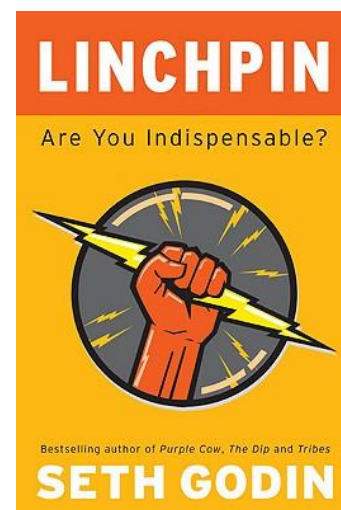


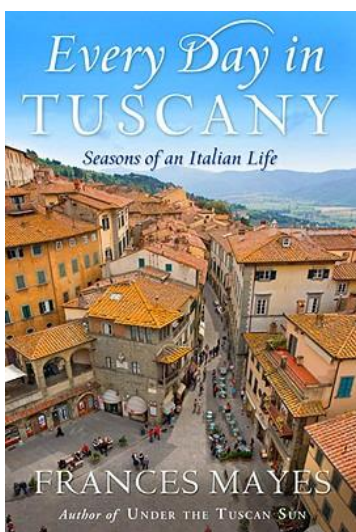
**“Linchpin: Are you Indispensable?” by Seth Godin.  
Penguin Group, 2010. 236 pages, \$25.95**

Fans of bestselling author Godin are well accustomed to his succinct ideas on achievement and choices. What holds us back, Godin states is a powerful force which includes fear, avoidance of risk taking, resistance to be generous and self-sabotage. Godin states in the content section that his purpose in writing this book is to help us know that the choice to be indispensable is ultimately within ourselves. The new work world he proclaims is composed of more than management and staff. There exists third element called linchpins. What exactly is a linchpin in the workplace? When there is chaos and uncertainty at work, there is always someone who finds solutions, creates a new standard, or simply just makes things happen. That individual is a linchpin. These individuals see their opportunity to make a difference. They live to work not the other way around. They do not work just to receive a paycheck.

Are their key individuals at your business, organization, or retail store that have knowledge and talents? Do they lead, inspire and challenge others to achieve? Linchpins form connections with all they encounter escalating performance to be more than just doing a job. This book is a quick read and the author sets out his philosophy in an easy to understand manner. Godin has written five other books including “Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us,” “Small is the New Big,” and “If You’re Clueless about Retirement Planning and Want to Know More.” He lives in Westchester, New York and has a business blog on the internet.



**“Every Day in Tuscany” by Frances Mayes.  
Random House, \$25.00. 2010, 306 pages.**



During our last snow storm, not having plane tickets to a warmer destination, I decided to read the advance copy of Frances Mayes sequel to “Under the Tuscan Sun.” What could be better than basking in the sun-drenched Italian countryside? Alas, the story opens with the author dreaming of renovating Bramasole and it is a very cold 35 degrees in late winter. She is quite excited at new laws which will allow changes at Bramasole. She is giddy to possibly have bathrooms by the bedrooms. A wine cellar and a garage could also be possible in the plans the local architect has drawn.

Much to the chagrin of natives but to the delight of shopkeepers, her books have put Cortona on the map as a destination point for tourists from many countries. Quite a bit has changed in the twenty years she has lived in Cortona, Italy. A fresh chicken now costs 14.65 euros or just over \$20.00 American dollars. She and Ed discovered another small stone cottage in ruins while picking blackberries. They decided to restore the ancient 12<sup>th</sup> century cottage. The couple prefers to spend the winter in Italy traveling. I read on to find what places in Italy Frances found that could possibly top Cortona. The book is sprinkled with amazing food recipes she has come across in her travels. You will be tempted to try one of the recipes and at least for a moment be transported to Tuscany. I recommend the book and the recipe for zuppa di cavolo nero, cannellini, e salsicce.

Susan Benning is the Head Librarian at May Memorial Library. Visit us on the web at [www.alamancelibraries.org](http://www.alamancelibraries.org).