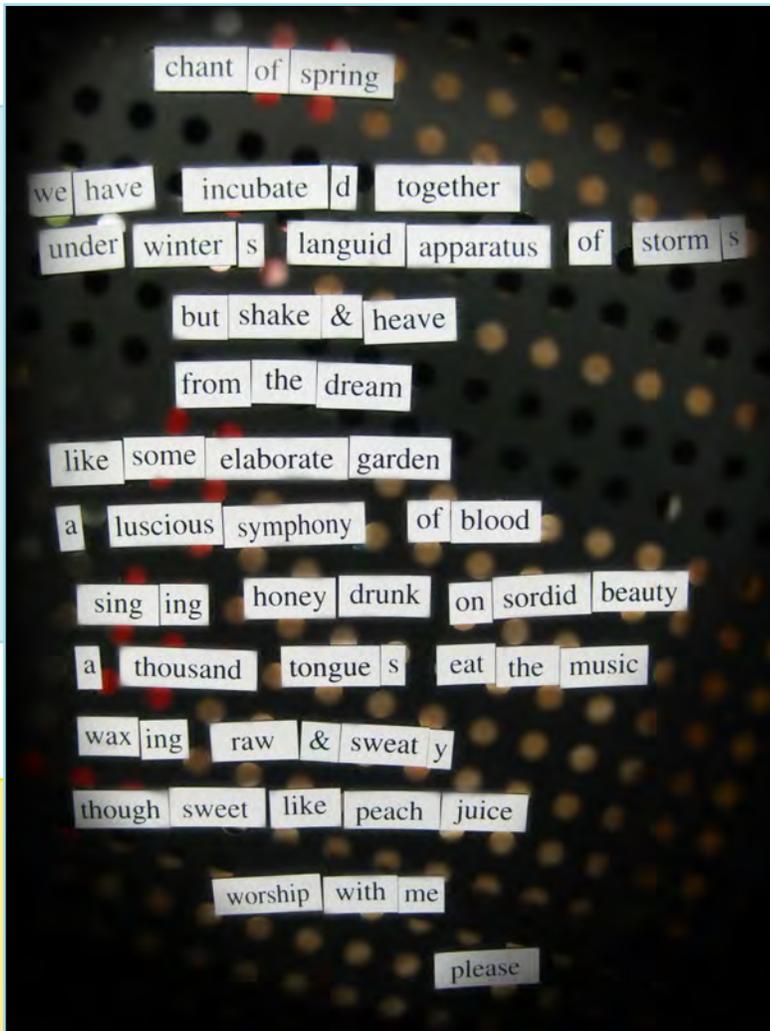




Celebrate Poetry at Salt Lake County Library



Salt Lake County Library Services wants you to celebrate spring this year by getting your creative juices flowing. April is National Poetry Month, and we are sponsoring a Magnetic Poetry Contest for teens and adults.

Simply create an original poem using a magnetic poetry kit of any kind (including handmade), take a photo of the poem and submit your entry by email. Entries will be accepted through Saturday, April 17, 2010 and will be judged on creativity and originality. More information about rules and prizes is available on the Library's website, www.slcolibrary.org.

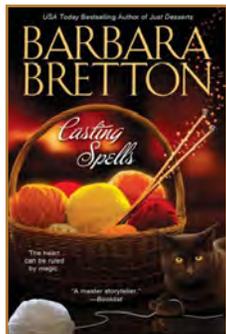
You can discover the joys of poetry all year long in your neighborhood County Library, and access enormous databases of information about poetry and literature in the Research Room at our website.

Inside Shelf Life:

- ❖ *Crafty Fiction*
- ❖ *Family Fun on a Shoestring*
- ❖ *Tales of Hard Times*
- ❖ *Travel the World Through Film*
- ❖ *Family Listening on Audiobooks*
- ❖ *Joke Books for Kids*

CRAFTY FICTION

BY RUBY CHEESMAN



It's all the rage these days: knitting clubs, scrapbooking clubs, decoupage clubs (well, maybe NOT that one). People just love to get together to create things...and eat, discuss books, and sometimes solve mysteries at the same time. What a perfect combination! So grab your knitting needles, sewing machines and glue pots and get ready for some great reads.

How to Make an American Quilt by Amy Tan. The quintessential "craft fiction," this novel centers around a women's quilting group as their art, their stories of grief, passion, youth and age are played out in a multigenerational, multi-layered narrative. If you loved the movie, try the book.

Continuing in the quilting theme are Jennifer Chiaverini's "Elm Creek Quilts" novels. The most recent book in this series, which began with *The Quilter's Apprentice* (2000), is *The Lost Quilter* (2009). Master quilter Sylvia Compson investigates her ancestry and discovers unexpected connections to a runaway slave and quilter who traveled the Underground Railroad to Elm Creek Farm before she was captured and returned to Virginia.

Did you read *The Lover's Knot*, one of last year's Reader's Choice titles? "Someday Quilts" series mystery author Clare O'Donohue is back again with *A Drunkard's Path* (2009). Quilter Nell Fitzgerald signs up for art classes with a famous local professor who then becomes smitten with Nell's grandmother, a situation that turns menacing in the wake of murder.

You've probably heard of the very popular *Friday Night Knitting Club* (2006) by Kate Jacobs. Well, here are a few more knitting delights you'll want to try: Beth Pattillo's *Sweetgum Knit Lit Society* (2008) followed by *The Sweetgum Ladies Knit for Love* (2009). The Sweetgum ladies meet once a month to share their interest in books and knitting. Their get-togethers are quite sedate until the town librarian throws Hannah, a troubled teenage girl, into their group.

Casting Spells (2008) by Barbara Bretton offers knitting with a magical twist! Chloe Hobbs is a sorcerer's daughter and owner of a knitting shop in Sugar Maple, Vermont, a town populated by warlocks, vampires, witches and other paranormal inhabitants.

Switching gears, er, needles to crocheting with Betty Hechtman's "Crochet Mysteries." If you like to crochet, you'll love *Hooked on Murder* (2008). When Molly Pink, a bookstore event coordinator, is accused of murdering the leader of the weekly crochet group at Shedd & Royal Books and More, she, while unraveling the clues, decides to take up crocheting to catch the real killer.

Remember, even if you are craft challenged (like me) you can still "get crafty" and read!

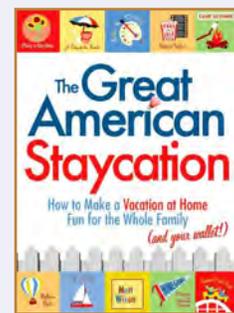
RUBY CHEESMAN is Manager of the Bingham Creek Library

FAMILY FUN ON A SHOESTRING

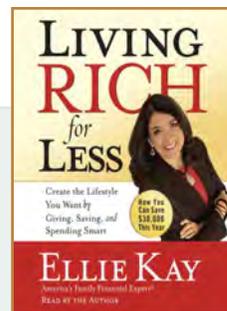
BY HOLLY WHISTLER

Would you like to spend some vacation time with your family but can't afford to travel? Tired of spending nights in front of the television? If you think that enjoyable family entertainment is out of reach, these books show how even in difficult economic times it is still possible to have fun.

In this tight economy, a popular alternative to the family vacation is the "staycation." *The Great American Staycation: How to Make a Vacation at Home Fun for the Whole Family (and Your Wallet!)* by humor columnist Matt Wixon has tips on how to enjoy a vacation even if you cannot get away from home. From finding alternatives to popular theme parks to making the most of your time off work, he offers advice based on his own and others' experiences. In addition, this practical book lists helpful Internet sites and specific ideas for planning your hometown entertainment. To help out with your staycation, take a look at *Fun with the Family: Utah* by Michael Rutter. Written for parents by a parent, this informative guide features local zoos, aquariums, amusement parks, children's museums, festivals, parks, and much more.

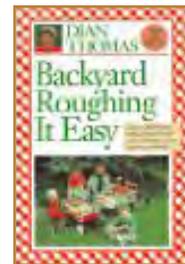


If traveling is something you enjoy and you want to save money, *Live Your Life for Half the Price: Without Sacrificing the Life You Love* by Mary Hunt and *Living Rich for Less: Create the Lifestyle You Want by Giving, Saving and Spending Smart* by Ellie Kay both have helpful chapters on how to travel affordably.



From "Science Night," to "Spooky Night," *Family Fun Nights: 140 Activities the Family Will Enjoy* is a great resource for inexpensive family activities that go beyond game nights and movie nights. *Live Your Life for Half the Price* by Lyle and Tracy Shamo also has a chapter on family fun on a shoestring.

When the weather is warm, inexpensive fun can be as close as your own backyard. *Backyard Roughing It Easy: Unique Recipes for Outdoor Cooking, plus Great Ideas for Family Fun, All Just Steps from your Back Door* by Dian Thomas is full of creative ideas for spending time outdoors with loved ones, plus simple ways to turn ordinary household items into outdoor gear. If doing crafts is something your family enjoys, *Family Crafting: Fun Projects to Do Together* by Carol Scheffler will provide hours of entertainment, as well as give kids the chance to be creative.



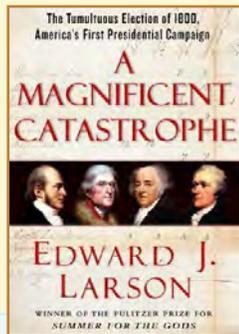
HOLLY WHISTLER is a Librarian at the South Jordan Library

TALES OF HARD TIMES

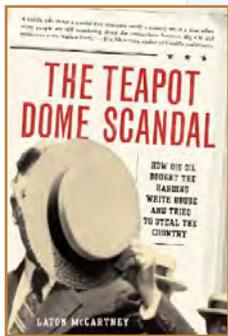
BY DAN BERUBE

Hard times are often the most interesting times; especially when you have the luxury of looking back from a safe distance. Reading about the past can also help put current events into a new perspective. Everything old may not be new again, but past events often seem to mirror current events.

If you think that the recent presidential elections have been contentious and divisive, then you need to read about the 1800 presidential campaign. Edward Larson's *A Magnificent Catastrophe* focuses on the intense electoral battle between John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr that strained civility and tested the young American government.

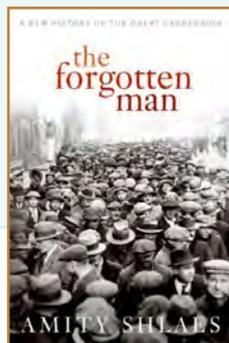


Speaking of politics, *The Teapot Dome Scandal* by Laton McCartney could be a contemporary tale of political corruption and corporate greed. Instead of Enron or Bernie Madoff, we have President Warren G. Harding, a potentially lucrative oil patch in Wyoming, and some very high level quid pro quo.

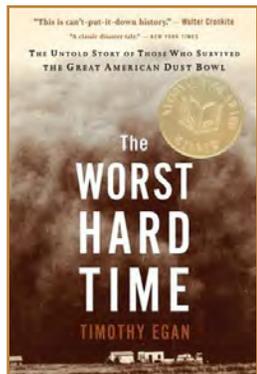


Today's economic woes have many people thinking of the Great Depression. Amity

Shlaes takes a fresh look at that time in *The Forgotten Man*. She questions how government policies and programs affected the economy and examines the enormous strain put on the common person.



Add choking black dust storms to the Great Depression and you have the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. This is the scene Pulitzer Prize-winning author Timothy Egan surveys in *The Worst Hard Time*. Real estate speculation, misguided farming decisions and prolonged drought resulted



in thousands of Americans losing their homes, lives and livelihoods.

But enough about the past, what would the earth be like if all of mankind suddenly vanished? That's the premise of Alan Weisman's highly speculative and entertaining *The World Without Us*. For example, the Chunnel would probably outlast the Great Wall of China and the Panama Canal. But nothing would last longer than nuclear waste, except maybe plastics.

TRAVEL THE WORLD THROUGH FILM

BY SUZANNE TRONIER

Movies offer a wonderful way to catch a glimpse of another way of life and another part of the world. I've never been to Rome, but from *Portrait of a Lady*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Roman Holiday*, I have images that bring this city to life for me. Following are some other films that offer armchair tourism.

Amelie • See Paris through the eyes of its most charming waitress. Amelie is a shy, adorable girl who helps lonely people connect with others. In a breakout performance Audrey Tautou takes the viewer on a deeply satisfying romp through the cafés and streets of Paris.

A Room with a View • Stuffy Brits are seduced by lovely Venice in this sweet, sumptuously lush film starring a young Helena Bonham Carter and Julian Sands.

The Sound of Music • It's 40 years later and people are still visiting Salzburg to see the hills come alive. It's no wonder, as the glorious Austrian Alps are a major player in this much loved musical of the singing Von Trapp family who fled Austria during WWII.

The Secret of Roan Inish • A girl is sent to live with her grandparents in a small fishing village in Donegal, Ireland where she hears a local legend that an ancestor of hers married a Selkie - a seal who can turn into a human. The wind whipped landscape of the beautiful Emerald Isle serves as the perfect setting for this mysterious legend carried by a child running along the beach.

The Painted Veil • Set in the Guangxi province, the movie follows an English couple who travel to rural China in the midst of a 1920's cholera epidemic. From the spectacular Li River surrounded by exotic jutting hills to the lush gardens and rice paddies, the scenery is spectacular. Starring Naomi Watts and Edward Norton.

The Lord of the Rings • The rich New Zealand landscape gave brilliant color and depth to these epic tales. With its spectacular mountains, elegant lakes, rugged coastlines, roiling rivers, bubbling mud pools and active volcanoes, casting New Zealand for a supporting role in these films was a stroke of genius.

Jeremiah Johnson • For a look at our own backyard, check out the stunning view of the Rockies in this 1972 film directed by Sydney Pollack and starring Robert Redford; based on a real mountain man of the 1850s who went into the Western wilderness to carve out a life for himself.

Winged Migration • An enthralling film that follows all kinds of birds migrating across the globe. The photography is incredible and the view of our planet is spectacular and moving.

If you'd like to see films from a particular country, do a subject keyword search using the name of the country and video recordings (DVDs). Just place your holds and wait for the world to come to you.

FAMILY LISTENING

BY LAURA BERUBE

Many of our lives have been taken over by television, movies and video games. So much so, that sometimes it's difficult to find time to read a book. But luckily we also spend a lot of time driving in the car. What does that have to do with reading and why is that lucky, you ask? The answer: audiobooks. Just pop one into the CD player and listen. Don't know where to start? Give one of these a try.

In *The Runaway Dolls* by Ann M. Martin & Laura Godwin, Annabelle Doll and Tiffany Funcraft are dolls and best friends. When a mysterious package arrives, they discover that inside is the long lost doll that is Annabelle's baby sister, Tilly. Not able to bear the thought of Tilly being sent back to London, Annabelle and Tiffany run away with her, possibly putting the secret lives of all dollkind in danger.

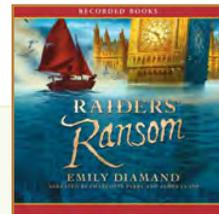
Popeye is living in Fayette, South Carolina with his grandma and finds life very boring until he finds an RV in the ditch behind his house. Living in the RV is Elvis and his rowdy siblings, bringing some excitement to Popeye's life. When they discover some mysterious boats made from Yoo-hoo cartons and filled with notes, they decide to find out what they are in *The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis* by Barbara O'Connor.

No one knows exactly what the future will bring, but in *Raider's Ransom* author Emily Diamand tells of how it might be. In this future, climate change has caused flooding and life is spent mostly on the water. It's 23rd-century Great Britain and after pirates kidnap

the Prime Minister's daughter, Lilly Melkun makes a daring rescue attempt, with a mysterious talking jewel from a past computer age tucked in her belt as ransom.

One might call the Bellweather family odd, maybe even peculiar. Their butler, Benway, attempts to bring some order to their chaotic lives, but even he has had enough. In *Leaving the Bellweathers* by Kristin Clark Venuti, Benway is secretly writing his tell-all memoir of life with the Bellweathers in Eel-Smack-by-the-Bay and planning his move to a place far, far away. When the children discover his planned move, Spider, Ninda and the nine-year-old triplets, Spike, Brick and Sassy, band together to prove how important and needed he really is.

Savannah's pet monkey, Cleo, is missing and after following the trail of clues, her best friend Griffin discovers that Cleo has been captured and put in a zoo. But when the gang tries to break her out of the zoo, they discover that all the animals are being mistreated and now they must break out all the animals and then – break them back into a better zoo. Will the gang succeed? Find out in *Zoobreak* by Gordon Korman.

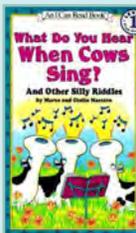


LAURA BERUBE is a Librarian at the Draper Library

WHAT'S FULL OF LAUGHS AND READ ALL OVER? JOKE BOOKS!

BY ANNA ZANARINI & JANELL MATTHEUS

What kind of books are read by skunks? Best-smellers! April is National Humor Month, so celebrate with some fabulously funny joke books! These are just a few of our favorites (many joke and riddle books can be found at call number J818.54).



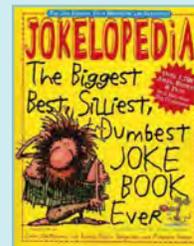
You Must Be Joking!: Lots of Cool Jokes, Plus 17 1/2 Tips for Remembering, Telling, and Making Up Your Own Jokes and *You Must Be Joking, Too!* by Paul Brewer

What Do You Hear When Cows Sing? And Other Silly Riddles by Marco Maestro

Ha! Ha! Ha! and Much More: The Ultimate Round-Up of Jokes, Riddles, Facts, and Puzzles by Lyn Thomas

Jokelopedia: The Biggest, Best, Silliest, Dumbest Joke Book Ever by Ilana Weitzman

The Mighty Big Book of Knock-Knock-Jokes! By Craig Yoe



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