



Friends Newsletter

March 2014

The Friends of the Chester County Library, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, PA 19341

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Friends Meetings:

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of July.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Chester County Library is held the first Tuesday in December.

A Message from the Friends Vice President

Dear Friends,

Nick Hornby nailed it in his book "High Fidelity" - people love making lists. Lists have become the preferred means of communication on common internet sites. Top songs, top movies, top news stories, top mutual funds, top cars, top baby names, top housing markets, top vacation spots, top retirement locations, top 100 books of all time, and the lists go on...

Lists are a means of capturing our limited attention. Best-of-the-year book lists help us discover works we may have missed during the year. These lists can be used to fuel new interests or understanding.

But other's "Best-of" lists are not my list of top books, and neither should they be yours. Everyone has their own ideas of what is best. Books which changed my way of thinking are not likely on any critics' or popular list of best books. Books you loved are likely different from books other folks have read and loved, and over time our individual experiences and moods can change what we view as best. Despite the plethora of published lists, books do not compete to be best; we can appreciate many fine works for different reasons.

Over the years I have kept a list of books I enjoyed reading, as well as a (growing) list of books I mean to peruse. The library web site makes tracking these interests easy, allowing you to note books you have already read and books on your "to read" list. (It works for movies and music as well). Check out the "**Preferred Searches**", "**My Ratings**" and "**My Lists**" links when you log into your account on-line. Ask a library support person to help the first time - it is intuitive once you try it.

And one last note: take some time this year to browse the library stacks to allow for serendipity to play its part. You'll find discoveries far from the commonality of the web.

David Chartier

Spring Book Sale Coming Soon - April 4-6, 2014!



EXTON—The Friends of the Chester County Library will hold their annual Spring Book Sale on April 4, 5, and 6, 2014 on the second floor of the Chester County Library in Exton. Proceeds benefit the Library.

More than 30,000 books in a variety of subjects, from the sciences to the humanities to fiction and poetry will be available for purchase at bargain prices, along with current and out of print hardback and paperback novels, first editions, biographies, history and children's books, cook books, music and movie CDs, DVDs, and much more.

The book sale starts with a preview night for members of the Friends of the Chester County Library on Friday, April 4, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Non-members wishing to attend the members-only preview may purchase a membership at the door. Membership is \$15 for an individual and \$20 per household.

The sale is open to the public starting on Saturday, April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 6, is Bag Sale Day, which takes place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. All are welcome to come and fill our grocery bags for \$6 per bag.

Please note: Only cash or checks will be accepted. No strollers will be permitted in any of the Book Sale areas and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Letter from the Chester County Library Director

October 20-26 was the seventh annual celebration of National Friends of Libraries week, making it a good time to publicly thank the Friends of the Chester County and Henrietta Hankin Branch libraries who contribute so much of their time and expertise to significantly enhance our services.

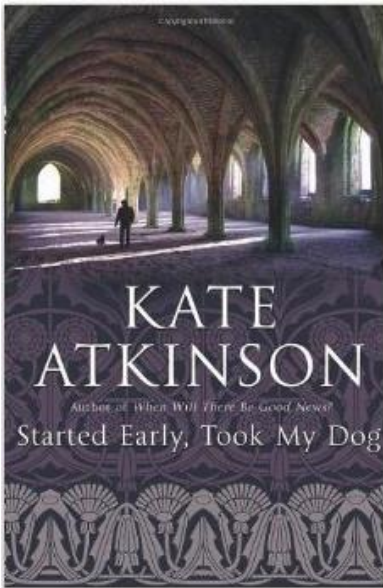
The Chester County Library Friends group began in 1988 and over the course of the past 25 years they have donated over \$1,000,000 to cover the costs of children's programming, special collections, first-floor redesign and improvements, new computers, vans, digital screens and other equipment, and landscaping. In fact, the Friends of Chester County Library ushered our library into the digital era by funding our very first computer lab.

The Henrietta Hankin Branch Library Friends group began in 2010, and in that short period of time has donated over \$31,000 to the library, funding high quality programs, children's computers, and the Henrietta Hankin Branch 10th anniversary celebration.

I know that the Chester County and Henrietta Hankin Branch libraries are a source of pride for our communities. Our Friends groups, as well as the friends groups throughout the Chester County Library System, are a great source of pride as well. I hope this celebration of National Friends of Libraries Week will encourage everyone to contact their library to find out how they can join and support these outstanding groups.



Marguerite Dube
Director of the Chester County and
Henrietta Hankin Branch Libraries



Book Review – Captivating Fiction

Kate Atkinson, *Started Early, Took My Dog* (2011, British)

(Review by Dwight McCawley)

In a Leeds shopping mall a woman named Tracy rescues a child, *buys* her in fact, from a screaming, abusive mother who is only too glad to get rid of the kid. Tracy, never married, past 50, never a mother, numbly faces the truth that this child is now totally her responsibility *and* that the mall surveillance cameras will see it as a kidnapping. Meanwhile, in a nearby Yorkshire Town a former police detective named Jackson Brodie, hired for the purpose, begins a search for the birth-parents of a woman who was abducted at age 3 and whirled off to New Zealand to do her growing up. What connects these two events? – and what links them both with the flashback scene that opens the novel, a day 35 years earlier, when a young female PC (police constable) and her older male partner find a woman's putrefying body in a tawdry walk-up apartment?

And then there's Tilly, an aging TV soap-opera actress who can't remember her lines anymore and so has just been "killed off" by the writers of the show; she wanders around the town in a foggy blur, but we have to attend to her mental ramblings because of something only she has witnessed, a thing that has no significance for her but will shatter to fragments the serenity of other participants in this shadowy enterprise.

These are a few threads that weave this bizarre tapestry together and keep us grasping for answers to the who and when and why of it all. Hints will be dropped and connections will in good time be made, but for you the fun lies in the moments when you exclaim "Aha, just as I thought!" – or when you gasp and say "Holy cow! So THAT'S it!"

Kate Atkinson now ranks among the foremost fiction-spinners of our new century, with her ingenious plotting, her well-honed phrasing, and her uncanny insights into the secret natures of her characters. You never feel that these characters are being invented by the author; instead they seem like real everyday humans who just walk in at a random moment and start acting like themselves. The retired detective Jackson Brodie, for example, barely survived a train crash not long ago, has been married three times, left in the lurch by all three and robbed blind by the middle one, whom he's still trying to track down. And he's never gotten over the murder of his little sister many years ago.

You may feel a bit wrung out upon finishing this novel, but you'll be glad you stayed with it.

Friends of the Friends....on Facebook!

Alex Miron

Thank you to all of our friends who help make our new Facebook page a success! In the few short months since the page's creation, we have received more than 50 likes from Friends, friends of Friends, and members of the Chester County community and beyond. Welcoming the Friends group into your own circle helps us expand our social presence on the web and enables us to strike up a new conversation with members of our community.



If you haven't yet visited our page, we invite you to follow "[Friends of the Chester County Library, Exton](#)" on Facebook. You can also follow the Library's Facebook page "[Chester County Library Exton](#)". On the Friends page, you'll find the latest information on the upcoming Spring Book Sale and photos from the book sale this past fall. Likes and comments are welcome! Finding us has never been easier. Start an Internet search for "Friends of Chester County Library Exton," or follow the link available on the Friends' website today.



eBook Challenges

Stephanie Sharon, Head of Multimedia at the Chester County Library, Exton

This is a time of great change in the library world. eBooks have now become one of the most popular new services offered at the library. The library system is now able to offer eBooks and eAudiobooks to our patrons from the comfort of their own home, 24/7. The service that we use is called OverDrive (overdrive.ccls.org), and it allows for downloads eBooks and eAudiobooks to eReaders, smart devices, and computers.

Many of our patrons that have used this service may have realized that we are missing many titles which are in popular demand. There are a few reasons for this, one of which is definitely not a lack of knowledge of what our patrons want. The first problem is that there are some publishers who refuse to sell their eBooks to libraries, so we are unable to provide titles by authors such as Philippa Gregory, Jennifer Weiner, and Stephen King. Aside from publishers who won't sell to us, many have put in place significant use restrictions when purchasing their titles. For example, the publisher of titles such as *The Fault in Our Stars*, *And the Mountains Echoed*, and *The Silent Wife*, will only let us keep a book for up to one year before we have to repurchase the same title. Other publishers only allow 26 downloads before we have to repurchase the title. And there are still other publishers who do not place time or download restrictions, but they do charge libraries a hefty price for eBook use rights. For example, *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, would cost \$9 if a consumer were to purchase the eBook through an outlet like Amazon, but the library would be charged \$75 per copy. *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith is also a very popular title that the average consumer would be able to purchase for around \$7, and the price for libraries is \$78 dollars per copy. This puts a considerable strain on the library budget when we have to purchase multiple copies of popular titles with exorbitant prices, as well as having to repurchase titles over and over again.

There is also some confusion as to why the digital books are not always available, and why holds must be placed on titles. This is a restriction all publishers have placed on eBooks. Another frequently asked question we receive is, "Why are some titles available in eAudiobook format, but not available in eBook form?" A book like *The Hunger Games* is available as an eAudiobook, but not as an eBook, because while the publisher decided they want to have a working relationship with libraries on the digital front, they do not want to offer their titles in the more popular eBook format. Often there are no concrete reasons publishers give when they make these decisions, but it generally always comes down to the possibility of lost revenue if they sell to libraries with no use restrictions. The publishing world is experiencing the same issue the music industry experienced after Napster and other free music downloading sites grew in popularity. The music industry is now in a much better place, and hopefully the publishing world will follow shortly.

Chester County Library is very optimistic when it comes to these changing times in the digital world. Along with the entire library community, we hope that the publishers soon realize the importance libraries have lifelong reading. We have embraced eBooks, and hopefully in the future we will be able to bring more digital services to better serve our communities

Fall Book Sale Another Outstanding Success!

Thank you, Friends, for making the 2013 Fall Book Sale such an outstanding success. Over \$22,000 was raised by this event. The funds raised by the book sale help to underwrite the cost of library programs and enhancements not included in the Chester County Budget. This funding allows the library to provide these valuable programs and services to the community.