

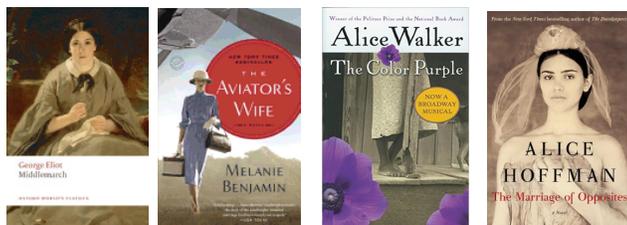
Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



March 2016

WOMAN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATING WOMEN IN FICTION



A Sampler:

Middlemarch by George Eliot.

Eliot's heroine Dorothea Brooke who yearns to have her intellectual pursuits taken seriously has become an inspiration for generations of readers.

Loving Frank by Nancy Horan.

While scholars have relegated Mamah Cheney to a footnote in the life of Frank Lloyd Wright, the author illuminates Cheney's profound influence on the prominent architect.

Circling the Sun by Paula McClain.

Set against the majestic landscape of early-twentieth-century Africa, this novel sheds light on woman aviator and adventurer Beryl Markham.

The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman.

The story of the extraordinary woman who gave birth to the Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro.

The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin.

Benjamin shows how Anne Morrow Lindbergh was an accomplished aviatrix in her own right and an important contributor to her husband's achievements.

Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini.

Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley bought her freedom from slavery and became a renowned seamstress who counted Mrs. Lincoln among her clients.

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant.

This sweeping piece of fiction offers an insider's look at the daily life of a biblical sorority of mothers, wives, and daughters.

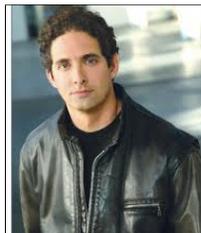
A Short History of Women by Kate Walbert.

This novel was inspired by a suffragist who starved herself to promote the integration of Cambridge University.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker.

A feminist novel about an abused and uneducated black woman's struggle for empowerment, the novel has been praised for the depth of its female characters.

AUTHOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Alex Berenson

Alex Berenson writes gripping, fast-paced thrillers that incorporate contemporary politics into suspenseful tales of action-packed rescues and international intrigue. During his time working at the New York Times, he served two stints as a correspondent in

Iraq, an experience that led him to write *The Faithful Spy*, which won an Edgar Award for Best First Novel.



The John Wells novels:

In these tightly plotted and suspenseful spy thrillers, John Wells is an extraordinary undercover operative who turns his talents to resolving complex political and terrorist threats that reflect aspects of the current geopolitical situation. The books are thoroughly researched and well written with excellent characterization and pacing that is full of action.

The Faithful Spy (2006)

The Ghost War (2008)

The Silent Man (2009)

The Midnight House (2010)

The Secret Soldier (2011)

The Shadow Patrol (2012)

The Night Ranger (2013)

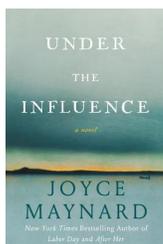
The Counterfeit Agent (2014)

Twelve Days (2015)

The Wolves (2016)

NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)

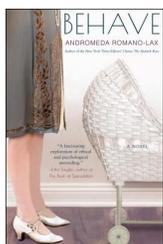


Under the Influence by Joyce Maynard. The *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Labor Day* and *After Her* returns with a provocative, complex, and relentlessly gripping novel about emotional seduction and betrayal. *Under the Influence* asks: Where do the boundaries of friendship lie? And at what point does generosity become a form of deadly manipulation?

The Madwoman Upstairs by Catherine Lowell. In Catherine Lowell's smart and original debut novel, the only remaining descendant of the Bronte family embarks on a modern-day literary scavenger hunt to find the family's long-rumored secret estate, using only the clues her eccentric father left behind, and the Brontes' own novels.



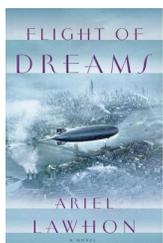
Behave by Andromeda Romano-Lax. With *Behave*, Andromeda Romano-Lax offers a provocative fictional biography of Rosalie Rayner Watson, a woman whose work influenced generations of Americans, and whose legacy has been lost in the shadow of her husband's. In turns moving and horrifying, *Behave* is a richly nuanced and disturbing novel about science, progress, love, marriage, motherhood, and what all those things cost a passionate, promising young woman.



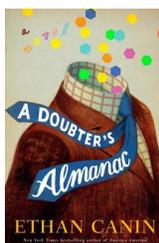
The Travelers by Chris Pavone. Meet Will Rhodes: travel writer, recently married, barely solvent, his idealism rapidly giving way to disillusionment. Then one night, on assignment for the award-winning *Travelers* magazine in Argentina, a beautiful woman makes him an offer he can't refuse. A network of deception is part of a deadly conspiracy ensnaring him with terrifying global implications, and the people closest to him may pose the greatest threat of all.



Flight of Dreams by Ariel Lawhon. *Flight of Dreams* chronicles an author's imagined scenario on the ill-fated last flight of the Hindenburg, which was shrouded in mystery. Lawhon does a masterful job by giving meticulous detail of the ship and delving into the lives of many of the characters on board. -- Kristin Fields for *LibraryReads*.



A Doubter's Almanac by Ethan Canin. Spanning seven decades as it moves from California to Princeton to the Midwest to New York, *A Doubter's Almanac* tells the story of a family as it explores the way ambition lives alongside destructiveness, obsession alongside torment, love alongside grief. It is a story of how the flame of genius both lights and scorches every generation it touches.

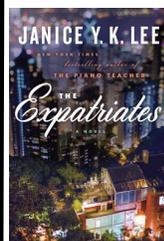
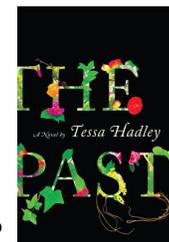


For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit our website at www.ridgefieldlibrary.org

STAFF PICKS

Elise's Picks

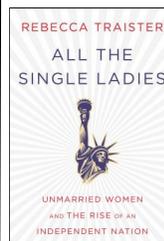
The Past by Tessa Hadley. Four middle-aged siblings gather at their grandparents' crumbling cottage for what may be their last vacation together. The 200 year-old vicarage is filled with shared memories of summers in the English countryside, and also served as a refuge when their mother fled her philandering husband. As the three sisters and their pampered brother struggle with what to do with the family homestead, old grievances and new alliances emerge. Considered a master of domestic fiction and admired for her beautiful descriptions of the natural world, Hadley has once again delivered a subtle, psychologically astute portrait of the tensions and ties of family life.



The Expatriates by Janice Y. K. Lee. Set in modern Hong Kong and written by an author who was born and raised there, this moving, socially savvy novel follows the intertwined fortunes of three very different American expatriate women: Mercy, a recent Columbia graduate unable to hold down a steady job or break a cycle of bad boyfriends; Margaret, a successful landscape designer with a seemingly charmed family life; and Hillary, a wealthy housewife unable to conceive and agonizing over adopting a mixed-race child. Lee weaves their lives together in surprising and affecting ways, providing an insider's glimpse into the insulated expatriate world, a compelling novel about motherhood, and the need for forgiveness.

Dorothy's Picks

The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson. The author of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* captures the seemingly idyllic life in a small town in East Sussex in the summer of 1914. Aspiring writer Beatrice Nash accepts a teaching position in Rye, but soon discovers that not everyone is keen on having a woman instructor. Agatha Grant takes Beatrice under her wing and introduces her two nephews. Hugh is a promising young surgeon and Daniel an aspiring poet. But when World War I breaks out, the novel follows the town's young men to the battlefields of France. This book would be a great choice for anyone suffering from *Downton Abbey* withdrawal. It beautifully captures both the light and dark sides of the time period, including the struggle for women's equality, class inequalities, and the devastating effects of war.



All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation by Rebecca Traister. Today only 20 percent of American women are wed by age 29 and for the first time more women are unmarried than married. This is a fascinating look at the societal changes that led to a radical transformation of the number of women who chose either to wed later or to remain single. Through extensive research and interviews with both social scientists and a range of women from different walks of the life, Traister offers a eminently readable and thoroughly engrossing look at what led to these seismic changes.