

# BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

January 2008

Vol. 1 No. 13

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

## This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for January  
Featured Booklists  
Reviewer Profile: **Matt N.**  
Staff Reviews  
Focus On: **Sue Grafton Readalikes**  
**Return of the Book Discussion Groups!**

### Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

Jan 11 A Bag of Books [Marcy]  
Jan 18 Beware the Ides of March [Layne]  
Jan 25 For the Young at Heart [Shannon]

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

Jan 7 Get Reacquainted [Jim]  
Jan 14 A Bag of Books [Marcy]  
Jan 21 [closed for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday]  
Jan 28 Recent Young Adult Books [Sarah]

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

Jan 31 "Shadow Man" by James D. Doss

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

Jan 10 Hobbes – "Origin of Government"  
Jan 24 Melville – "Billy Budd, Sailor"

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! **Click on the titles to see the full booklists.**

#### [Nebraska Illustrator Ruth Rosekrans Hoffman](#)

This list identifies the many works by this award-winning illustrator of childrens' books.

#### [The Kiriya Prize](#)

Acknowledging works by Asian American authors in the fields of fiction, non-fiction, and stage and screenplays.

#### [The Asian American Literary Award](#)

Celebrating the excellence of works by authors from the Pacific Rim region, and/or about that area of our world!

#### [The Masterpiece Theatre Book and Film Club](#)

A new addition to our **National Book Clubs** page on BookGuide, this page identifies the titles that have been used by the book club sponsored by the venerable PBS series.



## A New Season of Book Discussions!

All the library-sponsored Book Discussion Groups have returned this month, with all new seasons of bookish goodness for you to participate in! The Monday (2:30 p.m.) **Gere Branch Books Talk** series started up on January 7<sup>th</sup>, with a "Get Reacquainted" gathering hosted by Gere's own Jim W. The **Bethany Branch Books Talk** series starts up again on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on January 11<sup>th</sup>, as Marcy presents a talk on some of her recent favorites. Both of these groups meet weekly at their respective locations, and feature both a themed presentation by the guest host, as well as an opportunity to discuss your own favorite recent reads with fellow attendees.

In a slightly different format, the **Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group** also returns for the 2008 season, featuring monthly meetings on the final Thursday of each month. Just Desserts involves an entire group of mystery fans reading and discussing the same title with each other, while sharing desserts and coffee/juice. The titles for the next two months are already selected – James Doss' *Shadow Man* for January 31<sup>st</sup>, and Ngaio Marsh's *Grave Mistake* for February 28<sup>th</sup>. Time is usually also set aside each month for participants to share their recent mystery fiction discoveries.

Click the following link to see the full upcoming schedules for all of these groups:  
[Book Groups and Discussion Opportunities](#)

## FOCUS ON: Sue Grafton readalikes

Sue Grafton's latest Kinsey Millhone mystery, *T is for Trespass*, has just arrived in the library. If you didn't place a hold, and are still waiting to get your hands on a copy, you might want to consider looking into one of the following authors, considered to be similar in style and tone:

- Linda Barnes
- Nevada Barr
- Linda Grant
- Marne Davis Kellogg
- Karen Kijewski
- Laura Lippman
- Marcia Muller
- Sara Paretsky
- Gillian Roberts
- Dana Stabenow



## The latest new Reader's List

[Christian Mysteries and Thrillers](#) -- submitted by **BookAngel**



Click this link – [to check out other Reader Lists and submit your own!](#)

# welcome to a new... Reviewer Profile



Our featured Reviewer for January 2008 is **Matt N.** Matt works at the Bennett Martin Public Library downtown, and his reviews show up occasionally on our Staff Recommendations displays and on the BookGuide web site. Though not as frequent a reviewer as some of the other personalities that are represented in the pages of BookGuide, Matt was still happy to reply to our questions about his background and reading interests:



*Would you care to share any personal info with our readers -- such as where you grew up, what you read as a child, etc.?*

I was born out in Western Nebraska, Benkelman to be exact. My mother taught kindergarten in a town named Max, just outside of Benkelman. Max had a population of about 60 at the time I went to school there, probably a lot less people now. I get a kick out of hearing the name Max when NPR announces its translator stations...it's always announced last. We moved to Waverly, Nebraska, just before I started first grade. My father got a job teaching Jr. High social studies, and my mother went back to school at UNL to finish her teaching degree -- which she did, and she too began teaching in Waverly...only in the grade school.

*How long have you been an active reader, and were there any particular books or authors or other people that "made you a reader"?*

When I was in fourth grade, we moved to Lincoln, and eventually bought a house in Bethany, just a block or so from the Bethany Library. I remember going to the library for the first time -- Waverly didn't have a public library -- getting a library card, and signing up for the Summer Reading Program. I took home quite a stack of books that day, and by the end of summer I returned that same stack of books back to the library, having not read a one. However I did start to read Little Men. Too busy, I guess, playing baseball or trying to, that is. Wasn't until I went to college that I developed a love of reading and collecting books and have enjoyed doing so ever since.



*How do you select what books to read next?*

I come across a lot of titles that pique my curiosity during the course of a day working at the Loan Desk at Bennett Martin Public Library, a job I've had for...let's just say a few years. I also enjoy hearing about books from friends and library patrons (some of which are both), an occasional perusal of the *New York Times Book Review*, and of course NPR.

and finally...

Do you have any particular "favorite" authors, or authors you like to recommend to others?

Here's a list of my literary heavy hitters: **Ambrose Bierce, Joseph Heller, Camus, Aldous Huxley, Joseph Conrad, Chekov, Dostoyevsky**, and last but not least, **William Faulkner**, who happens to have the same birthday as myself, September 25th. I thought that was pretty cool when I found that out. Well, there you have it in a nutshell, so to speak. By the way, that's my cat Sadie in the picture. She also advises me on what to read and has a keen ear for music as well.

[See Matt's Reviewer Profile \(and his reviews\) on BookGuide](#)

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!

## Staff Reviews



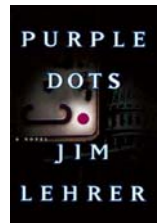
**Arrowsmith**  
By Sinclair Lewis

Sinclair Lewis goes after Big Pharma before it was Big Pharma, a truly timeless classic.

Reviewed by **Matt N.**  
Bennett Martin Public Library

**Purple Dots**  
by Jim Lehrer

Author Jim Lehrer, long time news anchor for the *Jim Lehrer Report*, provides a glimpse into the Washington political scene in this fictional book about the sometimes funny, sometimes thrilling story of a retired CIA agent. Charles Henderson steps out of his retired life to help his long time friend during his nomination as director of the CIA. Along the way he discovers a prized political perk called the purple dot and finds out just what it can do for the person who possesses one. This story is fun to read and provides a picture of some of the absurd priorities held by our Washington politicians



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

You can see other new reviews, every month on the [Staff Recommendations page](#) at the BookGuide web site or posted in the [Book Lovers Discussion and News Blog!](#)

## Read...Discuss...Repeat!

The January selection for BookGuide's [Read...Discuss...Repeat!](#) feature is former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's biography, [An Hour Before Daylight](#). Capturing the essence of his childhood in Plains, Georgia, this book paints a vivid picture of the forces that shaped one of America's prominent leaders, both during his period as our President, and in the years since. If you've read this title, we encourage you to stop by the BookGuide site (or our blog) and leave a comment about it! If you haven't read it yet, stop by the RDR page for background info about the book!

## 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](mailto:bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org)



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