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October 2023

Silver Maples Library

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2023 Library Committee Member Picks

Each month a Library Committee member selects a new book for our collection and provides a brief description. This month Merle M. chose the following title:

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett. In spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother, Lara, to tell them the story of her romance years before with Peter, a famous actor at a theater company called Tom Lake. Her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

The Accidental Tourist by Anne Tyler. NYT Bestseller. Travel writer Macon, increasingly prickly and alone, meets Muriel, an eccentric dog trainer too optimistic to let him disappear into himself. Despite Macon's best efforts, Muriel up-ends his solitary, systemized life, catapulting him into the center of a messy, beautiful love story he never imagined.

Blood Lure by Nevada Barr, a former Park Ranger. NYT Bestseller. District Park Ranger Anna is on a cross-training assignment in the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park to study grizzly bears with bear researcher, Joan, and an unpredictable teenage boy but one of the beasts comes looking for them leaving Anna betrayed by nature.

Chicken Soup for the Grandparent's Soul: Stories to Open the Hearts and Rekindle the Spirits of Grandparents by Jack Canfield. A collection of stories and poems.

City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love*. NYT Bestseller. A love story set in the New York City theater world during the 1940s told from the perspective of an older woman as she looks back on her youth with both pleasure and regret.

Convenience Store Woman by Sayaka Murata. Keiko never fit in with her family nor in school. At 18 she begins working at the "Smile Mart" where she finds peace and purpose and is happy. But after 18 years family and coworkers increasingly pressure her to find a husband and to start a proper career, prompting her to take desperate action.

The Crown of Columbus by Michael Dorris and Louise Erdrich. When Vivian uncovers what is thought to be the diary of Christopher Columbus, she and Roger are drawn into a journey from icy New Hampshire to the idyllic Caribbean in search of "the greatest treasure of Europe" where they are plunged into a harrowing race against time and death that threatens their lives.

Hallowe'en Party by Agatha Christie. At a Halloween party, teenage Joyce boasts she once witnessed a murder which no one believes. She storms off home but within hours her body is found, still in the house, drowned in an apple-bobbing tub. Poirot is called in to find the 'evil presence' but first must establish whether he is looking for a murderer or a double-murderer.

The High Notes (LP) by Danielle Steele. NYT Bestseller. At twelve, Iris's father starts her singing in one dusty town bar after another. After years of enduring the hardships of the road, exploitation, and abuse to do what she loves, Iris's big chance comes as her talent soars. But at the top at last, she still has to fight every step of the way.

If You Could See Me Now by Peter Straub. In 1955 Miles and his pretty cousin plunge into the moonlit waters of a rural Wisconsin quarry but only one emerges. Miles, now divorced and a struggling writer, returns home only to discover that friends and family view him with suspicion due to the recent disappearance of another teenage girl.

North Korea Deception by Richard Lynton. British journalist and one time UN Peacekeeper Jack Steele is sent to find two UN officials last seen in the Tumen Triangle that borders Russia, China, and North Korea leading him to a nightmarish choice between saving the lives of strangers and his personal fight for survival and those he loves.

The Point of It All: A Lifetime of Great Loves and Endeavors by Charles Krauthammer. A collection of the influential columnist's works featuring rare speeches and a major new essay about today's populist movements and the future of global democracy.

Rage by Bob Woodward. Based on 17 on-the-record interviews with Trump over seven volatile months and hundreds of hours of interviews with firsthand witnesses as well as participants' notes, emails, diaries, calendars and confidential documents.

The Rhymes of My Life: A Book of Humorous Light Verse by Dick Emmons. This book was conceived at a University of Michigan basketball game in 1999.

Station Eleven (LP) by Emily Mandel. The story of Hollywood star Leander who suffered a heart attack on stage, his would-be savior Kirsten, and, twenty years later, a nomadic group of actors roaming scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region upended years earlier by a pandemic, and risking everything for art and humanity.

Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty by Anderson Cooper, the great, great, great, grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt who built a staggering fortune fought over by his heirs after his death in 1877, sowing familial discord that would never fully heal. Recounts the triumphs and tragedies of an American dynasty born of the Gilded Age.

The Virgin Blue by Tracy Chevalier. Ella and her husband move to a small French village where she plans to brush up on her French and qualify as a midwife. A peculiar dream of the color blue begins her quest to uncover her family's French ancestry connecting her to Isabelle who lived four hundred years earlier.

Series/Prolific Authors

Paretsky - *Blacklist*

Patterson - *Texas Ranger*

Sandford - *Heat Lightning*