

# READ

## Readers Section Newsletter

*"Never apologize for what you read"*

Volume 18, No. 2

Fall 2010

### **READ Notes from the Chair by Elizabeth Eisen**

My service as an officer of the READ Section will continue another year in the form of Past-Chair (advisory). I've had the opportunity to meet many great speakers and WLA members along the way and I've experienced first-hand the art of recruiting. I'm sure Rebecca Dougherty and Linda DeNell will continue to inspire WLA members through their leadership roles in the coming years. Rebecca has worked hard to develop a great line up of programs for the upcoming WLA conference. I hope you can take advantage of the READ sponsored events. Thank you to all our officers for stepping up to the plate.

#### **Please welcome the READ Officers for 2011:**

Chair-Rebecca Dougherty, Reference Librarian,  
Oak Creek Public Library  
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect-Linda DeNell, Director,  
Caestecker Public Library (Green Lake)  
Past-Chair, Elizabeth Eisen, Adult Programming  
Librarian, Appleton Public Library  
Secretary-Caroline Haskin, On-site Supervisor,  
Ashwaubenon Branch Library  
Director-at-Large-Newsletter, Jane Genzel,  
Director, Muskego Public Library  
Director-at-Large-Webmaster, Heidi Cox,  
Director, Town Hall Library (North Lake)

### **READ Sponsored Programs at the Upcoming WLA Conference**

By: Rebecca Dougherty  
Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, READ Section

We hope to see you at any and hopefully all of this year's offering of READ sponsored programs. Please let us know if you have any future program ideas. Thanks and see you at the Kalahari!

**One Conference, One READ Book  
Discussion (Wednesday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2:30 –  
3:15pm)**

***This Book is Overdue!: How Librarians and  
Cybrarians Can Save Us All* by Marilyn  
Johnson**

**Discussion led by: Gary Warren Niebuhr,  
Library Director at Greendale Public  
Library, with Marilyn Johnson, author of  
*This Book is Overdue!: How Librarians and  
Cybrarians Can Save Us All***

Join Greendale Public Library's Gary Niebuhr in a discussion of *This Book Is Overdue!: How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All* by Marilyn Johnson. *Publisher's Weekly* gave the book a starred review and Ms. Johnson, as well as giving the conference's keynote address, will be attending this discussion. Do not miss this unique and exciting opportunity to discuss the book with Gary and Marilyn!

**Notable Books Marathon (Wednesday, Nov.  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 – 5:15pm)**

**Panelists:**

**Helene Androski**, retired librarian

**Elizabeth Amundson**, Librarian, Madison  
Public Library

**Jean Anderson**, Continuing

Education/Multitype Coordinator, South Central  
Library System

**Eliot Finkelstein**, Academic Librarian, College  
Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Kirsten Houtman**, Member Services Librarian, WiLS, University of Wisconsin-Madison

An annual event offering thoughtful, inspiring, humorous, and fast-paced reviews of titles selected from the ALA Notable Books list and the WLA Literary Award Committee's notable books. The presenters are all experienced and knowledgeable book discussion leaders.

Reviews include: *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers, *People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish* by Kathleen Schmitt Kline, Dan Chaon's novel, *Await Your Reply*; Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin*, and *Brooklyn: A Novel* by Colm Toibin.

**Dewey or Don't We?: BISAC v. Dewey (Thursday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 3:15pm)**

**Presented by: Rachel Fewell**, Collection Development Manager, Rangeview Library District, Colorado; **Melissa Rice**, Head of Adult Services, Frankfort Public Library, Illinois; a member of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee SOIS Research Team featuring **Dr. Hope Olson**, Professor and Associate Dean, SOIS; **Dr. Margaret Kipp**, Assistant Professor, SOIS; **Daniel Martínez Ávila**, Doctoral Student, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid

Please join a panel discussion with practitioners and researchers exploring what libraries may learn and use from BISAC classification and the "bookstore" model. This panel will consist of librarians from public libraries who have implemented BISAC (Book Industry Standards & Communications) in place of the DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) system and academic researchers who have explored the pros and cons of libraries moving more toward BISAC classification and a "bookstore" model. This program will be followed by the related program "BISAC and Beyond: Adapting Retail Practices to a Library Setting" with Andy Barnett from McMillan Public Library in Wisconsin Rapids who have taken a more middle ground approach and implemented BISAC in part of their collection along with making some other community focused changes.

**BISAC and Beyond: Adapting Retail Practices to a Library Setting (Thursday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 5:15pm)**

**Presented by: Andy Barnett**, Assistant Director, McMillan Public Library

Libraries are experimenting with all manner of retail practices, but what works, how does it work and how well does it work? What kind of

retail environments are appropriate models? How much does the library change to fit the practice, instead of the other way around? McMillan Memorial Library examines its implementation of BISAC/genre displays, coffee and food service, Commons area and self-service options for lessons learned. This program will follow "Dewey or Don't We?: BISAC v. Dewey" which will offer an academic perspective and reports from libraries that have converted wholly to BISAC.

Please also feel free to attend the READ Business meeting which will be held Thursday morning from 7:00 – 8:30am. This is YOUR section, and your input is always appreciated.



## **So You Want to Read More... STEAMPUNK**

Steampunk, a subgenre of fantasy and science fiction has been around since the 1980s. It consists of works that are set in an alternate history in which steam power was never superseded and has influenced the direction of all new technologies. Instead of silicon, plastic, and microchips, technology is powered by steam, built of metal and wood and run by intricate sets of gears. It is often set in a Victorian-era England as one of the main appeals of steampunk is its romanticizing of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a rising steampunk subculture, with its own art, fashion, and music.

Precursors of steampunk include H.G. Wells's *The Time Machine* and Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*. One of the first steampunk novels was *Morlock Night* by K. W. Jeter (1979), which borrowed the characters of the Morlocks from Wells's *Time Machine*. The popularity of the new Sherlock Holmes movie, which incorporates common steampunk elements, may encourage readers to search for similar kinds of stories.

*The Difference Engine* by William Gibson and Bruce Sterling (1990)

Set in 1855, the premise is based on the concept that the real-life inventor and mechanical engineer, Charles Babbage, succeeded in creating his programmable computer, the Analytical Engine. Because of this revolutionary invention, the British Empire remains the most powerful political entity in the world, thus changing history. The novel explores how an information technology revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century would have affected society and the course of history.

*The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* by Alan Moore (1999)

This graphic novel series combined 19<sup>th</sup> century literary adventurers with the 20<sup>th</sup> century superhero comic book concept. Characters, such as Mina Harker of *Dracula*, Allan Quatermain of *King Solomon's Mines*, and Captain Nemo of *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*, are brought together by the British Empire as secret agents charged with protecting the British Empire.

*Soulless* by Gail Carriger (2009)

The first in *The Parasol Protectorate* series, it combines urban fantasy with a steampunk setting. In an alternate Victorian England, Alexia Tarabotti has no soul and finds herself embroiled in intrigues with a Scottish Alpha werewolf and government official, Lord Conall Maccon. Vampires and ghosts also populate her world. With elements of romance plus being a comedy of manners, this series has a little something for everyone.

*Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest (2009)

Set in an alternate post-Civil War Seattle, a mad inventor, Blue Wilkes, is blamed for destroying the city. His son, Zeke, goes into the walled city to try to clear his father's name. His mother follows in an airship to rescue him, as Seattle is infected with a toxic gas that turns people into zombies. She finds that her husband, presumed dead, may still be alive in the city, still insane and bent on destruction.

*The Somnambulist* by Jonathan Barnes (2007)

Edward Moon is a professional conjurer and private detective who is accompanied by a silent giant known as the Somnambulist, who can be stabbed and does not bleed. Moon uncovers a plot by a group to bring back the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge from the dead, using a mysterious machine.

*Steampunk* edited by Ann and Jeff VanderMeer (2008)

This anthology features stories from Michael Moorcock, Michael Chabon, James P. Blaylock, Ted Chiang, Neal Stephenson and Mary Gentle among others. Stories feature such elements as airships, steam-powered robots, alchemy, and Martian technology.



### **A Miscellany of Online Book Lists**

NewPages.com: Good Reading Starts Here:

[www.newpages.com/npguides/reviews.htm](http://www.newpages.com/npguides/reviews.htm)

This site is rich with news, information and guides to independent bookstores, independent publishers, literary magazines, alternative periodicals, independent record labels, alternative newsweeklies and the reviews and book lists they feature. Library Journal says: "[One] of the best online portals is NewPages.com, which includes reviews and guides to independent presses and creative writing programs." It is really a guide to guides for book and media selection, and given the time (who has it?) readers, librarians, and folks in the book trade could happily pursue one link after another. For example, for book features from an extensive list of newspapers, go to <http://www.newpages.com/npguides/reviews.htm#Newspapers>

### **SF Site: the Home Page for Science Fiction and Fantasy**

<http://www.sfsite.com/>) For more than a decade SF Site has asked readers to nominate their favourite books of the past year. Among SF readers' choices for the best books of 2009 are: *Gardens of the Sun* by

Paul McAuley, *Galileo's Dream* by Kim Stanley Robinson and *Cursed* by Jeremy C. Shipp. You can explore many links to other sites and lists from SF Site.

**Science Fiction: The 100 Best Novels (1949-1984)** by David Pringle, c1985. (ISBN 0-88184-259-1) is on the web at <http://www.auburn.edu/~vestmon/100best.txt>. An unannotated list of classics.

**The Golden Duck Awards for Excellence in Children's Science Fiction Literature** (<http://www.goldenduck.org/>): Together with award winning titles from picture books through senior high reading, the site includes a link to teacher resources and an age-graded reading list.

**DC Comics 30 Essential Graphic Novels** (<http://www.dccomics.com/sites/essential30/>) Here are the best-selling titles that DC says you must read (of course, they publish them, so cannot be accused of a detached interest). For collection building you might want to partner this with a look at 2009 Great Graphic Novels for Teens from YALSA



### Philosophical Trivia

1. In what mystery series does philosopher Immanuel Kant feature?
2. In what juvenile fiction book does a teenager travel back in time to try to stop philosopher Roger Bacon from publishing his formula for gunpowder?
3. In what recently published novel does Italian monk-philosopher Giordano Bruno become a spy in England?

(Young Adult Library Services Association) and other recommended lists.

### HWA's Horror Reading List from the Horror Writers' Association.

<http://www.horror.org/> You have to dig through the crypt a little to find the book lists on this web page. Though the Association was founded to foster a greater appreciation of dark fiction among members of the general public its interests seem primarily focused on writers and would-be writers. But they know their horrors. Some current Bram Stoker Award Winners for work published in 2008 are *Duma Key* by Stephen King, first novel *The Gentling Box* by Lisa Mannetti and the anthology *Unspeakable Horror* edited by Vince A. Liaguno & Chad Helder.

This year's nominees for Superior Achievement in a Novel (2009 publication date) are *Audrey's Door* by Sarah Langan (Harper), *Patient Zero* by Jonathan Maberry (St. Martin's Griffin), *Quarantined* by Joe McKinney (Lachesis Publishing and *Cursed* by Jeremy Shipp (Raw Dog Screaming Press)



4. What 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher's bones have been treated like holy relics by his admirers and who wrote about it?
5. Who is the 20<sup>th</sup> century philosopher whose biography has been published in graphic novel form?

Answers on the last page of the newsletter

### **Join Readers Section!**

Readers Section is not just for readers advisory librarians. If you like to read or if you work with patrons who like to read, please join Readers Section the next time you renew your WLA membership. Tell our friends about us too. We need your financial support, knowledge and participation.

This semiannual newsletter is produced by the Readers Section. Articles may be sent to Stacey Lunsford (Editor) Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, 431 W Center St, Whitewater WI 53190, Fax 262-473-0539, [lunsford@mwfls.org](mailto:lunsford@mwfls.org)

Chair: Elizabeth Eisen, Appleton Public Library  
Chair-elect: Rebecca Dougherty, Oak Creek Public Library  
Secretary: Laurie Freund, Waukesha Co. Fed. Library System

### Answers to Philosophical Trivia

1. Michael Gregorio's Hanno Stiffeniis mysteries
2. *Black Powder* by Staton Rabin
3. *Heresy* by S.J. Parris
4. Rene Descartes; Russell Shorto's *Descartes' Bones*
5. Bertrand Russell in *Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth*

