Laura's Recommended Reading for Summer 2007 and Other Mental Vacations (31st edition)

“I am a product . . . [of] books. There were books in the study, books in the drawing-room, books in the cloak room, books in the bedroom, books piled as high as my shoulder in the attic, books of all kinds reflecting every transient stage of my parents’ interests, books readable and unreadable, books suitable for a child and books most emphatically not. Nothing was forbidden me. In the seemingly endless afternoons I took volume after volume from the shelves.”

--C. S. Lewis

THE ALL-STAR TEAM

Anne Tyler, Digging to America (adoption of Korean orphans)
Karen Joy Fowler, The Sweetheart Season (small town life for women in 1947)
Alexander McCall Smith, The Good Husband of Zebra Drive (latest in the series)
Tony Earley, Hear We Are in Paradise; Jim the Boy (Southern writer)
Khaled Hosseini, The Kite Runner (Afghanistan)
Jhumpa Lahiri, The Namesake (Calcutta/American immigrants)
Ho Anh Thai, Behind the Red Mist (Viet Nam; India; satirical short stories)
Gao Xingjian, Buying a Fishing Rod for My Grandfather (short stories by Chinese Nobel Prize winner)
Edith Hahn Beer, The Nazi Officer's Wife: How One Jewish Woman Survived the Holocaust (memoir)

“She was an avid reader, which is almost the same thing as having friends.”

--Karen Joy Fowler, The Sweetheart Season

OTHER FICTION

Mary Doria Russell, A Thread of Grace (good enough to be repeated from last year's list)
Thomas Hardy, Tess of the D'Urbervilles (also good rereading)
E. L. Doctorow, The March (Sherman's march)
Karen Fisher, A Sudden Country (based on 1847 Oregon migration)
Anne Lamott, Blue Shoe
Elizabeth Flock, Me & Emma (North Carolina; abused child)
Edith Wharton, The Buccaneers (last novel; completed by Marion Mainwaring)
Karen Joy Fowler, Sister Noon (San Francisco 1890's, race, voodoo)

“A book if necessary should be a hammer [or] a hand grenade which you detonate under a stagnant way of looking at the world.”

--Wole Soyinka

MYSTERIES

John Dunning, The Sign of the Book (Cliff Janeway)
Perri O'Shaughnessy, Case of Lies (prime number theory)
Peter Lovesey, The House Sitter (Peter Diamond)
Jeffrey Deaver, The Twelfth Card (Lincoln Rhyme)
Mark Schweizer, *The Baritone Wore Chiffon: A Liturgical Mystery* (series)
Jacqueline Winspear, *Messenger of Truth* (Maisie Dobbs series)
Diane Mott Davidson, *Catering to Nobody; Dying for Chocolate; The Cereal Murders; The Last Suppers; Killer Pancake; The Main Corpse; The Grilling Season*
Josephine Tey, *Miss Pym Disposes*
Julia Spencer-Fleming, *All Mortal Flesh* (series)
Anne Perry, *Dark Assassin* (Monk/Latterley)
Margaret Maron, *Rituals of the Season; Winter’s Child* (Deborah Kott)
Patrick F. McManus, *The Blight Way* (local popular outdoors writer; 1st mystery)
Janet Evanovich, *Twelve Sharp* (series)
Patricia Sprinkle, *Did You Declare the Corpse?* (series)
Andrew Taylor, *An Unpardonable Crime* (British style mystery with 10 year old Poe)
Sue Grafton, *S is for Silence*
Laurie R. King, *To Play the Fool*
Victoria Thompson, *Murder in Little Italy* (midwife/detective in turn of century NY)
Raymond Chandler, *Farewell, My Lovely* (a classic, but watch out for racism)
Parnell Hall, *Cozy*

“When the hour is late, I count books, not sleep . . . .”
--Cliff Janeway, in John Dunning’s *The Sign of the Book*

**NON-FICTION**

Martin Luther’s Christmas Book, ed. Roland H. Bainton

“In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through you.”
--Mortimer J. Adler

**POETRY**

Wendell Berry, *Given*

“make a poem that does not disturb
the silence from which it came.”
--Wendell Berry, *Given*

**DRAMA**

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (good rereading)

“Reading is rapture (or if it isn’t, I put the book down meaning to go with it later, and escape out the side door).”
--William Maxwell

**CHILDREN’S LITERATURE**

Ian Falconer, *Olivia*