

NON-FICTION

Baigent, Michael **HOLY BLOOD HOLY GRAIL**

A revolutionary study explores the startling information uncovered in mysterious parchments unearthed in a small French church that reveal new insight into the mystery of the Holy Grail.

Gibbs, Lois-Marie **LOVE CANAL: MY STORY**

Gibbs continues the saga beyond the 1981 relocation to include the 'containment' of the contamination, the habitability studies that led to the resettlement of abandoned houses, the success of New York State's lawsuit against the company responsible, and her founding of the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes.

Grogan, John **THE LONGEST TRIP HOME: A MEMOIR**

Told with Grogan's trademark humor and affection, *The Longest Trip Home* is the story of one son's journey into adulthood to claim his place in the world. It is a story of faith and reconciliation, breaking away and finding the way home again, and learning in the end that a family's love will triumph over its differences.

Hillstrand, Andy **TIME BANDIT: TWO BROTHERS, THE BEIJING SEA, AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST JOBS**

First-person accounts matter-of-factly explain what it's like to constantly face death on the Bering Sea and what it does to your life back on land.

Jacobs, A. J. **GUINEA PIG DIARIES: MY LIFE AS AN EXPERIMENT**

In his role as human guinea pig, Jacobs fearlessly takes on a series of life-altering challenges that provides readers with equal parts insight and humor.

Kennedy, Edward **TRUE COMPASS: A MEMOIR**

In the Early Days of his career, Senator Ted Kennedy was mainly known as the younger brother of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy. But his service in the United States Senate-which has spanned more than 45 years-has earned him his own reputation as a hard-fighting and effective legislator. He has strived to fairly represent all Americans in his pursuit of social justice.

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SAT 12 PM. - 5 P.M.

SUN 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Summer Schedule

(June, July, August, & September)

SAT 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

SUN CLOSED

Somers Library

Staff Picks 2009



All of the books on this list were read by members of the Somers Library Staff in 2009. Some were hot off the press, others have stood the test of time. All come with a personal recommendation.

★ Reviews were taken from
Novelist or Amazon.com.

FICTION

Brown, Dan **THE LOST SYMBOL**
Symbolist Robert Langdon returns in this new thriller follow-up to The Da Vinci Code.

Benioff, David **CITY OF THIEVES**
During the Nazis' brutal siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a handsome deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel.

Caldwell, Bo **THE DISTANT LAND OF MY FATHER**
Experiencing a seemingly idyllic childhood in pre-World War II Shanghai, Anna flees to California with her mother when the Japanese occupation begins, believing her charismatic millionaire father's connections will keep him safe.

Chopin, Kate **THE AWAKENING**
A married woman's belated awakening to her individuality and sexuality in an extramarital relationship is accompanied by writings on late-nineteenth-century woman, contemporary reviews, and modern critical commentaries.

Collins, Suzanne **THE HUNGER GAMES**
In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Cook, Claire **LIFE'S A BEACH**
Dreaming of becoming an artist while living above her parents' garage, forty-one-year-old Ginger pursues a relationship with a commitment-phobic man and baby-sits her sister's kids while overseeing her eccentric family's descent into dysfunctional chaos.

Cook, Claire **THE WILDWATER WALKING CLUB**
Three women who are neighbors share their struggles with unfaithful men, rebellious children, and parental expectations while taking long walks near their homes on Wildwater Way.

De Rosnay, Tatiana **SARAH'S KEY**
On the sixtieth anniversary of the 1942 roundup of Jews by the French police in the Vel d'Hiv section of Paris, American journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article on this dark episode during World War II and embarks on investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and to the ordeal of Sarah, a young girl caught up in the raid.

Ford, Jamie **HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF BITTER AND SWEET**
When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during World War II are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, Henry Lee embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment.

Goldreich, Gloria **OPEN DOORS**
When she is unexpectedly plunged into widowhood, Elaine Gordon decides to visit each of her adult children in search of how and where she might live the rest of her life--an emotional journey that allows her to embrace the future.

Hannah, Kristin **TRUE COLORS**
Despairing of receiving their critical father's love, Winona occupies herself in books and dreams, while Vivi Ann makes a fateful decision to follow her heart instead of dutifully fulfilling their father's ambitions.

Jacobs, Kate **THE FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB**
Gathering for their weekly knitting club at a small yarn shop on Manhattan's Upper West Side, a group of friends share such challenges as raising children, navigating the ups and downs of their careers, and pursuing uncertain relationships.

McCullers, Carson **THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING**
Her brother's wedding intensifies a twelve-year-olds need to be recognized as an important person.

Moore, Lorrie **A GATE AT THE STAIRS**
Tassie Keltjin, 20, a smalltown girl weathering a clumsy college year in the Athens of the Midwest, is taken on as prospective nanny by brittle Sarah Brink, the proprietor of a pricey restaurant who is desperate to adopt a baby despite her dodgy past.

Morton, Kate **THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN**
Abandoned on a 1913 voyage to Australia, Nell is raised by a dock master and his wife who do not tell her until she is an adult that she is not their child, leading Nell to return to England and eventually hand down her quest for answers to her granddaughter.

Reichs, Kathy **BREAK NO BONES**
Struggling with a lackluster teaching position at an archaeology field school in South Carolina, Tempe Brennan discovers a fresh skeleton among ancient bones and traces leads to a free street clinic where patients are going missing.

See, Lisa **SHANGHAI GIRLS**
Forced to leave Shanghai when their father sells them to California suitors, sisters May and Pearl struggle to adapt to life in 1930s Los Angeles while still bound to old customs, as they face discrimination and confront a life-altering secret.

Shaffer, Mary Ann **GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL SOCIETY**
In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation.

Trigiani, Adriana **VERY VALENTINE**
Valentine Roncalli struggles to save her decades-old family business, finding love and the life she wants along the way.

Wax, Wendy **THE ACCIDENTAL BESTSELLER**
Once upon a time, four aspiring authors met at a writers' conference. Ten years later they are still friends, veterans of the dog-eat-dog New York publishing world.

Wall, Judith Henry **FAMILY SECRETS**
Shocked to learn that their recently widowed mother has made plans to relocate to France with a new lover, Vanessa, Ellie, and Georgiana also discover unexpected truths about their paternal grandmother.