



BOOK REVIEW

All right, I admit it. Last year's garden was not a great success. But I've done my homework. The National Arboretum Book of Outstanding Garden Plants (Whew! What a title!) by Jacqueline Heriteau is a massive (some 1700) collection of which plants can be planted where for what effect. For areas with a water problem there is Taylor's Guide to Water-Saving Gardening. This book resembles the Audubon bird books in its set-up; glossy, coloured photos grouped together with write-ups in the second half. (For those of us who need even more help, there will be a talk on gardening with walls and fences, in small back yards at the Portland Anglican Church, April 10 at 2 p.m. See you there!). Another great book, for those who prefer inside greenery, is Keep Your Gift Plants Thriving by Karen Solit. It contains great advice on keeping plants alive, well, thriving and even has a "reproductive" segment. When the Gulf War began, the movie "Not Without My Daughter" was playing at the cinemas. In the book of the same name by Betty Mamood, she refers to the Quran (the new spelling "Koran") and to Rashad Khalifa. Our Library has Khalifa's translation of the Quran as well as Mamood's book. Now that Bush's New World Order is going to "handle" the Middle East Problem, it wouldn't hurt to read up on this religion in which Church and State are NOT separate. At one time or another we all have to deal with ageing parents. Caregiving: How to Care for Your Elderly Mother and Stay Sane by E. Jane Mall does NOT lay a guilt trip on anyone. Ms. Mall lists associations and booklets which could be of help. She even includes 10 commandments for the caregivers; 1 short page of excellent, common-sense advice. Though Choosing a Nursing Home by Seth B. Goldsmith is an American publication (with information on Medicare etc. - good if you're placing someone in the States), it still has lots of sound advice that can help with this difficult decision. Did you catch PBS's review of the American "Civil War"? Great television. For contrast try Red Victory: History of the Russian Civil War by W. Bruce Lincoln. I found

there weren't enough photos but the information is presented in a readable fashion (1918-1921 in Russia is a confusing time) with a long bibliography for those who want to pursue any particular area. In today's world of single parent families, mothers often have the job of discussing sexual responsibilities with their sons. Or fathers, with their daughters. Need help? Try the Boys & Sex, Girls & Sex companion books by Wardell B. Pomeroy who co-authored the Kinsey Report. These are not books to use if you've waited till your children are in their teens, but can give you some direction for the questions younger ones will ask you. (N.B. this is a personal evaluation based on conversations overheard while supply teaching in various elementary schools.) Whew! Enough with the heavy stuff! Heartbeat, Danielle Steele's newest,

is available in regular format and in large print. The newest edition of Speaker's and Toastmaster's Handbook by Herbert V. Prochnow is in, just in time for retirement banquets, weddings. For a bit of royal gossip, try Elizabeth & Philip by the ever-popular royal biographers Charles Higham and Roy Moseley. Be warned this is not a balanced picture - very RAH! Elizabeth, BLAH! Philip. And for those bored with T.V., try The Book of Classic Board Games. It provides the boards, rules, history on 15 games (you provide dice & markers) including 9 men's Morris (?), 3-D Tic Tac Toe. Enjoy. And remember...April showers bring May flowers. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.) (P.S. The Elgin Branch is now accepting donations for the Annual Book Sale. Be generous: GST has eaten up most of the increases given the buying fund this year. Thanks Brian.)
Jose Mann

GETTING OLDER
As ageing parents - How do we grow?
By watching our children - what they do and know. We stand in awe, we sit and learn
As they challenge and accomplish at every turn They do so much that we never could
They try new things that we never would
From computers to care, to travel afar
Opportunities are great; their knowledge bizarre. Take credit, accept praise; there's nothing to it
For no one knows that you couldn't do it
Or that you taught them all that you knew
And in spite of that they learned and grew
So grow with your children, let them keep you young
sit back - enjoy - as your praises are sung
For you'll be brought back to your proper station
By your Dad noting, "intelligence skipped a generation!"
Pat Dickey

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 - * Monday, April 15th, 22nd and 29th 7:30 - 10:00 P.M. Includes four nights instruction and one dinner. \$45.00 (Supply fee not included)
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