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Spring 2009

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Friends of the Bethel University Library

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AMONG FRIENDS

VOLUME 9: NUMBER 2

SPRING 2009

By Thomas Johnson

Ed Lotterman, whose syndicated column “Real World Economics” is a regular feature of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, will be the featured speaker at an event called *Crash Course: The 1929 Depression and the 2009 Recession* sponsored by the Friends of the Library. (See ad at right.)

A “self-employed economist,” Mr. Lotterman currently teaches in the MBA and undergraduate programs at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and spent several semesters teaching in Bethel’s Business and Economics Department. In addition to his teaching and writing, he has a rich and varied background including time working as a regional economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; on U.S. development projects in Eastern Europe, including three trips to Bulgaria and one to the Czech Republic; and two years at the Winrock International Center on a USAID-funded livestock development pro-

ject in Peru. He holds degrees in Latin American area studies and in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Minnesota.

The evening will include Bethel’s Dr. Thomas Becknell and Chuck Hannema, both of whom will bring their unique perspectives to the discussion. Professor Becknell, who teaches in Bethel’s English Department, is widely known for his work with environmental writing. Professor Hannema, current chair of the Department of Business and Economics at Bethel, worked for two decades in commercial and investment banking before coming to Bethel in 2002. He currently teaches an innovative interim course called *The Psychology of Investing*.

This event, timed to fall almost exactly six months after the bankruptcy and eventual liquidation of Lehman Brothers, will allow an audience interested in the continuing drama of the subprime mortgage crisis and its ripple effects

Crash Course
The 1929 Depression and the 2009 Recession

**Sunday
 March 29
 6:30 PM**
 ~ Free ~

University Library Fireside Lounge



throughout the world economy to hear from three thoughtful speakers bringing their individual reflections on these events (and those of the Great Depression.)

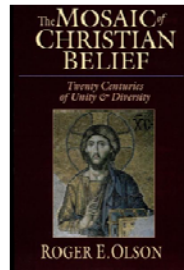
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ERIC'S ECLECTIC PICKS

By Eric Gossett, President of Friends of the Library

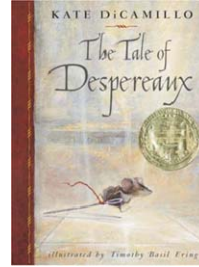
Have you ever wished to learn a bit more about theology, but have not wanted to read a large book written for other theologians? Have you ever wanted to learn about how a particular theological doctrine is viewed by various Christian traditions and how understanding has changed over the centuries? If you answered "yes", you will love *The Mosaic of Christian Belief: Twenty Centuries of Unity and Diversity* by former Bethel professor, Roger Olson.



For each major theological issue Olson highlights the areas where Christians of all times and traditions have found common ground, then explores some of the major areas of difference as well as some of the major related heresies. He then suggests which issues allow for diversity of belief and suggests ways to maintain unity within our diversity.

In light of the negative reviews of the recent film version of *The Tale of Despereaux*, I would like to en-

courage families (and adults) to pick up a copy of the original book, written by local author Kate DiCamillo. The book is a Newberry Medal winner. The full title is *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup and a Spool of Thread*. Despereaux is a mouse who is out of step with his peers, but the author is not a slave to the standard formulas for writing about such a character.



One video recommendation that is suitable for families with middle school and older children is *Saving Sarah Cain*. The movie is directed by Michael Landon Jr. and is based on the book *The Redemption of Sarah Cain* by Beverly Lewis.



The main character is a successful newspaper columnist whose life is interrupted by the news that she has become the legal guardian of her five Amish nieces and nephews. The movie treats the Amish with respect while pre-

senting the kids as realistic individuals. Even though you know from a very early point some of where the movie is going, the journey is still valuable.

The second video recommendation is a Japanese film called *Twilight Samurai*. It is subtitled and aimed at an adult audience. It tells the story of a poor Samurai whose wife has died and who is doing his best to raise his two young daughters and care for his aged mother. He has no desire to do anything but be with his family, but events conspire against him.



This movie has only two brief fight scenes (one very intense and realistic), but the focus is on the main character's struggles. It is almost an anti-Samurai movie, given the main character's desire for a quiet life. This award-winning film exhibits a modern Asian director's look at a societal icon that is similar to the cowboy in American culture. Are we trapped by our fate and societal demands, or is there hope?

Twilight Samurai is a director's look at a societal icon similar to the cowboy in American culture.

Celebrate @BUJlibrary
National Library Week: April 12-18

FIRST ANNUAL CONNIE J. LARSON SCHOLARSHIP WINNER!

By Verena Larson

The Friends' Board of Directors has chosen sophomore Erica Myers as the first recipient of the Connie J. Larson Memorial Scholarship Award. Erica's double major is Psychology and Spanish and her minor is Family Studies. She works two part-time jobs and still finds time for crocheting, reading, traveling, photography, and enjoying time with her friends and family.

After graduation Erica plans to pursue an advanced degree in Library and Information Science with an emphasis in academic libraries.

Those of us who worked with Connie know she would feel gratified that the first scholarship will go to a student who wants to continue in the profession.

This \$300 annual scholarship is awarded to a full time student in the College of Arts and Sciences who has worked in the library for at least one year with the expectation of continuing the following year. The student must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and have shown exemplary service as a library assistant.

Erica was recommended by the Reference Librarians

who described her as "extremely responsible, dependable, and trustworthy, always on time, providing quality customer service at the Reference Desk, and seeking out ways she can assist us."

Erica commented, "I have been blessed and I know that this is what God has planned for me. I practically grew up in the library and it is interesting to see where I have come, and where I will end up."

Erica will receive official recognition at the Friends of the Library Forum on March 29.



Erica Myers is extremely responsible and provides quality customer service at the Reference Desk.

THE FLORIST'S DAUGHTER BY PATRICIA HAMPL

By Karen Johnson

As an avid gardener and a browser of greenhouses, I was attracted to *The Florist's Daughter* by Patricia Hampl and delighted to find this woman's account of growing up in St. Paul neighborhoods. What a find to indulge my passion for gardening, local history, and to reminisce about growing up in the 1960's. I didn't anticipate the depth of this tale and the engaging style of writing I would find.

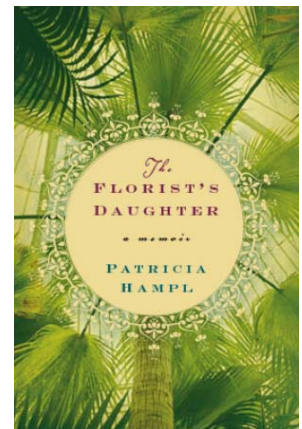
Seeking to flee Minnesota as an adult, the author finds herself taking care of her parents at their end. In

carefully phrased vignettes that are neither too sweet nor too graphic, Hampl describes her mother's somewhat self-imposed tragic life and her father's popularity with customers, but lack of business acuity which caused him grief in the end.

Without the rosy glasses but with a touch of wistfulness, Hampl catches the flavor of the post war years in the Midwest when her blue collar parents were working their way into the middle class. Her descriptions of greenhouses, showrooms, and employees recall her childish misperceptions of the

adult world; it led me to do the same.

Because the author does not dwell on her own life, I'm left trying to fill in the details of this Minnesota author. She writes about her Czech heritage in *A Romantic Education* and her travels to explore a more contemplative life in *Virgin Time*. *Blue Arabesque: A Search for the Sublime* is an exploration into art. *I Could Tell You Stories: Sojourns in the Land of Memory* is one of her collections of short stories. It looks like I will have more books to explore as I relax on my porch this summer.





Friends of the Bethel University Library is an alliance of people dedicated to improving the resources of the Library. Among Friends is published twice a year.

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UNIVERSITY**

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St. Paul, MN 55112

VISIT THE BETHEL UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY'S WEBSITE AT:
<http://library.bethel.edu>

LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

By Verena Larson

- **\$10,000 gift to the BU Library!**
The Library is the beneficiary of a \$10,000 bequest from a trust of Grace C. Allen in memory of her parents, Bengt and Alma Carlton. The gift, specified to be used for purchasing books, has been put into a Friends of the Library account. Watch for news about how this valued fund will be used to benefit the students at Bethel.

- **Library Hosts Black History Month Event**

On February 26, Angela Shannon, Assistant Professor of English and Herbert Johnson, Professor of Music, presented a sampling of works by Black artists whose literary and musical legacies have enriched the American experience. Students, faculty, and staff were treated to a historical review of prose and poetry interspersed with piano selections. The Fireplace Lounge, gift of the Friends, was an accommodating venue for this program, which was sponsored by Student Life. You can see a recording of this great presentation at <http://www.bethel.edu/media/university/faculty/BHM26Feb2009>

- **Hats Off to the Stars**

Lyndi Finifrock and Betsy Dadabo were given "academy awards" at a surprise "top hats off" party on December 10. They were feted for their creativity in planning events to help student employees become better acquainted with each other and the Library. Also celebrated was their work with book and electronic displays that catch the eye as well as inform the library user.

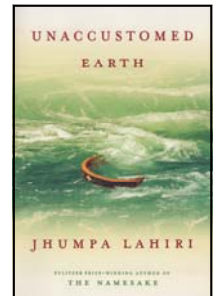


- **Library Expansion on Hold**

When the Fall 2008 *Among Friends* went to press, our expectations were high that this issue would show the Library expanding into the newly vacated second floor below. Sadly, the economic downturn has postponed these plans. The Library will continue to be crowded with students vying for computers as well as space for individual and group study.

- **New Books from the Friends**

- *Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- *Indignation* by Philip Roth
- *An Aquarium: Poems* by Jeffrey Yang
- *Hauru No Ugoku Shiro (Howl's Moving Castle)* (DVD)
- *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones
- *Magnolia* (DVD)
- *A Hard-Water World: Ice Fishing and Why We Do It* by Greg Breining
- *Acedia & Me: A Marriage, Monks and a Writer's Life* by Kathleen Norris
- *The Splendid Table's, How to Eat Supper* by Lynn Rossetto Kasper
- *Fresh Air with Terry Gross: Faith, Reason and Doubt* (Sound Recording)



Lifetime Learning @BU library

NECESSARILY
✓

Not Ready for
Primetime

Ready for
Primetime

10:15–11:00 AM
@ BU LIBRARY
FIRESIDE LOUNGE

TUESDAY, MARCH 24: RUBEN RIVERA
Internationalism and Missions in the Interwar Period

THURSDAY, APRIL 2: CHRIS GEHRZ,
STACEY HECHT, SAMUEL MULBERRY
Live Policast—President Obama's First Hundred Days

TUESDAY, APRIL 7: BRIAN DEVANE (HISTORY STUDENT)
*The Shortcomings in Education of Early American Encounters in
High School History Textbooks*

THURSDAY, APRIL 16: THOMAS BECKNELL
Panel Discussion

TUESDAY, APRIL 28: CHRISTOPHER MOORE
*Flown the Coup? Explanations for Military and
Political Coups D'etat*

TUESDAY, MAY 5: CHRISTIAN COLLINS WINN
Rethinking Karl Barth's Relationship to Pietism

Co-Sponsored by Friends of the Bethel University Library and Faculty Development.



Friends of the Bethel University Library

Membership for 2008-2009

Renewing Member New Member

Membership Levels / Annual Dues

Student \$10

Supporting* \$25

Sustaining* \$50-\$100

Patron* \$250

Lifetime** \$1,000

* Sustaining, Patron & Lifetime levels can be joint membership for couples

** Lifetime membership may be paid over a period of up to 5 years

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- I would like to receive the *Among Friends* newsletter via email *(Please include email address above)*
- Please notify me by email so I can read *Among Friends* newsletter on the Library website
- I live in the Bethel area and would like to have University Library privileges
- No, please do not list my name & membership level In Friends materials

Visit the Library website at <http://library.bethel.edu>

Payment Options

Bookplate Options

For each \$25 donation, you may have a bookplate placed in a new book

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3900 Bethel Drive
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Please use another sheet of paper if more space is needed

Place bookplates in book(s) in the following area(s) of study:

Payroll deduction is available for Bethel Employees

Check here if you would like us to send a form for payroll deduction to you

No Preference

Arts and Humanities
_____ *Specify*

Bible/Theology/Religion
_____ *Specify*

Health Sciences
_____ *Specify*

Math and Science
_____ *Specify*

Social Science
_____ *Specify*

Other
_____ *Specify*

_____ *Specify*