

**Suggested Summer Reading List
Kaufman Silverberg Library
June 2016**

An American bride in Kabul : a memoir, by Phyllis Chesler. A crusader for women's and human rights shares her experiences in 1961 as the wife of an Afghan college student, who, once back in Afghanistan, reverted to traditional and tribal customs, trapping her in a posh polygamous family. **Call number: Z 920 CHE**

A remarkable kindness: a novel, by Diana Bletter. A moving testament to women's friendship, illuminating a mostly unknown ritual that underscores what it means to truly be alive. **Call number: Z FIC BLE**

Boy, snow, bird, by Helen Oyeyemi. In the winter of 1953, Boy Novak arrives by chance in a small town in Massachusetts, looking, she believes, for beauty, the opposite of the life she's left behind in New York. She marries a local widower and becomes stepmother to his winsome daughter, Snow Whitman. A wicked stepmother is a creature Boy never imagined she would become, but when the birth of Boy's daughter, Bird, who is dark-skinned, exposes the Whitmans as light-skinned African Americans passing for white, elements of the familiar tale of aesthetic obsession begin to play themselves out. Now Boy, Snow, and Bird must confront the tyranny of the mirror to ask how much power surfaces really hold. **Call Number: FIC OYE**

City of women, by David R. Gillham. At the height of World War II, Berlin has become a city of women. On the surface, Sigrid Schröder is the model German soldier's wife, all the while ignoring the horrific immoralities of the regime. But behind this façade is an entirely different Sigrid, a woman of passion who dreams of her former Jewish lover, now lost in the chaos of the war. But Sigrid is not the only one with secrets she soon finds herself caught between what is right and what is wrong. **Call number: Z FIC GIL**

Emiliano's discovery, by Paula Hurwitz. When Emiliano Edelman's life is shattered by a terrorist's bomb that destroys Buenos Aires' Jewish community centre it sparks his quest to find family who fled from Eastern Europe to Canada decades earlier. **Call number: Z FIC HUR**

Everyone brave is forgiven, by Chris Cleave. As World War Two begins, Mary--a newly qualified teacher in London, left behind to teach the few children not evacuated--meets Tom, a school official. They quickly fall in love, but this is not a simple love story. Moving from Blitz-torn London to the Siege of Malta, this is an epic story of love, loss, prejudice and incredible courage. **Call Number: FIC CLE**

Fates and furies, by Lauren Groff. An exhilarating novel about marriage, creativity, art, and perception. Every story has two sides. Every relationship has two perspectives. And sometimes, it turns out, the key to a great marriage is not its truths but its secrets. **Call number: FIC GRO**

Fifteen dogs: an apologue, by André Alexis. A bet between the gods Hermes and Apollo leads them to grant human consciousness and language to a group of dogs overnighing at a Toronto veterinary clinic. The gods watch from above as the dogs venture into their newly unfamiliar world, as they become divided among themselves, as each struggles with new thoughts and feelings. **Call number: FIC ALE**

Finders keepers: a novel, by Stephen King. A masterful, intensely suspenseful novel about a reader whose obsession with a reclusive writer goes far too far. **Call number: FIC KIN**

His illegal self, Peter Carey. Peter Carey turns to the protest movement of the 60s and 70s as a backdrop for this close portrait of the relationship between one benighted woman and the child who depends on her. **Call Number: F CAR**

Martin John, by Anakana Schofield. Martin John sits beside you on the train. Can he see that look on your face? He needs to see that look in your eyes, the surprise of his touch upon your leg, and your repugnance. Despite his work's distractions, his evil flatmate's enmity, his worn-out mother's admonishments, his own rules and routines, nothing can diminish his determination to touch - and to repel. **Call number: FIC SCH**

Minister without portfolio, by Michael Winter. A story of the love and life which can grow from a terrible loss. Henry is a man torn between escaping a past tragedy, and embracing its implications fully within his own life. Set in rural Canada, where the reverberations of world events can both shatter lives and offer the potential for redemption. **Call number: FIC WIN**

Mr. Mercedes: a novel, by Stephen King. In a mega-stakes, high-suspense race against time, three of the most unlikely and winning heroes Stephen King has ever created try to stop a lone killer from blowing up thousands. **Call number: FIC KIN**

Nightfall : a novel , by Richard B. Wright. Skillfully captures the way in which our past is ever-present in our minds as we grow older, casting its spell of lost loves and the innocent joys of youth over the realities of aging and death. **Call Number FIC WRI**

Occupation trilogy : La place de l'etoile, The night watch, Ring roads, by Patrick Modiano. These three brilliant, angry novels about the Nazi occupation of Paris explore the morally ambiguous worlds of collaboration and resistance. **Call number: Z FIC MOD**

Purity, by Jonathan Franzen. Young Pip Tyler doesn't know who she is. She knows that her real name is Purity, that she's saddled with \$130,000 in student debt, that she's squatting with anarchists in Oakland, and that her relationship with her mother is hazardous. But she doesn't have a clue who her father is, why her mother chose to live as a recluse with an invented name, or how she'll ever have a normal life. Enter the Germans. A glancing encounter with a German peace activist leads Pip to an internship in South America with The Sunlight Project, an organization that traffics in all the secrets of the world -- including, Pip hopes, the secret of her origins. **Call number: FIC FRA**

Suspended sentences : three novellas, by Patrick Modiano ; translated by Mark Polizzotti. Shadowed by the dark period of the Nazi occupation, these novellas reveal Modiano's fascination with the lost, obscure, or mysterious. **Call Number: FIC MOD**

The art forger : a novel, by B.A. Shapiro. Entertaining mix of fact and fiction employing the the famous unsolved art theft from the Gardner Museum in Boston at the center of the plot. Twists and turns in the plot will keep you guessing till the end. **Call Number: FIC SHA**

The day of atonement: a novel, by David Liss. On a mission of revenge, and in the guise of English businessman Sebastian Foxx, exiled Sebastiao Raposa returns to Lisbon, stalking the ruthless Inquisitor priest Pedro Azinheiro who imprisoned his parents ten years earlier. When a twist of fate turns his carefully laid plans to chaos, he will be forced to choose between surrendering to bloodlust or serving the cause of mercy. **Call number: Z FIC LIS**

The debt of Tamar, by Nicole Dweck. In 1544, as Inquisition fires rage in Portugal, young José Mendez discovers he's Jewish and with the help of the Ottoman sultan, he escapes and makes a new life in Istanbul. But when his own daughter secretly falls in love with the sultan's Muslim grandson, José finds himself in a life-changing dilemma, one that will shape generations to come. **Call number: Z FIC DWE**

The golden son: a novel, by Shilpi Somaya Gowda. A moving novel of a young man at the crossroads of life. Anil is the first person in his family to leave India, the first to attend college, the first to become a doctor. Half a world away in Dallas, Texas, he is caught up in his new life, experiencing all the freedoms and temptations of American culture: he tastes alcohol for the first time, falls in love, and learns firsthand about his adopted country's alluring, dangerous contradictions. **Call number: FIC GOW**

The heist, by Daniel Silva. Gabriel Allon, art restorer and occasional spy, searches for a stolen masterpiece by Caravaggio. Sometimes the best way to find a stolen masterpiece is to steal another one. **Call number: Z FIC SIL**

The hours count, by Jillian Cantor. A tale based on the story of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, the only Americans put to death for espionage during the Cold War, traces the experiences of their friend and neighbor, who takes in the couple's young sons when they are arrested by the FBI in 1950. **Call number: Z FIC CAN**

The illegal: a novel, by Lawrence Hill. A literary thriller that addresses the fate of undocumented refugees who struggle to survive in nations that do not want them. **Call number: FIC HIL**

The legacy of Grazia dei Rossi, by Jacqueline Park. Set in sixteenth-century Istanbul during the illustrious Ottoman Empire, this book continues the story started in "The Secret book of Grazia dei Rossi". **Call number: Z FIC PAR**

The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P. : a novel, by Adelle Waldman. Nate is a rising star in Brooklyn's literary scene. After several lean and striving years, he has his pick of both magazine assignments and women. But when one relationship grows more serious, Nate is forced to consider what it is he really wants. **Call number: Z FIC WAL**

The marriage of opposites, by Alice Hoffman. A forbidden love story set on the tropical island of St. Thomas about the extraordinary woman who gave birth to painter Camille Pissarro, the Father of Impressionism. **Call number: Z FIC HOF**

The mystics of Mile End, by Sigal Samuel. The Meyer family lives in Mile End, home to a mashup of hipsters and Hasidic Jews, where down the street crazy Mr. Katz is building a tree out of plucked leaves, toilet paper rolls, and dental floss. When David, a skeptical professor of religion, is diagnosed with an unusual heart murmur, he becomes convinced that his heart is whispering

divine secrets. But when David's frenzied attempts to ascend the Tree of Life lead to tragedy, his daughter Samara, who abruptly abandoned religion years earlier, believes it is up to her to finish what she started. As Samara's brother documents her increasingly strange behavior, it falls to next-door neighbor and Holocaust survivor Chaim Glassman to shatter the silence that divides the members of the Meyer family. Long-held family secrets square off against faith and secularity in this remarkable debut novel. **Call number: Z FIC SAM**

The piano maker: a novel, by Kurt Palka. The suspenseful, emotionally resonant, and utterly compelling story of what brings an enigmatic French woman to a small Canadian town in the 1930s, a woman who has found depths of strength in dark times and comes to discover sanctuary at last. **Call number: FIC PAL**

The secret book of Grazia dei Rossi : Grazia dei Rossi, bk. 1, by Jacqueline Park. The Secret Book of Grazia dei Rossi is a sweeping tale of intrigue and romance set in a time rife with court politics, papal chicanery, religious intolerance, and inviolable social rules. Grazia, private secretary to the world-renowned Isabella d'Este, is the daughter of an eminent Jewish banker, the wife of the pope's Jewish physician, and the lover of a Christian prince. In a "secret book," written as a legacy for her son, she records her struggles to choose between the seductions of the Christian world and a return to the family, traditions, and duties of her Jewish roots. As she re-creates Renaissance Italy in captivating detail, Jacqueline Park gives us a timeless portrait of a brave and brilliant woman trapped in an unforgiving, inflexible society. **Call Number: Z F PAR**

Unspeakable, by Caroline Pignat. On her first voyage as a stewardess aboard the Empress of Ireland, Ellie is drawn to the solitary fire stoker who stands by the ship's rail late at night, often writing in a journal. Jim. Ellie finds it hard to think of his name now. After their wonderful time in Quebec City, that awful night happened. The screams, the bodies, the frigid waters-- she tries hard to tell herself that he survived, but it's hard to believe when so many didn't. So when Wyatt Steele, journalist at The New York Times asks her for her story, Ellie refuses. But when he shows her Jim's journal, she jumps at the chance to be able to read it herself, to find some trace of the man she had fallen in love with, or perhaps a clue to what happened to him. **Call number: FIC PIG**

Washing the dead: a novel, by Michelle Brafman. Three generations of women confront family secrets in this exquisitely wrought debut novel that examines the experience of religious community, the perilous emotional path to adulthood, and the power of sacred Jewish rituals to repair the damaged bonds between mothers and daughters. **Call number: Z FIC BRA**

What she left behind: a novel, by Ellen Marie Wiseman. Ten years ago, Izzy Stone's mother fatally shot her father while he slept. Devastated by her mother's apparent insanity, Izzy, now seventeen, refuses to visit her in prison. But her new foster parents, employees at the local museum, have enlisted Izzy's help in cataloging items at a long-shuttered state asylum. There, amid piles of abandoned belongings, Izzy discovers a stack of unopened letters, a decades-old journal, and a window into her own past. **Call number: Z FIC WIS**

When the moon is low, by Nadia Hashimi. When her happy middle-class life in Afghanistan is shattered by the rise of the Taliban and her husband's murder by fundamentalists, former schoolteacher Fereiba embarks on a high-risk effort to escape to England with her three children. **Call number: FIC HAS**

