



2009 MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICKS

As of May 20, 2009

January 2009 Picks

SING THEM HOME

Stephanie Kallos
Atlantic Monthly Press / PGW
Available December 2008
Fiction / Family ties / Set in Nebraska

NATURE'S SECOND CHANCE: RESTORING THE ECOLOGY OF STONE PRAIRIE FARM

Stephen I. Apfelbaum
Foreword by Nina Leopold Bradley
Beacon Press / HMH
Available mid-January 2009
Nature / Conservation /
Environmental Studies
Author's farm is in Wisconsin

*Also note this 2008 Midwest
Connections Pick coming in
paperback on January 13!*

CHARLATAN: AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS HUCKSTER, THE MAN WHO PURSUED HIM, AND THE AGE OF FLIMFLAM

Pope Brock
Three Rivers Press / Random House
January 13, 2009 publication
Biography / American Social History
A Heartland Indie Bestseller!

February 2009 Picks

IRREPLACEABLE: A NOVEL

Stephen Lovely
Voice / Hyperion
February 3, 2009 publication
Fiction / Family relationships /
Set in Iowa

THE ROSE VARIATIONS

Marisha Chamberlain
Soho Press / Consortium
February publication
Fiction / Women / Set in Minnesota

THE TURTLE CATCHER

Nicole Helget
Houghton Mifflin / HMH
February 20, 2009 publication
Fiction / Set in rural Minnesota
during World War I

March 2009 Picks

SAFER: A NOVEL OF SUSPENSE

Sean Doolittle
Delacorte Press / Random House
February 24, 2009 publication
Suspense fiction / Set in Iowa

April 2009 Picks

THE MOONFLOWER VINE

Jetta Carleton
Harper Perennial / HarperCollins
April 2009 publication
Fiction / set in Missouri
Paperback reissue of bestselling novel
originally published in 1960s

A RELIABLE WIFE

Robert Goolrick
Algonquin Books / Workman
April 2009 publication
Fiction / set in Wisconsin in 1909

LAURA RIDER'S MASTERPIECE

Jane Hamilton
Grand Central Publishing / Hachette
April 9, 2009 publication
Fiction/satire / set in Wisconsin

WESTHOPE:

LIFE AS A FORMER FARM BOY
Dean Hulse
University of Minnesota Press
April publication
Memoir/Farming and rural life in
North Dakota

*Also note these 2008 Midwest
Connections Picks coming in
paperback in April!*

DRIFTLESS

David Rhodes
Milkweed Editions / PGW
Fiction set in Wisconsin

RIVER OF HEAVEN

Lee Martin
Three Rivers Press / Random House
Fiction

SO BRAVE, YOUNG AND HANDSOME

Leif Enger
Grove Press / Grove Atlantic / PGW
Fiction
*Midwest Booksellers' Choice Award
Honor Book;
A Heartland Indie Bestseller!*

May 2009 Picks

COOP: A YEAR OF POULTRY, PIGS, AND PARENTING

Michael Perry
HarperCollins
Available April 21, 2009
Memoir / Rural Life / Humor

THE GREAT PERHAPS

Joe Meno
W.W. Norton / Abraham Assoc.
May 2009 publication
Fiction / Set in Chicago

BEYOND WALDEN:

**THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF AMERICA'S
KETTLE LAKES AND PONDS**
Robert M. Thorson
Walker & Company / Macmillan
May 2009 publication
Nature / science / Geology, ecology,
and cultural history of kettle lakes in
Midwest and across northern USA

THE GIRLS FROM AMES:

**A STORY OF WOMEN & A FORTY-
YEAR FRIENDSHIP**
Jeffrey Zaslow
Gotham Books / Penguin Group USA
April 21, 2009 publication
Women's relationships/families -
group of women profiled in book grew
up together in Ames, IA

*Also note these 2008 Midwest
Connections Picks coming in
paperback in May!*

SUN GOING DOWN: A NOVEL

Jack Todd
Touchstone / Simon & Schuster
Historical Fiction / American West

RED KNIFE:

A CORK O'CONNOR MYSTERY
William Kent Krueger
Atria Books / Simon & Schuster
Fiction/Mystery & Suspense
A Heartland Indie Bestseller!

June 2009 Picks

METHLAND: THE DEATH AND LIFE OF AN AMERICA SMALL TOWN

Nick Reding
Bloomsbury Publishing / Macmillan
June 2009 publication
Current Affairs / Small town of
Oelwein, Iowa, is subject of this book

A PRAYER FOR THE DYING

Stewart O'Nan
Picador USA / Macmillan
June 2009 publication
Fiction / Set in 1860s in small
Wisconsin town
*A Picador "The Best Book You've
Never Read" Trade Paperback
Selection*

*Also note this 2008 Midwest
Connections Picks coming in
paperback in June!*

STALKING SUSAN

Julie Kramer
Anchor / Random House
Fiction/Suspense set in Minneapolis



2009 MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICKS

As of May 20, 2009

July 2009 Picks

Midwest Connections Picks in paperback for summer reading.

August 2009 Picks

MISSING MARK

Julie Kramer

Doubleday / Random House

July 14, 2009 publication

Fiction/Suspense set in Minneapolis

Second novel by the author of

STALKING SUSAN

WHILE I'M FALLING

Laura Moriarty

Hyperion

August 2009 publication

Fiction / Mother-daughter and family relationships / set in the Midwest

More August 2009 Picks to come!

Early Preview! Fall MC Picks confirmed to date

THE SEASONS ON HENRY'S FARM A YEAR OF FOOD AND LIFE ON AN ORGANIC FARM

Terra Brockman

Surrey Books/PGW / September

Organic farming food/life on IL farm

HEAVEN TO BETSY/BETSY IN SPIE OF HERSELF; BETSY WAS A JUNIOR/BETSY AND JOE; BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD/BETSY'S WEDDING

Maud Hart Lovelace

Harper Perennial / September

Fiction set in Minnesota / the six

"older Betsy" books in the *Betsy Tacy* series

HOLLOWING OUT THE MIDDLE: THE RURAL BRAIN DRAIN AND WHAT MEANS FOR AMERICA

Patrick J. Carr and Maria J. Kefalas

Beacon Press / October

Current Events/Sociology

Study of community in rural Iowa

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE SOUL: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

Bill Holm

Milkweed Editions/PGW / October

Poetry / the final collection of poems by the late MN poet

Spring 2009 Children's Books Midwest Connections Picks

Starting in March.....

THE DRAGONFLY SECRET: A STORY OF BOUNDLESS LOVE

Clea and John Adams

Illustrated by Barbara L. Gibson

Feather Rock Books

Picture book - all ages

Inspiration / Understanding death, loss, change, and transcendent love

THE DRAGONFLY DOOR

John Adams

Illustrated by Barbara L. Gibson

Feather Rock Books

Picture book - all ages

Inspiration / Understanding death, loss, change, and transcendent love

MUDVILLE

Kurtis Scalleta

Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young

Readers / Random House

February 24, 2009 publication

Middle grade fiction

Kids and baseball / set in small town

Minnesota

Published in paperback in March

SATURDAY NIGHT DIRT

Will Weaver

Square Fish / Macmillan

May publication

YA novel

Stock car racing in Midwest;

first book in MOTOR series

Starting in April.....

PAULA BUNYAN

Phyllis Root

illustrated by Kevin O'Mally

FSG Books for Young Readers /

Macmillan

April 2009 publication

Picture Book

American tall tales / Midwest stories

Published in paperback in April

JULIA GILLIAN (AND THE ART OF KNOWING)

Alison McGhee

Illustrated by Drazen Kozjan

Scholastic Paperbacks

Middle Grade Fiction / first in series

Kids, friends, and elementary school

experiences/ set in Minneapolis

Spring 2009 Children's Books Midwest Connections Picks

Starting in May.....

SUPER STOCK ROOKIE

Will Weaver

FSG Books for Young Readers /

Macmillan

March 2009 publication

YA novel

Stock car racing in Midwest; second

book in this popular MOTOR series

JULIA GILLIAN (AND THE QUEST FOR JOY)

Alison McGhee

Illustrated by Drazen Kozjan

Scholastic Press

April 2009 publication

Middle grade fiction / second in series

Kids, friends, and elementary school

experiences/ set in Minneapolis

NICO AND LOLA: KINDNESS SHARED BETWEEN A BOY AND A DOG

Meggan Hill

Photographs by Susan M. Graunke

Genuine Prints LLC

June 2009 publication -available now

Picture Book/Midwest authors, setting

Children and pets

And published in paperback in April

JULIA GILLIAN (AND THE ART OF KNOWING)

Alison McGhee

Illustrated by Drazen Kozjan

Scholastic Paperbacks

Middle Grade Fiction / first in series

Kids, friends, and elementary school

experiences/ set in Minneapolis

Summer Picks to come.....

Early Preview! Fall 2009 Midwest Connections Picks for Children confirmed to date

FRONT AND CENTER

Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Houghton Mifflin Books for Children

YA Fiction

third in *Dairy Queen* trilogy set in WI

SHIVER

Maggie Steifvater

Scholastic

YA Fiction / Set in northern MN



2008 MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICKS

February 2008 Picks

APPLE BETTY & SLOPPY JOE: STIRRING UP THE PAST WITH FAMILY RECIPES AND STORIES
Susan Sanvidge, Diane Sanvidge Seckar, Jean Sanvidge Wouters, and Julie Sanvidge Florence
Wisconsin Historical Society Press
Cookbook and Family Memoir

LITTLE KLEIN

Anne Ylvisaker
Candlewick Press / Abraham Associates
Children's Fiction, Middle Grades

March 2008 Picks

CHARLATAN: AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS HUCKSTER, THE MAN WHO PURSUED HIM, AND THE AGE OF FLIMFLAM
Pope Brock
Crown Publishers / Random House
Biography / American Social History
A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

EIGHT WOMEN, TWO MODEL TS, AND THE AMERICAN WEST
Joanne Wilke
Bison Books / University of Nebraska Press
Women's Studies / American History / Travel

THE GOLLYWHOPPER GAMES
Jody Feldman
Greenwillow Books / HarperCollins
Children's Fiction / Middle Grades

April 2008 Picks

THE SORROWS OF AN AMERICAN: A NOVEL
Siri Hustvedt
Henry Holt / Macmillan
Fiction

THE LATEHOMECOMER: A HMONG FAMILY MEMOIR
Kao Kalia Yang
Coffee House Press / Consortium / Abraham Associates
Memoir / Immigrant Experience

MAN KILLED BY PHEASANT AND OTHER KINSHIPS [A MEMOIR]
John T. Price
Da Capo Press / Perseus Books Group
Memoir

Also note these 2007 Midwest Connections Picks published in paperback in April...

LAND OF LINCOLN
Andrew Ferguson
Atlantic Monthly Press/PGW

LITTLE HEATHENS
Mildred Armstrong Kalish
Bantam Books/Random House

May 2008 Picks

SO BRAVE, YOUNG AND HANDSOME: A NOVEL
Leif Enger
Atlantic Monthly Press / Grove Atlantic / PGW
Fiction

SUN GOING DOWN: A NOVEL
Jack Todd
Touchstone / Simon & Schuster
Historical Fiction / American West

THE MIRACLE LETTERS OF T. RIMBERG
Geoff Herbach
Three Rivers Press / Random House
Fiction

RIVER OF HEAVEN
Lee Martin
Shaye Areheart Books / Random House
Fiction

Also note this 2007 Midwest Connections Pick published in paperback in May

THE NIGHT BIRDS
Thomas Maltman
Soho Press / Consortium / Abraham Associates

June 2008 Picks

SHELTER HALF: A NOVEL
Carol Bly
Holy Cow! Press / Consortium / Abraham Associates
Fiction

CRAZY GOOD: THE TRUE STORY OF DAN PATCH, THE MOST FAMOUS HORSE IN AMERICA
Charles Leerhsen
Simon & Schuster
Horse Racing / Sports / U.S. History

SAVVY

Ingrid Law
Dial Press Books for Young Readers / Penguin Group
Children's Fiction / Middle Grades

JULIA GILLIAN (AND THE ART OF KNOWING)
Alison McGhee
Scholastic Press
Children's Fiction / Middle Grades

Also note these 2007 Midwest Connections Picks published in paperback in June...

F5: DEVASTATION, SURVIVAL, AND THE MOST VIOLENT TORNADO OUTBREAK OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
Mark Levine
Miramax / Hyperion / HarperCollins

THE REST OF HER LIFE
Laura Moriarty
Hyperion / HarperCollins

THE RIVER QUEEN
Mary Morris
Picador / Macmillan

THE RIVER WIFE
Jonis Agee
Random House

July 2008 Picks

ABBEVILLE: A NOVEL
Jack Fuller
Unbridled Books / Abraham Associates
Fiction

UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY
Lin Enger
Little, Brown and Company / Hachette
Fiction

SO LONG AT THE FAIR
Christina Schwarz
Doubleday / Random House
Fiction

Also note this 2007 Midwest Connections Pick published in paperback in July

KEEPING THE HOUSE
Ellen Baker
Random House

2008 PICKS continue on next page



2008 MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICKS

August 2008 Picks

STALKING SUSAN

Julie Kramer

Doubleday / Random House
Fiction / Mystery & Suspense

RED SKY IN MORNING

Patrick Culhane

William Morrow / HarperCollins
Fiction / Mystery / WWII

THE MAN IN THE BLIZZARD

Bart Schneider

Three Rivers Press / Random House
Fiction / Mystery / Satire

September Picks

A SPLINTERED HISTORY OF WOOD: BELT SANDER RACES, BLIND WOODWORKERS, AND BASEBALL BATS

Spike Carlsen

Collins / HarperCollins
Natural and Social History / Woodcraft

THE PLAIN SENSE OF THINGS

Pamela Carter Joern

Bison Books
University of Nebraska Press
Fiction

RED KNIFE:

A CORK O'CONNOR MYSTERY

William Kent Krueger

Atria Books / Simon & Schuster
Fiction/Mystery & Suspense

October Picks

THANK YOU FOR ALL THINGS

Sandra Kring

Bantam Dell / Random House
Fiction

OLD FARM: A HISTORY

Jerry Apps

photographs by Steve Apps

Wisconsin Historical Society Press
Farming Life/Photo Essay -- Wisconsin

A COOK'S JOURNEY:

SLOW FOOD IN THE HEARTLAND

Chef Kurt Michael Friese

Ice Cube Press (Miller Trade)
Food & Cooking / Midwest regional

DRIFTLESS

David Rhodes

Milkweed Editions / PGW
Fiction set in Wisconsin
by the author of ROCK ISLAND LINE

DOWNTOWN OWL

Chuck Klosterman

Scribner / Simon & Schuster
Fiction set in small town North Dakota

November Picks

DEWEY: THE SMALL-TOWN LIBRARY CAT WHO TOUCHED THE WORLD

Vicki Myron with Bret Witter

Grand Central Publishing / Hachette
Nonfiction / Iowa Small Town Life / Cats

A DOG NAMED CHRISTMAS

Greg Kincaid

Doubleday / Random House
Holiday Fiction set in Kansas

THIS WATER GOES NORTH

Dennis Weidemann

Mániténâhk Books / IPG / Fujii
Memoir / Midwest Travel & Adventure /
Canoe trip from MN to Hudson Bay

Fall 2008 Children's

Midwest Connections Picks

SNOW

Cynthia Rylant

Illustrated by Lauren Stringer

Harcourt, Inc. / HMH
Children's Picture Book
Winter / Snow

UTTERLY OTTERLY DAY

by Mary Casanova

Illustrated by Ard Hoyt

Simon & Schuster
Books for Young Readers
Children's Picture Book
Animals - river otters / Nature / Child-
parent relationships

THE FLOATING CIRCUS

Tracie Vaughn Zimmer

Bloomsbury USA / Macmillan
Children's Fiction / Middle Grades
Circus Life / U.S. History in 1852 /
Mississippi River and Midwest

BOX OUT

John Coy

Scholastic Press
YA Fiction
Basketball / Teenagers / Set in small
town in Midwest



2006 and 2007 MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICKS

Fall 2006 Picks

THE DRIFTLESS AREA

Tom Drury

Atlantic Monthly Press / Grove/Atlantic
Fiction

TRUCK: A LOVE STORY

Michael Perry

HarperCollins Publishers

Memoir

Midwest Booksellers' Choice

Award Winner

A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

April 2007 Picks

HICK

Andrea Portes

Unbridled Books

Fiction/First Novel

DEVILS IN THE SUGAR SHOP

Timothy Schaffert

Unbridled Books

Fiction

THE RIVER QUEEN: A MEMOIR

Mary Morris

Henry Holt / Holtzbrinck

Memoir/Travel

IN SEARCH OF MOCKINGBIRD

Loretta Ellsworth

Henry Holt / Holtzbrinck

Children's Fiction, Ages 10 and up

Midwest Booksellers' Choice Award

Honor Book

May 2007 Picks

WHISTLING IN THE DARK

Lesley Kagen

NAL / Penguin Group (USA)

Fiction/First Novel

A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

LITTLE HEATHENS:

HARD TIMES AND HIGH SPIRITS ON AN IOWA FARM DURING THE

GREAT DEPRESSION

Mildred Armstrong Kalish

Bantam Books / Random House

Memoir / Midwest regional history

A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

June 2007 Picks

F5: DEVASTATION, SURVIVAL,

AND THE MOST VIOLENT

TORNADO OUTBREAK OF THE

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Mark Levine

Miramax Books

Contemporary American history

LAND OF LINCOLN:

ADVENTURES IN ABE'S AMERICA

Andrew Ferguson

Atlantic Monthly Press / Grove/Atlantic

American History / Popular Culture

July 2007 Picks

KEEPING THE HOUSE

Ellen Baker

Random House

Fiction/First Novel

A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

THE RIVER WIFE

Jonis Agee

Random House

Fiction

A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

August 2007 Picks

THE REST OF HER LIFE

Laura Moriarty

Hyperion

Fiction

A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

THE NIGHT BIRDS

Thomas Maltman

Soho Press

Fiction

THE LINDEN TREE

Ellie Mathews

Milkweed Editions

Children's Fiction, Ages 10 and up

September 2007 Picks

THIS I BELIEVE:

THE PERSONAL PHILOSOPHIES OF REMARKABLE MEN AND WOMEN

Ed. Jay Allison and Dan Gediman

Henry Holt / Holtzbrinck

Essays / inspiration

A Heartland Independent Bestseller!

HOME OF THE BRAVE

Katherine Applegate

Feiwel and Friends / Holtzbrinck

Children's fiction, age 10 and up

THE CHICKEN DANCE

Jacques Couvillon

Bloomsbury USA / Holtzbrinck

Young adult fiction

GIMME CRACKED CORN

AND I WILL SHARE

Kevin O'Malley

Walker / Holtzbrinck

Children's picture book

October 2007 Picks

THE FLORIST'S DAUGHTER

Patricia Hampl

Harcourt

Memoir

BREAKFAST WITH BUDDHA

Roland Merullo

Algonquin Books

Fiction

KIKI'S HATS:

OUR GIFTS LIVE ON AND ON

Warren Hanson

Tristan Publishing

Children's Picture Book

November 2007 Picks

THE MELANCHOLY FATE

OF CAPT. LEWIS

Michael Pritchett

Unbridled Books

Fiction

THE GREAT BIG BUTTER

COOKBOOK

The Wisconsin Milk

Marketing Board

Running Press / Perseus Books Group

Cookbook

A Crazy Little Series

SHELL CRAZY; STONE CRAZY

TREE CRAZY; SNOW CRAZY

Tracy Gallup

Mackinac Island Press

Illustrated Gift Books for All Ages /

Children's picture books