

Check It Out Column for week of Dec. 6-12

### Wrap Up Your Holiday Reading

By Kathy Stutzman, WCPL Public Relations Manager

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire... Silent night, holy night... Just a few words of these traditional songs stir up memories of holidays long past. Rich in history and some dating back to centuries. It's hard to go anywhere without some reminder of the soon-coming holiday. For some it's music, for others it's the varied decorations on display, for me it's that and more. I find that books centered around the Christmas holiday stir up favorite memories and remind me of the reason for the season. Here are some of my favorites that I have enjoyed as well as some new ones for you to discover in the Warsaw Community Public Library.

The Ultimate Gift/James Stovall. A grandfather wills a fortune to his grandson with a catch. Jason must complete 12 separate assignments within a year. Each assignment is centered around a "gift". At the end, he has exceeded the expectations of his dead grandfather and receives one final "gift", making him a billionaire. Surprise ending. A must read!

The Christmas Box , Timepiece, and The Letter/Richard Paul Evans. A trilogy surrounding the Parkin family and eventually a young couple who care for the lonely widow, Mary Parkin, in her mansion. Wonderful stories of true love and loss, and the real meaning of success. These characters will touch your spirit and soften the hardest of hearts.

The Unfinished Gift /Dan Walsh. **New.** Ian Collins is an old man without his son. Patrick Collins is a young boy without his father. Patrick's Christmas list has only three things; to find his father, to leave his grandfather's house, and to have the dusty wooden soldier in Grandfather's attic--the one he is forbidden to touch.

The Christmas List/Richard Paul Evans. **New.** The story of real-estate mogul James Kier, who gets the chance to read his obituary—before he dies. What he discovers unnerves him as the death notice portrays a ruthless, friendless man. James decides to make amends to the many people he's hurt over the years.

A Wee Christmas Homicide/Kaitlyn Dunnett. **New.** A Scottish-themed mystery series that offers high-kicking fun with characters as colorful as the tartans.

The Christmas Dog/Melody Carlson. **New.** Betty Kowalski isn't looking forward to the holidays. She just can't seem to find Christmas in her heart. But when a mangy dog appears at her doorstep, the stage is set for Betty to learn a very important lesson about what Christmas is all about.

A Christmas Carol/Charles Dickens. A miserly curmudgeon receives spiritual conversion and redemption after being visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve. *A Christmas Carol*

remains popular with many believing it exemplifies the spiritual and secular aspects of Christmas.

The Christmas Child/Max Lucado. A heartwarming tale about a Chicago journalist who discovers the meaning of Christmas in a small town on Christmas Eve. Book and movie available.

Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas/Ace Collins. Fascinating book that teams with Christmas facts and legends. Learn, for example, that the holiday shopping season used to be only a couple of weeks long, but was extended during WWII so families could get care packages off to soldiers in a timely fashion.

As you can see, WCPL has plenty of holiday-themed books to get you in the Christmas mood with lots more on the shelves. Don't forget to check out our holiday movies and musical cd's too! In addition, drop in and take advantage of our holiday events or visit us at [www.warsawlibrary.org](http://www.warsawlibrary.org).