

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

June 2008

Vol. 1 No. 23

[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/July
New and/or Featured Booklists
Adult Summer Reading Program
One Book – One Lincoln – 2008 finalists
Book Club in a Bag!
'Casting About – BookGuide podcast series
Courtyard Book Chats...in the Garden!
Focus On: **National Safety Month**

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

Bethany Books Talk is on hiatus until the Fall.

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

June 10 Passport to Peril [Donna]
June 17 The Good Life: Nebraska Authors [Meredith]
June 24 Cooking Adoptive Royal Killers [Charlotte]
July 1 The Mean (Magical) Streets: Modern Urban Fantasies
July 8 Women and Islam
July 15 The Arts in Literature
July 22 Books I Found by Using **LibraryThing**
July 29 Biographies: Looking to Score!

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

Gere Books Talk is on hiatus until the Fall.

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

June 26 "Parker Pyne Investigates" by Agatha Christie
July 31 "St. Alban's Fire" by Archer Mayor

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

Great Books Discussions are on hiatus until the Fall.

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 Holmes on the Range mystery series](#)

Fans of the classic Sherlock Holmes stories who don't mind a bit of tinkering with the formula may enjoy Steve Hockensmith's "Holmes on the Range" series, featuring a pair of brothers solving crimes on the American frontier using Holmes' "deducifying" methods.

[Nebraska Author Brandon Sanderson](#)

Former Lincolnite Brandon Sanderson has made a big name for himself as a hot new fantasy author. Check out some of his titles and read about his background.

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>

Adult Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program, traditionally an activity associated with children and teens, has introduced a new feature that should appeal to readers of the BookGuide web site – a brand new *Adult Summer Reading Program!*

Adults are encouraged to join kids and teens by making reading part of their summertime activities. Adults can stop in at their local library, or [register online](#). All participants receive a booklet that allows them to track their summer reading. Adult readers are encouraged to read (or listen to) at least four books, between May 30th and July 31st.

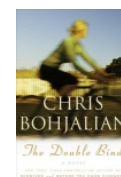
For each book a participant reads, they can fill out a slip to be entered into a drawing for a Book Lovers Bag at their local library branch. If they read (or listen to) the minimum 4 books, participants can fill out a form to be entered into a Grand Prize drawing at the end of the summer. Participants in the **Adult Summer Reading Program** must be 18 or older.



The five finalists for the 2008 **One Book – One Lincoln** community reading program were announced on Monday, June 16th. The group of four novels and one non-fiction book include the following:



[Double Bind](#)
by Chris Bohjalian



When college sophomore Laurel Estabrook is attacked while riding her bicycle through Vermont's back roads, her life is forever changed. Formerly outgoing, Laurel withdraws into her photography and begins to work at a homeless shelter. There she meets Bobbie Crocker, a man with a history of mental illness and a box of photographs that he won't let anyone see. When Bobbie dies suddenly, Laurel discovers that he was telling the truth: before he was homeless, Bobbie Crocker was a successful photographer who had indeed worked with such legends as Chuck Berry, Robert Frost, and Eartha Kitt. As Laurel's fascination with Bobbie's former life begins to merge into obsession, she becomes convinced that some of his photographs reveal a deeply hidden, dark family secret. Her search for the truth will lead her further from her old life - and into a cat-and-mouse game with pursuers who claim they want to save her.



[The Memory of Running](#)
by Ron McLarty

Meet Smithson "Smithy" Ide, an overweight, friendless, chain-smoking, forty-three-year-old drunk who works as a quality control inspector at a toy-action-figure factory in Rhode Island. By all accounts, especially Smithy's own, he's a loser. Then, within the span of one week, his beloved parents are killed in a car crash, and Smithy learns that his emotionally troubled, long-lost sister, Bethany, has turned up in a morgue in Los Angeles. Unmoored by the loss of his entire family - Smithy had always hoped Bethany might return - he rolls down the driveway of his parents' house on his old Raleigh bicycle into an epic journey that will take him clear across the country. As Smithy pedals across America - through New York City, St. Louis, Denver, and Phoenix, to name a few - he encounters humanity at its best and worst and begins to remember an early life that too many beers have blotted out. The baseball games, the home-cooked meals, the soothing presence of his salt-of-the-earth parents; none of it could transform the dark truth of his sister's madness.

[Three Cups of Tea](#)

by Greg Mortenson [915.491 Mor]



One day in 1993, high up in the world's most inhospitable mountains, Greg Mortenson wandered lost and alone, broken in body and spirit, after a failed attempt to climb K2, the world's deadliest peak. When the people of an impoverished village in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya took him in and nursed him back to health, Mortenson made an impulsive promise: He would return one day and build them a school. Although he was a homeless "climbing bum" living out of his aging Buick in Berkeley, California, Mortenson sold what few possessions he had to launch one of the most remarkable humanitarian campaigns of our time. [Three Cups of Tea](#) traces Mortenson's decade-long odyssey to build schools, especially for girls, throughout the region that gave birth to the Taliban and sanctuary to Al Qaeda. While he wages war with the root causes of terrorism - poverty and ignorance - by providing both girls and boys with a balanced, nonextremist education, Mortenson must survive a kidnapping, fatwas issued by enraged mullahs, death threats from Americans who consider him a traitor, and wrenching separations from his family. Today, as the director of the Central Asia Institute, Mortenson has built fifty-five schools serving Pakistan and Afghanistan's poorest communities. And as this real-life Indiana Jones from Montana crisscrosses the Himalaya and the Hindu Kush fighting to keep these schools functioning, he provides not only hope to tens of thousands of children, but living proof that one passionately dedicated person truly can change the world.



[The Thirteenth Tale](#)

by Diane Setterfield

The enigmatic Vida Winter has spent six decades creating various outlandish life histories for herself - all of them inventions that have brought her fame and fortune but have kept her violent and tragic

past a secret. Now old and ailing, she at last wants to tell the truth about her extraordinary life. She summons biographer Margaret Lea, a young woman for whom the secret of her own birth, hidden by those who loved her most, remains an ever-present pain. Struck by a curious parallel between Miss Winter's story and her own, Margaret takes on the commission. As Vida disinters the life she meant to bury for good, Margaret is mesmerized. It is a tale of gothic strangeness featuring the Angelfield family, including the beautiful and willful Isabelle, the feral twins Adeline and Emmeline, a ghost, a governess, a topiary garden and a devastating fire. Margaret succumbs to the power of Vida's storytelling but remains suspicious of the author's sincerity. She demands the truth from Vida, and together they confront the ghosts that have haunted them while becoming, finally, transformed by the truth themselves.

[The Book Thief](#)

by Markus Zusak



It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery... Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist -- books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

The final selection will be announced on September 8th, after which the times for book discussions and special programming events will be announced to the general public. A series of preview discussions will be held in July and August, with members of the selection committee talking about how the five finalists will be selected. You can find out more at:

www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/obol/obol2008/finlists.htm

Book Club in a Bag!

A new service being offered by the Lincoln City Libraries is launching alongside the announcement of the **One Book – One Lincoln** finalists -- ▶ **Book Club in a Bag!**



Bags, containing ten copies of popular fiction and non-fiction titles, plus suggested discussion questions, will be available for book discussion groups or organizations to check out from the library. Unlike the normal 3-week check-out period for books, **Book Club in a Bag** sets will be checked out for 8 weeks (with no renewals). **Book Club in a Bag** sets can also be placed on reserve, although there is no way to guarantee sets' availability at a specified date.

The **Book Club in a Bag** service is starting with the five 2008 **One Book – One Lincoln** finalist titles, but additional titles will be added to this program in coming months. You can find out what titles are available by searching the library catalog under **Subject: [Book Club in a Bag!](#)**

'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 six episodes of '**Casting About** available on-line, plus seven podcast recordings of branch book talks. We've also been recording this summer's **Courtyard Book Chats...in the Garden!** this year to share with listeners online. 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. You can also add the Podcasts feed to your RSS feed aggregator if you'd like to automatically receive future *Books Talk*, *Courtyard Book Chats* and '**Casting About** Podcasts, as soon as they become available!



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

Courtyard Book Chats ...in the Garden!

Lunchtime book talks have returned 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.).

So...if you're munching on your bagged lunch in the downtown area between Noon and 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: (also watch for podcasts of this summer's **Chats!**)

- 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

FOCUS ON: TOPIC

June is **National Safety Month**, sponsored by the National Safety Council and various other local and national agencies. The Lincoln City Libraries have a wide variety of materials related to topics associated with personal and family safety. Stop in and check out some of the following safety-related titles! For more, try a catalog subject search under "**Safety**", "**Safety – Children**" or "**Safety Education**".

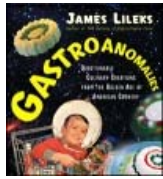
- *Child Survival Skills*, by Jerry Hyde [362.7 qHyd]
- *A Woman's Guide to Personal Safety*, by Janee Harteau [362.88 Har]
- *Learning How to Stay Safe at School*, by Susan Kent [371.782 Ken]
- *The Safe Baby: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Home Safety*, by Debra Holtzman [613.6 Hol]
- *Smart Parents, Safe Kids*, by Robert Stuber [649.1 Stu]
- *The McGruff Files: Dangerous Strangers*, [CD Rom j362.88 McG]
- *Safekids 101* [DVD 613.6 Saf]
- *A Kid's Guide to Staying Safe on the Streets*, by Maribeth Boelts [j613.6 Boe]
- *Safety First series*, by Joanne Mattern [j613.6 Mat]
- *Home Safety*, by Lucia Raatma [j613.6 Raa]
- *How to Stay Safe at Home and Online*, by Ira Wood [j613.6 Woo]
- *Babysitting Safety*, by Barbara Mehlman [j649.1 Meh]
- *Child Safety: It's No Accident*, [Video 613.6 Chi]
- *Give Your Kids a Fighting Chance*, by Rick Seid [Video j362.88 Sei]
- *I'm Safe on Wheels*, [Video j613.6 Im]

Staff Reviews

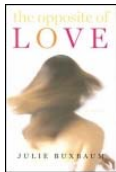
Gastroanomalies

by James Lileks

A sequel to Lilek's "Gallery of Regrettable Food", "Gastroanomalies" is a smorgasbord of awful culinary illustrations and horribly dated cultural references, wrapped up sarcasm, and lacerated with Lilek's sharp wit. The images in this book are alternately nauseating and hilarious, but without Lilek's off-the-wall humorous commentary they wouldn't be anywhere near as funny as they are. Honestly once you're finished with this book, you'll never look at your mother's cookbook collection the same way again!



-- recommended by Scott C. – Bennett Martin Public Library



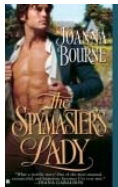
The Opposite of Love by Julie Buxbaum

Julie Buxbaum is a lawyer-turned-author whose first novel is a funny, sad tale of finding oneself. Emily sabotages her relationship because she thinks her boyfriend will leave eventually, so she should beat him to the punch. Her mother died when she was fourteen and her father is distant. How Emily finds out who she really is and what she's really made of is not the usual chick-lit journey.

-- recommended by Deanne J. - Gere Branch

The Spymaster's Lady by Joanna Bourne

An adventure story, a spy story, a love story--sharp, warm, incisive, at times humorous. The heroine is intelligent, sensitive, and quite resourceful. Set in Napoleonic times in France and England. A minimum of violence and sex.



-- recommended by Bob B. – Bennett Martin Public Library

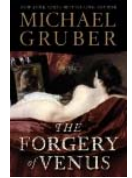


Doctor Who – Complete First Series

Longtime fans of the British television series **Doctor Who**, as well as viewers new to this time-traveling adventure series will appreciate this season-long boxed set of the 2006 episodes featuring Christopher Eccleston as The Doctor and Billie Piper as his new companion Rose Tyler. The series actually began in 1963, and concluded its 26th continuous season in 1989 (not counting occasional specials and/or films). An all-new production team revived the series in 2006, but rather than calling it the "27th season" they called this the "first season". Unlike the cheesy special effects of the 1960s and 1970s, this series is mostly state-of-the-art, and features excellent acting performances, especially from Eccleston and Piper. Long-time fans will appreciate that the new producers are very conscious of decades' worth of continuity, while still wanting to put a new fresh spin on the series. All in all, a spectacular rebirth for one of television science fiction's legends. Bravo!

-- recommended by Scott C. – Bennett Martin Public Library

The Forgery of Venus by Michael Gruber



In his latest book, Gruber examines themes of art's creation and its imitation, the nature of time, and the very essence of what it means to know and remember. "The Forgery of Venus" tells the story of Chaz Wilmot, a painter and a reluctant fixture on the New York art scene. Chaz is blessed with phenomenal artistic talent, but is thwarted in his career by his inability to paint for the buying public. Instead of selling his work for big money in upscale Manhattan galleries, he makes a meager living painting in the style of other famous artists, some living, some long dead, for magazines and other publications. Chaz has two ex-wives to support, and several children as well, one of whom has a life-threatening illness. His life, and theirs, would be infinitely easier if he could just bring himself to sell his original paintings to the art-collecting crowd that he despises. Then Chaz hears from a couple of old college friends, one a doctor conducting research on a creativity-enhancing chemical, and one an artists' agent offering him a lucrative fresco restoration job in Italy. Never one to turn down free drugs or travel, and chronically short of cash, Chaz says yes to both and the plot thickens considerably. To provide too much detail would be to lessen the impact of an intricately written and superbly imagined tale. The book is worth reading simply for Gruber's descriptions of world-famous paintings, particularly those of Diego Velazquez, who figures prominently in the story. Gruber is a virtuoso when it comes to jumping between time periods, and meshing the past with the present. Art lovers, history buffs and fans of time-travel stories will all find something magical in this book - a real masterpiece of fiction writing.

-- recommended by Lisa V. – Bennett Martin Public Library

[Click here to see more Staff Recommendations from this month plus an archive of all past Staff Recommendations by title or reviewer](#)

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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