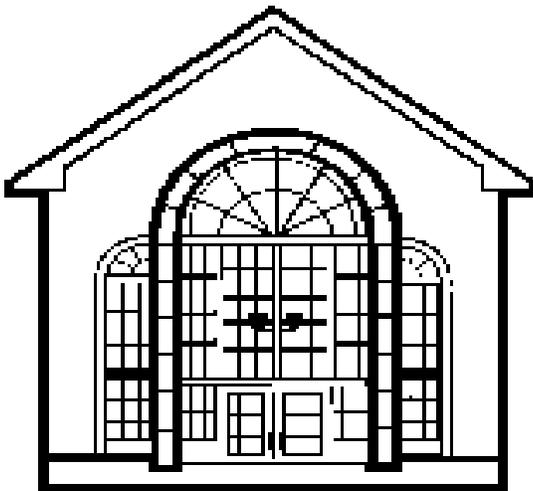


My Staff Pick Reading Log



Hershey Public Library
701 Cocoa Ave.
Hershey, PA 17033
www.hersheylibrary.org

HERSHEY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S

STAFF PICKS



A gift from us to you!

Compiled May 2014

View past staff picks from
our website at
www.hersheylibrary.org
or
browse our *Staff Picks* Binder

For one who reads, there is no limit to the number of lives that may be lived, for fiction, biography, and history offer an inexhaustible number of lives in many parts of the world, in all periods of time." - Louis L' Amour

The staff at the Hershey Public Library would like to share with you some of the wonderful books we've been reading this past year.

Enjoy!

Key:

LP (Large Print) B (Biography)
cd (audio book on cd) cas (audio book on cassette)
pb (paperback) © (Debut-new author's first book)
* Book suggested for book groups

1,227 Quite Interesting Facts to Blow Your Socks Off by John Lloyd, John Mitchinson and James Harkin (031.02 LLO) - An extraordinary wealth of information packed in an easy to read book. A must-read for trivia lovers.

The Accident by Chris Pavone (FIC PAV, LP FIC PAV) - With terrific surprises and high-quality writing, this engaging thriller proves once again that Chris Pavone is a true master of suspense.

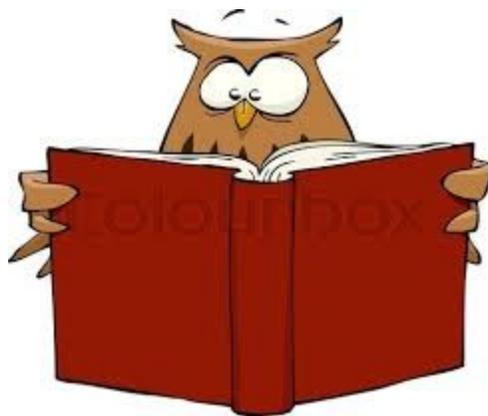
A Constellation of Vital Phenomena: A Novel by Anthony Marra (FIC MAR, LP FIC MAR) - This authentic and heartbreaking debut novel tells the story of eight people (and a nation) during the years of two Chechen Wars. A spellbinding elegy for an overlooked land engulfed by an oft forgotten war. ☺ *

A Pebble for Your Pocket by Thich Nhat Hanh (J 294.3 NHA) - Using colorful stories and vivid metaphors, this book presents the basic teachings of mindfulness in a way that can easily be understood by young people.

A Star for Mrs. Blake: A Novel by April Smith (FIC SMI, LP FIC SMI) - A beautifully written and meticulously researched novel about five Gold Star Mothers who traveled from America to their sons' graves in France. A heartfelt glimpse of a little known episode in U.S. History. *



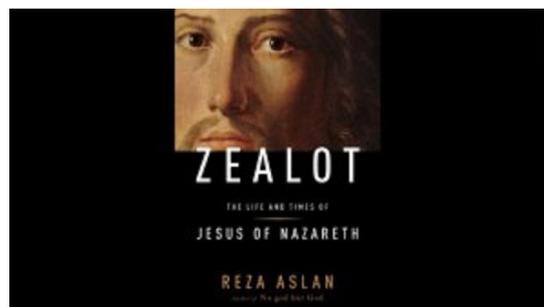
Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton (FIC WHA, LP FIC WHA, pb C 246, dvd FIC AGE) - An excellent period piece describing perfectly the culture of upper middle class New York at the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century. A true "classic."



Wordbirds: An Irreverent Lexicon for the 21st Century by Liesl Schillinger (422 SCH) - Schillinger demonstrates a keen talent for zooming in on expressions missing from our vocabulary. You'll want to share these clever coinages with your friends and many of these words may even make it into our expanding collective lexicon.

Word of Mouse by Marc Ostrofsky (303.48 OST) - In this groundbreaking new book, Ostrofsky reveals the ways that new technologies implant themselves in our daily lives and how we can easily take advantage of them to live, learn, buy, sell, work, play, communicate and socialize by.

Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan (232.9 ASL, LP 232.9 ASL) - A fascinating, provocative and meticulously researched biography that challenges long-held assumptions about the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth. Aslan's insistence on human and historical actuality turns out to be far more interesting than dogmatic theology.

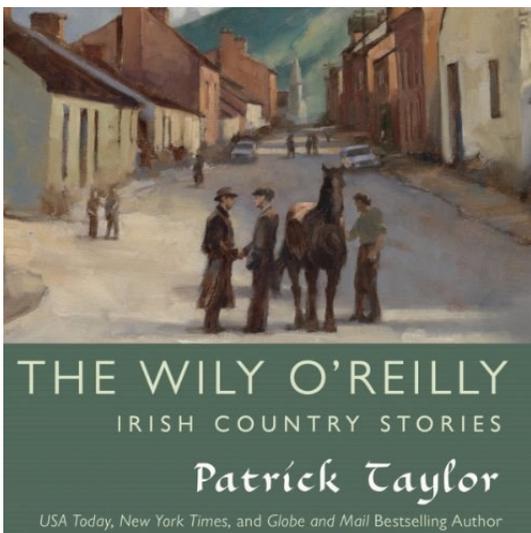


Spirit of Steamboat : A Walt Longmire Story by Craig Johnson (MYS JOH, cd FIC JOH) - Set on Christmas Eve-this entertaining novella offers the earliest glimpse of Walt Longmire's tenure as sheriff of Wyoming's Absaroka County. An extremely pleasant present for fans of this popular series.

Sworn to Silence by Linda Castillo (MYS CAS, cd FIC CAS) - Ohio's Amish country serves as the bucolic backdrop for romance novelist Castillo's consistently chilling mystery debut. Lovers of suspense will find this a perfectly crafted thriller.

Why Does the World Exist: An Existential Detective Story by Jim Holt (113 HOL) - Tackling the "darkest question in all of philosophy," author Jim Holt explores the greatest metaphysical mystery of all: Why is there something rather than nothing?"

The Wily O'Reilly: Irish Country Stories by Patrick Taylor ((FIC TAY, LP FIC TAY, cd FIC TAY) - A collection of the early stories that formed the basis for The Irish Country Doctor novels by Patrick Taylor. Fans of Taylor's popular Irish Country novels may not know it, but the inimitable Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly first appeared in a series of entertaining columns originally published in *Stitches: The Journal of Medical Humor*.



All Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion: A Novel by Fannie Flagg (FIC FLA, LP FIC FLA, cd FIC FLA) - Author Fannie Flagg is at her hilarious and superb best in the new comic mystery novel about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are. There are plots, twists, adventures, heartbreak and familiar love in spades.

B is for Bookworm: A Library Alphabet by Anita C. Prieto (JP PRIETO) - Prieto uses the alphabet format to introduce children to library terminology and the history of books.



Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo (305.56 BOO, LP 305.56 BOO) The gap between the haves and the have-nots in India is staggering to behold. In this book, the author jolts the reader's consciousness with the opposing realities of poverty and wealth in a searing visit to a slum in the western suburb of Mumbai. *

Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty (332.041 PIK) - Thomas Piketty analyzes a unique collection of data from twenty countries, ranging as far back as the eighteenth century, to uncover key economic and social patterns.

The Coldest Girl in Coldtown by Holly Black (Y BLA) - Complete with grisly violence, this intriguingly complex take on the mechanics of vampirism and well-developed and memorable characters will satisfy vampire addicts of all ages.

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers (JP DAYWALT) - The clever story of a box of crayons with energetic and joyful illustrations to convey the strength and comedy of crayons' sentiments. Children will laugh in recognition at seeing their own color preferences reflected back at them.

Detroit: An American Autopsy by Charlie LeDuff (977.4 LED) - The unbelievable story of Detroit, once the richest city in the nation-that is now the poorest. It reads like fiction but it reflects the harsh reality and sometimes dark humor of Detroit today.

Dreams of Joy by Lisa See (FIC SEE, LP FIC SEE, cd FIC SEE) - In this sequel to See's bestselling *Shanghai Girls*, a daughter's flight leads to further family upheavals against the backdrop of one of the world's worst human-engineered catastrophes. *

The Expats: A Novel by Chris Pavone (FIC PAV, cd FIC PAV) - Kate Moore's days are filled with playdates and coffee mornings along with weekends spent in Paris. However, Kate is guarding a tremendous, life-defining secret so unbearable it begins to unravel her newly established expat life. *

Five Days at Memorial: Life and death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital by Sheri Fink (362.11 FIN, LP 362.11 FIN) - This book by journalist and doctor Sheri Fink is a meticulous reconstruction in minute details of events at Memorial Medical Center during the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

The Great Deformation: The Corruption of Capitalism in America by David Stockman (330.973 STO) - A compelling and intensely readable book that exhumes aspects of economic history that both Democrats and Republicans wish would have stayed hidden.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald (FIC FIT, LP FIC FIT, pb C 1153, cd FIC FIT, dvd FIC GRE, cas FIC FIT) - A portrait of the Jazz Age in all of its decadence and excess. This novel has captured the spirit of the author's generation and earned itself a permanent place in American Literature.

Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary canal by Mary Roach (612.3 ROA, LP 612.3 ROA) - A story about reveling in the extraordinary complexities and magnificence of human digestion. Never before has the process of eating been so interesting.

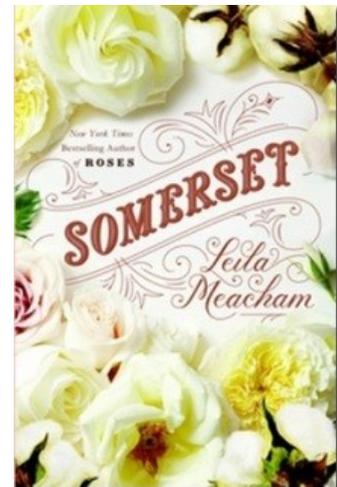
Happy, Happy, Happy: My Life and Legacy as the Duck Commander by Phil Robertson (B ROB, LP B ROB) - This no-holds-barred autobiography chronicles the remarkable life of Phil Robertson, the original Duck Commander and Duck Dynasty® Star, from childhood through the founding of a family business.

The Silver Star: A Novel by Jeanette Walls (FIC WAL, LP FIC WAL, cd FIC WAL) - A heart-breaking and redemptive novel about an intrepid girl who challenges the injustice of the adult world. It is a triumph of imagination and storytelling. Using Bean's expertly crafted, naively stubborn voice, Walls contemplates the extraordinary bravery needed to confront real-life demons. *

Six Questions of Socrates : A Modern-Day Journey of Discovery through World Philosophy by Christopher Phillips (179.9 PHI) - This book asks the perennial questions of philosophy and extends the scope of their response-ability to a global philosophical engagement.

The Snow Queen by Michael Cunningham (FIC CUN) - An apparition spotted in Central Park has a man marveling at the place of magic in our lives. Or is it all just a trick of the light? Cunningham weaves the secret of transcendence through the mundane occurrences of everyday life in what may be his most original and emotionally piercing book to date. *

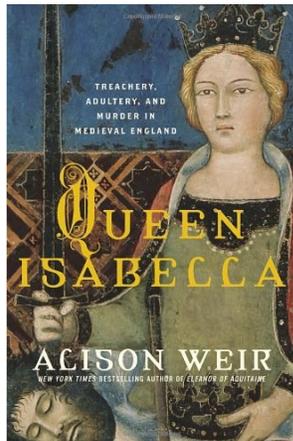
Somerset by Leila Meacham (FIC MEA, LP FIC MEA) - Meacham returns to her beloved Tolivers and Warwicks in this prequel to her first surprise best-seller *Roses* (2010). It is a compelling saga with echoes of *Gone with the Wind*. Readers who like an old-fashioned saga will devour this novel of passion and revenge.



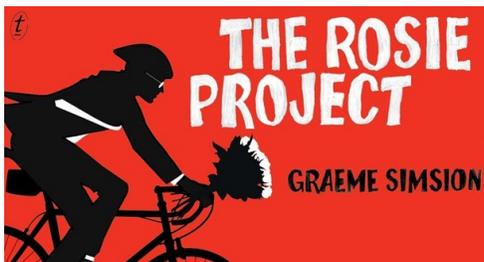
A Prisoner of Birth by Jeffrey Archer (FIC ARC, LP FIC ARC, cd FIC ARC) - Bestselling author Archer puts a modern spin to Dumas' *Count of Monte Cristo* in this fascinating updating of the adventure classic. Through various plot twists and a slam-bang courtroom finale, readers will be thoroughly entertained.

Queen Isabella: Treachery, Adultery, and Murder in Medieval England

by Alison Weir (B ISA, cd 920 ISA, cas B ISA) - Weir, in this book all British-history fans will devour, chooses, after much research and deliberation to see her subject in more rounded terms than as "one of the most notorious femme fatales in history."



The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion (FIC SIM, LP FIC SIM) - An affectionate and intelligent story of a middle-aged autistic man's search for love. A warm tale that teaches us to see the funny side of our own incomprehensible behaviors to embrace the differently abled. *



Run!: 26.2 Stories of Blisters and Bliss by Dean Karnazes (796.42 KAR) - World renowned ultra marathoner Dean Karnazes chronicles his unbelievable exploits and explorations across some of the most exotic and inhospitable places on earth including the Australian Outback, Antarctica and the back alleys of New Jersey.

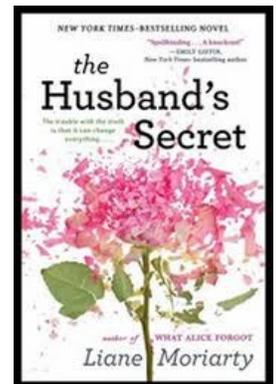
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford (FIC FOR, LP FIC FOR) - Ford's first novel explores the age-old conflicts between father and son, the beauty and sadness of what happened to Japanese Americans in Seattle during World War II and the depths and longing of deep-heart love. ☺ *

How to Live: Or A Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer

by Sarah Bakewell (B MON) - More than just a straightforward biography of Michael de Montaigne, this book explores the fundamental questions of living through the philosophy, beliefs, essays and experiences of the French Master.

The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty (FIC MOR, LP FIC MOR) -

This is a novel about secrets and what we choose to do with them. It is the story of three women as they deal with unforeseen truths. Written with alternating perspectives of all three women, this book is very difficult to put down. (2) *



The Illusion of Separateness: A Novel

by Simon Van Booy (FIC VAN) - A harrowing and enchanting story of how one man's act of mercy during World War II changed the lives of strangers and how they each discover the astonishing truth of their connection. This short and deceptively simple novel is likely to grown in stature as it lingers in memory. *

*****The Interestings: A Novel*** by Meg Wolitzer (FIC WOL) - This compelling, coming of age story is about five privileged kids who meet at a summer camp for artsy teens in 1974 and survive as friends through the competitions and realities of growing up. *

** Readers may also enjoy comparing this novel with Claire Messud's *The Emperor's Children*, to probe the unpredictable relationships between early promise and success and the more dependable one between self-acceptance and happiness.

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd (FIC KID, LP FIC KID, cd FIC KID) - Inspired by the true story of early-nineteenth-century abolitionist Sarah Grimke, Kidd paints a moving portrait of two women inextricably linked by the horrors of slavery. (2) *

Killing Jesus: A History by Bill O'Reilly (232.96 ORE, LP 232.96 ORE) -This page-turning work takes readers inside Jesus' life, recounting the seismic political and historical events that make his death inevitable and changes the world forever. *

The Lacuna: A Novel by Barbara Kingsolver (FIC KIN, cd FIC KIN) - This powerfully imagined novel takes us on an epic journey from the Mexico of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor and FDR. It is the story of a man pulled between two nations. *

The Light Between Oceans: A Novel by M.L. Stedman (FIC STE, LP FIC STE, cd FIC STE) - Stunning debut novel that draws the reader into the emotionally complex story right from the beginning with lush description of the savage and beautiful Australian coast. ☺ *

The Little Girl Who Fought the Great Depression: Shirley Temple and 1930s America by John F. Kasson (B TEM, LP B TEM) - An illuminating and highly entertaining look at the life and career of the greatest young movie star of her era.

Marathon Man: My 26.2 Mile Journey from Unknown Grad Student to the Top of the Running World by Bill Rodgers (796.42 ROD) - In this characteristically, strong-willed autobiography, Bill Rodgers, the dominant marathoner writes about his prowess, triumphs, problems and his place in marathon history.

Necessary Lies by Diane Chamberlain (FIC CHA, LP FIC CHA) - A powerful novel which brings to the surface the disturbing truths about the eugenics sterilization program implemented in North Carolina in the 1960s. It expertly intertwines history and matters of the heart—love, loyalty and choosing what is right, no matter the consequences. *

Night Film: A Novel by Marissa Pessl (FIC PES) - A page turning thriller that tells the haunting story of a journalist who becomes obsessed with the mysterious death of a troubled prodigy—the daughter of an iconic, reclusive filmmaker.

One Light Still Shines: My Life Beyond the Shadow of the Amish School Shooting by Marie Monville (277.3 MOM) - Marie Roberts Monville, the wife of the man who created the horror of the Amish schoolhouse shooting at Nickel Mines, tells her story for the very first time.

Orphan Train: A Novel by Christina Baker Kline (FIC KLI, LP FIC KLI) - A powerful novel of upheaval and unexpected friendship and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we really are. It is a story about the search for family that also happens to illuminate a fascinating and forgotten chapter of American history. *

The Painted Girls: A Novel by Cathy Marie Buchanan (FIC BUC) - The ethereal ballerina from Degas's famed *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*, comes to life in this richly imagined novel. Amid the glamour of tutus and art emerges a gritty story of survival in the gutters of 19th century Paris. *



The Power of Simple Prayer: How to Talk with God about Everything by Joyce Meyer (248.3 MEY, cd 248.3 MEY) - Meyer gives readers a new perspective on how best to communicate with God. She reveals that through prayerful conversation comes the ability to be successful in life, strong at heart and sincere with others.