

BookGuide Bulletin



Newsletter

June 2006

Vol. 1 No. 2

Looking for a good book? Each month the [BookGuide](#) site has new fiction and non-fiction reviews!

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for June
New Booklists

One Book – One Lincoln – 2006

The Writing Life – Author Interview: Lori Van Pelt

Guest Book Reviewer – Lincoln Mayor Coleen J. Seng

Staff Reviewer Profile: Bob B.

Courtyard Book Chats at the Downtown library

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

Courtyard Book Chats – Downtown [Tuesdays Noon]

June 6 – “Native American Detectives” – Mysteries with an ethnic flavor

June 20 – “The Dog Days of Summer”

Gere Book Talks [Mondays 2:30 p.m.]

June 5 – “Cloning a Better Tomorrow”

June 12 – “Faraway Places With Strange Sounding Names”

Just Desserts Mystery Discussion Group [Thur. 7pm]

June 29 – “Dating Dead Men” and “Dating is Murder” by Harley Jane Kozak

Bethany Book Talks [Fridays 10:30 a.m.]

The Spring 2006 sessions have ended but will return this Fall!

Great Books Discussion Group

[non-library group meeting at Gere branch]

The current series has ended but will return in the Fall!

Visit [Book Talks and Book Discussion Groups](#) for more info

New Booklists

Nebraska Author Lori Van Pelt

Take a look at the booklist page dedicated to this month's Author Spot interviewee – former Nebraskan and western author and essayist, Lori Van Pelt.

Cloning a Better Tomorrow

Eiseley branch's Sean S. presented this Booktalk as part of the Spring series at both Bethany and Gere Branches. In fact, you can still catch him on June 5th at Gere if you hurry! Take a look at some recent fiction and non-fiction that feature Cloning as a central theme!



The finalists for the 2006 **One Book – One Lincoln** community reading program were announced on May 22nd in the *Lincoln Journal Star* and on the library's Web site.

The libraries have stocked up on extra copies of all of them – and you can reserve them for free! :

Broken For You – by Stephanie Kallos

Prodigal Summer – by Barbara Kingsolver

Devil in the White City – by Eric Larson

Crow Lake – by Mary Lawson

Glass Castle: A Memoir – Jeanette Walls

The Writing Life -- Author Interview



Lori Van Pelt was born and raised in Banner County, Nebraska, growing up on her parents' wheat farm and cattle ranch. Lori began writing while attending Banner County High School in Harrisburg, Nebraska, and had her first poem published during this time. Following high school, Lori attended Nebraska Western College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, graduating in 1981 with an Associate of Applied Science in Business Degree. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Finance with honors from the University of Wyoming in 1993. After graduation, Lori accepted a position as a staff writer for the *Saratoga Sun* newspaper.

Shortly afterwards, Lori married Eugene Walck, Jr., and continued to pursue her writing while living on the Walck ranch in Saratoga. Lori currently writes for the *WREN* (Wyoming Rural Electric News) *Magazine*, serves as a correspondent for the *Casper Star Tribune*, and is a frequent essayist for Wyoming Public Radio's "Open Spaces." She is an active member of The Author's Guild, Women Writing the West, and Western Writers of America. Lori has had articles or stories appear in numerous national magazines. She is the author of several books and short stories.

[Read the full Interview on the BookGuide Web site](#)



Tuesdays, this summer, through August 29th

Following the success of our **Bethany** and **Gere Branch Book Talks**, and the popular launch of the new **Just Desserts** mystery discussion group last month, we invite readers to attend our brand-new series of open-air **Courtyard Book Chats** at the downtown library. Held on alternating Tuesdays, from Noon to 1:00 p.m. in the central Courtyard of the Bennett Martin Public Library, the **Courtyard Book Chats** will give interested readers a chance to eat a bagged lunch and listen to a themed book talk from one of the library's popular team of book discussion leaders.

June 6th, you'll have a chance to hear Rayma Shrader, of the downtown Reference Department, talk about **Native American Detective** novels, either parts of series or stand-alones. June 20th, you can sit in as Marcy Graybill, coordinator of the **Bethany Book Talks** group shares some titles on the theme of **The Dog Days of Summer**.

June 1st is Marilyn Monroe's 80th Birthday!

Here is a short list of some popular books about **Marilyn Monroe**. The libraries own over 40 titles about this iconic American actress and sex symbol of the 1950s – search our online catalog under “Subject: Monroe, Marilyn”:

- *Goddess: The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe* by Anthony Summers
- *Marilyn: Her Life in Her Own Words* by Marilyn Monroe
- *Marilyn: The Last Take* by Peter Harry Brown
- *Crypt 33: The Saga of Marilyn Monroe, the Final Word* by Adela Gregory
- *Legend: The Life and Death of Marilyn Monroe* by Fred Lawrence Guiles
- *Marilyn Monroe* by Barbara Leaming
- *My Story* by Marilyn Monroe
- *All the Available Light* by Yona Zeldis McDonough
- *The Unabridged Marilyn: Her Life from A to Z* by Randall Riese
- *Marilyn's Last Words: Her Secret Tapes and Mysterious Death* by Matthew Smith
- *The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe* by Donald H. Wolfe
- *Marilyn and Me: Sisters, Rivals, Friends* by Susan Strassberg



Reviewer Profile

Our featured Reviewer this month is **Bob B.**, a long-time staff member in the Reference Department at the downtown library. Bob's particular area of responsibility at the library is coordination of the Periodicals collections. But his reading interests are much more than just magazines. Bob's reviews have run the gamut from recent bestsellers and mysteries to older and lesser-known classic works. Here's what he had to say about his background in reading, and in sharing his reviews:



My mother's reading to me as a child gave me a warm and wonderful introduction to the enchantments of books and reading. In my grade school, each room had a bookcase of books--no library. When I had read all the interesting books in my eighth grade room's bookcase, I was given the special privilege of reading books from the other eighth grade room!

How important are books and reading to me? Vitally important! Books and reading have enriched my life and made innumerable things possible or easier.

When I was a freshman in high school, my wise English teacher, Mrs. Stith, took me one day to the principal to discuss my future. He made me promise to "read widely." I have kept that promise.

How do I select what book to read next? From comments and recommendations from other reviewers, from friends, from authors' suggestions, and by chance. As a reviewer, I enjoy sharing the discoveries of the books I've enjoyed with others. Recommendations and reviews are one way to do that.

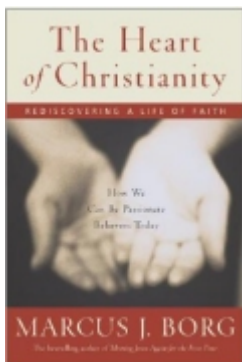
What do I enjoy reading? Romances, history, religion, mysteries, biographies, thrillers, nature. Some books I've recently enjoyed: Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie, by John Faragher (such research!); The Marriage Test, by Betina Krahn (a funny book!); and Prodigal Summer, by Barbara Kingsolver (humans and nature coming together).

And finally, if there was only one author I could convince people to read, that author would be: **Wendell Berry!** Berry is a very wise man, closely connected with the natural world, with a keen understanding and sympathy for human nature. Important concepts for Berry are harmony, culture, sustainability, and nature.

[See a list of Bob's reviews on the BookGuide Web site](#)

Staff Reviews

I recommend Marcus Borg, The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith. If you believe there is more to Christianity than the literalist claims about the Bible, if you seek a better understanding of what Jesus and Christianity are truly all about, this is the book for you. Is belief more important than what you are? Borg continues making the case as he has in his earlier books for a more honest, more vibrant, more caring Christianity.



--Reviewed by Bob B.
Reference Department – Bennett
Martin Public Library

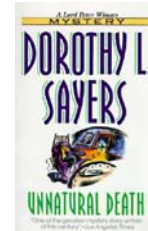
Check out additional [Staff Recommendations](#) each month at the BookGuide Web site!

Celebrity Guest Reviewer

Lincoln Mayor Coleen J. Seng agreed to be our first Celebrity Reviewer in The Bulletin. Here's what she sent us:



"For this first review I chose a Dorothy Sayers mystery. All her books are mysteries, and they are excellent! I read all of them many years ago, reread them at a later time, and now they are being reissued. The same Lord Peter Wimsey is still the dapper, English sleuth at work as always. Such a detective!



Unnatural Death (The Dawson Pedigree) was written in the early 1900s, copyrighted again in 1955, printed in the United States and has been in the Lincoln Public Library systems since at least 1968.

When beginning to read a Dorothy Sayers detective story, slow yourself down, move your mind into the English countryside, hear the British terminology and enjoy Lord Peter. Happy reading!"

Coleen J. Seng
Mayor of Lincoln

Mayor Seng's is our *first* Celebrity Book Reviewer for **The BookGuide Bulletin**

Web sites for Readers



June features the beginning of events in our **2006 Summer Reading Program** for kids, teens and families! To find out more about this year's activities and special events, visit the [Summer Reading Program Information](#) and [Teen Summer Reading Information](#) Web sites, or stop in at any of the Lincoln City Library locations to pick up this year's handouts.

From the folks who bring us **Books in Print**, and structured around the powerful Aqua Browser, comes the **Fiction Connection** database, a new feature available via the libraries' Databases page. **Fiction Connection** is an intensely cross-referenced database of adult fiction. You can search by such standard categories as Title and Author, but you can also use such user-friendly search categories as Topic, Genre, Setting, Character, Location and Timeframe. Each search you conduct will result in dozens of possible links to related books. You've got to see this one to believe it! So visit the libraries' Databases page today, or make a sample run at **Fiction Connection** the next time you're in one of the library locations.



Read...Discuss...Repeat!

The June 2006 selection for the "[Read...Discuss...Repeat!](#)" feature on BookGuide is Marlon Brandon and Donald Cammell's Fan Tan [2005]. Stop by the site for information about the book and its authors, and leave a comment or review score if you've read it!

In the Future...

We're interested in hearing from you readers regarding what you'd be interested in seeing here in this short e-newsletter each month. If you've got any suggestions or comments to offer us about **BookGuide** or the **BookGuide Bulletin**, please drop us an e-mail note at:

bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org



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