Books recommended by Central Library librarian Jacki Potratz.

**How to Bake Everything** by Mark Bittman. 641.815-B624. From bakeware basics to getting started with brownies, pies, or breads, this work will provide bakers at all levels with something new.

**Surrender, New York** by Caleb Carr. Mystery. A devoted criminal psychologist is dismissed from the NYPD and now lives in exile on an upstate New York dairy farm. After suspicious deaths involving kids whom nobody seems to miss, he’s called back into active duty.

**The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race** by Jesmyn Ward. 305.896073 F523. (2016) James Baldwin’s 1963 *The Fire Next Time*, is continued here with an examination of racial issues from the past half-century featuring essays, poems, and memoir pieces by some of the current generation’s most original thinkers.

**Commonwealth** by Ann Patchett. Fiction. Told with humor and heartbeat, this saga spans five decades and traces the effect of unfaithfulness on the parents and children of two families that shared their summers in Virginia.

**Known and Strange Things: Essays** by Teju Cole. 824.9 C688. Divided into four parts: Reading Things, Seeing Things, Being Here, and Epilogue. Cole provides essays infused with hope on politics, photography, travel, history, and literature, as well as new interpretations of art, people, and historical moments.

**Seinfeldia: How a Show About Nothing Changed Everything** by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong. 791.4572 S461A. The world will never forget the Soup Nazi or Elaine’s dancing. This account of the creation of the series describes how comedians Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld dreamed up the idea for an unconventional television sitcom.

**The Underground Railroad** by Colson Whitehead. Fiction. Cora and Caesar make a bid for freedom via the Underground Railroad from their Georgia plantation, relentlessly pursued by a persistent slave catcher, Ridgeway. Their harrowing journey, state by state, is a captivating story.

**Hag-Seed** by Margaret Atwood. Fiction. This novelization of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* explores the perspective of Prospero, the overthrown Duke of Milan, who is a great sorcerer. An ousted artistic director who teaches prison inmates is plotting revenge while relying on a fantasy child who has taken the place of the daughter he lost.

**Carousel Court** by Joe McGinniss Jr. Fiction. Following a dreadful accident, Nick and Phoebe move from Boston to Carousel Court, a new subdivision in Southern California. However, the economic recession causes them to each hatch separate agendas that collide in a way you’d never imagine.

**Swing Time** by Zadie Smith. Fiction. Transitioning from London to West Africa, this is the story of two dark-skinned girls who dream of being dancers. One has talent, the other has ideas. Their childhood friendship is complex, and ends sharply when they enter adulthood.
You may hear more in the coming year about the American Library Association’s Libraries Transform initiative. Simply stated, the focus of the initiative is designed to increase public awareness of the value, impact, and services provided by libraries and library professionals. I’m proud to say that Milwaukee Public Library is ahead of this national trend and has already built upon many of the initiative’s broad objectives of Awareness, Perception and Engagement.

MPL is participating in the ConnectEd Presidential Initiative to ensure that all children in Milwaukee Public Schools have library cards. Later this fall, students will be able to access their new library accounts by using their student I.D. numbers.

Our recent Fine Forgiveness Campaign welcomed back thousands of patrons of all ages who may have been blocked from using the library due to fines and fees associated with having long overdue materials.

The two highly successful Library Loud events held at Central Library this year encouraged our visitors to “Get Loud” in the Library with a live concert and a haunted Central Library. This is part of an 18-month Awareness Campaign supported through great partnerships including advertising agency Cramer-Krasselt.

The Milwaukee Public Library Foundation is increasing sponsorships and our donor base, which results in additional programming, materials and special events.

Renovation of the Tippecanoe Branch was completed last December and we’re looking forward to a new mixed-use development of the Forest Home Library next year.

Your Milwaukee Public Library is truly transforming the perception of libraries and library service in the city of Milwaukee.

As always, we thank you for your support and patronage. We look forward to the opportunity to serve you in 2017.

Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, December 7
12:15-1 p.m.
Central Library Community Room 1

Enjoy lunch on us and discover new library books and resources for you and your family over your lunch hour.

We’ll provide Cousins Subs, chips and water. Registration is required and seating is limited. Call 414.286.3011 to register.

Everyone loves giving and receiving books. Join us for a round-up of the hottest titles of 2016 that your family and friends will delight in finding under the gift wrap. There’s something for everyone, including the sports nut, cooking fanatic and cozy fiction reader in your life.
Remember the Library During this 2016 Season of Giving

Nearly 70,000 students will receive a special gift from the library by the end of 2016! For the first time, each Milwaukee Public School student will have a Milwaukee Public Library card – and many have never before had a library card of their own.

The Foundation is committed to supporting the Milwaukee Public Library’s vision for a vibrant community through achieving its goal of 100% of Milwaukee school age children becoming card holders by 2020. The library will also work to further collaborate with schools, because what happens outside of the classroom is as important as what happens in it.

We can’t wait to see the excitement in their smiling young faces as they check out books. We hope they have many years of enjoyment using their new library cards, and we hope that Milwaukee Public Library will play a major role in their lifelong journeys of reading and learning.

Please think of these new library card holders as you consider your year-end gift to the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation. You will make a difference for kids, families, and neighborhoods – for their future success and the library’s vital presence in the community. Make your generous gift at mpl.org/donate

Make a Difference for Your Library

The Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library advocate for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning through annual memberships. To join the Friends or renew your membership, please visit www.mpl.org and click on “Support the Library” or call (414) 286-8720.

Tours of historic Central Library are free and open to the public Saturdays at 11 a.m. To schedule a special tour or to learn about becoming a tour guide, please call (414) 286-TOUR.

Holiday/Children’s Used Book Sale

Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ~ Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave. Community Room 1, 1st floor

Featuring a large selection of used children’s and adult books, magazines, comics, sheet music, audio books and more. Coffee and refreshments will be available for purchase in the café. Friends members may enter sales 30 minutes before the public with current membership card. Please use the Eighth Street entrance and present your card. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Milwaukee Public Library.

During the month of November, the Bookseller will feature a selection of half-price books on pets. In December, holiday craft books and cookbooks will be half-price.

Next Sale: Saturday, March 4 - Spring Sale during the Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss event.

A book is a gift you can open again and again.
― Garrison Keillor
The Bookshelf

Snow White by Matt Phelan. Children’s Graphic Novel. This graphic novel in Art Deco style re-imagines the classic fairytale in Jazz Age and Depression-era New York City. Samantha White’s mother dies tragically and her Wall Street baron father marries the Queen of the Ziegfeld Follies. After the stock market crashes and her father dies unexpectedly, Samantha attempts to escape her stepmother’s clutches with the help of the mysterious Seven.

The Name of God is Mercy by Pope Francis. 241.4 F8178. Pope Francis puts forth a vision of a maternal Church that doesn’t reproach people for their mistakes, but shows endless mercy. He espouses adding mercy to justice in legal systems and warns against the attitude of those attached to the letter of the law who neglect love. His message is humility, of acknowledging one’s own misdeeds rather than condemning others for theirs.

This is Your Brain on Parasites: How Tiny Creatures Manipulate our Behavior and Shape Society by Kathleen McAuliffe. 612.8 M117. Cat loving rats and zombie ants? Science journalist McAuliffe explores the concept of parasitic manipulation. Interviewing parasitologists around the world, and writing in easily understood language, she provides an introduction to the world of these microorganisms and their effects on animals and humans.

Visual Intelligence: Sharpen Your Perception, Change Your Life by Amy E. Herman. 152.14 H552. Herman gives a powerful argument for honing the powers of observation by analyzing artwork. She shows how examining art recharges the brain and improves the ability to see and recall details – emphasizing the benefits to jobs, families, safety, and health.

White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America by Nancy Isenberg. 305.50973 I784. From colonial times to the present, this work by Isenberg surveys the history of the class system in America.

Rick and Morty. Volume Two by Zac Gorman. 741.5973 G672 V2. This hit comic book based on the critically acclaimed animated show, Rick and Morty, is a sci-fi comedy following the adventures of scientific genius and cynical degenerate Rick Sanchez, and his unassuming and awkward teenage grandson, Morty. Interdimensional adventures and space travel are juxtaposed with sitcom family drama.

Contributed by Washington Park Library staff Clark Caughey, Tobias Fudge, Dawn Gardner, Alice Richards and Peter VanPeursem and librarian Jacki Potratz.
Great Books = Great Gifts

A book is a great gift that can be enjoyed on a cold winter night. It has staying power in a way that many of today’s toys and gadgets don’t. Books are cherished and discussed long after the last page has been turned.

Here are some great, gift-worthy books to bestow upon a child or teen this holiday season.

**Dinosaur Dance!** by Sandra Boynton. BRD BOYNTON. Ages 0-2.
Read and dance along as all kinds of dinosaurs boogie down, including a tiny little dinosaur with dance moves worth repeating.

**Duck on a Tractor** by David Shannon. PIC SHANNON. Ages 3-6.
In this follow-up to Duck on a Bike, Duck gets in the driver’s seat of a big red tractor causing hilarious havoc on the farm!

**Thunder Boy Jr.** by Sherman Alexie; illustrated by Yuyi Morales. PIC ALEXIE. Ages 4-9.
Thunder Boy shares his name with his father, but would rather have a name that celebrates something special about just him.

**The Cookie Fiasco** by Dan Santat. EASY LEVEL 2 SANTAT. Ages 6-9.
Four friends plus three cookies equals one big problem. Can they solve this math and friendship problem before nervous Hippo breaks all the cookies into crumbs?

**The Prize Winners of Piedmont Place** by Bill Doyle; illustrated by Colin Jack. FIC DOYLE. Ages 9-12.
Cal Talaska convinces his reluctant family to enter the Wish Shoppe Great Grab Contest where the winner gets twenty minutes to grab all the merchandise they can from the shelves.

**Zoe in Wonderland** by Brenda Woods. FIC WOODS. Ages 8-12.
Unlike her siblings, Zoe has always been a wallflower. With her only friend moving away, Zoe braces for a dull existence, but slowly begins to discover the love, support, and wonder that surrounds her everyday life.

**The Secret Keepers** by Trenton Lee Stewart. MYS STEWART. Ages 9-12.
When Reuben discovers a magical watch that can make him invisible, he delves into a world of mystery, intrigue and danger.

**When We Was Fierce** by E.E. Charlton-Trujillo. FIC CHARLTO. Ages 14-18.
Theo and his friends witness a brutal attack on an innocent boy who tries to stand up to a notorious gang leader in the neighborhood. A great novel of survival.

**NERVE** by Jeanne Ryan. FIC RYAN. Age 15-18.
NERVE is an online game of dares that are broadcast live and players are watched constantly. Vee becomes a very involved player but when she is matched up with the attractive Ian she takes on even riskier dares. What will she do if the stakes become too high?

**This Adventure Ends** by Emma Mills. FIC MILLS. Ages 15-18.
Sloane has never had good friends but when she relocates from New York to Florida things begin to change. She finds true friends and learns about herself in this funny, heart-warming adventure.
Spend a Gingerbread Christmas with Author Jan Brett

Welcome to the world of Jan Brett! Renowned children’s author illustrator Jan Brett will visit Milwaukee as part of her 2016 tour on **Sunday, December 4, beginning at 10 a.m. in Centennial Hall** to share her newest book *Gingerbread Christmas*. Jan’s presentation will be followed by a book signing, a chance to meet Hedgie, Jan’s favorite friend from *The Mitten* and *The Hat*, photo opportunities of Jan’s tour bus specially wrapped in artwork from *Gingerbread Christmas* and more! Books will be available for purchase from Boswell Book Company. The presentation begins at 10 a.m., but plan to stay for more holiday family fun. *Please arrive an hour before the signing to see and take photos of the tour bus. Jan will do her very best to sign all of the books that time permits. If time does not permit for signing of every book, special signed bookplates featuring Jan’s artwork will be provided.*