

Mid-Michigan Library League

Weekly Update

March 26, 2008



Cathy Carter's Reflections on "Vacation Reads":

Article by Cathy Carter, Director of the Benzie Shores District Library

Source: http://www.benzieshoreslibrary.org/PDF/shorelines_2008_spring.pdf

If you are lucky enough to get a vacation, especially one that involves reading time, the big issue is always what to read. I have been asking people what book they would take on vacation if they could only take one. Interestingly enough, no one can take just one book, and as you can imagine, the choice totally depends on your mood.

In choosing a vacation book, some people want a "no brainer." They want a relaxing, beach book such as a romance or mystery, a book that is a vacation for the mind. Others want something they can really read, intently. A book that requires concentration and a space of time that everyday life rarely affords, is often the first choice for many vacation readers. There are times that short stories and essays are the best for traveling. Besides the question of what to read, there are other big decisions. Do you take one big book (but what if you don't like it?) or several shorter books? Do you try a new author and take a chance that you won't enjoy the book, or take a book by a favorite author? Of course, if you really want a vacation, there are always re-reads...what could be better than a holiday re-reading Harry Potter??

Generally speaking, before I take any trip, I have the books I am going to read picked out way before I have purchased my tickets or packed my clothes. I always like to take a combination of new books and classics. I know that if one of the new books turns out to be disappointing, I'll always have a classic to read. Whether or not the classic turns out to be a favorite, it is guaranteed that the writing will be lovely.

I have trips and vacations in my life that I define by the books I read. The trips were no doubt memorable, but so were the books. In 2003 I visited Erynn, who had just started graduate school at Tulane University in New Orleans, then went on to see Lindsay, who had started graduate school at the American University, in D.C. What a lovely trip...seeing my beautiful daughters...and what great books I chose. Completely out of the blue, I read *CLARINET POLKA* by Keith Maillard, which is certainly not for everyone. The main character had an alcohol abuse problem which led him to do some disgusting things, but the book was good! I read *THE DEAFENING* by Frances Itani, which turned out to be a book I suggest to many people. It is by a Canadian author and is about a girl who goes deaf at the age of five, and about the effect of the Great War on Canada. Both were new books at the time, but I took a classic (of course), *INDIAN DRUM* by William MacHarg, which became one of my favorite classics. This story is set in Chicago and Michigan and is brimming with adventure.

A hiking trip to the Olympic Peninsula with my son, Jackson, when he was 16, and his two cousins, ages 16 and 13, was amazing. Independently of each other, all three teenagers brought the SAME book to read. They all brought *THE POWER OF ONE* by Bryce Courtenay. The two 16 year olds were reading it for the second time and the 13 year old for the first time.

Although a hospital stay is not considered a vacation, someone else does cook and do the dishes and there are no cell phones (which is always a vacation). When daughter, Morgan, was hospitalized for an extended time and we were in isolation together, I read *AND LADIES OF THE CLUB* by Helen Santmyer, a wonderful, long book that is full of life and sadness and the impact of decisions. To this day, I can hardly look at the cover without feeling like crying.

And there is the memorable trip when I was 15 on a grounded airplane in Yugoslavia on New Year's Eve. The pilot and entire crew decided to get drunk, and the passengers decided to celebrate too. Everyone was hoping the fog would not dissipate because the crew was too drunk to fly. The plane was packed with Eastern Europeans. In other words, it was quite an adventure. However, I wouldn't know because I was totally immersed in Michener's *HAWAII*. Around me, it might have been a freezing cold New Year's Eve behind the Iron Curtain, but inside I was struggling in the leper colony in Hawaii. What a book!

Whether your vacation involves a weekend at home, or time in airports, here is some criteria for choosing a vacation book:

1. It has to be a page turner, but not so compelling that you can't put it down for a nap or a hike.
2. The book has to be interesting, but can be read with half your attention on airline boarding calls.
3. If you are taking a library book, the price of the book might be a factor. I can't tell you how many people lose books on vacation and end up having to pay for them. So, if you do take a library book, you might want to take a paperback. I always think that it is nice to take my own paperbacks and leave them places for others to read.
4. Size is often an issue. You can take whatever you want for a road trip, but on the train there are space considerations and on an airplane you certainly want something you can quickly jam in your bag or pocket.
5. Whatever the book is, it has to be a joy to read. It is a vacation, after all!

In case winter seems like a vacation to you, there are lots of winter and snow titles such as *SMILLA'S SENSE OF SNOW* by Peter Hoeg, *MRS. MIKE* by Benedict and Nancy Freedman, *WINTER SOLSTICE* by Rosamund Pilcher, *HOPE MOUNTAIN* by Jon Land and *LOST IN THE BARRENS* by Farley Mowat.

Mackinaw Island Press:

Mackinaw Island Press has just published a new book which corresponds with this year's Summer Reading Program theme, Catch the Reading Bug. The title of the book is 'Twas the Night Before Summer. A PDF version of the book is attached.

The company also has a library event package for Lemonade with Luna Bee May that libraries can do on June 20, a Friday, and the night before summer.

The publishing company is offering a library deal on their books: buy one book, get the same book free. A library can join with another library to take advantage of this deal.

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MMLL Board Meeting:

The MMLL Board of Trustees met yesterday. There was not enough in attendance to have formal votes as there was not a quorum. The meeting was classified as a “committee of the whole” meeting. The draft minutes from the meeting will be distributed in next week’s Weekly Update.

At the meeting, Eleanore Chamberland announced that she is resigning from the board because she is moving to Colorado. Eleanore has served on the board for many years, and we are sorry to see her go. We wish her the very best.

New Directors workshop and Beginning Workshop!

Spring is really coming and so is the Library of Michigan New Directors workshop and Beginning Workshop! There are still places available in both workshops. Register soon if you wish to attend.

The New Directors workshop will be May 19-20, 2008 and Beginning Workshop will be May 20-22, 2008. Both will be held at the North Central Michigan College in Petoskey. Trustees are welcome to attend New Directors.

The registration form, agenda and more information is available at www.michigan.gov/ldds in the What's New in LDDS Events section or directly at

http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_18668-142368--,00.html

MeL Databases Essentials workshop:

The location of the April 23rd MeL Databases Essentials class has been moved to the Cadillac Wexford Public Library due to higher than expected registrations. Due to the move in location, we still have several spaces available.

To sign up for the workshop visit: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

MMLL Schedule and Upcoming Events:

March 28, 2008: Library Training Day/Annual Gathering: 9:00 – 3:30

Location: Baker College of Cadillac

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-member: \$35.00

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandeventsstafftrainingdayregistration.htm>

Current Number registered: 39

April 2, 2008: Blogs, RSS, and Tagging: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Eli Neiburger, Tech Manager at Ann Arbor District Library

Location: Mason County District Library – Scottville

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-member: \$25.00

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 7

April 3, 2008: Videogames in the Library Workshop: 9:00 – 3:00

Presenter: Eli Neiburger, Ann Arbor District Library

Location: Big Rapids Community Library

.5 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$25.00 per person Non-member: \$35.00

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 11

April 11, 2008: Original Cataloging Primer Workshop: 9:30-12:30

Presenter: Susan Pritts

Location: Cadillac-Wexford County Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-member: \$25.00

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 8

April 14, 2008: Technology and your Library Workshop: 9:00 – 1:00

Presenter: Edward Elsner, Director and Consultant, Delton District Library

Location: Morton Township Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 9

April 22, 2008: QSAC workshop: 1:00 – 4:45

Location: Cadillac Wexford Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: free

Registration: http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_18668-174177--,00.html

April 23, 2008: MeL Databases Essentials Part A and B: 9:00 – 3:30

Location: Cadillac Wexford County Public Library

.6 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 14

May 2, 2008: Marketing Workshop: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Pamela Christensen, Peter White Public Library

Location: Cadillac-Wexford County Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 6

May 5, 2008: Invisible User workshop: 9:30 – 12:30

Presenter: Judith J. Field, Senior Lecturer, Wayne State University

Location: Traverse Area District Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 11

May 8, 2008: Internet Genealogy: 1:00 – 4:00

Presenter: Linda Koch, Allegan Public Library

Location: Cadillac Wexford County Public Library

.3 CEUs

Cost: MMLL Member: \$20.00 per person Non-Member: \$30.00 per person

Registration: <http://www.mml.org/Workshopsandevents.htm>

Current Number registered: 8

May 19-20: New Directors Workshop (sponsored by Library of Michigan)

Location: North Central Michigan College

Registration: http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_18668-142368--,00.html

May 20-22: Beginning Workshop (sponsored by Library of Michigan)

Location:

June 4, 2008: MeL Cat preparation session: 9:30-12:00

Presenter: Anne Donohue, Michigan Library consortium

Location: Cadillac-Wexford County Public Library

Cost: free

Current Number registered: 4

June 12, 2008: Measuring Your Impact workshop: 10:00 – 5:00

Sponsored by Western Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine/Greater Midwest Region (NNLM/GMR)

Location: Traverse Area District Library

Cost: FREE

Registration: Chris Allen, 231- 935-9265 or callen@mhc.net

Flyer: <http://www.mml.org/workshops/measuringyourimpact.pdf>

Black Belt Librarian: October 7, 2008

Presenter: Warren Graham, nationally renowned security, safety and customer service consultant recognized for his unique approach to personal and professional safety.