



# Jack Tevis

## Great Readers, Great Leaders

*We are delighted to feature book recommendations from Jack Tevis, President and CEO of Tevis Energy/Modern Comfort Systems.*

## Jack's Bio

Jack and the Tevis Family have greatly enhanced the quality of life in Carroll County through their growing businesses and their significant philanthropic activities. Tevis Oil is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jack's grandfather opened the business during the Great Depression, selling gasoline and heating oil to residents in local towns and farming communities. Jack took ownership of Tevis Oil in 1974, after his father's death. The business has grown tremendously under his leadership, and now includes Tevis Propane and Jiffy Marts. Jack was a dentist in Carroll County prior to leading the family business.

Jiffy Mart partners each year with national, regional, and local charities including St. Jude Children's Hospital, American Breast Cancer Foundation, Carroll Hospital Center Foundation, and Shepherd's Staff. This year, Jiffy Mart's pink fundraiser for American Breast Cancer Awareness raised over \$6,000 for the American Breast Cancer Foundation.

Jack was on the Carroll Hospital Center Foundation Board for more than a decade and was chairman of Fulfilling the Promise, the largest fundraising campaign in the hospital's history. He has given generously to his church, the Boys and Girls Club, and Carroll County Public School's Education Foundation. He is a significant contributor to the library's Sculpture in Mary Lou Dewey Park initiative in partnership with the Community Foundation of Carroll County. The commitment to giving back to the community runs in the Tevis Family. His wife, Beth, is very active on the executive board of the Boys and Girls Club of Westminster. His daughter, Tory, served for two years in Sarajevo for the Brethren Volunteer Service.

## Jack's Picks

### *Redwall* by Brian Jacques

From a series set in medieval times in an abbey where an awkward young novice develops into the hero who saves the abbey from the evil Cluny the Scourge and his army. The characters are animals: mice, rats, squirrels, and badgers. A wonderful drama, with wit and humor, and lessons for all ages that ends with good triumphing over evil. This story became a nightly out-loud read to my daughter at age 7 and 8.

### *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss

A story that teaches young and old you don't have to be like everyone else or anyone else—it is far better to just be yourself. This is my favorite Dr. Seuss which I read to my children many times over.

### *The Path to Power* by Robert Caro

A multi-volume biography of President Lyndon Johnson. The first three volumes have been published and I am eagerly waiting for the 4th. What is so interesting about these books is that we see LBJ with all his flaws—growing up, as a Congressional page, as US Congressman, and as a Senator. Many times we see him as an antihero. These books credit LBJ for his historic vision and desire to be progressive in many areas, including civil rights.

*The Path To Power* (1982) is the first book in the series. It covers LBJ's forebears—his grandparents in Texas in the 1870s— and goes from his childhood to his mid-twenties as a page in the U. S. Congress, then to his election to Congress.

*The Means of Ascent* (1990) is the 2nd book and covers the period from his failed Senatorial election in the early 1940s to his successful election to the Senate in 1948.

*Master of the Senate* (about 2002) is the third book in the series and covers LBJ's years in the US Senate from 1948 to the late 1950s. The first one hundred pages is a history of the Senate. An informative treatise on how the Senate has evolved since the founding of the country, it is a civics lesson on how our political system works today (and sometimes doesn't work).

### *Younger Next Year: Live Strong Fit and Sexy—Until You're 80 and Beyond*

by Chris Crowley and Dr. Henry S. Lodge

A 'good news bad news' self-help book on how to live a healthy life well into our eighties (if we are lucky). The good news is that there is a fountain of youth. The bad news is...it is exercising...everyday. Darn. Written in humorous and insightful ways by a previously sedentary lawyer and his physician, it lays out a philosophy of health that comes from 30 -45 minutes of aerobic exercise each day. Actually a fun read.

### *Too Big To Fail* by Andrew Ross Sorkin

The author, former reporter for the New York Times, has been compared to Bob Woodward in the telling of this incredible story. A financial disaster thriller, it is the day-by-day account of the near collapse of Wall Street and world financial markets in 2008 as the mortgage industry imploded.

### *The Big Short: Inside The Doomsday Machine* by Michael Lewis

Another amazing story of how virtually all participants in the mortgage loan business failed to properly underwrite the risk of the housing mortgage bubble. It is also about a few savvy investors who saw the huge risks associated with the bubble and made fortunes overnight by betting that the bubble would burst. Reads like a page-turning whodunit.

### *Liars Poker* by Michael Lewis

A not-very-flattering look deep inside the investment banking business of Morgan Stanley in the late 1980s, as told by a new hire fresh out of school.

### *Lincoln* by David Herbert Donald

A one-volume work on the life of Lincoln, our near-deified president. A great read about Lincoln's life and background, as well of the politics of the day. Most enjoyable.

