

Vincennes University's Learning Resources Center is named in honor of the late Judge Curtis G. Shake (1887-1978), one of Indiana's—and the U.S.'s—most famous native sons. Judge Shake was Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, a presiding Justice at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials after World War II, and was President of the Board of Trustees of Vincennes University.

<https://www.vinu.edu/web/shake-learning-resource-center/welcome>
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 Questions, comments, suggestions about this publication or other topics are always welcome! Call Reference Librarian Richard King at 5411 or email rking@vinu.edu.

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 Librarian:
 Bradley Scott, Information Services Librarian
 email: bscott@vinu.edu
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THE TEXT MESSENGER

eNews From VU Libraries

"Christmas gift suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect." -- Oren Arnold, author

THE LIBRARY STAFF WISHES YOU ALL THE VERY BEST DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Where did Fall Semester 2017 go, the library staff asks in wonder? We at Shake Library enjoyed the coming and going of numerous VU students and instructors during the day, and the many sports teams and coaches reserving study rooms at night. We answered your numerous reference questions, checked out thousands of books to you, and helped with students, faculty and staff one-on-one whenever needed. Please contact us any time you need library assistance, whether finding a book or accessing a database for your research. And we hope you all have a good break over the holidays and join us refreshed and rejuvenated for Spring Semester 2018!

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VU Students and Faculty Are Loud and Proud at Banned Books Readout

By Bradley A. Scott, Information Services Librarian

On Friday, September 29, the Shake Library's 2017 Banned Books Readout gave students and faculty an opportunity to respond to would-be book censors by publicly reading out passages from controversial and challenged books. The Readout was part of our observation of Banned Books Week, an annual event, supported by the American Library Association, which celebrates the right of American citizens to read freely and without fear of censorship. (For more about Banned Books Week and the ALA, check out <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/>.)

The words that resounded over the loudspeakers from the front steps of the library included works of classic philosophers, Pulitzer Prize-winning novels, bestselling fantasy stories, popular plays, and books which have become the sources of blockbuster movies and television series. Even one of Dr. Seuss's rhyming children's stories made an appearance. The one thing they all had in common was that someone, somewhere, had tried to have them removed from a library because their contents were considered too troubling or troublesome for people to be allowed to read.

The startling variety of books and ideas that would have been suppressed if would-be censors had had their way is a testimony to the value of the First Amendment in American life, and the need for libraries and their supporters to assertively promote the right to read freely.

For those whose taste inclined more to sweetness instead of controversy, cookies, coffee and lemonade were available as refreshments during the Readout.

Thanks to all who read or listened!

Kane Jones read from Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

Bradley Swank read from Friedrich Nietzsche

Rebecca Mullen read from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Ellen Scanlin read from Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee's *Inherit the Wind*

Mike Mullen read from F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

Matt Groneman read from Dr. Seuss's *The Butter Battle Book*

Bradley Scott read from James Branch Cabell's *Jurgen: A Comedy of Justice*

Magen Melton read from Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*

Ren Simmons read from Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle*

Jordan Ellerman read from Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*

Bradley Scott read from Nikos Kazantzakis's *The Last Temptation of Christ*

Jane Minderman read from J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Layla Welch read from Ellen Hopkins' *Crank*.

Thanks to Banned Book Student Poster Contest Participants!

By Bradley A. Scott, Information Services Librarian

Our Banned Books Week 2017 poster design was selected by popular vote of the library staff from entries designed by Asst. Prof. Carley Augustine's Graphic Design III class. The winning design was by **Sam Lowe**. Second place went to **Jessica Patton**, and third was a three-way tie between **Maisie Lay**, **Cassidy Liggins**, and **Victoria Mink**.

We would like to thank and acknowledge all the students who submitted designs:

Dartanyan Abney... Lora Brown... Aaron Crowder... Paige Easley... Ivy Heldt... Denzel Johnson... Maisie Lay... Cassidy Liggins... Sam Lowe... Ellie McClung... Jacob McKinstry... Victoria Mink... Jessica Patton... Leroy Pittman... D. Ramsey... Ian Ritchie... Karissa Waite

Thanks to all of you for your clever and eye-catching designs!

Dr. David M. Peter, Final Column



Dr. David M. Peter has recently retired from his long-time position of Dean, Learning Resources and Technologies. He wrote this article before he left, and we present it here in our December library newsletter. Well said, David!

Three thousand, nine hundred and fifty five days. If the measure of a life is merely the days, then time has passed quickly. The time has come to retire. Believe me when I tell you that making this decision was necessary, and it took time to feel comfortable making the decision to retire. When I started at Vincennes University, Bob Slayton (Dean and later Provost) gave me some sage advice, "You can make as big a difference here as you choose to make." And was he right. I have had multiple opportunities to positively impact the teaching and learning landscape here at VU and beyond. I can only hope that my efforts have indeed made a difference.

I've been fortunate to have worked with the Perkins Grants for years, and have been wonderfully impressed by the advances those funds have provided, and the equipment added to the teaching landscape. From 3-D printing in technology, to aviation simulators, Perkins funding has made a significant impact in teaching and learning at VU. The Teaching Transformation Academy has shown me the dedicated, professional, engaged faculty members and their desire to improve their teaching, learn from others, and critically reflect on their role as teachers and find ways to improve

their practice. I served as the Treasurer for the Academic Libraries of Indiana, then this year became President of the Indianan Library Federation. And now I have my "RETIRED" membership with the American Library Association.

It's the people who have made the greatest impact on my life. From faculty, to professional staff, to support staff and maintenance staff, they each demonstrate their commitment to services and take great pride in the accomplishment of their duties. They are all wonderful friends, with magnificent insight into this place. For the time and conversations I have been a partner with I am thankful for each of you.

People come and people go. Long after my departure has been a distant memory, this building will be here. It should be our hope that our impact, our efforts have made some part of the community better. This is the key part of contemporary life at VU. We make connections with people every day. Regardless of how long they have been here, or their unique job, they all have worth and immeasurable value. You all have made me better by the connections we've made. I've been fortunate to travel to VU sites around the state. Sometimes, when I would show up here or there people would be surprised and then thankful for the visit. I enjoy talking with people, and hearing their story. I take these stories with me, and share them with others.

And now, living with Parkinson's Disease, life has presented me with yet another challenge. I've been living with Parkinson's for over four years, and the struggles are wearing on me, and my resolve. It is time to step down, to retire and address my medical status. I leave knowing things will continue. I have been fortunate to serve as the Dean of Learning Resources and Technology. The staff here at the LRC are beyond compare, professional, focused and capable to continue delivering the wide range of services with such seeming ease. You have worked diligently and never lost sight of our mission. If asked for my parting wisdom, I'd echo something Bob told people time and time, "You have not because you ask not," which is a Biblical verse from the Epistle of James. I'd add "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened." If I have been successful, I have served with integrity in all of my interactions. I wish you the best, both tomorrow and beyond.



Book Reviews by Library Staff

Cornwell, Patricia. *Ripper: The Secret Life of Walter Sickert*, 2017. (364.1523 S566c)

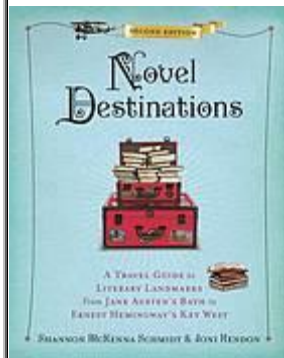
Though certain to be controversial among Ripperologists, renowned crime writer Patricia Cornwell has updated her earlier book that implicates painter Walker Sickert as Jack the Ripper. For those who don't know, the term Ripperologist refers to those who attempt to solve the most infamous



unsolved crimes in Victorian London by the notorious Jack the Ripper. This new book, *Ripper: The Secret Life of Walter Sickert*, has been revised to include new chapters, detailed maps and numerous images. Cornwall's detractors note that Sickert, while certainly an eccentric artist with odd ways, has not been proven to be the architect of the ghastly, mysterious Ripper crimes. Still, he might be a candidate. Therefore, interested readers are urged to check out Cornwall's dramatic investigative work, which includes state-of-the-art forensic science, and

determine for themselves if she makes a convincing case. For more information and discussion about other potential Ripper candidates, visit *Casebook: Jack the Ripper*, at <http://casebook.org>. —By Richard L. King, Director of Library Services

Schmidt, Shannon M. K, Joni Rendon, and Matthew Pearl. *Novel Destinations: A Travel Guide to Literary Landmarks from Jane Austen's Bath to Ernest Hemingway's Key West*, 2017. (823.009 S347n)



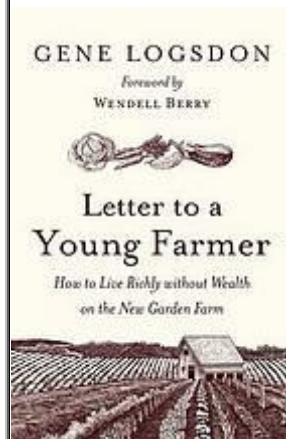
Those interested in literary history, whether they are world voyagers or armchair travelers, should look no further than this recent travel book about homes and other places, festivals, walking tours, antics and lifestyles concerning famous American and European authors. The book is divided into two parts, one devoted to interesting literary experiences one might find, and the second half featuring various locales immortalized by famous writers. You will find Ernest

Hemingway in Key West, Harper Lee in Monroeville, Alabama, James Joyce in Dublin, Ireland, and Jane Austen in Bath, England. You can delve into the Jazz Age with F. Scott Fitzgerald, explore the homes and haunts of other famous American Southern writers such as Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, and William Faulkner. One hopes to see another such book by the authors one day that explores the literary geography and times of writers from different parts of the world, perhaps from Africa, Asia and South America.

Nevertheless, *Novel Destinations* is an interesting and excellent guide to

literary locations in its coverage area. –By *Richard L. King, Director of Library Services*

Logsdon, Gene. *Letter to a Young Farmer: How to Live Richly without Wealth on the New Garden Farm*, 2017. (338.10973 L832I)



The late Gene Logsdon, self-described Contrary Farmer, is a well-known author of articles and books chronicling small-farm agriculture. In his latest book of collected essays he ventures into addressing even smaller-scale “garden farmers” who seek an improved, self-sufficient lifestyle by avoiding Big Agriculture methods. Often spoken of in conjunction with back-to-basics agriculture renaissance writers Wendell Berry (who wrote the forward to this book) and Wes Jackson, Logsdon has been a sometimes controversial voice in the wilderness decrying factory farming that he considers destructive to Earth and society. Whether Logsdon discusses agriculture economics, how to transport livestock, or whether laboratory-created steak tastes good, he is guaranteed to be a little opinionated but always entertaining. –By *Richard L. King, Director of Library Services*

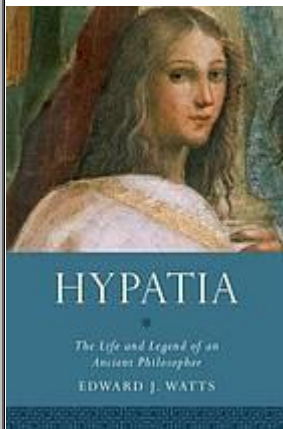
Dupont, J M, and Mezzo. *Love in Vain: Robert Johnson, 1911-1938*, 2016. (741.5 J65d)



Like all books graphic novels can be tedious or wondrous joys. *Love in Vain* is the latter, as the authors provide a gritty yet poignant work of fiction in homage to blues music great Robert Johnson. Johnson is certainly an iconic figure in American music, having written and performed some of the most famous and influential songs of the initial years of the unique blues style. Johnson’s life of 27 years was not an easy one, and the authors pull no punches in exploring the challenging, largely-Depression era of easy love and alcoholic decadence. The book includes the lyrics to some of Johnson’s great songs: “Come On In My Kitchen,” “Terraplane Blues,” “Cross Road Blues,” “Me and the Devil Blues,” “Love in Vain,” and “Sweet Home Chicago.” –By *Richard L. King, Director of Library Services*

Watts, Edward Jay. *Hypatia: The Life and Legend of an Ancient Philosopher*, 2017 (186.4 H998w)

Hypatia (370-415) was a philosopher, teacher and mathematician near the end of the Classical period who was martyred by a Christian mob in the city of Alexandria. Watts provides an overview of her life, her achievements, and the

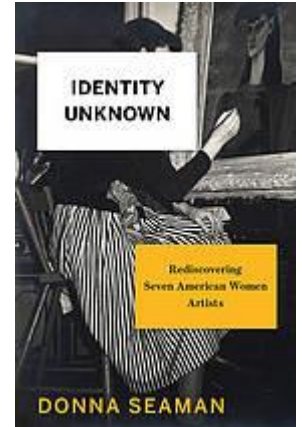


tragedy of her murder. His book gives an interesting account of what life was like in a major city of the Middle Ages at a time of both discord and coming together among Christians and pagans. —By *Richard L. King, Director of Library Services*

Seaman, Donna. *Identity Unknown: Rediscovering Seven American Women Artists*, 2017. (709.22 S438i)

Seaman explores the lives and artistic careers of several not-very-well remembered 20th Century women: Louise Nevelson, Gertrude Abercrombie, Lois

Mailou Jones, Ree Morton, Joan Brown, Christina Ramberg, and Lenore Tawney. The author explains that these artists were highly regarded both regionally and sometimes nationally during their lifetimes, were featured in art shows regularly, were interviewed by journalists and had sometimes brisk sales of their works by collectors. However, “All too soon their original, daring, and galvanizing paintings and sculptures were forgotten, put in storage and neatly excised from the pages of art criticism and art history.” Seaman successfully remedies this situation, and in telling their stories brings to life the magic of overlooked pieces of modern art history. —By *Richard L. King, Director of Library Services*



What Can Your Library Staff Do For You?

ORDER/PURCHASE books, videos, music CDs to support curriculum.

PROVIDE formal/informal classroom instruction and library tours at request of instructor.

WRITE guides/handouts/ exercises to support curriculum.

TEACH in faculty development workshops, such as campus-wide Professional Development Workshops and occasional library-sponsored programs throughout the semester.

PROVIDE Interlibrary Loan services for students, faculty and staff, usually at no charge.

MAINTAIN faculty research materials on reserve for student use.

PROVIDE meeting rooms/classrooms/computer labs for instructors to reserve.

PROVIDE study rooms for small groups of students to check out for group collaboration or individual quiet work.

CAN you think of something else you need? Just Ask a Librarian.