

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

November 2007

Vol. 1 No. 16

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for November
Featured Booklists
Review Profile: **Becky W.C.**
Staff Reviews
Focus On: **Holiday Handicrafts**
One Book One Lincoln 2007
BookGuide Facelift

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

Nov 2 Susan's Selections
Nov 9 ALA Notables
Nov 16 Westward Ho!
Nov 23 [closed for Thanksgiving]
Nov 30 Mostly the Truth...Sometimes Not!

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

Nov 5 Tender Vittles – A Culinary Book Talk
Nov 12 [closed for Veterans Day]
Nov 19 Mostly the Truth...Sometimes Not!
Nov 26 Westward Ho!

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

Group is on hiatus in November and December

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

Nov 8 Dostoyevsky – "Notes From the Underground"
(complete)
Dec 13 Bible – "Exodus"

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 and/or seasonal lists we'd like to shine a light on!

[Brush Up on a Good Book](#)

Shannon led a fascinating book talk session focusing on both fiction and non-fiction that looked at the world of fine art.

[Biographies & Memoirs: A Short List](#)

Vicki provided insight into some recent popular memoirs and biographies during our summer Courtyard Book Chats sessions – see if you've read them all!

We've recently completely updated all of the Award Winners booklist on the BookGuide site, with new entries in most of them. Check out such award categories as:

[The James Tiptree Jr. Award](#)
[The Rita Award for Romance Fiction](#)
[The Booker Prize](#)

BookGuide Facelift! – Come See!

Regular visitors to the [BookGuide site](#) may have already seen our recent changes, but if you haven't been there lately, you might want to stop by and see our rearrangements. All of your favorite, traditional BookGuide features are still there, but we've subdivided our main page so you don't have to browse through a massive single page of choices.

You can now use our handy subdivisions at the top left of the BookGuide main page. Visit our **Finding a Good Book** submenu to find all our Booklists, Award Winners, and Readalikes. **Recommendations and Reviews** takes you to a submenu featuring Staff and Customer Recommendations, plus the books reviewed on KFOR, KZUM and in the Lincoln Journal-Star's Sunday AM section. **Best Sellers and High Interest** gives you the NYT Best Sellers list, our own Hot List of items with the most advance reserves on them, and the Coming Soon list of books scheduled for publication in the next 9 months. **Book Groups and Clubs** lists all library- and community-sponsored book groups in Lincoln, plus the Oprah Book Club and our own DearReader and NextReads e-mail book clubs. **Reader Connections Online** leads you to the BookGuide Blog, the archive of BookGuide Bulletins, the monthly *Read...Discuss...Repeat*, and other literature-related web resources. The **Local Literary Activities** submenu is the home of our One Book One Lincoln, Mayhem in the Midlands and One Book One Nebraska. And finally, the **Literature Databases** submenu helps you locate all the helpful subscription databases available through the library for finding your next good read, such as NovelList and The Fiction Connection.

Speaking of our [BookGuide Blog](#) – you'll also find the most recent entry in this blog posted on the main BookGuide web site, with a handy link to help you connect to this new interactive tool. We'll be using the Blog to post reviews, literary news and info about changes and/or additions to the BookGuide web site. You can even sign up to receive BookGuide Blog entries through your RSS feed if you're so inclined.



A joint venture of the
[Lincoln Journal Star](#)
& Lincoln City Libraries

Throughout September and October, readers around Lincoln have been engrossed in Timothy Egan's National Book Award-winning non-fiction title, [The Worst Hard Time](#), the 2007 selection for the city-wide reading project **One Book – One Lincoln**.

This richly-detailed book looks back at one of the worst ecological disasters in the history of the United States – the Dust Bowl years – and at the hardy and determined folks who survived the era. Many readers may already be familiar with the Okies, like the characters in John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, who fled the Midwest to seek employment in California. But not as much attention has been paid to the individuals who stayed behind and tried to ride out such events as the Black Blizzard of April 14, 1935.

As we near the end of this year's **One Book** events, readers can still participate by attending a Book Discussion Group, viewing the traveling photo exhibit about the Dust Bowl, or stopping by one of the remaining special events or programs. One of the key events of this year's **One Book** is the live teleconference with author Timothy Egan, which will be held on Friday, November 16th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the NETV studios on UNL's East Campus.

You can find out more about all the special programming, as well as the locations of the remaining places you can join book discussion groups, by visiting our official **One Book – One Lincoln – 2007** web site at the following web address:

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/obol/obol2007/front.htm>



welcome to a new... Reviewer Profile



Our featured Reviewer for August 2007 is **Becky W.C.** Becky has worked for Lincoln City Libraries for many years, in a variety of departments – including the old Audiovisual Department and the Reference Department downtown. She is currently the Loan Desk Supervisor at the Walt Branch Library. Her reviews show up consistently on our Staff Recommendations displays and on the BookGuide web site. Reading has long been a part of her life, as she indicates

in her answers to our questions about books and reading:

I am a life-long resident of Lincoln and I've been employed with Lincoln City Libraries for over 30 years. I have dabbled in poetry in the past, and I'm an award-winning amateur photographer. Some of my earliest reads and listens, other than Bible stories and verses, which have stuck with me as favorites through the years are Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever, The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins, and Tikki Tikki Tembo. And I began reading "Peanuts" books and comics at an early age, as well. In the middle grades, I enjoyed the Little House series and jokebooks, and I started sampling mysteries and fantasies.

**PEANUTS
TREASURY**



Charles M. Schulz

I've been reading all my life. My parents facilitated reading and writing at an early age. I also enjoy music and was exposed to popular songs starting when I was very young, which was another way to learn and understand language. I'm not a "big" reader but I am usually reading at least one book and/or magazine at any given time. Having grown up on television, I am more visually oriented to stories and information, but I very much appreciate good use of English and good imagery in writing.

How important are books and reading to you?

Reading is extremely important for the educational, spiritual, and recreational aspects of life, not to mention the opportunity to gain knowledge of history and philosophy. People may think the internet is doing away with books and other printed matter but, in a way, it's really just a world of picture books on computer -- lots of graphics but still a lot of text!

How do you select what books to read next?

Working at a library gives me a tremendous browsing advantage! I also glance at reviews in magazines and online occasionally. Otherwise, I look for things relating to my interests, such as arts and entertainment, romantic suspense, humor, etc.

What do you enjoy about writing book reviews/recommendations?

It's nice to share something that has excited, educated, or otherwise enriched me. And since I'm not often choosing 'mainstream' books, I feel I can promote good titles that may have been overlooked or don't have a broad audience. And my husband, who manages BookGuide, asks me for submissions!

If there was only one author you could convince people to read, that author would be:

At this time, I can't recommend just one author. What I would suggest instead is that each person, at some time in his or her life, pick up a poetry anthology (which could include song lyrics)

and browse through it. Some of the most powerful and wonderful thoughts and images can be found in the lines of poems.

You can see previous profiles of other BookGuide reviewers, by visiting the [Staff Recommendations Index by Reviewers](#) page on the BookGuide web site, and clicking on the Staff Profile links next to the reviewers' names!

FOCUS ON: *Holiday Handicrafts*

For those with a creative bent, it's time to be thinking about hand-made holiday gifts. The library has a fairly extensive collection of books, magazines, videos and DVDs for those interested in handicrafts. Check out some of the following titles for creative ideas:

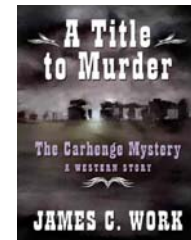
- *Fantastic Gel Candles*, by Marcianne Miller [745.593 Mil]
- *Aromatic Candles*, by Rosevita Warda [745.593 War]
- *Handcrafted Soap*, by Delores Boone [668.12 qBoo]
- *The Artful Card*, by Alison Eads [745.594 qEad]
- *Styling for Entertaining*, by Susie Coelho [747 qCoe]
- *Natural Perfumes*, by Mindy Green [668.542 Gre]
- *Crochet Afghans*, by Maggie Weldon [746.434 qWel]
- *Teach Yourself Visual Knitting Design*, by Sharon Turner [746.432 Tur]
- *Simply Beautiful Beaded Jewelry*, by Heidi Boyd [745.582 qBoy]
- *Visual Chronicles*, by Linda Woods [745.593 Woo]
- *Food for Friends*, by Sally Pasley Vargas [641.5 Var]
- *Gourmet Gifts*, by Donna Z. Meilach [641.5 Mei]
- *Gifts to Sew for Special Occasions* [646.2 qGif]
- *Shabby Chic: The Gift of Giving*, by Rachel Ashwell [745.5 Ash]
- *Wrap it Up!*, by Mary Engelbreit [745.5 Eng]

Staff Reviews

A Title to Murder: The Carhenge Mystery

By James C. Work

This light mystery's title is a play on words, as it hints at two of the threads throughout the novel -- famous works of fiction, and automobiles. The subtitle is "The Carhenge Mystery, a Western story". Professor David McIntyre is a visiting instructor at Western Nebraska Community College in Alliance, teaching a summer course in literature, and trying to sleuth out what happened to a former student suspected of murder. Cass Deering was a young woman who had a keen interest in classic literature and was known for gifting acquaintances with books which showed them parallels to their own lives. Then a man was found dead in her apartment and she disappeared, possibly with a second man. Prof. McIntyre, with the help of an attractive and clever female colleague, susses out what probably happened to Cass and with which literary heroine she identified. And, yes, Nebraska's motor vehicle replica of Stonehenge is part of the plot! Author James C. Work is a native of Colorado and was, himself, a literature professor. He has done some work for the University of Nebraska Press, as well.



Reviewed by Becky W.C.
Walt Branch Library

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

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 the **BookGuide** site or the **BookGuide Bulletin**, please drop us an e-mail at:

bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org



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