

Some of Our Favorite Books From the Regular Print Library

2017

Attached are this year's lists of suggested books from members of the Library Committee of the Regular Print Library at Canterbury Woods. We hope they will be helpful to you in selecting books from our library to read and enjoy. All are available for you to check out.

Books from our Regular Print Library at Canterbury Woods
Recommended by Pat Clarke 2017

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

A Russian Count undergoes 30 years under house arrest in the Metropole Hotel in Moscow, beginning in the early 1920's. This is a charming book, well written and with marvelous character development.

Lucky Boy by Shanthi Sekaran

This novel, set mainly in Berkeley, California, is an important exploration of the lives of undocumented immigrants from Mexico. I found it thought provoking and so interesting.

Days Without End by Sebastian Barry

Barry, who generally writes about Ireland, this time set his novel in mid-19th century U.S. The narrator arrives from Ireland as an adolescent, meets up with another orphan youngster and together they make their way together in the world by fighting in the Indian Wars and the Civil War. Not usually my kind of story, but this beautifully written book captured my heart.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (My only non-fiction offering)

Before this book became a movie, I read this book from our library. It's about the "colored woman computers" as the black women mathematicians were called during WWII. They were hired at Langley, Virginia to help compute the programs that keep airplanes in the air and then later to launch space shuttles. The movie only is focused on the space shuttles, but book spends more time on how these brave women fought for their place in the segregated workplace when they were hired in the 1940's.

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

A novel about the life of a young female slave who escapes from a plantation in the deep south and her adventures as she rides the (literal) underground railway to different stops along the way.

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett

A story set over five decades of two families tearing apart and reuniting under a web of guilt, deceit and genuine connection. I found it realistic and interesting.

My list also included two more books that are reviewed on Gayle's page:

Conclave by Robert Harris

Small, Great Things by Jodi Picoult

2017 CHOICES BY GAYLE DARRIGO

TRACKS by Robin Davidson

Story of a young woman who crosses the western desert of Australia with only her dog and four camels - there is a kind of spirituality that shows through the travel, the landscape, the heat

YOU WILL KNOW ME by Megan Abbott

A young Olympic hopeful and the close gymnastic community that she and her family live in - a crime turns everything upside down in their lives

BORN A CRIME by Trevor Noah

A currently well known comedian, Trevor Noah, describes his life growing up in South Africa during apartheid where interracial relationships were considered criminal - his mother was black, his father white - thus the title

CONCLAVE by Robert Harris

Fascinating description of the death of one pope and the election of another - the last few pages are especially thought provoking

SMALL GREAT THINGS by Jodi Picoult

Race is the thread permeating this story, but the legal issues and the personalities transcend that

THE STARS ARE FIRE by Anita Shreve

A disastrous fire changes the subsequent lives of people in a small town in Maine in the 1940s

JOURNEY TO MUNICH by Jacqueline Winspear

Maisie Dobbs travels under cover from London to Munich in 1938 to facilitate the freeing of a British subject from Dachau - always fearing discovery, she treads very carefully

BOOKS FOR 2017 LIBRARY UST from Barbara Kiedrowski

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT by Daniel James Brown

A coming of age true story of nine Americans and their quest for gold in crewing at the 1937 Berlin Olympics. This excellent book also covers and ties together many historical events which occurred during this period.

SOMEWHERE SAFE WITH SOMEBODY GOOD by Jan Karon

The Los Angeles Times states "Jan Karon reflects contemporary culture more fully than almost any other novelist." This book was written for all the many readers of the Mitford and Father Tim series who requested another book from the author. Our library has most of these other books.

THE NO. 1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY by Alexander McCall Smith

This is the first book in a series that is set in Gaborone, Botswana and stars Mma Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's first lady detective. Mma Ramotswe is assisted by her associate Grace Makutsi. The two women use wisdom, humor, and cups of red bush tea to approach both their cases and their personal lives. Our library has the rest of the books in this series.

THE LITIGATORS by John Grisham

A fast-paced book that looks at a young attorney who is in a large successful law firm and snaps. He subsequently joins a "small boutique" law firm, with two partners and goes after a giant pharmaceutical firm whose popular drug allegedly causes heart attacks.

THE WRONG SIDE OF GOODBYE by Michael Connelly

This is the most recent Harry Bosch novel. Det. Bosch has had a long and colorful career with the LAPD. He has again left the LAPD due to pressure from management. This novel is fast paced and has Harry working simultaneously as a private investigator on one case and working as an unpaid part-time detective for the town of San Fernando on cold cases. Our library has more Harry Bosch novels. This reader suggests going back and reading the previous Harry Bosch novels in order. They have continuing characters and character history from book to book.

THE FALLEN ANGEL by Daniel Silva

This is the 12th book that features Gabriel Allon an art restorer, spy, and an assassin for King David Street, Israeli intelligence. In this thriller which begins in the Vatican, Allon begins with restoring a masterpiece painting and then he is called to investigate a murder in St. Peter's Basilica which takes on global proportions. Our library has many of the Gabriel Allon novels.

2017 Books, Susan Pier

A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW by Amor Towles

An unusual look at 20th century Russia. Count Rostov, Tsarist aristocrat, Bolshevik "former person" was sentenced for a crime against the State to life in a Moscow hotel. Far from feeling deprived, the count led a full and happy life there for the next 30 years, the twists and turns of which make a long, absorbing story.

TRACKS by Robyn Davidson 919.4 Da

A trek on foot across the Australian Outback from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean with only 4 camels for company was a challenge the author set herself. She found that hidden tracks in the desert used by the Aborigines for centuries showed the way, in every sense.

THE NOISE OF TIME by Julian Barnes

A novel based on the life of Shostakovich, the Russian composer. Short sections devoted to different thoughts and experiences describe Shostakovich's struggle with his conscience and ideals, and what it cost him to survive in the Soviet Union under Stalin.

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF TREES by Peter Wohlleben 582.16 Wo

A walk in the woods will never be the same after reading this wonderful small book. A German forester with long experience describes with admiration how trees grow, feed, rest, fight enemies, and make friends.

A TRAIN THROUGH TIME by Elizabeth Farnsworth 920 Fa

An autobiography with a twist by the former PBS correspondent. Jumping from time to time in separate sections, she writes of herself as a child taking a long train trip after the trauma of her mother's death, and adds relevant news stories, and of herself as an adult reporting from trouble spots around the world.

IN THIS GRAVE HOUR by Jacqueline Winspear

Maisie Dobbs, investigator, is back on the job after a terrible personal tragedy. Now as World War II breaks out, the new case leads her back to memories of World War I and its horrors.

Read and Recommended by Louise Stuart from our Regular Print Library

Here Comes Trouble by Michael Moore

This book covers the author's start as a film maker and some amazing stories of his life in a series of short essays.

Earning the Rockies; How Geography Shapes America's Role in the World

by Robert D. Kaplan

An interesting account of Kaplan's drive from Long Island to San Diego, seeing areas, some prosperous and others in decline. He feels that our foreign policy is rooted in our geographical situations. Interesting!

A Train Through Time by Elizabeth Farnsworth

An interesting memoir by a familiar newswoman, alternating accounts of her travel by train to California as a child with stories about her work as a foreign correspondent, frequently in war zones. A very moving story of a child whose mother had just died of cancer.

Alive, Alive Oh! by Diana Athill

The author describes her work as an editor in a London publishing house and her life until her late 90's.

And our new residents JoAnn Semones and Julie Barrow have given our library a series of five books by JoAnn about California coastal history: lighthouses, shipwrecks, seafarers and more. These are well researched and fascinating to us who live right where this happened. The five titles are:

Whalers, Wharves & Warfare

Hard Luck Coast: the Perilous Reefs of Point Montara

Sea of Troubles: the Lost Ships of Point Sur

Shipwrecks, Scalawags and Scavengers

Pirates, Pinnacles, and Petticoats: Shipwrecks of Point Pinos & Monterey Bay.