

## BOOK DESCRIPTIONS—2008

### Jan 5-6

- *Living Well, Staying Well*, prepared by the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society, “takes you from scientific evidence to self-assessment to a variety of possible pathways toward a more healthful life.” (616.1 Ame)
- One reviewer says of *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, by Anne Lamott, that it’s “like having a chat with one of the angels, a smarter, wittier one.” (813 Lam)
- Cynthia Yates offers a practical guide to managing your money, your kids, and your personal life in *Living Well as a Single Mom*. (248.8 Yat)
- Nicholas Evans’ novel, *The Loop*, is the classic story of (wo)man against nature. A female wolf biologist is sent to Montana to protect wolves from ranchers. (813 Eva)

### Jan 19-20

For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:

- *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by James M. Washington. (323.1 Kin)
- *I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches that Changed the World*, edited by James M. Washington. (323.09 Kin)
- *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), selected and with an introduction by Coretta Scott King. (323.4 Kin)
- *The Martin Luther King, Jr. Companion: Quotations from the Speeches, Essays and Books of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, selected by Coretta Scott King. (323.09 Kin)
- *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by Clayborne Carson. (323 Kin)
- *I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Future of Multicultural America*, edited by James Echols. (303 Ech)
- *Martin Luther King, Jr. ...To the Mountaintop*, by William Roger Witherspoon. (323.4 Wit)

### Jan 26-27

- *The Thin Book of Appreciative Inquiry* by Sue Annis Hammond describes the basic ideas of this approach to change processes. (658.4 Ham)
- In *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time* Desmond Tutu “shares the spiritual message that guided him” through the South African struggles for human rights. (231.7 Tut)
- John C. Bogle’s book, *The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism*, “tells it like it is, like it was, and, most important, tells what needs to be done to restore the values of faith, integrity, and trust that were once hallmarks of corporate America and the financial sectors” (from the *Wall Street Journal* review). (330.13 Bog)
- Jane Smiley’s novel, *Barn Blind*, focuses on “work, love, and duty, and the excesses we commit to achieve success.” (813 Smi)

### Feb 2-3

- Reading *Gracie: A Love Story* by George Burns is very likely to make you smile in remembrance of one beloved show business personality. (792.70 Bur)
- *Forgiveness is a Work as Well as a Grace* contains Edna Hong's suggestions for living in troubled times. (234.5 Hon)
- In a novel set in a small Massachusetts town, Alice Hoffman's *Blue Diary* focuses on Ethan Ford who fails to show up for work because he's running from his past. Large Print. (813 Hof)
- Theologian-attorney William Stacy Johnson provides a comprehensive "analysis of the religious, legal, and political stakes in the debates over gay marriage, civil unions, and the place of committed gay couples in a democratic society" in *A Time to Embrace*. (306.84 Joh)

### Feb 9-10

- *Coming Together* has as its purpose "to provide Christians...with a primer that addresses racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity from a biblical perspective." (261.8 DeY)
- Examples of chapter titles in *Friendships after Forty* are these: "The glue that holds friends together" and "Should friends criticize?" (155.6 Spa)
- Wanna go to Italy, but can't? *Under the Tuscan Sun*, a travel book with great recipes, makes a worthwhile substitute. (945.5 May)
- "Empty Shelves" and "Grief Work" in *The Christian Century*, January 29, 2008. Each one-page article reminds readers of social justice work needed to better the world.

### Feb 16-17

For Black History month:

- Taylor Branch's book, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63*, was "hailed as the most masterful story ever told of the American civil rights movement." It won a Pulitzer Prize. (973 Bra)
- David Barton's *Setting the Record Straight: American History in Black and White* "reintroduces this generation to the forgotten heroes and untold stories from our rich African American political history." (305.89 Bar)
- *Powerful Days: The Civil Rights Photography of Charles Moore*, with text by Michael S. Durham, "brings together the most significant pictures of the civil rights movement in the South from 1958 to 1965...." (323.1 Dur)
- *Legacy: Treasures of Black History* contains a stunning collection of photographs dating from 1434. (973.04 Bat)

### Feb 23-24

- In her book *In the Company of Others* Jory Graham speaks to and for cancer patients on topics as diverse as anger as freedom, risk-taking, and the fight for life. (362.1 Gra)
- *Kneeling in Jerusalem* contains Ann Weems' poetry and makes for wonderful devotionals during Lent. (811.54 Wee)

- *Ladder of Angels* focuses on scenes from the Bible in illustrations by children of the world. Madeleine L'Engle provides the text. (221.9 L'E)
- *Seven Types of Ambiguity*, a novel by Elliott Perlman, is a “cerebral dazzler of a psychodrama about obsessive love.” (813 Per)

### Mar 8-9

- In *The Artist's Way* author Julia Cameron helps you on your spiritual path to higher creativity by instilling artistic confidence and creativity, freeing you from limiting factors such as fear, self-sabotage, jealousy, guilt and addictions. (153.3 Cam)
- Unless you gave up laughter for Lent, you'll probably enjoy Anne Lamott's *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith*. (813 Lam)
- Karen Levine provides seven guiding principles and 500 tips and ideas in *Keeping Life Simple*. (646.7 Lev)
- *Our Hope for Years to Come: The Search for Spiritual Sanctuary* contains reflections and photographs by Martin Marty and Micah Marty. These are helpful for Lenten devotionals. (242.34 Mar)

### Mar 16

- In *The Last Week* Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan provide a detailed day-by-day account of Jesus's final week in Jerusalem. Use it as a reading companion for Holy Week. (232.96 Bor)
- In her book *The Financially Confident Woman* Mary Hunt discusses roles, myths, and reformation along with a six-week plan of action for achieving financial confidence. (332.02 Hun)
- *Peony in Love* is Lisa Lee's novel set in 17<sup>th</sup> century China. The “novel addresses universal themes: the bonds of friendship, the power of words, and the age-old desire of women to be heard.” (813 See)
- *Beyond the Visible Terrain: The Art of Ed Mell* contains 120 color plates representing Mell's work plus biographical information about the artist. (709.2 Hag)

### Mar 23

- Intriguing chapter titles in *The Holy Way* begin with words such as solitude, purity, confidence, and tranquility. What better time than Easter to learn more about practices for a simple life. (248.4 Hus)
- Edith Nalle Schafer writes not only about how memory works, but also how it can be trained to work more efficiently in *Our Remarkable Memory: Understanding It, Improving It, Losing It?* (153.1 Sch)
- *Plain Truth*, a novel by Jodi Picoult, is an absorbing story of murder set in Amish country. (813 Pic)
- If you feel depressed by today's news, reading Jennings and Brewster's *In Search of America* could help. With words and pictures they show that America's principles endure in the face of being “shaken, molded, adapted, and assaulted.” (973.22 Jen)

## Mar 30

- In *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian* James W. Fowler shows that “we grow up and become adults in terms of some myth or image of the life-story that defines for us what it means to become a complete human being.” (248.8 Fow)
- *The Last Three Minutes* contains scientist Paul Davies’ conjectures about the ultimate fate of the universe. (523.1 Dav)
- Get a head start on ONEBOOKAZ by reading *These Is My Words*, a novel by Nancy E. Turner which recounts the life of Sara Agnes Prine, 1881-1901, in the Arizona Territories. (813 Tur)
- Dave and Kathy Babbitt discuss how to simplify and enrich your life style in their book, *Downscaling*. (179.9 Bab)