

BookGuide Bulletin



A monthly "readers' services" newsletter from the Lincoln City Libraries

Newsletter

July 2007

Vol. 1 No. 14

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for July/August
Featured Booklists
Focus On: **One Book – One Lincoln Finalists**
Staff Recommendations
If You Like...the Harry Potter Series

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

Bethany Books Talk [Fridays 10:30 a.m.] [441-8550]

The Bethany Books Talk season concluded in May and will return in September with all-new talks.

Courtyard Book Chats – Central Courtyard – Downtown [Tuesdays Noon-1 p.m.] [441-8560]

July 3 Susan S., Eiseley Teen Specialist, shares some faves!
July 10 "High Fashion and High Society Fiction"
July 17 "'Tis a Tale To Sweet" – Medieval Romances
July 24 "Whodunit? New Mysteries!"
July 31 "New Authors I've Discovered"
Aug 7 "Biographies & Memoirs"
Aug 14 "Cruel and Unusual: Twists on Standard Genre Fare"
Aug 21 "It's All About Me – Self-Help and Self-Improvement"
Aug 28 "Murder by Gaslight: Mysteries in the Victorian Era"

Gere Books Talk [Mondays 2:30 p.m.] [441-8560]

The Gere Books Talk season concluded in May and will return in September with all-new talks.

Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group – Downtown [last Thursday each month. 7 p.m.] [441-8530]

July 26 – "The Blessing Way" by Tony Hillerman
Aug 30 – "The Maltese Falcon" by Dashiell Hammett

Great Books Discussion Group [Gere Branch, Thursdays 6:45-8:45 p.m.] [co-sponsored by the Lincoln City Libraries]

The Great Books 2007-2008 series resumes in September.

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

Featured Booklists

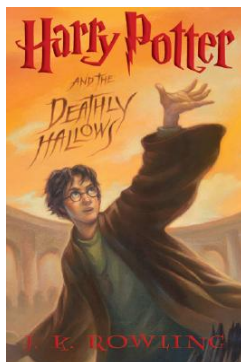
The following are either "new" booklists added to the BookGuide site recently, or older lists we'd like to shine a light on!

[Murder With a Green Thumb](#)

Check out some of the hot authors in the increasingly popular mystery category of Gardening Mysteries.

[Advise and Checkout](#)

Looking for a few good novels featuring a political background? Check out the titles that Eiseley Branch's Layne used for his recent book talks!



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, the seventh and final volume in the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling, was released on July 21st in 92 countries around the world.

While this may bring a sense of closure to fans of the series, it probably also brings up the obvious question: "I loved the Harry Potter series...so what do I read next?"

Some answers to that question can be found in the brand-new booklist on the BookGuide site (click to connect):

[If You Like...the Harry Potter series](#)

Here are a few excerpts from that list. For the full list, with several dozen recommended titles, authors and/or series, follow the link above, or stop by the BookGuide site and browse through our varied selections.

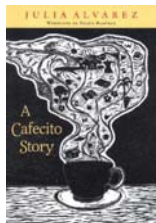
- The Secrets of Droon series, by Tony Abbott, starting with The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet
- The Chronicles of Prydain series by Lloyd Alexander, starting with The Book of Three
- Clive Barker's The Thief of Always
- The Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer, starting with Artemis Fowl
- The Underland Chronicles by Suzanne Collins, starting with Gregor the Overlander
- The Dark is Rising saga, by Susan Cooper, starting with Over Sea, Under Stone
- The Magic Shop series by Bruce Coville, starting with The Monster's Ring
- The Secret World of Polly Flint by Helen Cresswell
- Nearly any youth-related title by Roald Dahl, including The Witches
- The Wizardry series, by Diane Duane, starting with So You Want to Be a Wizard?
- The Liveship Traders trilogy, by Robin Hobbs, starting with Ship of Magic
- Most of the worlds of Diana Wynne Jones, especially the Christomanci series, starting with Charmed Life
- The classic Earthsea series by Ursula Leguin, starting with A Wizard of Earthsea
- The Time Quartet by Madeline L'Engle, starting with A Wrinkle in Time
- The Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis, starting with The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- The Saga of Recluce, by L.E. Modesitt, beginning with The Magic of Recluce
- The Five Children series by Edith Nesbit, including The Five Children and It
- The Seventh Tower series of Garth Nix, starting with The Fall
- The Gormenghast series of Mervyn Peake, starting with Titus Groan
- Phillip Pullman's His Dark Materials saga, starting with The Golden Compass
- I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith – one of J.K. Rowling's favorites
- A Series of Unfortunate Events, by Lemony Snicket, starting with A Bad Beginning
- The Grand Conspiracy by Janny Wurts
- Most of the youth-related novels of Jane Yolen, including Wizard's Hall
- A Plague of Sorcerers by Mary Frances Zambreno

Also, if you'd care to share your opinion about the final Harry Potter book, please stop by the Book Lovers Discussion Blog and leave a comment on the Harry Potter thread there...we'd love to hear your thoughts!

bookguideatcl.blogspot.com

[Harry Potter thread at BookGuide Blog](#)

Staff Reviews



A Cafecito Story

By Julia Alvarez

This is the one fiction book everyone should read! Filled with 53 pages of lessons that extend far beyond the rural landscape of any country, Julie Alvarez writes "A Cafecito Story" which takes the reader from one man's love of the land in Nebraska, to the coffee fields of the Dominican Republic. This is the simple story of a man and a woman, and the universal way in which each is given exactly what they need to follow their bliss. It is also a story about coffee, the birds, and how you can enjoy that first cup in the morning with a feeling of gratitude, as you take part in the natural cycle of giving and receiving. If you are an art lover, you will receive added pleasure from the beautiful woodcuts that adorn the pages of this wonderful book.

Reviewed by **Patty L.**
Walt Branch Library

You can see this, plus other new reviews, every month on the [Staff Recommendations page](#) at the BookGuide web site!

One Book – One Lincoln – 2007 The Five Finalists

The final finalists for this year's One Book – One Lincoln program were announced last month, and extra copies were made available throughout the library system. You can still get free reserves placed on any of the five titles, in print or in recorded format (if available) for the duration of this year's One Book – One Lincoln celebration. A series of special discussion sessions is being held throughout the community, hosted by members of the One Book – One Lincoln selection committee, that will address all five titles, and how the decisions about One Book are made. Readers are encouraged to attend one or more of these sessions!

July 24 – 9:00 a.m. – MoJava – 2649 N. 48th St.

July 27 – 7:30 p.m. – Lee Booksellers – 5500 S. 56th St.

July 29 – 2:00 p.m. – Barnes & Noble – 5150 "O" St.

July 31 – 7:00 p.m. – Crescent Moon – 916 "P" St.

August 5 – 1:00 p.m. – Barnes & Noble – 2910 Pine Lake Rd.



Moloka'i

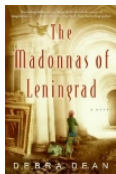
by Alan Brennert

This richly imagined novel, set in Hawai'i more than a century ago, is an extraordinary epic of a little-known time and place -- and a deeply moving testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old

Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far-off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i. Here her life is supposed to end -- but instead she discovers it is only just beginning. Such is the warmth, humor, and compassion of this novel that few readers will remain unchanged by Rachel's story.

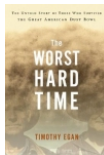
The Madonnas of Leningrad

by Debra Dean



In the fall of 1941, the German army approached the outskirts of Leningrad, signaling the beginning of what would become a long and torturous siege. During the ensuing months, the city's inhabitants would brave starvation and the bitter cold, all while fending off the constant German onslaught. Marina, then a tour guide at the Hermitage Museum, along with other staff members, was instructed to take down the museum's priceless masterpieces for safekeeping, yet leave the frames hanging empty on the walls - a symbol of the artworks' eventual return. To hold on to sanity when the Luftwaffe's bombs began to fall, she burned to memory, brushstroke by brushstroke, these

exquisite artworks: the nude figures of women, the angels, the serene Madonnas that had so shortly before gazed down upon her. Moving back and forth in time between the Soviet Union and contemporary America, *The Madonnas of Leningrad* is a portrait of war and remembrance, of the power of love, memory, and art to offer beauty, grace, and hope in the face of overwhelming despair.



The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dustbowl

by Timothy Egan

The dust storms that terrorized the High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression were like nothing ever seen before or since. Timothy Egan's critically acclaimed account rescues this iconic chapter of American

history from the shadows in a tour de force of historical reportage. Following a dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, Egan tells of their desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black dust blizzards, crop failure, and the death of loved ones. Brilliantly capturing the terrifying drama of catastrophe, Egan does equal justice to the human characters who become his heroes, "the stoic, long-suffering men and women whose lives he opens up with urgency and respect" (*New York Times*). In an era that promises ever-greater natural disasters, *The Worst Hard Time* shines a light on the greatest environmental disaster ever to be visited upon our land and is a powerful cautionary tale about the dangers of trifling with nature. [Also available in [Unabridged Book-on-CD](#) format.]

Water for Elephants

by Sara Gruen



Though he may not speak of them, the memories still dwell inside Jacob Jankowski's ninety-something-year-old mind. Memories of himself as a young man, tossed by fate onto a rickety train that was home to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. Memories of a world filled with freaks and clowns, with wonder and pain and anger and passion; a world with its own narrow, irrational rules, its own way of life, and its own way of death. The world of the circus: to Jacob it was both salvation and a living hell. Jacob was there because his luck had run out - orphaned and penniless, he had no direction until he landed on this locomotive "ship of fools." It was the early part of the Great Depression, and everyone in this third-rate circus was lucky to have any job at all. Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, was there because she fell in love with the wrong man, a handsome circus boss with a wide mean streak. And Rosie the elephant was there because she was the great gray hope, the new act that was going to be the salvation of the circus; the only problem was, Rosie didn't have an act - in fact, she couldn't even follow instructions. The bond that grew among this unlikely trio was one of love and trust, and ultimately, it was their only hope for survival. [Also available in [Downloadable Audio](#), [Unabridged Book-on-CD](#), and [Large Print](#) formats.]



If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things

by Jon McGregor

This is a prose poem of a novel with a mystery at its center, which keeps the reader in suspense until the final page. In a tour de force that could be described as Altmanesque, we are invited into the private lives of the residents of a quiet urban street in England over the course of a single day. In delicate, intricately observed closeup, we witness the hopes, fears, and unspoken despairs of a diverse community: the man with painfully scarred hands who tried in vain to save his wife from a burning house and who must now care for his young daughter alone; a group of young clubgoers just home from an all-night rave, sweetly high and mulling over vague dreams; the nervous young man at number 18 who collects weird urban junk and is haunted by the specter of unrequited love. [Also available in [Unabridged Book-on-CD](#) format.]

Feedback...

We're interested in hearing from you regarding what you'd like to see here in our e-newsletter each month. What have you enjoyed in our first year's issues? If you have any suggestions or comments to offer us about *BookGuide* or the *BookGuide Bulletin*, please drop us an e-mail at:

bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org



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