



A Word from...YOUR Library

Thanks to all of the faculty and staff who contributed to this issue of *Bookwatch*! Be sure to stop by the library for some great new books. There are many interesting choices for your Summer reading.

Congratulations to our winner of the Learned Owl gift card, Rich Hoffman.

Faculty and Staff Recommendations:

Russ Morrison recommends:

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

"An international publishing sensation, Stieg Larsson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* combines murder mystery, family saga, love story, and financial intrigue into one satisfyingly complex and entertainingly atmospheric novel." (Amazon product description)

This is the 1st title in Larsson's *Millenium Trilogy*. The 2nd in the series, *The Girl Who Played with Fire* (recommended by Patty Campbell pg.2)) is also available. Book 3, *The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, came out May 25th.

Sarah Horgan recommends:

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

"From two of our most fiercely moral voices, a passionate call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world." (Amazon product description)

Lisabeth Robinson recommends:

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

The classic tale of good and evil between two generations of brothers.

The Raj Quartet (*The Jewel in the Crown*, *The Day of the Scorpion*, *The Towers of Silence*, and *A Division of the Spoils*) by Paul Scott

"*The Raj Quartet*, Paul Scott's epic study of British India in its final years, has no equal..." (Amazon product description)

Jason Gough recommends:

Invisible Cities by Italo Calvino

"This novella is like a crystal edifice that prismatically refracts language of every spectra."

Jeannie Kidera recommends:

Love and Summer: A Novel by William Trevor

"It's a lovely, quiet little book and a quick read."

Terrie Wesley recommends:

Worst Case by James Patterson

"It is a quick read and a real page turner. I had difficulty putting it down. "

Faculty and Staff recommendations cont.:

Eric Unhold recommends:

Ohio's Western Reserve: A Regional Reader
by Harry Forrest Lupold and Gladys Haddad

"Excellent for those who want to learn more about the early history of Northeast Ohio, the founding of Cleveland and surrounding communities, the Connecticut Land Company, and our own backyard...all of which closely preceded WRA's origins."

Christine Borrmann recommends:

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie
by Alan Bradley

"A 'sweet' summer read--sort of a grown up version of *Harriet the Spy*."

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

"A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope—a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it." (Amazon product description)

Ray Campbell recommends:

No One as Witness, What Came Before He Shot Her, and Careless in Red by Elizabeth George

"If you are a reader of suspense and mystery, Elizabeth George has written [these three books which] can be as a trilogy or individually in any order."

Judy Israelson and Jim Fraser recommend:

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

"Amazing story of two young black men, who grew up in similar circumstances, but from early teens went down entirely different roads. One became highly educated and a Rhodes Scholar, and the other a sophisticated drug dealer and cop killer, now serving life. Either one of them could have gone the other way, if they had been touched by people who cared or not."

Jim Fraser recommends:

In Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance
by Wilbert Rideau



"From Wilbert Rideau, the award-winning journalist who spent forty-four years in Louisiana prisons working against unimaginable odds to redeem himself, the story of a remarkable life: a crime, its punishment, and ultimate triumph."
(Amazon product description)

Rich Hoffman recommends:

Kerouac at Bat: Fantasy Sports and the King of the Beats by Isaac Gewirtz

"Gewirtz, curator of The New York Public Library's Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, has assembled numerous photographs and prints of the fantasy world Kerouac created, beginning in his youth and carrying on well into his adult life . . . somewhat of an archetype to the modern world of fantasy baseball and horse racing!"

Patty Campbell recommends:

Pollard by Laura Beatty

"Pollard is a tour de force – an astonishing first novel which is tough, rough and beautiful." (Amazon product description)

The Girl Who Played With Fire by Stieg Larsson

"Part blistering espionage thriller, part riveting police procedural, and part piercing exposé on social injustice, *The Girl Who Played with Fire* is a masterful, endlessly satisfying novel." (Amazon product description—see entire series on page 1 in [Russ Morrison](#) recommends.)

Jill Evans recommends:

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

"All you should know going in to *Little Bee* is that what happens on the beach is brutal, and that it braids the fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan (who calls herself Little Bee) and a well-off British couple--journalists trying to repair their strained marriage with a free holiday--who should have stayed behind their resort's walls."
(Mari Malcolm—Amazon review)

Tom Moore recommends several sports titles:

The Damned Utd by David Peace

The story of Brian Clough and his brief takeover of Leeds United, one of the most controversial moves in soccer history.

The Beckham Experiment: How the World's Most Famous Athlete Tried to Conquer America by Grant Wahl

Will the presence of soccer star David Beckham in the U.S. change the way Americans view the sport? Here's an interesting view on the answer to that question...

The Book of Basketball: The NBA According to The Sports Guy by Bill Simmons

A highly entertaining look at the past, present and future of pro basketball.

Faculty and Staff recommendations cont...

Jeff Namiotka recommends:

The Golden Ass by Lucius Apuleius

"...the story of the many adventures of a young man whose fascination with witchcraft leads him to be transformed into a donkey." (Amazon product description)

The Death of the Soul: From Descartes to the Computer by William Barrett

"This book illuminates the ever-widening gap between theory and life and explains why the soul seems so unimportant to today's technocratic intellectuals." (Amazon's: From the publisher)

The Wonderful Myth Called Science by Fred Bauer

Rubicon: The Last Years of the Roman Republic by Tom Holland

"Tom Holland's enthralling account tells the story of Caesar's generation, witness to the twilight of the Republic and its bloody transformation into an empire." (Amazon product description)

Dan Dyer recommends:

Several titles about and by Mark Twain:

Mark Twain: Man in White by Michael Shelden

Mark Twain's Other Woman by Laura Skandera Trombley

Mark Twain: The Adventures of Samuel L. Clemens by Jerome Loving

Is Shakespeare Dead? By Mark Twain

Extract from Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven by Mark Twain

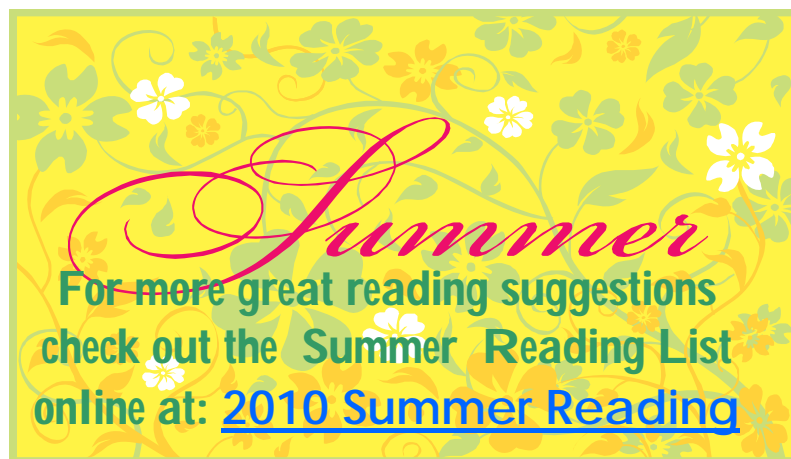
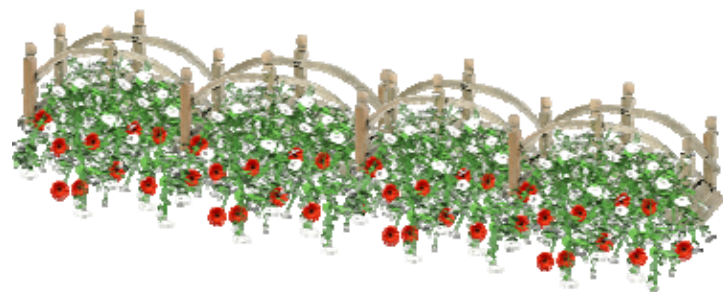
As well as:

The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn by Nathaniel Philbrick

"The author of seafaring sagas (*In the Heart of the Sea*, etc.) moves inland to summarize (gracefully and thoroughly) and speculate (sensibly) about the last big battle in the West--the battle that ended the career of George Armstrong Custer (of New Rumley, Ohio) and began a ceaseless torrent of books, films, works of art, etc."

Blue-Eyed Devil by Robert B. Parker

"A final Western from the pen of the late author (he died earlier this year)...."



Non-Fiction Reviews:

Americans in Paris: Life and Death under Nazi Occupation by Charles Glass

An absorbing and unsettling story of a number of Americans who chose to remain in Paris after the German capture of the city in June, 1940, and how they managed to survive until after the liberation in August, 1944. Glass focuses on about a dozen men and women from among the more than 2000 who stayed in Paris. I was fascinated by the complicated story of how the American Library in Paris survived, and proved to be a cultural haven for thousands of readers. (Review by Tom Vince)

When a Crocodile Eats the Sun: A Memoir of Africa by Peter Godwin

If Andrew Meldrum's talk piqued your interest in Zimbabwe, Godwin's memoir of the tragic effects of Mugabe's rule on whites and blacks alike is not to be missed. Godwin is a foreign correspondent who was raised in Zimbabwe and chronicles the country's rapid decline after Mugabe takes power until the book's publication in 2006. (Review by Paula Campanelli)

Enemies of the People: My Family's Journey to America by Katie Marton

In this candid memoir, Katie Marton delves into the secret past of her journalist parents. Katie and her younger sister were born in Budapest at the end of WWII. Her parents were AP and UPI correspondents who survived the Nazis and then the communist takeover of Budapest. Their reporting eventually caught the attention of the government, and Katie's parents were followed, spied upon, and eventually imprisoned for being suspected spies for the U.S. Suddenly orphaned, the girls were taken in by strangers and waited for their parents' release, unsure whether it would ever happen. This is the sisters' story of that time as well as the previously unknown story of their parents and their survival. (Review by Melissa Slager)

Three Weeks with My Brother: A Memoir by Nicholas Sparks

This is a wonderful portrayal of how strong family bonds can get you through tragedy and change. I really enjoyed the humor and spirit of adventure shared by the Sparks brothers as they traveled and created memories.



1491: *New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann

Recommended by Robert Aguilar in a previous *Book-watch*, I was absolutely blown away by this fascinating book. Mann provides a fabulous overview of the research done in various scientific fields as well as the evolution of the layman's perception over the years on the presence of Indians (Native Americans) in the "New World" prior to the arrival of Columbus and their impact on the environment. The research that has been done in the past 10 years, in particular, is astounding—and bears no resemblance at all to what most of us learned in school... While the book is academic and information-packed, Mann's presentation was so compelling that I couldn't put it down... Highly recommended—and essential for a greater understanding and appreciation of the evolution of the Western hemisphere... (Review by Jacque Miller)

***Mrs. Adams in Winter: A Journey in the Last Days of Napoleon* by Michael O'Brien**

Louisa Johnson Adams, wife of the American diplomat (and future President) John Quincy Adams, found herself stranded in St. Petersburg in the winter of 1814-15, and was summoned by her husband to Paris. How this British-born woman and her young son traveled across Europe by carriage in the closing days of Napoleonic Wars, makes for a great story. Louisa with her Russian coach and retainers arrives on the outskirts of Paris just as Napoleon returns from Elba, and she is forced to impersonate his sister in order to save her own life. (Also, for you trivia buffs, Louisa Johnson Adams is the answer to the question about the ONLY wife of a President not born in the United States. The book fleshes out this story as well.) (Review by Tom Vince)

***What Do You Say When...: Talking to People with Confidence on any Social or Business Occasion* by Florence Isaacs**

If you ever have a loss for words or need some confidence in the art of conversation, this book has some great tips and advice. Chapters are divided by types of occasion and provide the reader with conversation starters for a variety of social and business events. Also included are hints on what to say to people during difficult times like death of a loved one or loss of a job. (Review by Kim Barsella)

***The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece* by Eric Soblin**

If you are looking for something different I recommend reading Soblin's book. I had forgotten how much I enjoyed Music Appreciation classes and listening to the suites with a new ear. Check out the CD *Cello Suites* performed by Pablo Casals and meet Bach in a whole new light! (Review by Jane Spencer)

***Hardboiled Hollywood: The True Crime Stories that Inspired the Great Noir Films* by Max Décharné**

If you love a good mystery book and movie, Decharne's books is an excellent place to discover the crimes, books, and films that were groundbreaking in the development of the masters of pulp fiction and the great crime films in the noir tradition. (Review by Jacque Miller)

Fiction Reviews:

***Postmistress* by Sarah Blake**

This is another WWII story but with a different twist. Frankie is a radio correspondent in London during the blitz. Her reporting is so profound it affects the lives of those who hear her in Cape Cod, in particular, Iris, the postmistress, and Emma, the local doctor's wife. Their lives become entwined when Emma's husband, Will, leaves Cape Cod to volunteer at a hospital in London. As Emma waits for news from her husband, Iris struggles with how to handle a letter that will affect the entire community, especially Emma. (Review by Melissa Slager)



***Remarkable Creatures: A Novel* by Tracy Chevalier**

This story takes place in Lyme Regis, England in the early 1800's. An unlikely friendship occurs between two women, Elizabeth and Mary, basically because of their fascination with hunting and digging for fossils near and on the beach at Lyme Regis. The friendship is "unlikely" because of their age, economic and class differences. Eventually conflicts arise between the hard pressed Mary Anning and the transplanted from London Elizabeth Philpot as more people get involved with buying, selling and exhibiting the prehistoric artifacts they find. Mary does, however, with the help of Elizabeth, become successful in turning her obsession into a lucrative business and ultimately achieves notoriety in the British natural history annals for uncovering artifacts that have influenced what we know today about the history of the earth (although she was never given credit at the time). Chevalier, also a fossil hunter, uses natural and geological history to bring Mary and Elizabeth and their families to life. (Review by Sue Donnelly)



Fiction Reviews:

The Man from Beijing by Henning Mankell

Mankell's hiatus from his award-winning Inspector Wallendar series, is a stand-alone novel that introduces Swedish judge, Birgitta Roslin. When Roslin realizes that the village televised in the sensational news story of a massacre is the place where her mother was adopted and raised, she is compelled to visit the scene and talk to officers in charge of the investigation. When she is permitted to survey the house where her mother's adopted family lived (which is one of the crime scenes), she uncovers family documents that embroil her in the search for the perpetrator. Don't miss this thriller by one of today's best mystery writers.

(Review by Jacque Miller)

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

In July 1942, thousands of Jewish families in Paris were forced from their homes and held for days in an indoor stadium. This historic collaboration between the French government and the Nazis is known as the Vel' d'Hiv' Roundup. Rosnay personalizes this tragedy through the story of ten-year-old Sarah who locks her younger brother Michel in a cupboard during the roundup, sure that she and her family will soon return home. In May 2002, Paris reporter Julia Jarmond is assigned to write an article on the 60th anniversary of Vel' d'Hiv'. She is shocked that although she has lived in Paris for 25 years she had never heard of these tragic events. Julia's search to learn about Sarah changes her and breaks a long-held silence in her husband's family. (Review by Paula Campanelli)

Imperium and *Conspirata* by Robert Harris

Set in ancient Rome, Harris's first two titles in his historical fiction trilogy written about the great Roman senator and orator, Cicero, are narrated by his trusted slave and secretary, Tiro. While Cicero is serving as counsel of the senate, he and his fellow Romans are breathing politics and corruption. While the reader knows the Republic is doomed, these titles still make for great summer reading. Also, give Harris's first book, *Pompeii*, a try. This book brings first century Pompeii and its surroundings alive.

(Review by Jane Spencer)

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky by Heidi Durrow

Rachel is the only survivor when she, her mother, and siblings fall from the roof of their Chicago apartment building. Rachel's mother was Danish and her father is a black G.I. Raised by her mother, Rachel has identified with being white, but after her mother's death, she is sent to live with her African American grandmother in a predominantly black community. Rachel is not sure where she fits in and struggles with her racial identity throughout her adolescence. Durrow's tale is engrossing, and I couldn't put it down until I knew what led to that fateful morning on the roof. (Review by Paula Campanelli)

Small Island by Andrea Levy

I became interested in this award winning novel after seeing it recently on Masterpiece Theater. Told in a four-person narrative of two couples, Gilbert and Hortense, and Queenie and Bernard, the story takes place after the end of WWII in 1948. Gilbert (who fought with the RAF) and Hortense arrive in London from Jamaica, seeking a better life. They have an idealized vision of life in London, but instead are treated with prejudice and bigotry. Gilbert meets Queenie who is friendly and welcoming to him and offers the couple a place to stay in her home. With her husband, Bernard, still away after the war and unaccounted for Queenie feels free to open her home to the couple, even though she knows that having a black immigrant couple will be unsettling to the neighbors. When Bernard returns he is outraged that his home has been turned into a boarding house. The courage and perseverance of Hortense and Gilbert to find a better life and Queenie's resolve to defend her lifestyle make this a powerful and compelling novel. (Review by Melissa Slager)

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Reading this book is unforgettable. Imagine being in the middle of the ocean in a 26-foot raft or boat with a hungry Bengal tiger staring at you while you row to stay alive. It's frightening to think about but you can't put the book down until you find out what happens. Does Pi survive or does the tiger finally give in to his instincts and attack? It's been a while since I read this book, but I remember it well...the suspense and the tension. (Review by Sue Donnelly)

Still Alice by Lisa Genova

Fifty-year-old Alice Howland, a highly regarded Professor of Cognitive Psychology at Harvard University, begins to realize that her memory is starting to fail her as she begins to forget portions of her lectures and she becomes disoriented during her daily runs. She soon realizes that it is probably more than just age appropriate memory loss, when she completely forgets to go to a conference where she is one of the key-note speakers. After visiting with a Neuroscientist, she is given the diagnosis that she is dreading, early-onset Alzheimer's Disease. The novel follows Alice and the relationships she has with her husband, three grown children and her co-workers as this disease ravages her once spectacular mind. It is beautifully written and had me in bittersweet tears throughout the end of the novel. (Review by Kim Barsella)