

AN INCLUSIVE
CONGREGATION
MINISTERING TO
MULTICULTURAL TORONTO

I N S I D E

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Good News ON BLOOR

Anything Goes (at Bloor Street Church)

Lyrics by David Passmore with apologies to Cole Porter
(sung by Randi Helmers & Geoff Keating at the Spring Banquet)



Spring Banquet: Margrit Eichler & Brian Fox



Leader of the Celebration Band: Bob Hilliard

Photos by Don Payne

Times have changed,
And we've often rewound the clock
Since the Protestants got a shock
When our theologues started to talk!
If today any shock they should try to stem,
'Stead of censoring liberal talk,
Liberal talk would censor them.

In olden days, the thought of knocking
The Bible was viewed as shocking,
But now, God knows,
Anything goes.

When sacred truth, once categorical,
Now's only metaphorical
Poems and prose,
Anything goes.

If reading Matt Fox you like,
If Harv Cox you like,
If Marc Borg you like,
If Al Cleage you like,
If Len Boff you like,
Or meaning doffed you like,
Why nobody will oppose.

When Virgin Mary's not the virgin
Described in the King James Version
That ev'ryone knows,
Anything goes.

When God is mother, not just father,
and Christ is their son, or daughter,
Then we suppose,
Anything goes.

When we provide the sacred feminine
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven,
Then heaven knows,
Anything goes.

The church is far out today,
And faith's doubt today,
And rules lax today,
And sins max today,
And guilt's gone today,
With John Spong today,
In a lovely liberal glow.

When moral truth is only relative,
Life neither heav'n nor hellative
At its close,
Anything goes.

When meditation taught by Buddha
Is looked on as something good, ah then
Goodness knows,
Anything goes.

When we groove to that guetar strummin'
With dancin' and Latin drummin'
And tappin' toes,
Anything goes.

Just think of those shocks you've got
From those thoughts you've got,
And those pouts you've got
From those doubts you've got,
And those strains you've got
(If any gains you've got)
From each modern wind that blows.

So Bloor Street Church with its elusiveness
Can boast of its inclusiveness
If it shows:
Anything goes.
Anything, anything, anything goes!

Notes on theologians:

Matthew Fox: "creation spirituality"

Harvey Cox: "secular theology"

Marcus Borg: "progressive Christianity"

Albert Cleage: "black liberation theology"

Leonardo Boff: "Latin American liberation theology"

John Spong: "liberal theology" (and Craddock lecturer)

Welcome to our **new members: Sarah Pell** works at the University Health Network as a project analyst. She enjoys photography as well as outdoor activities and serves as a volunteer on the website of the Julien project on horticultural therapy. She is married to **Alex Stewart**. Alex is a lifelong member of the United Church who works as a software developer for Kerr Vayne systems. He enjoys fooling around with computers and outdoor activities such as hiking and canoeing.

Sandra Bucerius and **Albert Vette** also joined our congregation at the Easter Vigil. Sandra and Albert were married at Bloor St. Church during the Sunday service on May 11. Many friends and family joined the congregation for this special occasion. Sandra came to Canada from Germany in January 2007. She is completing her Ph.D. in Sociology and will become an assistant professor at the Univ. of Toronto Centre of Criminology. She enjoys biking, swimming and running – sometimes in the triathlon combination. Albert was born in Edmonton but grew up in Germany. He has been back and forth to Canada through the years, coming to Toronto in 2005 for graduate study in biomedical sciences. His Ph.D. focuses on neurophysiology and motor control. He plays hockey and bikes for fun, enjoys music – both the organ and choir conducting. Sandra and Albert also have a cat named Sparky.

Congratulations to **Carmen Palmer** and **Michael Kooiman** who were married on April 26 at Forest Grove United Church. The Bloor Street congregation both past and present was well represented with Martha ter Kuile, Alydia Smith, Shannon Neufeldt and Jay Thiessen, and Linda Butler in attendance. Wonderful food was catered by none other than Lisa Walter. Michael is an ordained United Church minister, who will be moving to Central United Church in Weston over the summer. He is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry through the Chicago Theological Seminary. Carmen is a candidate for ordained ministry from our church and currently working on a doctoral program at the Toronto School of Theology in the Old Testament. She has been a part of Bloor Street since

2004. Carmen and Michael spent a lovely honeymoon exploring London, Paris and Amsterdam.

Happy Birthday to **Helen Ricker** who will be 93 on July 19. Helen regularly attends Sunday services, special Bloor St. events and congregational meetings.

A message to my amigos from **Alberto Arzola**. I am delighted to announce that in June my first child, a son, will be born. I wish to share with my community here at Bloor Street the joy that this wonderful and exciting news has brought me and my wife, **Marianela Marquez**. Viva mi hijo!

Suzanna Cermak has filled the important position of Chair of Christian Development & Community Life at our church. Suzanna began attending Bloor Street as a student and brings extensive experience with youth to her new role. After training as a secondary teacher of English, Suzanna worked for five years as Coordinator of Youth Programs at Evangel Hall. She is now supporting high school students in Lawrence Heights through the innovative “Pathways To Education” program. She mentors students to foster their success in school. Students in the group who exceed 60% in all their courses receive a \$1,000 bursary which is funded by the private sector. Suzanna is one of the leaders who will be accompanying the Cuba Youth Experience group to Cuba in August. She looks forward to participating in the community outreach of Bloor Street. *(Thanks to Dianne Johnson)*

Rishi Sativihari, who received his Master of Divinity degree on May 15, is known as the quiet spoken, profoundly respected, well-loved leader, for the past four years, of the weekly Contemplative Living group. His Discernment Committee (Paul Stott, Chuck Baker, Dann McCann and Mary Katsuno) feels that Rishi is a deeply spiritual, very pastoral and highly knowledgeable person. Raised in a home with Roman Catholic and Congregationalist influences and, later Methodist ideas, he eventually turned to Buddhism. He lived as a monk in Southeast Asia, served in an ecumenical project in Australia, became interested again in Christianity, and came full circle. In addition to the faith disciplines,

The First Intercultural Church by Alydia Smith

We often remember Pentecost (Acts 2) as the day when ‘early Christians’ received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and as a result were transformed into a community where all nations were welcomed and where all people could communicate and be understood despite their different languages. In this new community all nations were equal and all nations belonged. This new community that was created at Pentecost is also the new vision for the **Intercultural Church**.

At General Council 39 in 2006, our United Church committed to becoming an **Intercultural Church**, like the community of believers gathered at Pentecost. When I speak to others about our moving vision for the church they ask me what it means to ‘become an intercultural church’, and what an intercultural church might look like. At a recent meeting with Ethnic Ministries, I received some eloquently worded answers to those two questions that I wish to share.

What does interculturalism mean and how is it different from multi-culturalism or cross-culturalism? An intercultural community is one where deep reciprocal relationships are developed and where racial and cultural power imbalances are addressed so that true equity, acceptance and peace-making can be celebrated. This is quite different from multiculturalism, which is an adjective to describe a community where numerous cultures are valued and often celebrated, or cross-culturalism, where relationships are built between different cultural groups.

What would an intercultural church look like? The United Church’s vision for the intercultural church includes a place where: there is room for dialogue and learning, there is no dominant culture, people are integrated, not assimilated into communities, and there is openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

As we remember and celebrate the story of Pentecost, I encourage us to celebrate the church we are becoming, by reflecting on the church we once were!



Alydia Smith & Her Tuba Photo by Garnet Ward

Bloor People continued

he has worked in psychotherapy, research and social work. Returning to Canada, he renewed his baptismal vows at Bloor St. He consulted with Linda and Warren about ministry in the United Church, and became a candidate from Bloor St. Church. His next step will be an internship at White Oaks United in London, Ontario. *(Thanks to Mary Katsuno)*

Emmanuel College Spring Graduation. Congratulations to **David Shulman** who received the Diploma in Theological Studies in Health Ministries. Congratulations also to **Shannon Neufeldt** and **Rishi Sativihari** (see profile

opposite) who both received the degree of Master of Divinity. **Shannon** was awarded a General Proficiency Scholarship, the Percy Price Memorial Prize in Books, the Elizabeth & Seth Mathers Scholarship in Systematic Theology, the Elizabeth Webb Scholarship in Old Testament & New Testament Literature and the Dorothy Whiting Post-Graduate Scholarship. **Rishi** was awarded the T.B. Kilpatrick Scholarship in Systematic Theology.

Congratulations to **Nancy Williamson**, recipient of the Faculty of Information Studies Alumni Association (Univ. of Toronto) Jubilee Award for 2008.

Putting *on the Ritz* by Laurie Gordon

On April 26 the church was humming with activity. Bob Hilliard and the band rehearsing in the sanctuary; Ellen Schwartzel, Marion Davies and Dawn Lee decorating in McClure Hall; the Kentners, Gordons, Jongkind/Theons and others cooking in the kitchen; and Alydia Smith in the office arranging rides for wheel-trans dependent guests stranded by the TTC strike. What was the big occasion? Why, the Bloor Street Spring Banquet of course!

When the 128 guests arrived they saw McClure Hall transformed: long tables, gaily bedecked with flowers and gleaming with cutlery and wine goblets. While nibbling on hors d'oeuvres they viewed paintings and photographs exhibited by fellow Bloor Streeters.

After grace led by Rev. Martha ter Kuile and David Passmore the feast began.

First came an intriguing rutabaga and apple soup; followed by rack of lamb with roasted potatoes, baby carrots and asparagus; crowned by the evocatively named "Rêve au Chocolat". Don Cooper, who also procured the wine, Nadia Hohn, Linda Moon and David Passmore provided background piano. The excellent table service and clean

up were provided by Youth on Bloor in return for a \$500 contribution to their upcoming Cuba Experience.

After their coffee, the guests were treated to a smorgasbord of homegrown talent: the Bloor St. Celebration Band, author Heather Hilliard, singer/song-writer Bri-anne Swan, storyteller Paula Graham, chanteuse Randi Helmers accompanied by Rob Clutton, and baritone soloist Geoff Keating accompanied by David Passmore. Enlivening the evening were numerous skits revealing the acting talents of David Allan, Tina Edwards, Laurie Gordon, Sue Lam, Bill Mowat, Don Nicol, Liz Tinker, Mary Louise Work and MC Andy Spears. The Lawn Chair Drill Team appeared,

courtesy of the Kew Beach Couples Club. The festivities concluded with a clever parody of "Anything Goes" written by David Passmore and performed by Randi and Geoff (see lyrics on front cover).

The evening was so much fun, one might be forgiven for forgetting that it was also a fund raiser, but indeed it was. Thanks to the generosity of all those who donated, an amazing \$8000 was raised. So we can with justification give ourselves a pat on the back and say, well done!



Banquet Coordinator Laurie Gordon



Ilse Patterson & Hazel Gardner



Banquet Servers

Photos by Don Payne & Garnet Ward

SPRING BANQUET



Storyteller Paula Graham



Actor David Allan



Celebration Band



Actor Don Nicol



Actors Mary Louise Work and Sue Lam



Baritone Geoff Keating



Photos by Don Payne

Film Picks *by Bill Davis*

The best films of last year are now reaching the video stores. Based on the ratings in my film course, here are some suggestions.

Our Top Choices:

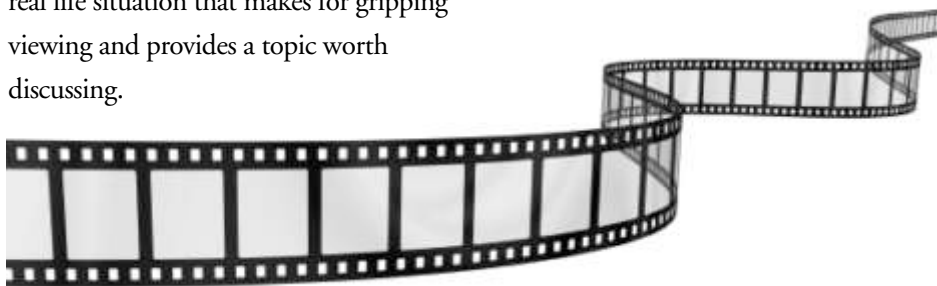
JUNO. It's more than a Canadian star with an Oscar nomination. It's a remarkably scripted dialogue and a cast that stays on character without a slip. The precocious teenager facing pregnancy shows a combination of maturity, simplicity, trust and care in deciding how to balance all the stakes in coming to her decision. Her stepmother and father model what parents can be. Amidst moments of great humour there runs a comic book setting.

THE COUNTERFEITERS. Our top film pick was from Austria. During WW 11 the Germans set aside certain Jewish prisoners with particular gifts for forgery. The plan was to produce counterfeit money to flood the British and the U S economies to undermine their opponents. This hand picked group gets minor privileges (like not going to the gas chambers) and a ping-pong table. The tension among them is intense: shall we collaborate, thus helping the Nazi cause or subvert, thus sealing our own doom. Powerful performance by the whole cast and particularly the leading character. A real life situation that makes for gripping viewing and provides a topic worth discussing.



THE SAVAGES. Great cast. Two adult children face the reality that the care of their faraway father is suddenly now in their hands. Without warning or forethought they are brought together from different worlds to decide what must be done. We discover that they come from a dysfunctional past and their father's care is not the only, or even most difficult matter, to address. A relevant issue for today's North American society.

LARS AND THE REAL GIRL. If I describe the premise on which the film rests you might choose to pass it by. But this is a gem. Lars is, to say the least, inhibited to the point of being weird. His struggle to achieve meaningful relationships takes an odd turn and the way in which his co-workers, his family, the local doctor and his church react demonstrates the role of community in enabling individuals to grow into their potential.



STARTING OUT IN THE EVENING. There are two starts – An aging writer with some successful books facing declining inspiration and his 40 plus daughter wanting a baby. The main focus is on the writer and the craft of writing. The film is gently paced and compelling. If it does come to local market our film group will see it.

Good Films We Will Not See (as they have little potential for discussion):

THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY. This is true story of a well-known French writer, from a prominent magazine, who is paralyzed in a car accident. Aided by therapists he is kept alive and communicates by spelling words by blinking one eye (the only action he can manage himself) and actually writes a book (on which the film is based). When you leave the theatre you are overwhelmed by the cinematic experience and the sense of how it must have been to be fully cognizant of your situation and totally dependent on machines and people.

THERE WILL BE BLOOD. Daniel Day Lewis won an Oscar, dominating the screen throughout. The portrayals of the struggle of oil entrepreneurs and the power of a fundamentalist preacher and his followers may be true to the times, but seem a caricature displaying the worst of each. Apart from the power of one actor there isn't much redeeming quality or starting point for discussion.

Quick Sketches

Our **Annual Report Part II: Programme** is available from the office. The congregational meeting to approve this report was held on June 3.

United for Peace. Our Easter Offering marked the start of Bloor Street's United for Peace campaign. A total of \$2,187.80 was contributed to the Peacefund, a two year project of United Churches across Canada. The fund aims to raise \$2 million to promote peace around the world. Olivewood pins from Bethlehem have raised a further \$410 and continue to be available during Conversation Hour after church. (*Dianne Johnson*)

Room 31 on the third floor of the church, was redone in the late winter. It was completely repainted and new

light fixtures and new blinds were installed. This room will now be more comfortable and pleasant for meetings and gatherings.

Randi Helmers will be part of the cast for the Soulpepper Theatre production of *The Way of The World* from July 2- August 2. Details are on the website (youngcentre.ca) or available from the box office at 416-866-8666. Randi is playing the multiple parts of Betty, Mincing, and Peg, essentially the majority of the servant roles. This play is a co-production with the National Arts Centre in Ottawa where it was performed in May. Shall we organize a Bloor St. theatre party?

Spring Journey to Nepal by Priscilla Chong

Nepal is a lovely country with lovely people. It is a nation whose ancestors came from India and Tibet. They all speak Nepalese in this very conservative country. There is no teenage pregnancy as girls are not allowed to meet boys unless marriage is in the works. Marriages are arranged by the parents. Their diet consists of lentil soup, potato/vegetable curry, a bit of pickle and tons of rice. The average salary is 4000 to 7000 Rps a month (1 US dollar = 63 Rps). There are two systems of pricing. One for Nepalese and one for foreigners who pay twice as much, if not more, for food, transportation, email, just about every thing we buy/use and consume. Although the country has 8 of the 10 highest mountains in the world, some areas continue to suffer from a chronic shortage of water. The city of Kathmandu turns on the water every 2 to 7 days (and the water still needs to be filtered and boiled before they can drink it). Then the Nepalese scramble to stock up. When they run out of water they have to line up for hours at a



Kathmandu

foreign government's safe water supply tap. Having a shower every day is out of the question for the Nepalese. The electricity supply is poor. Even in Katmandu, the capital, there are up to 8 hours without electricity per day.

When one checks in at a hotel you are told when the power will be cut so that you can time your shower. The government is

extremely corrupt. All the safe water supply stations were built by foreign governments. Even the Prime Minister asks for commissions. My guide told me you cannot retrieve a paid parcel from the post office without paying a bribe to the postal clerk. Nepal has water and electrical power potential because of the mountains, yet nothing is done to harvest the natural resources. The people are left to fend for themselves. No health care, no compulsory education. I feel so badly about how well we live when I see how the Nepalese struggle. Yet I never heard any complain. They are so polite and kind and seem so happy to serve you.

Cuba Exposure Trip:

On your marks ... get set ...

FUNDRAISE! *by Evangeline Albuerne*

Fundraisers, luncheons, an auction, serving dinner at the Bloor Street Gala and cookie dough sales - all organized by the 15 Cuba Exposure Trip (CET) youth for the months of April and May. The beginning of April started off with another sleepover at College Street Church, which included intense planning, lots of Oreos, and another Spanish lesson. The following day we were awakened to attend a workshop which was held at the Christian Resource Center. The youth, and some of the leaders, spent the afternoon discussing, interacting, and playing games which helped further understand the concept of empires and the effects of corruption on people. The next events included a luncheon organized by Sheila Stewart (mother of two participants), cookie dough sales, and the event that the youth were looking forward to – *The CET Auction*. Donations came from all four congregation members. The CET youth – with the help of the leaders and Anne Sheppard - managed to organize a very successful event. Despite the rain, and the horrible weather, many still managed to come out and support us. The night was filled with laughter, a few misunderstandings, bidding, food and sashaying down the aisle, and everyone left with at least one item, if not two, in their possession. The months of April and May were busy, busy, busy! But everyone still managed to survive with the very much appreciated help of the congregations. On behalf of the Cuba Exposure Trip Youth, “Muchos gracias mis amigos, para su ayuda y sostiene.” Thank you very much my friends, for your help and support. Two months to go, and so the Cuba Exposure Trip countdown begins!

Good News

ON BLOOR is edited and published 4 times a year by the Communications Committee. All articles are copyright and may not be used without permission of the author. 250 words maximum is the standard length for unsolicited articles. All articles may be edited. Photos will only be used if space permits and if suitable for publication.

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COMING EVENTS

Wednesdays June 4, 11 & 18 at 3:00 pm or

Thursdays June 5, 12 & 19 at 7:00 pm

Book study of *With or Without God: Why The Way We Live Is More Important Than What We Believe* by Gretta Vosper (reviewed in the April Observer)

Sunday June 8

Congregational meeting. Presentation by the Redevelopment Committee, following the service. The Redevelopment Committee will clarify the various alternatives and provide an update of its activities.

Friday June 13

Pastoral Care Matters 1:00 – 3:00 pm

An open meeting for people involved in pastoral care or would like to be.

Saturday, June 14

Giant Book Sale 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Hundreds of fiction & non-fiction titles for sale

Saturday, June 15

13th anniversary of Bloor St. becoming an Affirming Congregation

June 19, 20, 21 & 22

More Franchises than Tim Hortons? A conference hosted by the Congregational, Educational & Community Ministries Unit of United Church of Canada & Emmanuel College. The plenary sessions will be held at Bloor Street Church. For more information call the church office or visit www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events.

Sunday, June 22

Speaker event hosted by Social Justice Committee after the service

SUMMER SERVICES

July Services: Joint services with Trinity-St. Paul's Church
10:30 am at Bloor Street Church

August Services: Joint services with Trinity-St. Paul's Church
10:30 am at Trinity-St. Paul's Church

Sunday, September 7

Congregational lunch following the service

Sunday, November 23

Craddock Sunday: Guest speaker Monia Masigh

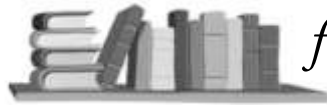
Correction: The Blessing of the Animals' service listed in the Spring Issue of *Good News* will not be held this year.



Musicians Randi Helmers & Rob Clutton at the Spring Banquet Performance,
Photo by Don Payne

Visit our website at: www.bloorstreetunited.org

Summer Reading



for Enjoyment & Enlightenment

Emily Gordon recommends:

Ambivalence: Crossing the Israel/Palestine Divide by Jonathan Garfinkel. Garfinkel, a Toronto writer, explores the conflict between Palestine and Israel at a personal level. The book is an intense, ambivalent account of his thoughts and feelings as he visits Israel for the first time, after receiving funding to write a play that he hopes will address the conflict.

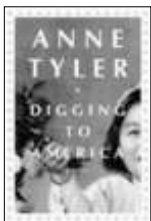


1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare by James Shapiro. If you are looking for the perfect combination of scholarship and readability, this is the book for you. Shapiro discusses the politics, the building of the Globe theatre and Shakespeare's own life, all as context for the plays Shakespeare wrote or worked on in 1599: *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *As You Like It* and *Hamlet*.

A Short History of Indians in Canada by Thomas King. Despite the academic sounding title, this is a collection of short stories by King, who wrote *Green Grass, Running Water*, and used to host the show Dead Dog Cafe Comedy Hour on CBC radio. Personally, I really enjoyed King's humour in addressing life on the reserve and other "Indian" topic.

Irene Hunter suggests:

Digging to America by Anne Tyler. Two families, the Donaldsons and the Yazdans, who normally would not be friends, meet by chance at the Baltimore airport while awaiting the arrival of their adopted infant daughters from Korea. Bitzy Donaldson impulsively invites the Yazdans to celebrate with them. This arrival party becomes an annual event and gradually friendships develop between the two families. The story is related mainly through the eyes of Maryam, the widowed Iranian grandmother, who after 35 years in the US still feels like an outsider. This is a warm and often amusing look at American life seen from two perspectives, those who were born there and those who struggle to fit in.



The Lizard Cage by Karen Connolly. In view of the current focus on Myanmar following the cyclone, I recommend this



book which I read the previous year. Connolly is a truly poetic writer who tells the story of Teza, once a popular singer of protest songs, now a political prisoner reduced to catching lizards to supplement his meagre rations.

Teza manages to maintain his integrity and humour while changing the lives of jailers, criminals and an orphan who has never seen the outside world.

Falling Man by Don De Lillo, shows how the events of September 11 negatively affect a whole family. The protagonist, a survivor from one of the towers, stumbles back



to his estranged wife and young son. This is a short but difficult novel, immersing the reader in suddenly juxtaposed scenes, but the dialogue always rings true. I especially appreciated the sections where the children try to make sense of the disaster in their play. I was reminded of my own son and his friends after the Kennedy assassination.

Burning Bright by Tracy Chevalier (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*) is set in historical London and deals with the life of William Blake and many flamboyant members of a performing circus. This tale, so rich in detail, will remind you of the writing of Charles Dickens.



Wild Dogs. If you are a fan of Helen Humphreys (*The Secret Garden*, *Afterimage*) check out *Wild Dogs* which is being adapted into drama form and will be performed in Toronto this year. This is a haunting story of six very different people who meet each evening at the edge of a wood hoping to find their lost dogs who now run with a feral pack.

My favourite collection of short stories this year was **Hotel of the Saints** by Ursula Hegi. In mystery, I liked **Dust** by Martha Grimes.

Dianne Johnson recommends:

Mean and Lowly Things – Snakes, Science and Survival in the Congo by Kate Jackson. From her earliest years in Toronto, scientist Kate Jackson has been fascinated by reptiles.

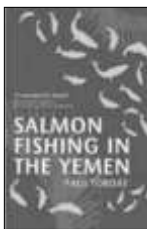
... More Summer Reading



Her gripping account of her expeditions to the Republic of the Congo is full of danger and discovery. As a young, female scientist charting undiscovered species in remote forests, her writing captures the drama of her important research. Her story convinces us of the truth of

the quote from Aristotle: “To understand the world, we must understand mean and lowly things”

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen by Paul Torday. Dr. Alfred Jones is a fisheries scientist and an atheist – and proud to be both. Then he meets an Arab Sheik who hires him to bring



the joys of salmon fishing to the Yemen. In his first novel the author spins a tale of faith overcoming obstacles and we come to believe with Fred in this implausible task. Officials determine to “spin” this project to gain glory for the PM and garner the vote of fly

fishermen. Its biting satire won this book the Wodehouse Prize for comic fiction.

Val Lem suggests:

Tok. Books 1-2. Edited by Helen Walsh. This annual anthology of short stories, poetry, and essays includes contributions by established authors like David Bezmozgis, Shyam Selvadurai, and Kerri Sakamoto as well as new voices brought into the mentoring program of Diaspora Dialogues (www.diasporadialogues.com), the organization responsible for these books. All authors are immigrants or children of immigrants, and all writings are set at least in part in the greater Toronto area. Readers are guaranteed to discover Toronto, and diverse regions of the globe, with fresh eyes.

Mountain Girl, River Girl: A Novel by Ting-xing Ye. Pan-pan and Shui-lian are teenage girls living many miles



apart in rural China. One sets off for Beijing, the other for Shanghai; both seek more prosperous futures than their rural villages can deliver. Misadventures, violence, betrayal, and genuine kindness are all part of the story leading to the point where the girls meet,

become friends, and find work in a factory that manufactures athletic shoes for the first world marketplace. Working and living conditions are less than ideal, and reiterate images the

reader may have seen in documentaries like *China Rising and Manufactured Landscapes*. A happy conclusion is appropriate for the intended young adult audience. Sexual violence makes this unsuited to younger children.

Ruth Mechanicus recommends:



Suite Française by Irène Némirovsky. This book tells the story of the panic that struck Parisians when the Germans were about to invade the city in the second World War; how they fled to the country. Wonderful characterizations; wonderful atmosphere of small French towns in the country.

The Outlander by Gil Adamson. A woman murders her husband and then flees his brothers, keeping just ahead of them, until they finally overtake her without taking the revenge she had expected. Mostly about her journey through the wilderness, the people she meets, the survival skills she develops.



Consolation by Michael Redhill. An architect with Lou Gehrig's disease stumbles upon a cache of photos taken of Toronto as it was in the very beginning of its existence. His family follows the trail after he ends his life. The parallel story is of the man who took the photos and what life was like in early Toronto. All Torontonians are encouraged to read this book.

Don Nicol suggests:

Here are half a dozen books I'm looking forward to reading this summer:

Bedlam by G. Holingshead. This book deals with the treatment of the insane in the 1700s-1800s.

Glass Voices by C Bruneau. The story of the Halifax explosion in 1917.

Late nights on Air by Elizabeth Hay. Winner of the Giller award in 2007. The history of broadcasting.

And finally, three titles “recommended to me” that I know nothing about:

Old Filth, The Girls, and Water for Elephants.

