

Summer
2008



The Fiction Connection

The Fiction Newsletter of Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

Summer is coming!

Things to do this summer:

- ✓ Relax
- ✓ Read
- ✓ Visit the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library
- ✓ Attend a book discussion

Summer is a great time to try something different. Why not come to one of the book discussions offered by Kansas City, Kansas Public Library? You don't have to "join"- just choose a book that looks interesting to you and come to the discussion. Do you like to read newer fiction? Are you a fan of inspirational stories? Are you interested in reading books that explore women's issues and topics pertaining to racial and social justice? One of the many discussions sponsored by KCKPL should appeal to you – see page 4 for a list of discussions planned for summer. Try attending one or all!

Coming soon!

Celebrate United We Read 2008

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

KCKPL will be sponsoring
contests, films, book discussions,
and

a special exhibit of paintings created by
our own Kansas City Zoo elephants!

Look for more information in late summer.

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Fiction reveals truths that reality obscures. ~Jessamyn West

Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Fame and scandal have always led to gossip and the inevitable hounding by the press that ensues is not just a current day phenomenon. Mamah Borthwick Cheney and Frank Lloyd Wright's love affair created a media frenzy more than a century ago. In this heavily researched historical novel, Horan weaves fact and fiction into a compelling story about a woman who has been relegated to being a footnote in history. Mamah, independent and well educated, rebelled against the social restrictions imposed on women in the early 20th century. Frank and Mamah both married and with children, met when Mamah's husband, Edwin, commissioned Frank to design a house. The resulting love affair became the stuff of headlines when Frank and Mamah fled to Europe. Horan depicts the vibrant creative intelligence of Frank Lloyd Wright very well but succeeds brilliantly in her recreation of her primary interest, Mamah. *Loving Frank* is a debut novel that successfully provides the reader with a window into the life of an early feminist and her famous lover.

KCKPL call number: Fiction HORAN

Loving Frank is the July selection of the Reader's Corner Book Club sponsored by the Main Library. You are welcome to drop in to any of the discussions, please see page 4 for details.



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What's new in the African American Fiction Collection?

***The Amputated Memory: A Song-novel* by Werewere - Liking**

Winner of UNESCO's Noma Award for publishing in Africa, this breakthrough novel draws on Werewere - Liking's personal experience coming-of-age in Cameroon, West Africa, in the late 1950s. The Noma award jury states: "Werewere-Liking's novel or - chant-roman - is a truly remarkable achievement, illustrating the potential of African literature to renew and regenerate its forms. This is a deeply felt presentation of the female condition in Africa; and a celebration of women as the country's memory, and feminine patriotism and wisdom as central to the question for the self-determination of Africa."

KCKPL call number: African American Fiction WEREWERE

***Song Yet Sung* by James McBride**

McBride (author of the bestselling memoir *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*) writes a novel set against a backdrop of slave rights conflicts in the nineteenth-century Chesapeake Bay region. Liz Spocott a young runaway slave inadvertently inspires a slave break-out. Making expert use of folklore, McBride creates a story of retribution and sacrifice.

KCKPL call number: African American Fiction MCBRIDE

***The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Moshin Hamid**

Hired by an elite New York City firm after graduating at the top of his class at Princeton, Changez, a young Pakistani, lives the immigrant's dream of America until the attacks of September 11, 2001. After the Twin Towers fall, Changez' life is overturned. At a café table in Lahore, Pakistan he tells his tale over dinner to an uneasy American Stranger. KCKPL call number: Fiction HAMID

The Reluctant Fundamentalist is the May selection of the Reader's Corner Book Club sponsored by the Main Library. You are welcome to drop in to any of the discussions, please see page 4 for details.

What's new on the Mystery Shelves?

Diving into a good mystery is a great way to enjoy a hot summer day. Here is a sample of the newest books to arrive on KCKPL's mystery shelves:

The Eye of Jade by Diane Wei Liang / KCKPL call number: Mystery LIANG

The Miracle at Speedy Motors by Alexander McCall Smith/KCKPL call number: Mystery MCCALL

The Firemaker by Peter May/ KCKPL call number: Mystery MAY

Buckingham Palace Gardens by Anne Perry / KCKPL call number: Mystery PERRY

The Book of Old Houses by Sarah Graves / KCKPL call number: Mystery GRAVES

Inspirational Book Club Choices

***Ten Thousand Charms* by Allison K. Pittman**

Life on the western frontier held little promise for women alone! Born into a life of prostitution, Gloria longs for family of her own. Agreeing to nurse widowed John MacGregan's baby in exchange for John raising *her* son, she pretends her dreams have come true. When fantasy turns to fear, where will Gloria and John turn? **Discussion—June 12**

***Watching the Tree Limbs* by Nancy Demuth**

Callously passed from relative to relative, 9-year-old orphan Mara takes comfort in her imagination---especially playing Nancy Drew with her best friend, Camilla. But some mysteries seem unsolvable. Who is her mother? Why won't the neighborhood bully stop abusing her? Can she endure the heartache of a shattered childhood and begin again? **Discussion—July 10**

***Hidden Places* by Lynn Austin**

Eliza Wyatt, a widowed mother of three, is desperately struggling to run the family orchard in the midst of the Great Depression. When a stranger arrives, offering to work for food, she thinks God has answered her prayers for help. Drawn to the man and the surprising discovery of the typewriter he carries in his sack, she secretly reads his story. Suspecting he is not who he claims, she is afraid to give him her heart. Will he prove to be a sham or will he alter her future forever? **Discussion—August 14**

The Inspirational Book Club meets 7:00pm at the West Wyandotte Branch on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Submitted by Sarah Bohndorf

Summer Book Discussions

Argentine Library

2800 Metropolitan Ave
(913) 722-7400

Main Library & Bookmobile

625 Minnesota Ave.
(913) 551-3280

West Wyandotte Library

1737 N. 82 nd St.
(913) 596-5800

F.L. Schlagle Library

4051 West Drive
(913) 299-2384

Turner Community Library

831 S. 55th St
(913) 596-1404

Visit us online at:

<http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us>

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse

10:00 a.m., sponsored by West Wyandotte Library
Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail by Malika Oufkir

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Inspirational Book Club

7:00 p.m., West Wyandotte Library
Hurricane by Janice Thompson

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Reader's Corner Book Club

2:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café, sponsored by Main Library
The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Moshin Hamid

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Common Grounds Book Discussion Group

1:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café
Autobiography of a Face by Lucy Grealy and
Truth & Beauty by Ann Patchett, co-Sponsored by Main Library & YWCA

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Reader's Corner Book Club

5:30 p.m., Main Library
The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Moshin Hamid

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse

10:00 a.m., sponsored by West Wyandotte Library
My Antonia by Willa Cather

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Inspirational Book Club

7:00 p.m., West Wyandotte Library
Ten Thousand Charms by Allison K. Pittman

Thursday, July 3, 2008

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse

10:00 a.m., sponsored by West Wyandotte Library
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Inspirational Book Club

7:00 p.m., West Wyandotte Library
Watching the Tree Limbs by Mary E. Demuth

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Reader's Corner Book Club

2:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café, sponsored by Main Library
Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Reader's Corner Book Club

5:30 p.m., Main Library
Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Thursday, August 7, 2008

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse

10:00 a.m., West Wyandotte Library
The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

Thursday, August 14, 2008

Inspirational Book Club

7:00 p.m., West Wyandotte Library
Hidden Places by Lynn Austin

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

Common Grounds Book Discussion Group

1:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café, co-sponsored by Main Library & YWCA
The Face Behind the Veil: The Extraordinary Lives of Muslim Women in America by Donna Gehrke-White



"I figure that for summer, you need books at two opposite extremes: small, lightweight volumes to slip into your bag for trips, and fat, heavy volumes for long days at the beach." Anne Tyler, Pulitzer Prize winning author.