Summer Reading

Recommended by Central Library fiction selector librarian Jacki Potratz

The Vacationers by Emma Straub. Fiction. 2014.
Franny and Jim Post are celebrating their anniversary and their daughter’s high school graduation with a vacation in Mallorca with extended family and old friends. Secrets and rivalries will reveal aspects of themselves they would prefer to conceal, but find they cannot.

The Secret Life of Violet Grant by Beatriz Williams.
Romance. 2014.
Vivian Schuyler has just graduated in 1964 from Bryn Mawr and is defying the privilege of her Fifth Avenue family to break into the Madison Avenue world of fashion magazines. When she receives a suitcase from her Aunt Violet, who was rumored to have murdered her husband in 1914 and run off with her lover, Vivian is set on finding out the truth.

Fourth of July Creek by Smith Henderson. Fiction. 2014.
Social worker Pete Snow’s 13-year-old daughter has disappeared and he can no longer deny that he’s failed his family. While his own family is in shambles, he tries to help a nearly feral boy living in the Montana wilderness and sparks the interest of the F. B. I. This puts him in the middle of a manhunt from which no one will escape untouched.

Summer House With Swimming Pool by Herman Koch. Fiction. 2014.
A famous actor is dead and his doctor is the man they’re looking to for answers. The previous summer they spent a week together with their families, including the doctor’s teenaged daughters. As details about that week are revealed, not much becomes clear; except that no one can be trusted.

A teenaged girl has an unexplained seizure during class. Without official word from a doctor, wild speculation on the part of parents, teachers and students ramps the whole town into hysteria. As more girls start getting sick, the unnamed hazardous illness destroys families and friendships.

That Night by Chevy Stevens. Mystery. 2014.
One summer night’s events resulted in Toni and her boyfriend, Ryan, being convicted of murder and sent to prison. Allegedly, they’re responsible for brutally murdering Toni’s youngest sister. Now Toni’s out on parole, but the girls who gave her hell in high school are still ready to give it, and are harboring very dark secrets of their own. Before Toni can move on, she’s got to find out what really happened that night.
The Arsonist by Sue Miller. Fiction. 2014.
The people in a small New England town are fraught with fear as an arsonist begins setting fire to their summer homes. Liabilities are exposed, and Frankie Rowley finds out disquieting details about her aging parents while she embarks on a torrid affair with a local journalist.

That Summer by Lauren Willig. Fiction. 2014.
Julia learns that she’s inherited a house outside London from an unknown great-aunt. Hidden behind an old wardrobe she discovers a painting of doomed lovers. The mysterious old house, a secret love affair and her search for the truth quickly take over her summer.

Land of Love and Drowning by Tiphanie Yanique. Fiction. 2014.
In 1916, a family is shipwrecked off the Virgin Islands. Each possesses a particular magic, and they survive and raise three generations on the island. As global conflicts occur, their lives are affected by the world at large in this breathtaking story of love and island life.

The Map Thief by Michael Blanding. 364.1628 B642. 2014.
Once considered a respectable antiquarian map dealer, E. Forbes Smiley spent years doubling as a map thief until he was finally arrested. Now, the first reporter to gain access to Smiley teases out an astonishing tale of destruction and deception.

The award-winning chef explores farming practices around the world and reveals that America’s cuisine is in desperate need of a radical transformation. Barber charts a new path towards making food sustainable and delicious.

Through the Woods by Emily Carroll. Young Adult. GRPH CARROLL. 2014.
Carroll presents five hauntingly beautiful graphic stories, including the online webcomic His Face All Red. These are fairy tales gone awry such as Our Neighbor’s House, where one can enter, but might not be able to exit, and A Lady’s Hands Are Cold, where a young bride lives in a house with a horrible secret. The stories are eerily intriguing and the stunning visual art will delight.


Stars and Strikes: Baseball and America in the Bicentennial Summer of ’76 by Dan Epstein. 796.3570973 E645ST. 2014.
Detailing the characters, events, and cultural forces behind the American bicentennial celebration, this chronicle of America and baseball reveals how 1976 became the year that both the nation and its national pastime were revolutionized.
Traveling with Edith Wharton

Members returned from the Friends’ trip to New York City in May with a rich understanding of Edith Wharton’s world. Over the course of four days, the well-crafted tours – including Henry Clay Frick’s Fifth Avenue mansion and art collection, J.P. Morgan’s private library, and architectural gems near Central Park – illuminated the life of Wharton and her characters. Library Director Paula Kiely, who accompanied the group, arranged a behind-the-scenes tour at the New York Public Library, which included a private exhibit of rare manuscripts.

On the final day, the group visited Edith Wharton’s house, The Mount, in Lenox, Massachusetts. The estate has been so perfectly restored that it seems as though Wharton and her guests have just left each room. Her boudoir appears exactly as it did when she worked there with her secretary. Friends members ended their visit with lunch on the sunny terrace overlooking Wharton’s French and Italian gardens.

Photo of The Mount by Paula Kiely

Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library Fund Increased Offerings for Popular Collections

This spring, the Friends supported enhancements for two highly popular library collections – Box Office Hits and Graphic Novels. The library can often see hundreds of people waiting for copies of recently released movies and graphic novels. These collections appeal to different audiences and may encourage visitors in search of these items to explore the other incredible resources the library has to offer.

Proceeds from Friends book sales, the Bookseller Used Book Store, and Friends book carts make grants like this possible. Thank you for your support of the Friends and the Milwaukee Public Library.

Jeff Cirillo Charity Golf Classic | September 22nd, 2014 | River Club of Mequon

The 5th Annual Jeff Cirillo Charity Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 22, 2014 at the River Club of Mequon, 12400 North Ville Du Pare Drive in Mequon. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation. For sponsorship and registration information, please visit www.mpl.org and click on Support, Jeff Cirillo Golf Classic.

10¢ Used Book Sale: Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Meeting Room 1

Featuring a large selection of used books, books on tape, magazines, comics, sheet music, children’s books and more. All proceeds from this sale benefit the Milwaukee Public Library. Friends members may enter sales 30 minutes before the public with current membership card. Please use the Eighth Street entrance and present your card.

There will be a 1/2 price sale in the Bookseller Used Book Store during the 10-cent Sale.

Next sale: November 22, Holiday Sale ~ Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.
The Target by David Baldacci. Fiction. 2014.
The third novel in the Will Robie series continues the adventures of a beaten and disgraced Robie, along with partner Jessica Reel, who must once again protect the nation from evil forces while dodging a malicious boss who wishes them harm. Great for spy buffs and those who love authors like Robert Ludlum.

Shadow Spell by Nora Roberts. Romance. 2014.
Meara, Iona and Connor are descendants of the powerful Dark Witch. To protect her children, she sacrificed herself after an evil sorcerer killed her husband and tried to take her powers. Now the evil is back to face the Dark Witch’s descendants.

Mac & Cheese lovers: This book includes the history of the dish, ideas for cheese and pasta pairings, and exciting new recipes like cannelloni shells with peach jam and ground ghost pepper.

The Grow Your Own Food Handbook by Monte Burch. 635.0484 B947. 2014.
Growing your own food takes organization and planning. Burch offers information on garden planning, details on popular herbs, vegetables and fruits, and advice on soil conditions, fertilizers, garden beds, starting seeds, harvesting, and fall/winter care and pruning.

Mr. Mercedes by Stephen King. Horror. 2014.
King’s fresh novel breaks from his old traditions, but there are still multiple main characters with depth and substance. No perfect people doing everything right, as mistake after mistake is made by the good guy gumshoe and the serial killer ice cream truck driver.

Creative Ideas to Organize Your Home: 50 Step-By-Step Projects to Bring Order Into Your Life by Linda Peterson. 648.8 P485. 2014.
Ready to tackle the clutter in your home? Crafting and organizing meet in this guide to creating organization solutions. Peterson outlines 50 DIY projects to help de-clutter your space. Tools, materials, and techniques are outlined with photographs and detailed descriptions. Many of the projects involve repurposing and recycling common items.


Blogger and color enthusiast Will Taylor released this guide to embracing color in your home. Filled with photographs and easy instructions, he gives readers a boost of confidence to explore a colorful new world. For more ideas, check out his blog Bright Bazaar at www.brightbazaarblog.com/

This novel is a book lover’s dream. Zevin uses the life of quirky bookstore owner A.J. Fikry to reveal how books connect people and change lives. A loving homage to classic literature and privately owned bookstores.

Contributed by Atkinson Library Branch Manager Casey Lapworth, Librarian Hillary Evans, Library Reference Assistant Jonathan Osmer, and Library Youth Educator Teri Tischer.
Children’s Room

Summer

Have You Seen My Dragon? by Steve Light.
PIC LIGHT (Ages 4-7)
This unique counting book will be a hit with children who love looking at finely detailed illustrations and searching for hidden items on each page. A boy has lost his dragon and must search the city for him. Great fun for all!

The Pigeon Needs a Bath! by Mo Willems.
PIC WILLEMS. (Ages 3-6)
The surly pigeon is back and is adamantly refusing to take a bath. Who needs to take a bath when the one taken a month ago should surely suffice!

Monkey and Elephant Go Gadding by Carole Lexa Schaefer; illustrated by Galia Bernstein. EASY LEVEL 3 SCHAEFE. (Ages 6-8)
 Monkey and Elephant have nothing planned for the day so Monkey suggests going gadding. Gadding? Of course! What better way to spend the day than going for a walk and looking around?

Nancy Clancy: Secret of the Silver Key by Jane O’Connor; illustrated by Robin Preiss-Glasser.
INT OCONNOR. (Ages 7-9)
When Nancy and her best friend Bree find an old silver key they set out to discover the history behind the mysterious object.

Alien Encounter by Charise Mericle Harper. INT HARPER. (Ages 8-10)
Morgan is obsessed with aliens and Sasquatch. Lewis’s parents just bought the local motel. When these two boys meet, the adventure begins!

Bad Hair Day by Sarah Mlynowski. FIC MLYNOWS. (Ages 8-11)
In this fifth title in the Whatever After series, siblings Abby and Jonah go through the magic mirror and find themselves in the story of Rapunzel. Fun fractured fairy tales with “girl power” messages.

Mouselheart by Lisa Fiedler; illustrated by Vivienne To. SF FIEDLER. (Ages 8-12)
After escaping from a pet store cage, Hopper is rescued by Zucker, a seemingly benevolent cat. Soon Hopper is entrenched in the world of warring factions of rats, cats, and mice.

Reading

A Dark Inheritance by Chris D’Lacey.
SF DLACEY. (Ages 10 & up)
UNICORNE, a secret society, discovers Michael’s special talent for altering reality. In exchange for information about his missing father, Michael agrees to help them. The adventure unravels with a fast pace sure to entice those who love action.

Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World by Steve Jenkins.
573.88 J528. (Ages 6 & up)
Through research and his artistic eye, Jenkins examines how different animals with unique eyes use these biological developments to understand, explore, and survive in their environments.

The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson.
FIC ANDERSON. (Ages 14 & up)
Hayley Kincaid and her ex-military father, who suffers from PTSD after serving in Iraq, are moving back to her dad’s hometown. She hopes this might make her life normal, but she’s not so sure this is their answer.

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart.
FIC LOCKHAR. (Ages 14 & up)
Every year Cadence spends her summers on her family’s private island. Now seventeen, Cadence is desperately trying to put together the pieces of what happened the summer when she was fifteen.

Panic by Lauren Oliver.
FIC OLIVER. (Ages 15 & up)
A group of teens participates in a series of secretive yet dangerous and high-stakes games in hopes of winning $50,000—enough to give a teen from Carp, New York the chance to start a new life.

Four: a Divergent Collection by Veronica Roth.
FIC ROTH. (Ages 14 & up)
This companion to the Divergent Trilogy includes pre-Divergent stories as well as new scenes to Divergent told from Tobias’ point of view.

Caged Warrior by Alan Lawrence Sitomer.
FIC SITOMER. (Ages 14 & up)
McCutcheon is a winner at Mixed Martial Arts. Trained from the age of three, he must keep winning to feed his family, but he also hopes to earn his freedom from a neighborhood gang.
And now for something completely different...

One of the most popular programs in the Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room Educational Series returns with a behind-the-scenes look at some of the Milwaukee Public Library’s most unusual treasures on **Saturday, July 26 from 2-4 p.m.** at the Central Library. This “open house” is hosted by librarians familiar with the materials and features a look at a set of lead printing plates for a book of music published in Milwaukee (and a copy of the printed book itself), a gorgeous set of poster prints published in Paris from 1896-1900, original illustrations by children’s author Ellen Raskin, selections from the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam collection, a Limited Editions Club 1934 printing of Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*, huge old Bibles and dictionaries, college football guides from 1902-1910, 19th century Milwaukee maps and more.