of a place to belong. When her magical powers frighten Zeus, she is banished to an island. What she comes to find out, is that she is happier on her deserted island than in the halls of her powerful father. But being alone on an island brings the joys and terrors of mortal men. Circe finds she must prepare for the men and gods who seek rest from their lives and long ocean voyages on her beautiful island. That is until she meets her match in Odysseus. Circe will literally go to the ends of the earth to protect those she loves. But what ultimate price will she pay?

-Ashley Blanchette, Managing Director



Miracle Creek by Angie Kim

At the heart of this book is a powerful and unapologetic look at the range of emotions and actions we have as humans, and our constant fight to keep them in check. On the surface, this book is a mystery and a courtroom drama told from alternating points of view. A mother is on trial for setting off an explosion that killed two, including her son. But every person who was at the explosion that night has something to hide. What lengths will they go to to keep their actions a secret? Do they all believe the correct person is on trial? While this story compels you forward, it also highlights the small and large heartbreaks all parents go through. As the book builds, it changes and matures. It has stayed with me for a while. Kudos to this author's first book.

-Ashley Blanchette, Managing Director

Podcasts

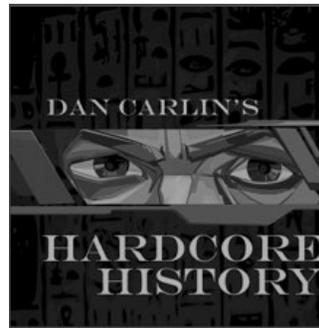


The Knowledge Project with Shane Parrish

The Knowledge Project podcast helps you master the best of what other people have already figured out.

In a world of soundbites, Shane Parrish takes it deep with some of the greatest minds and subject matter experts. I often listen to the same "conversation" more than once because the content is so rich!

-Colleen Affeldt, Managing Director



Hardcore History with Dan Carlin

This is very engaging. I've listened to his podcast series on the Mongols in Asia (Wrath of the Khans), World War I (Blueprint for Armageddon), the Eastern Front in World War II (Ghosts of the Ostfront), Japan in the lead up to World War II and in World War II (Supernova in the East), and a one-off podcast on the Apaches (Apache Tears).

-John Cox, COO