

**Memoir** [barb.pierce@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:barb.pierce@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Top Five Must-Know Classic Authors**

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703)  
Marcel Proust (1871-1922)  
Collette (1873-1954)  
M. F. K. Fisher (1908-1992)  
Anne Frank (1929-1945)

**Top Five Up-and-Coming Authors**

Diablo Cody (1978- )  
Augusten Burroughs (1965- )  
Jeannette Walls (c. 1960- )  
David Sedaris (1956-)  
Mary Karr (1955- )

**Top 5 Must-Know Books**

A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive by Dave Pelzer (1995)  
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers (2000)  
Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris (2000)  
Running With Scissors: A Memoir by Augusten Burroughs (2002)  
The Glass Castle: A Memoir by Jeannette Walls (2005)

**Top Five Trends**

**Addiction memoir:** Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood by Koren Zailckas (2005)

**Blog into memoir:** Julie And Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen: How One Girl Risked Her Marriage, Her Job, and Her Sanity to Master the Art of Living by Julie Powell (2005)

**Cooking memoir:** Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly by Anthony Bourdain (2000)

**Pet memoir:** Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron, with Bret Witter (2008)

**Religion memoir:** Shattered Dreams: My Life As a Polygamist's Wife by Irene Spencer (2007)

**Five Personal Favorites**

The Amazing Adventures of Dietgirl by Shauna Reid (2009)  
The Summer of Ordinary Ways by Nicole Lea Helget (2005)  
Name All the Animals: A Memoir by Alison Smith (2004)  
Castle in the Backyard: The Dream of a House in France by Betsy Draine and Michael Hinden (2002)  
Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller (2001)

**valuable resource:** Memoir A History by Ben Yagoda. New York : Riverhead Books, 2009

## **Historical Fiction**    [snagle@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:snagle@co.carver.mn.us)

### **Five must-know authors**

Anya Seton  
Philippa Gregory\*  
Bernard Cornwell  
Ken Follett

### **Five up-and-coming authors**

Rebecca Stott\*  
Conn Iggulden –  
Arianna Franklin\* -  
Mary Sharratt\*– Daughters of the Witching Hill  
Sarah Dunant \*

### **Five books/authors to get you up to speed**

Steven Saylor  
Hilary Mantel – WOLF HALL  
S. J. Parris – HERESY  
Robin Oliveira\* – MY NAME IS MARY SUTTON

### **Five trends**

- Genre creep
- Time Periods and settings
- Fictionalized biography
- Reprints of classic authors/titles
- Parallel Narratives

### **Five personal favorites – come to the program to find out!!**

**Top Resource** - *Historical Fiction II, a guide to the genre* by Sarah Johnson (Libraries Unlimited, 2009) is the uber-resource for librarians. See also her blog at <http://readingthepast.blogspot.com> for publishing news, interviews, and links, and [www.historicalnovelsociety.org](http://www.historicalnovelsociety.org) for her list of forthcoming historical novels.

The April 15 issue of *Booklist* each year highlights historical fiction

\* Check author website for background research, videos, blogs, and more \*\*

\*\* Look up the URL yourself – you're a librarian!!