Check out these titles for spring reading

**Long-Distance Grandparenting: Connecting With Your Grandchildren From Afar,** by Willma Willis Gore (Quill Driver Books/Word Dancer Press, $12.95) It's not so common anymore for grandparents to live down the street, across the field or even in the same state as their grandkids, and with families becoming ever more mobile, grandparenting remains a challenge for the grandparents, parents and the grandkids. This book combines entertaining anecdotes and practical advice gathered during interviews with more than 50 grandparents. Topics include new ways to stay in touch like e-mail, cell phones with cameras and text messaging, along with tried-and-true means of communication and transportation like the postal service and planes, trains and automobiles; logistical issues like finding vacation destinations or hosting grandkids when you live in a retirement community; and other considerations such as establishing home rules vs. visiting rules for both grandkids and grandparents; creating family traditions and memories, and more.

**Caring for Your Parents: The Complete Family Guide,** by Hugh Delehanty and Elinor Ginzler (Sterling Publishing/AARP Books, $12.95) The source of a two-hour PBS TV special that aired in April, this book offers practical advice and field-tested caregiving information on topics such as: How to start a meaningful conversation about the potentially-awkward subject of when adult children should assume some or all of the care of their aging parents; how to locate quality health care, spot consumer scams and apply the complex new Medicare laws to your parents' advantage; practical strategies to avoid sibling rivalry and other family conflicts that can effect care; instructional side-bars show readers how to "audition" an assisted-living
facility, help a parent remain a safe driver, choose a financial planner, and evaluate long-term care insurance. The book includes 16 pages of worksheets, resource guides with telephone help line numbers, Web site addresses, and more.

Guesstimation: Solving the World’s Problems on the Back of a Napkin, by Lawrence Weinstein and John A. Adam (Princeton University Press, $19.95) The authors start with the premise that the ability to estimate is an important daily skill, and from there they present a book’s worth of exercises that will help you master the math of estimating, and tickle your imagination along the way: How long would it take a running faucet to fill the inverted dome of the Capitol? What is the total length of all the pickles consumed in the United States in one year? What are the relative merits of internal-combustion and electric cars, of coal and nuclear energy? The authors show how easy it is to produce useful, ballpark estimates by breaking complex problems into simpler, more manageable ones, and how there can be many paths to the right answers.

These books are available at local booksellers or online at Web sites such as Amazon.com.