

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

May 2008

Vol. 1 No. 22

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for May/June
New and/or Featured Booklists
Celebrity Guest Reviewer: **Leta Powell Drake**
Return of **Courtyard Book Chats...in the Garden!**
Lincoln City Libraries Toolbar for Firefox Browser
'Casting About – New BookGuide podcast series
Focus On: **Marathon Running**

Note to readers seeing this newsletter only as a paper copy – All examples of blue underlined text in this newsletter are hotlinks to pages on the BookGuide or Lincoln City Libraries web sites. For full functionality, please visit the electronic version of the **BookGuide Bulletin** at:
<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/newsletters.htm>



'Casting About...

Following the success of our podcasts of prepared book talks, recorded at Bethany and Gere Branch Books Talk sessions, the staff of the libraries' BookGuide services are excited to announce our latest new addition: **'Casting About**.

'Casting About is an all-original weekly series of podcast recordings, featuring library staff from throughout the Lincoln City Libraries system – talking about books, recorded books, DVDs, magazines and much, much more. Each week, you can download the latest episode to hear a team of three library staff members holding a conversational discussion about both new releases and classics that deserve a second look. Content will cover fiction and non-fiction, with material appropriate for adults down to teens. Occasional episodes of BookGuide's **'Casting About** may also feature news about special upcoming library events, such as the **Summer Reading Program** in our premiere episode. Listeners can also leave comments in response to the episodes, on individual web pages for each individual podcast – we look forward to hearing from you!

As we go to press, we've now got two episodes of **'Casting About** available on-line, plus six (!!) podcast recordings of branch book talks. You can find them all either on the BookGuide site – look for the blue graphic (at right) next to the titles of Books Talk presentations at the link below – or on the main Lincoln City Libraries site – click on the **Blogs and Podcasts** link at the top of the page to get started. And don't forget to add the Podcasts feed to your RSS feed aggregator if you'd like to automatically receive future BooksTalk and **'Casting About** Podcasts, as soon as they become available!



<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org> or
<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/lists/booktalkbooklists.htm>

FOCUS ON: Marathon Running

One of the things the month of May is known for is **National Physical Fitness and Sports Month**. Combine that with Lincoln's 31st Annual Lincoln Marathon at the beginning of May, and it looks like running books are the logical topic for this month's mini-booklist. Stop in and pick up some of the following recent running-related titles! For more, try a catalog subject search under **"Marathon Running"** or **"Running"**.

- *The Extra Mile*, by Pam Reed [796.425 Ree]
- *Paul Tergat: Running to the Limit*, by Jurg Wirz [796.425 Wir]
- *Ultramarathon Man*, by Dean Karnazes [796.425 Kar]
- *Training for Young Distance Runners*, by Larry Greene [796.424 Gre]
- *New York Road Runners Complete Book of Running and Fitness*, by Gloria Averbuch [796.42 Ave]
- *Marathoning for Mortals*, by John Bingham [796.425 Bin]
- *Marathon Runner's Handbook*, by Bruce Fordyce [796.425 qFor]
- *Marathon Running the Complete Training Guide*, by Richard Nerurkar [796.425 Ner]
- *Marathon: The Ultimate Training Guide*, by Hal Higdon [796.426 Hig]
- *Better Training for Distance Runners*, by David Martin [796.424 qMar]
- *Boston: A Century of Running*, by Hal Higdon [796.425 qHig]
- *Secrets of Smart Running*, by Matt Greenwald [796.42 Gre]
- *Getting Real About Running*, by Gordon Bakoulis [796.426 Bak]
- *Marathon Challenge*, an episode of NOVA [DVD 796.426 Mar]

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

- May 2 Susan's Picks 2008! [Susan]
- May 9 Books in Bloom [Kaye]
- May 16 Passport to Peril [Donna]
- May 23 The War in Europe [Karen]
- May 30 Summer of Stories [Rayma] [Season Finale!]

Courtyard Book Chats...in the Garden! [Tuesdays in June/July 12:15 p.m.] [441-8530]

- June 3 Business and Leadership [Julie] [Season Premiere!]
- June 10 Passport to Peril [Donna]
- June 17 The Good Life: Nebraska Authors [Meredith]
- June 24 Cooking Adoptive Royal Killers [Charlotte]

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

- May 5 Love for Sale [Lisa]
- May 12 Passport to Peril [Donna]
- May 19 Sean's Recent Reads [Sean] [Season Finale!]

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

- May 29 "Holmes on the Range" by Steve Hockensmith
- June 26 "Parker Pyne Investigates" by Agatha Christie

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

- May 8 Thoreau – "Civil Disobedience" [Season Finale!]

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.**

[The Philip K. Dick Award](#)

Science fiction fans have long appreciated the odd works of writer Philip K. Dick. Upon his death in 1982, this award, named after him, was created to honor outstanding speculative fiction that makes its very first appearance in paperback form.

[Mysterious Nebraska](#)

Take a look at this list of mystery novels written by Nebraska authors, or actually set in the Cornhusker state.

Guest Review



Our Guest Reviewer for this issue is **Leta Powell Drake**, long-time Lincoln television and stage personality. Leta has enjoyed a long career in broadcast television as a host, producer, writer, announcer and program director. She has acted in more than 100 plays and 2 movies. She is a member of the Screen Actor's Guild and has served on the boards of directors of CFP, UNL Alumni Association, Lincoln Community Playhouse, Theatre Arts

for Youth, YMCA and The Salvation Army. Her most recent position has been Director of Development and Community Relations for The Salvation Army. Leta received her MA in Theatre Arts in 1967. She received her BA in Speech and English from the University of Minnesota.

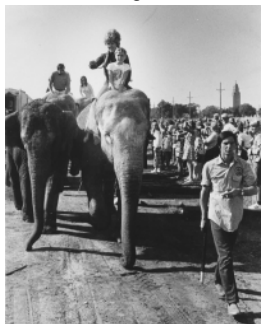
Leta is a frequent library patron, and when asked to contribute a review to the **BookGuide Bulletin**, sent us the following, including some personal photos! Thanks, Leta!

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

"There is good reason why Water for Elephants has been a best seller since the 2006 release. This is story-telling at its best. Set in the grim reality of the Great Depression of the 1930's, Jacob Jankowski, now in a nursing home at age 90 or 93 -- he doesn't like it there -- shares his memories of how and why, as a young man, he ran away to join the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth -- a far cry from the Ringling Brothers Greatest Show on Earth. Water for Elephants is a love story -- a three ring circus of grand illusion. The reader rides the circus train and discovers the hierarchy of circus workers and performers; the brutalities of circus life, not only for the animals but also for the people who work the circus. We become voyeurs, peeping behind the curtains of the side show into the lives of the freaks and the misfits who try as best they can to earn a living.



With twenty five percent of the American population unemployed during the depression, the circus provided work when jobs were hard to come by. It was a big deal when the traveling circus came to a small town. For a nominal fee, the circus offered a few exciting hours of distraction from their often drab lives. It was important to announce the arrival of the circus when the train brought them to town; unloading the animals as the performers, dressed in their glittering costumes, made their grand entrance by riding the elephants to the tent location. The train arrival was of particular interest to me, as I had the good fortune to ride circus elephants on two occasions from the train station to Pershing Auditorium when the circus came to Lincoln. People lined the streets in 1987 to watch Mayor Roland Luedtke, Helen Boosalis and Kay Orr ride their elephants as they campaigned for the office of Governor of the State of



Nebraska -- as if riding an elephant was an indication of their ability to guide the ship of state or the city. Riding an elephant is harder than it looks. It's not like riding a horse. The elephant's neck is so large, you cannot grip it with your knees. All you can do is spread your legs as wide as they will go and hang on for dear life to the thick rope around the animal's neck. Elephants are so large, you quickly become aware that it is a long way down to the pavement if you fell off as they ambled along. Fortunately, none of us were unseated. And what would a circus be without an elephant? Rosie the elephant plays a central role

in Water for Elephants. Jacob becomes the vet for the circus and is the only person who can communicate with Rosie.

I was intrigued that the author is a woman - telling a man's story. Sara Gruen just happened to see a vintage photo of a circus in a newspaper. She ordered the book of photography and got hooked. Gruen spent the next four and one half months researching circus history. Several pictures are included in the book. Perhaps I should not be surprised that a woman could tell this story. Gruen writes with tender and thoughtful insight about Jacob's life and his love for both animals and a circus performer. Another plus is the unexpected conclusion of the story. Fortunately, Water for Elephants is available in large type for the visually impaired. Reading Water for Elephants may not make you want to run away and join the Cirque de Soleil, but it will be time well spent considering it."

-- Leta Powell Drake, April 16, 2008

[Click Here to See Leta's Review online \(plus past Guest Reviews\)](#)
[\(also larger versions of the pictures shown here + one more\)](#)

Courtyard Book Chats...in the Garden!

Lunchtime book talks return to the downtown library this summer...but with a twist! Readers familiar with the **Courtyard Book Chats** held in the central courtyard at Bennett Martin Public Library the past two years, are now encouraged to join us as we go across the street to the **Lincoln Foundation Garden** (1415 "N" St.). Although we've enjoyed the cozy atmosphere of our own courtyard, we're hoping to create a little more excitement by taking these Noon book talks out into a more public venue.

So...if you're munching on your bagged lunch in the downtown area between Noon at 1:00 p.m., join us at the **Lincoln Foundation Garden** every Tuesday in June and July. Book talks begin at 12:15 and should end by 12:45. Each presentation has a specific theme...and here they are:

June 3 – Business and Leadership

June 10 – Passport to Peril

June 17 – The Good Life: Nebraska Authors

June 24 – Cooking Adoptive Royal Killers (a mixed bag)

July 1 – The Mean Magical Streets: Contemporary Urban Fantasy

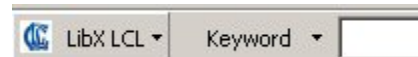
July 8 – Women in Islam

July 15 – The Arts in Literature

July 22 – Books I Found by Using LibraryThing

July 29 – Biographies: Looking to Score

Lincoln City Libraries Toolbar now available for Firefox browsers!



If your internet browser of choice is Firefox, you now have the option of downloading and installing the [LibX Firefox extension](#), which provides direct access to the Lincoln City Libraries catalog and other library resources, no matter where you may happen to be on the web.

In addition to a drop down toolbar (see graphic above) and a right-click context menu for searching the library catalog for terms you can highlight on any web page, you will also see our logo (at right) pop up on commercial sites such as [Amazon.com](#) or [BarnesandNoble.com](#), allowing you to search the library catalog for the availability of titles you're considering buying. That logo will also appear at the top of Google and Yahoo search pages, allowing you to search the library catalog for results based on your web search terms. Click on the LibX LCL graphic or link above for more information about downloading this helpful toolbar.

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 past 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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