

The Brown Bag Lunch Summer Speakers Series 2009 is every Monday from June 1 to July 27 from noon to 1pm at the Brainerd Public Library. This series is sponsored by the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library. The events will feature an interesting variety of published authors talking about their books, themselves, the writing process and more. All this is free of charge and people can bring their bag lunch if they want. Here is the schedule:

June 1

Laura Flynn is the author of Swallow the Ocean, a memoir of growing up in the face of her mother's catastrophic mental illness. Her mother went from an adventurous bohemian in the 50's and 60's to a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia. Born and raised in San Francisco, Laura has been an activist and human rights advocate all her adult life. She teaches creative writing in Minneapolis.

June 8

Freya Manfred's most recent book of poetry is Swimming with a Hundred Year Old Turtle. She is the author of three volumes of poetry, as well as children's stories and novels. Her book on her father, Frederick Manfred: A Daughter Remembers, was nominated for a Minnesota Book award.

June 15

Pamela Carter Joern is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, playwright and a teacher of writing. Her latest book, The Plain Sense of Things, chronicles three generations of a Nebraska family from 1930 to 1980 as they deal with personal hardship and historical changes.

June 22

Earl Hipp is a writer, professional speaker and part time adventurer. His book, Man-Making: Men: Helping Boys on their Journey to Manhood, is a practical and inspirational guidebook for men, showing them how to awaken and apply their instinctive man-making skills.

June 29

Bill Matthies, owner of the Minnesota School of Diving, is the author of One Earth, Two Worlds.

July 6

Pat Bluth's life was going well, but everything changed suddenly when her daughter Tammy was killed by a drunk driver. Her book, From Pain to Peace: A Journey from Rage to Forgiveness, is for everyone who has known pain or experienced loss. Now in private practice as a family therapist, she is also a certified Chemical Dependency Counselor and an active member of MADD.

July 13

Aaron Brown is a fifth-generation Iron Ranger whose book, Overburden: Modern Life on the Iron Range, is a 21st century memoir of a place and a people. Brown is a columnist and former editor for the Hibbing Daily Tribune and now teaches at Hibbing Community College.

July 20

Brian Freeman is the international bestselling author of psychological suspense novels featuring Jonathan Stride and Serena Dial. His books have been sold in 46 countries and have appeared as Main Selections in the Literary Guild and the Book of the Month Club. His latest book is In the Dark.

July 2

Maxine Russell, a life-long Brainerd resident, is the author of a number of books including Searching for Star Trillium and Hidden Light. Her current book of poetry is Celebrating 100.