

Library of Michigan's 2009 Michigan Notable Books Recount State's Triumphs, Trials and Tenacity

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LANSING, Mich., Dec. 10 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Library of Michigan today announced the 2009 Michigan Notable Books (www.michigan.gov/notablebooks), 20 books highlighting Michigan people, places and events. Giving life to the diverse experiences of Michigan's people, this year's selection runs the gamut from novels depicting characters persevering through life's challenges, the 100th anniversary of the Model T and an historical account of a Great Lakes shipwreck, to books that capture the local flavor of Michigan's culture, tourism and recreation.

"The Library of Michigan is proud to celebrate the best in Michigan literature, which represents the breadth of our state's culture and variety of our residents' experiences," State Librarian Nancy Robertson said. "This year's Michigan Notable Books provide both an opportunity to enjoy reading at its finest, and a chance to explore the wonder of Michigan's history, natural beauty and everyday life."

Each year the Michigan Notable Books (MNB) list features 20 books published in the previous calendar year that are about or set in Michigan or the Great Lakes region or are written by a Michigan author. Robertson explained that selections include nonfiction and fiction and typically have a wide appeal to audiences, covering a range of topics and issues close to the hearts of citizens of Michigan.

For more information about the MNB program, call 517 373-1300, visit www.michigan.gov/notablebooks or email michigannotablebooks@michigan.gov.

The 2009 Michigan Notable Books are:

- Asylum for the Insane: A History of the Kalamazoo State Hospital by William A. Decker, M.D. (Arbutus Press)
- The English Major by Jim Harrison (Grove Press)
- The Expeditions: A Novel by Karl Iagnemma (Dial Press)
- Historic Cottages of Glen Lake by Barbara Siepker. Photography by Dietrich Floeter (Leelanau Press)
- "Jiffy" A Family Tradition: Mixing Business and Old-Fashioned Values by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds (Chelsea Milling Company)
- Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka (Viking)
- Looking for Hickories: The Forgotten Wildness of the Midwest by Tom Springer (University of Michigan Press)
- Measure of the Heart: A Father's Alzheimer's, a Daughter's Return by Mary Ellen Geist (Springboard)
- The Model T: A Centennial History by Robert Casey (Johns Hopkins University Press)
- Ninety Years Crossing Lake Michigan: The History of the Ann Arbor Car

Ferries by Grant Brown, Jr. (University of Michigan Press)
-- A Picturesque Situation: Mackinac Before Photography, 1615-1860 by Brian Leigh Dunnigan (Wayne State University Press)
-- Ravens in the Storm: A Personal History of the 1960s Antiwar Movement by Carl Oglesby (Scribner)
-- Roadie: The Misunderstood World of a Bike Racer by Jamie O. Smith. Illustrated by Jef Mallett (Velo Press)
-- Sirens of Chrome: The Enduring Allure of the Auto Show Model by Margery Krevsky (Momentum Books)
-- Summer Dreams: The Story of Bob-Lo Island by Patrick Livingston (Wayne State University Press)
-- The Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry by Don Faber (University of Michigan Press)
-- War as They Knew It: Woody Hayes, Bo Schembechler, and America in a Time of Unrest by Michael Rosenberg (Grand Central Publishing)
-- When the Church Becomes Your Party: Contemporary Gospel Music by Deborah Smith Pollard (Wayne State University Press)
-- Who's Jim Hines? by Jean Alicia Elster (Wayne State University Press)
-- Wreck of the Carl D.: A True Story of Loss, Survival, and Rescue at Sea by Michael Schumacher (Bloomsbury USA)

Michigan Notable Books is a statewide program that began as part of the 1991 Michigan Week celebration, geared to pay tribute and draw attention to the many people, places and things that make Michigan life unique. In that regard, MNB successfully highlights Michigan books and writers focusing on the Great Lakes State. Each title on the 2009 list gives readers insight into what it means to make your home in Michigan and proves some of the greatest stories are indeed found in the Great Lakes region.

This year's Michigan Notable Book selection committee consisted of representatives from the Library of Michigan, Borders Inc., Cooley Law School, The Detroit News, Detroit Public Library, Grand Valley State University, Lansing City Pulse, Michigan Center for the Book, Michigan Historical Center, Schuler Books & Music and the Traverse City Record Eagle.

The Library of Michigan is part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). HAL is dedicated to enriching quality of life and strengthening the economy by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage and fostering cultural creativity. The Department also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Historical Center. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/hal.

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