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March 2023

Silver Maples Library

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Find the following books on the New Book Cart.

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 Sandy K. chose the following title:

The Honk and Holler Opening Soon by Billie Letts. Vietnam vet, Caney, wanted a flashy sign for his Oklahoma cafe. "Opening Soon" was supposed to be removable but a misunderstanding made it a permanent flashy joke. Twelve years later, the joke is old and the sign is worn as is Caney who has never left the diner. Vena Takes Horse, a Crow woman, blows into town with a three-legged dog and a secret. Hired on as a carhop, she shakes up the locals and teaches everyone about generosity of spirit, love and the possibility of promise – just like the sign says.

The Accidental Patriot by Joseph Bauer. After the government's first choice of candidate to design a secret installation is murdered by foreign agents, the president turns to a lonely widower but the Navy SEAL overseeing him worries that the man's age and lack of physical fitness will make him vulnerable. A story of citizenship, service, loyalty, love and unexpected personal transformation.

Emily Dickinson and the Art of Belief by Roger Lundin. This first edition pays particular attention to Dickinson's experience of faith and, charted through her poems and letters, relates her life to nineteenth-century American political, social, religious, and intellectual history.

Fever: A Novel by Mary Beth Keane. On the eve of the twentieth century, Mary Mallon emigrated from Ireland at age fifteen and making her way in New York City became a cook for well-to-do families. Following a trail of Typhoid Fever outbreaks, an investigator eventually identified her as an "asymptomatic carrier," unheard of at the time. When released following three years of quarantine on Brother Island, she defied the edict to never work as a cook again because it paid better and believed she was not responsible for the outbreaks.

French Braid by Anne Tyler. One Baltimore family's foibles from a boyfriend with a red Chevy in the 1950s up to a longed-for reunion with a grandchild. A funny, joyful journey tackling fundamental assumptions about womanhood, motherhood and female aging.

High Tide in Tucson: Essays From Now or Never by Barbara Kingsolver. Returns to her familiar themes of family, community, the common good, and the natural world in which she brings a moral vision and sense of humor to subjects ranging from modern motherhood to the history of private property to the suspended citizenship of human beings in the Animal Kingdom.

(over)

The Islanders by Meg Moore. One summer on a Maine island, three strangers – a rising literary star, whoopie pie cafe owner, and stay-at-home lawyer mom – grow close, share secrets and bury lies but truth prevails forcing each to decide what they are willing to give up to keep what they value most.

The Long-Lost Jules by Jane Hughes. Amy thinks Leo is either a stalker, nutcase, or a harmless eccentric Oxford professor. He thinks she is the long-lost descendant of Henry VIII's last queen. The two join forces to investigate the mystery of Katherine Parr's lost baby but enemies start to close in as they criss-cross Europe seeking answers.

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold. After being brutally raped and murdered, 14-year-old Susie Salmon is adjusting to her new home in heaven, a place not at all what she expected. She watches her friends trading rumors about her disappearance, her killer trying to cover his tracks, her grief-stricken family unraveling, and eventually, life on earth continue without her. Includes a listing of the many characters.

A Lucky Life Interrupted by Tom Brokaw. A memoir of this journalist's year spent battling a treatable but incurable cancer and coming to terms with his own mortality, contemplating what means the most to him now, and reflecting on what has meant the most to him throughout his life that he deems lucky. Brokaw also looks back on some of the important moments in his career. And finally, he stresses the importance of patients taking an active role in their own treatment and of the vital role of caretakers and coordinated care.

The Race for the Chinese Zodiac by Gabrielle Wang. A nicely illustrated retelling of the classic Chinese legend of the animals that race to win a place in the Jade Emperor's Chinese Zodiac. Based on a twelve year cycle, the Zodiac reveals your age and, traditionally, is a window into your personality, career, love prospects, and future good (or bad) fortune. See chart in back.

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey. Homesteading in 1920s Alaska is tough for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel. Childless and drifting apart, they build a snow child who disappears but soon after, they glimpse a young, blonde-haired girl, Faina, running through the trees. She seems like a fairy tale child of the woods who they come to love and who will transform them.

You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War by Elizabeth Becker. At a time when women were considered unfit to be foreign reporters, Francis Fitzgerald, Catherine Leroy and Kate Webb paid their own way to Vietnam, arrived without jobs, challenged the military rules imposed on them, ignored the belittlement and resentment of their male peers, and found new ways to explain the war.

The Woman They Could Not Silence (LP) by Kate Moore. In 1860, Elizabeth Packard, housewife and mother of six, was committed to an insane asylum by her husband threatened by her intellect, independence, and unwillingness to stifle her thoughts. She discovered others with the same story. Her quest for justice challenged the medical science of the day and freed millions more.

Series/Prolific Authors

Brown, Rita Mae – <i>Thrill of the Hunt</i>	Perry – <i>A Darker Reality</i>
Crichton/Wilson - <i>The Andromeda Evolution</i>	Steel – <i>Journey; Mixed Blessings</i>
Clancy/Cameron – <i>Chain of Command</i>	Tanenbaum – <i>Tragic</i>
Kingsolver – <i>Pigs in Heaven</i>	Walker – <i>To Kill a Troubadour</i>