

MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Readers
Advisory
Round
Table
Newsletter

December 2010

**Welcome to the 19th edition of
the MLA's RART newsletter.**

Feel free to share resources,
events, and ideas with your
colleagues by submitting them for
inclusion in the next issue.

Please email your submissions to
angie.noyes@co.washington.mn.us

In This Issue

What We're Up To.....	3
RIP 2010.....	3
Web Stuff	4
The Seattle Public Library: Podcasts [iTunes]	4
Literary Encyclopedia.....	4
Cindy Orr's RA Run Down	4
Scandinavian Crime Fiction	4
Some Great Articles	5
Summer Reading	5
Readers' Advisory: A Practice	5
Coping Assistance vs. Readers' Advisory.....	5
At Leisure with Joyce Saricks: Passion.....	5
What's Happening Around the State	6
Twin Cities Libraries.....	6
Greater Minnesota	6
Check out these sites too!.....	7
Remember to check out your local news outlets for other book-related events!	8
Non-obvious Ways to Enhance Reader' Advisory Knowledge:	9
Reader's Advisory Round Table Members Suggest.....	10
Child 44.....	10
When the Game Was Ours	10
Room	10
Vestments.....	10
Safe from the Sea	11
The Calligrapher's Daughter	11
Doors Open	11
Waking the Witch	12

What We're Up To

RIP 2010

I was just looking back on this year for RART and the only adjective I could come up with was "crazy." We had new steering committee members come in and attempted to orient them to life with RART; our 2010 Chair left us, taking a fabulous job out of state; and we only got one other newsletter out in 2010. Maybe the whole decade was just crazy!

Here's looking forward to a wonderful 2011, and new decade full of good reading, good company and good conversation. Cheers!

Angie Noyes
Steering Committee
RART

p.s.

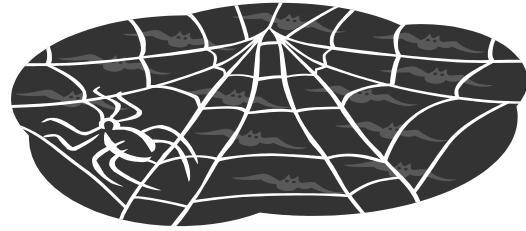
If you ever have content you would like to share let us know!

Check out our page on the MLA website:

<http://mnlbraryassociation.org/committees-subunits/reader-s-advisory-round-table/>



Web Stuff



The Seattle Public Library: Podcasts [iTunes]

http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=collection_podcasts

Author readings, lectures, discussions, and library events are the focus of podcasts available from the Seattle Public Library's website. The website has several different categories of podcasts, which can be accessed on the left hand side of the "Library Collection Podcasts" homepage. The categories include "Teens Podcast", which are recorded for teens by teens, the "Central Library Tour Podcast" and "Audio for Library Professionals". Some of the podcasts for teens include Ben Huh's "Lessons Learned from the World of LOLCats, FAILS and Other Blunders". The Teen Center Advisors, a volunteer group of 14-18 year old high school students chosen to "help shape programs and services for teens...and also create and post these podcasts", offers several podcasts. These podcasts bring to light teens' perspectives on library budget cuts, how teens choose what to read, whether teens should be forced to read the classics in high school, and who should decide what books are considered classics.

Literary Encyclopedia

<http://www.literacy.com/>

The Literary Encyclopedia is a growing reference web site that offers a look at the world of literature. The lives and works of many literary authors and other prominent figures, such as philosophers and musicians are profiled. The profiles offer lists of the author's works, their contemporaries and links to other web sites of interest.

Cindy Orr's RA Run Down

www.raonline.notlong.com (on Libraries Unlimited's **Reader's** Advisor Online Blog)

Welcome to the blog for readers' advisors and bibliophiles who work with readers. You'll find essential news, tips, fun stuff, and a community for exploring RA issues.

Scandinavian Crime Fiction

<http://scandinaviancrimefiction.wordpress.com/>

"This blog is part of a project to document and celebrate the amazing amount of high-quality crime fiction coming from the Scandinavian countries and being translated into English." Administered by Barbara Fister, an academic librarian at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, this blog provides links to magazine, newspaper, and blog articles and book reviews of Nordic mysteries. It's a great place to discover new titles and authors.

Did you know you can find **Publishers' Catalogs** on the Early Word website? It's the very last section in the right sidebar. <http://www.earlyword.com/>

Some Great Articles



Summer Reading.

by Verlyn Klinkenborg.

[New York Times](#); 07/06/2008, p9, 0p

When I was in graduate school, I dug a small garden, just some tomatoes, sweet corn, lettuce and a few other things. I intended to sit by it and do the heavy reading for my graduate work. I had grown used to books -- literary criticism mostly -- from which one looks up quite a lot and sees the weeds infesting the carrots and feels the need to do something. The books would drive me to the garden and the sun would drive me back to reading in the shade. That was the plan. It was ruined by Dorothy Sayers. The weeds take over the tomato cages, pages and pages of scholarship go unread, and still one does not look up from Dorothy Sayers.

Copyright of New York Times.

Readers' Advisory: A Practice

by Jennifer Hootman

<http://minitex.umn.edu/Communications/RefNotes/2010/03March.pdf>

Minitex's Jennifer Hootman discusses the perils of RA and where to get some assistance.

Coping Assistance vs. Readers' Advisory.

by Ya-ling Lu

[Children & Libraries: The Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children](#);

Spring2008, Vol. 6 Issue 1, p15-22, 8p, 2 Charts.

The article discusses how Readers' Advisory services may be used to help children cope with problems or issues. Readers' Advisory services are defined and a brief history of advisory practices in libraries is presented. Anecdotes are provided which focus on coping assistance provided by libraries in the wake of national disasters including the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The article discusses frequently asked coping questions, services or activities provided by children's librarians to help children cope with personal difficulties, and the similarities between helping children cope and traditional readers' advisory services.

At Leisure with Joyce Saricks: Passion.

By Joyce Saricks

[BookList](#), 107.7 (Dec 1, 2010): p23(1).

Sarick's briefly looks at why passion is important in Readers' Advisory and shares some of her latest favorites.



What's *Happening* Around the State

Twin Cities Libraries

The MELSA Events Calendar includes events from Carver, Dakota, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington County Libraries, and the St. Paul Public Library:

<http://www.melsa.org/melsa/index.cfm/library-events/>

Anoka County Library

<http://www.anoka.lib.mn.us/> click on "What's Happening"

Hennepin County Library

<http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/>

Greater Minnesota

Arrowhead Library System

<http://www.alscurrentevents.blogspot.com/>

Duluth Public Library

<http://www.duluth.lib.mn.us/Programs/Programs.html>

East Central Regional Library

<http://ecrl.lib.mn.us/>

Great River Regional Library

<http://www.engagedpatrons.org/Events.cfm?SiteID=5104>

Kitchigami Regional Library System

http://www.krls.org/events/events_special.html

Lake Agassiz Regional Library & Northwest Regional Library

<http://www.larl.org/index.html>

<http://www.nwrlib.org/>

Pioneerland Library System

<http://www.pioneerland.lib.mn.us/members.htm>

Plum Creek Library System

<http://www.plumcreeklibrary.org/libs.htm>

Rochester Public Library

<http://evanced.info/rochester/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

SELCO (Southeastern Libraries Cooperating)

<http://www.selco.info/about-us/member-directory?category=public-libraries>

Traverse des Sioux Library System

<http://www.tds.lib.mn.us/TdSLib.html>

Viking Library System

<http://www.viking.lib.mn.us/libraries.html>

Check out these sites too!

Harper Collins Author Events near You Newsletter

<http://www.harpercollins.com/Author/OnTourThisWeek.aspx>

Consider signing up for publishers' newsletters to find out when authors are coming to a town near you.

The Loft Literary Center

<http://www.loft.org>

Founded in 1974 in a loft above a Minneapolis bookstore, the Loft is now the nation's largest and most comprehensive literary center, offering programs and services for readers and writers. Check out its events calendar!

MELSA Workshop Events

<http://www.melsa.org/member/workshop/index.cfm>

If you work in the Twin Cities, remember to check the MELSA site for workshops relating to Readers' Advisory.

Minnesota Humanities Commission

<http://www.thinkmhc.org>

Check out the monthly calendars posted at this web site for various events.

Minnesota Library Association

<http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/>

Check out the MLA web site for current information & the RART webpage!

Rochester Public Library

<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/>

The University of Minnesota English Department:

<http://english.cla.umn.edu/> For more events and info go to <http://english.cla.umn.edu/> or call Terri Sutton at 612-626-1528.

****Remember to check local news outlets for other book-related events!****

<http://www.mpr.org/books/midmorning.shtml>

Minnesota Public Radio

<http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/entertainment/books/>

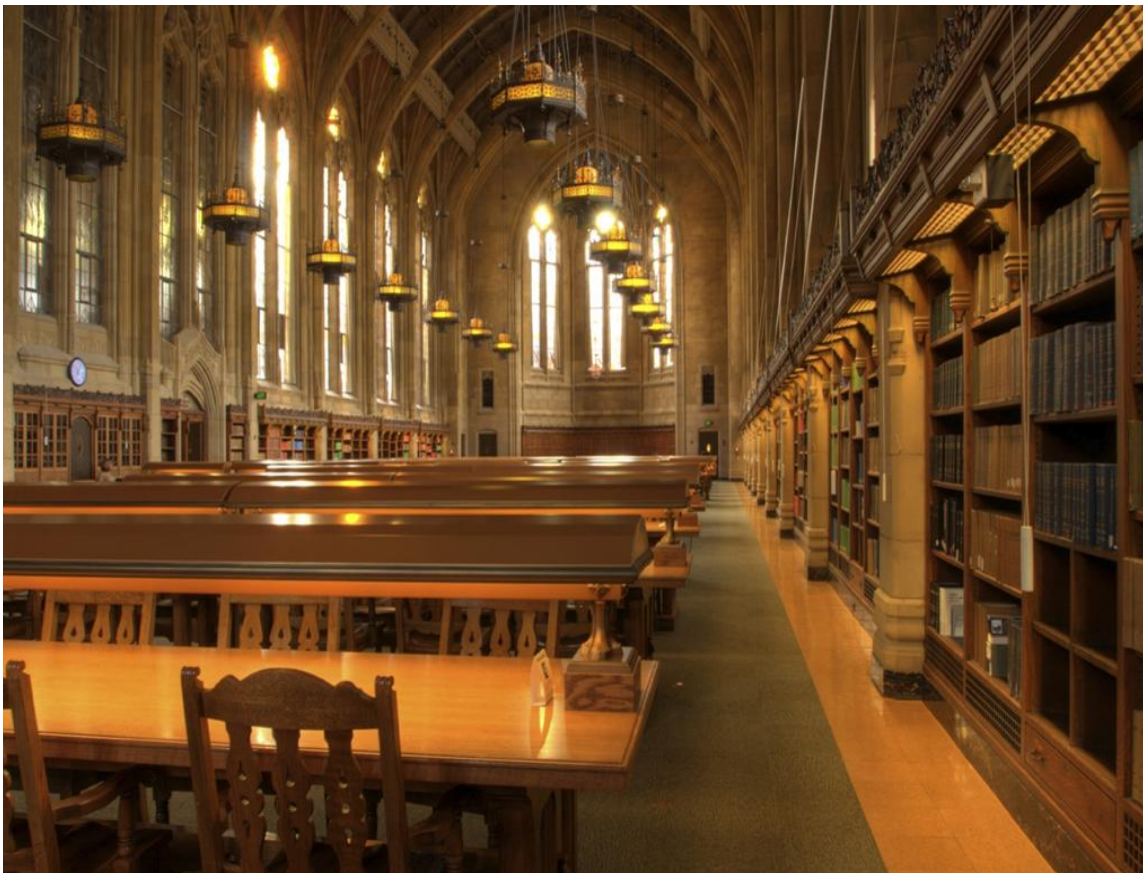
Pioneer Press—Books

http://www.twincities.com/entertainment/ci_6084676

Pioneer Press—Literary Calendar

<http://www.startribune.com/384>

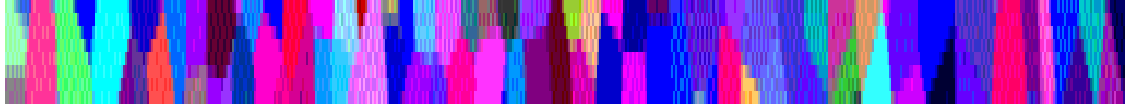
Star Tribune—Books page



Non-obvious Ways to Enhance Reader' Advisory Knowledge:



1. Buzz Girl <http://bookpagebuzz.blogspot.com/atom.xml>
2. Indulge in popular culture via magazines such as, Entertainment Weekly > and television shows such as Entertainment Tonight, etc.
3. Read Publishers Weekly Onsale Calendar
www.pwonsale.notlong.com
4. Sign up for USAToday's Books - Top Stories
<http://rssfeeds.usatoday.com/UsatodaycomBooks-TopStories>
5. Read your **MLA RART Newsletter!**



Reader's Advisory Round Table Members Suggest...

Child 44 by Tom Rob Smith

This mystery is enhanced by great characters with intriguing relationships, lots of interesting history, and suspenseful page-turner elements. Leo Demidov is a loyal state security officer in Stalinist Russia. When a child dies, he's assigned to the investigation. Even though the evidence points to murder, the state says this is impossible in a communist nirvana. Leo's conscience leads him to risk his job, his wife, and eventually his life--all to go after the mass murderer.

When the Game Was Ours by Larry Bird and Earvin Magic Johnson, with Jackie MacMullan
What sports fan doesn't remember the glorious NBA of the 1980s dominated by Bird and Johnson? In this just-released book, the two superstars talk about those years when their rivalry was all-consuming and how that rivalry evolved into their current friendship. What sets the book above many in the genre is the great job that MacMullan, a sports journalist, does in bringing together the many pieces of the story.

-Luanne Phillipich

I've been enjoying some great novels recently. Here is a snapshot of three of them.

Room the novel by Emma Donoghue is a very unusual book. I wasn't excited to read it as it is the CA story of the kidnapping of a teen that has a child in captivity. There ends the similarity. It is told through the eyes of the 5 year old boy with his language and understanding of what is happening. He has a great mother who is trying to provide all of the advantages of the other children that are going to school. It ends with their rescue and how they get acclimated to the world they haven't been a part of for 5 years. I highly recommend this great read.

Vestments by John Reimringer

I've also read. It is about a priest struggling with the real world and his love for the priesthood, his congregation, his prayer life, and the good he can accomplish. There are twists and turns that make it an interesting book to read and then spend some time thinking about. It would also make a very good book discussion. Mr. Reimringer is speaking around the cities and a trip to hear him is on my calendar.

Safe from the Sea by Peter Geye

This is another novel that really hit me. The setting is Duluth and just a little north in a small town out in the woods. The father works on the ore ships when his daughter and son are growing up and the wife is making a home for the family. As an adult the son has little to do with him until the phone call from his father that says he is dying. Through reminiscences and understanding their relationship is restored with the son gaining a new life. This is a Minnesota author that I would love to hear speak.

-Jane Stein

The Calligrapher's Daughter by Eugenia Kim

Another first time novelist, Kim has written an homage to her mother, a story about how her mother's life might have been. Beautifully written, this is both a coming of age novel and historical fiction at its finest. The narrator of the story, the calligrapher's daughter, is a member of the yangban, the aristocratic class. Her father, a traditionalist, tries to force his daughter, Najin, into the obedient and subservient role occupied by most Korean women. But Najin is resistant to this model of behavior, she wants to learn, to question, to be free of restraints. Promised in marriage at age 14 to an even younger unknown boy, it is Najin's obedient minded mother who defies the father and sends her daughter to serve in the Royal Court. Najin later attends college, teaches, and eventually returns home where she agrees to become betrothed again. She falls in love with her soon to be husband, marries him, but is separated from him the day after the wedding, a victim of the Japanese ruling bureaucracy. Kim paints a vivid picture of the occupation years and of the extreme poverty resulting from the country's involvement in World War II. There is depth to Kim's characters, especially Najin; this is both a story of a young woman's journey into change and her country's changing way of life.

-Karla Businaro

Doors Open by Ian Rankin

Set in Edinburgh where "Doors Open" refers to museums, corporations and galleries opening their doors to collections that are in storage areas, giving people a chance to see more of the institution's collection than is normally on display.

Three friends meeting at an art auction talk discuss how many art works are held privately. Robert Gissing, art professor, looking at retirement is especially frustrated by private collections. Mike Mackenzie, bored, wealthy, young, retired from a software company wants to own a painting unavailable for purchase. Allan Cruickshank has lost interest in his banking career, and is recently divorced. An idea is discussed! When Mike accidentally meets someone from school, Chib, now a professional criminal, the pieces are in place for a very clever burglary.

From the unusual plot, through the continually changing picture to the finish, this is an absorbing read.

-Christine Cundall

Waking the Witch by Kelly Armstrong

I just finished listening to this. It is the eleventh title in the *Women of the Otherworld* series. When I found the cd case on the “new items” shelf at my library, I was not aware it was a series. I found that out after I started listening to it, and was excited I found another series that seemed like it would ease my craving for the next Sookie Stackhouse book. And for those of you on the literature supernatural wagon, I am far behind on all the different series out there. I got overloaded by the Twilight hype and just choose not to touch any of them, until the yearning kicked in.

Ok so enough about that. I loved this book, it was fun, modern, and kinky and it didn't really matter that I hadn't read anything else in the series. We meet, or come back to, the character of Savannah Levine. And I wanted to dislike her right off the bat, she's 21, six feet tall, smart, rides a motorcycle, has an attitude. And oh she's the child of a witch and sorcerer. But I couldn't dislike her; she has gumption and is going through some adult growing pains. She works for her guardian's private detective agency. And while the owners are on vacation Savannah takes on a friend of theirs as a client and strikes out on her own to solve a murder case. I can't tell you any more, if you want a fun ride in a read, then take *Waking the Witch* off the shelf.

-Angie Noyes