March is Women’s History Month

Women’s History Month in the U.S. traces its beginning to a Women’s Day observance in 1911. In 1980 President Carter established the week of March 8 as National Women’s History Week. His proclamation stated: “From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.”

Beginning in 1987, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating March as Women’s History Month. The theme for Women’s History Month 2017 is “Honoring Trailblazing Women in Business and the Labor Force” and recognizes women who have successfully challenged discrimination of women in business and in the labor force. These women fought social and legal structures that kept women’s labor underappreciated and underpaid. Check http://j.tinyurl.com/z635xup if you would like to read more about this year’s theme and honorees.

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia is honoring women’s history month with exhibits and activities, including a new program, “Decoding the Lyrics - Bad Romance: Women’s Suffrage,” which uses a hit pop song to tell the story of women’s suffrage. Then, take a self-guided tour of the Center’s main exhibition, The Story of We the People, which highlights important moments in women’s history. Remember you can check out one of the library’s museum passes for free admission to the Constitution Center!

- Mary DeCecco, Reference Librarian

Library Teen Summer Volunteer Program

Attention young adults fourteen years and older! The summer young adult volunteer program will kick off in March.

You can submit your application beginning on Monday, March 6, 2017. Applications received sooner than March 6 will not be accepted. We want everyone to have equal opportunity. You must be fourteen years old to apply. Helping us during the summer is a great way to give back to the community, fulfill graduation requirements, or boost your college resume. There is a limited number of positions available so be sure to apply in March.

Our young adult application is available on our website at www.chescolibraries.org or at the main checkout desks of Chester County Library and Henrietta Hankin Branch Library. Join us! It’ll be a great learning experience and fun!

Susan Walraed, Coordinator of Volunteer Services
Director’s Message
To Our Valued Customers

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete our Love Your Library Customer Survey. We have received over 1,500 responses system wide, with some very honest and thought-provoking answers to questions about our community. Your responses will give us direction while working on our next strategic plan, and help us to focus on the services most important to you. We will be compiling and sharing your responses in the coming months.

The weather has been a little crazy lately...one day the daffodils are blooming, and the next, we get a dusting of snow. But take heart, spring will soon be approaching, and it will be time to start planning your garden. This month the Chester County Board of Commissioners, through the Chester County Solid Waste Authority, offers FREE Certified Master Composting Classes. Attendance is required all three weeks to become certified. To register or for more information, call 484-796-4041. We also have a large selection of books and magazines on all things gardening.

If you want to see how the pros do it, come to our program on March 9 when David Sleasman of Longwood Gardens gives us a preview of the restoration of the Main Fountain Garden, which will be unveiled this spring. Attendees will be eligible for a drawing of free guest passes to Longwood Gardens.

There is currently a lot of talk about what is “news”, and what isn’t. Some news I can impart with certainty is that libraries are facing many new challenges and are an essential part of our communities. The American Library Association states that libraries “face an uncertain economy as they shift resources and services to meet the needs of the 21st-century digital world.”

Libraries are no longer simply a repository for paper books. Librarians are providing assistance in education, employment, entrepreneurship, empowerment, and engagement. Libraries continue to bridge the digital divide to allow everyone access to the information they need to make intelligent, mindful decisions. Librarians are becoming more active as leaders through community engagement and forums to better serve their communities. To learn more about today’s libraries you can read http://bit.ly/americas-libraries.

In February, citizens of Chester County were surveyed about their communities and their impressions of the libraries. That data will be analyzed to see where the Chester County Library directs its actions in the future. In March at the Henrietta Hankin Branch, opportunities to explore 3D printing, engage in Tai Chi Qigong, get your taxes completed, become better educated about retirement life decisions, and socialize with friends at the Bridge or Mah Jongg groups are available. Books and Wi-Fi are available too, but we offer so much more!! See you at the library soon!

Branch Manager’s Message

Once again, we are partnering with the AARP Foundation to present tax assistance through April 10. If you need some help filling out those complicated forms, there are still some openings. Visit our calendar at www.chescolibraries.org/events to register before the sessions fill up. Think Spring!

- Marguerite Dube, Director

March 2017
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Meghan Lynch, Business Outreach Librarian
Mike Persick, Copy Editor
Book Corner

We recently discussed Steven Johnson’s *How We Got to Now* in the Chester County Library’s Afternoon Book Discussion Group. This fascinating book examines six innovations and how they changed society. I loved the organization of the book, particularly, the way Johnson concentrates on one innovation at a time. This structure made me think of microhistories, a nonfiction genre that focuses on one particular topic and explores it at length.

Some of these titles focus on single objects, such as Henry Petroski’s *The Pencil: A History of Design and Circumstance*, Tim Brookes’s *Guitar: An American Life*, James Sullivan’s *Jeans: A Cultural History of an American Icon*, and Mark Kurlansky’s *Paper: Paging Through History*. Some focus on concepts, such as Rose George’s *The Big Necessity: The Unmentionable World of Human Waste and Why It Matters*, Amy Butler Greenfield’s *A Perfect Red: Empire, Espionage, and the Quest for the Color of Desire*, and Jack Lynch’s *You Could Look It Up: The Reference Shelf, from Ancient Babylon to Wikipedia*.

Probably the most popular topic of the microhistory is food, ranging from specific items to eating habits. Here are a few tasty titles to try: Mark Kurlansky’s *Salt: A World History*, Anne Mendelson’s *Milk: The Surprising Story of Milk through the Ages*, Dan Koeppel’s *Banana: the Fate of the Fruit that Changed the World*, and Steve Ettinger’s *Twinkie, Deconstructed: My Journey to Discover How the Ingredients Found in Processed Foods Are Grown, Mined (Yes, Mined), and Manipulated Into What America Eats* (now, that is a title!).

The March LibraryReads list has some intriguing titles. *The Wanderers* by Meg Howrey imagines a trio of astronauts and their families preparing for a mission to Mars with a training simulation designed to replicate the isolating conditions of the actual voyage. With *Say Nothing*, Brad Parks switches genres from mystery to thriller with a page turner about a judge whose life is turned upside down when his 6-year-old twins are kidnapped and he must obey the kidnappers’ instructions in his latest case or face the consequences. Rounding out the list are new titles by Lisa See, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, and Debbie Macomber, *If Not for You*.

You can see the rest of the list below and can always find all the LibraryReads selections at libraryreads.org.

Please take a look at the back page of the ChroniCle to see more forthcoming books.

Happy Reading!

-Jenna Persick, Technical Services Manager

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Library Reads March 2017 List

*The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley* by Hannah Tinti  
*The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck  
*The Wanderers* by Meg Howrey  
*The Bone Witch* by Rin Chupeco  
*The Hearts of Men* by Nickolas Butler  
*Eggshells* by Catriona Lally  
*Say Nothing* by Brad Parks  
*The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel  
*The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See  
*If Not for You* by Debbie Macomber
March.

03 STEM @ Your Library: Make it with Makey Makey! (three sessions to choose from) Friday, March 3, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, March 17, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; or Friday, March 24, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Join us to explore basic electronics. Create circuits and switches, light up LEDs, and invent something out of the everyday objects around you. Ever wanted to make a working game controller out of play doh, or a banana piano? Makey Makey is a small kit that allows anyone to be an inventor! For kids ages 6 -12. To register one of these sessions, please visit www.chescolibraries.org or contact the John W. Jacobs Technology Center at 610.280.2666. This project is made possible by a grant from the Institution of Museum and Library Services as administrated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, Governor. Location: Chester County Library.

09 An Evening with David Sleasman: Longwood Gardens’ Main Fountain Garden Project. The largest project in Longwood Gardens' history is underway as they restore and renovate the beloved Main Fountain Garden. As Longwood Gardens anticipates the reopening of the Main Fountain Garden, we are reminded of Pierre du Pont’s application of innovative design and technology when creating this engineering marvel. Therefore, it is fitting for this year’s Community Read to explore—and explain—the science, technology, and engineering concepts inherent in our world today.David Sleasman, Library & Information Services Coordinator at Longwood Gardens will introduce us to Pierre du Pont’s vision of the gardens and take us on an exploration of the new main fountain renovations, due to be unveiled this spring. A drawing will be held for free guest passes to Longwood Gardens. Time: 7:00 p.m. Location: Chester County Library.

11 Super Smash Bros Tournament. Join us for a day filled with fun and games at the Library. Bring your family and friends to cheer you on in the tournament or just enjoy the competitive gaming and the social atmosphere. Registration for the Super Smash Bros Tournament begins at 9:30 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is limited to 64 participants. All participants must be registered to enter the tournament. Tournament begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. All ages are welcome! Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the John W. Jacobs Technology Center at 610.280.2666. Time: 10:30 a.m. Location: Chester County Library.

14 Certified Master Composting Program. The Chester County Board of Commissioners, through the Chester County Solid Waste Authority, offers FREE Certified Master Composting Classes. Attendance is required all three weeks to become certified. Tuesdays, March 14, 21, and 28. Trainees will learn how to compost, how to construct various compost bins, how to grasscycle and leafcycle, and how to reduce food waste by vermi-composting. The Chester County Solid Waste Authority will provide training, materials, volunteer opportunities, and support. To register or for more information, call 484-796-4041. Time: 6:00 p.m. Location: Chester County Library.

15 Raising Boys Who Don’t Like Sports. Boys who don’t play sports or conform to other schoolyard measures of masculinity face social and personal challenges that their athletic counterparts do not. These boys don’t enjoy a lot of the physical activity that other boys their age do and may not be particularly good at them. This makes periods such as physical education or recess more than just a part of the school day—they are sources of embarrassment or anxiety. Janet Sasson-Edgette, psychologist, therapist and author of The Last Boys Picked, will discuss how parents can support their sons who create more magic with their imaginations or pets than with their feet. We will explore how we can help them to feel good about themselves and address whether boys should be pressed to play sports, how to create supportive family and school environments, and strategies for having conversations with boys that reveal their genuine emotions rather than the ones they want you to think they have. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Chester County Library.

16 Hankin Whodunits Mystery Book Club. The book for discussion in is “The Black House” by Peter May. Please come join our discussion. No registration required. Time: 1:00 p.m. Location: Henrietta Hankin Branch Library.
April.

**06 MATH MATTERS!** Play the 24 Challenge game and develop your mind! Open to students enrolled in grades 4-6 who are competent with basic math operations. Time: 7:00 p.m. Location: Henreitta Hankin Branch Library.

**10 Mother-Daughter Book Club.** For 9-year-olds and up accompanied by mom or a favorite female grown-up. Join us for book discussion, activity, snacks, and fun! For this month’s meeting, please read “Anne of Green Gables” by L.M. Montgomery. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Henreitta Hankin Branch Library.

**13 Learn to Love Organic Gardening—Spring into Action.** Spring is here, and it’s time to get those gardens ready for a bountiful harvest! Join Deb Kates, an experienced organic gardener, and answer all your spring gardening questions. How do I site my growing area for best advantage? Are there cool season seeds/plants that are cool to plant now? How do I use Nature’s “Rhythm Method” (aka Phenology) to my advantage? We’ll discuss heirloom vs. hybrid—don’t miss this match. Discover that good maintenance habits early will save lots of grief later on. Don’t miss out on this jump on spring gardening. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Chester County Library.

**18 Rosie Revere’s After-School Construction Club.** Kids in Grades 1 to 5 are invited to join Rosie Revere’s After-School Construction Club, where they will explore different building challenges and a different set of materials each week. Every week’s activity will be a surprise! Space is limited. First come, first served. This is a Chester County Library and Longwood Gardens Community Read Program. Time: 4:00 p.m. Location: Henreitta Hankin Branch Library.

**11 Healing through Nature and Travel.** Brenda Lee Sieglsitz, award-winning author of Ebb from the Shoreline: Finding Cancer and Courage, lost her husband of one and a half years to a rare cancer. Feeling herself unable to breathe, one of the first things she did was to escape to the out of doors. Using nature and travel as an escape from the pain she was feeling, she soon discovered that it had become a healing tool for her grief. Brenda will share her experiences of how nature and travel has helped her through some difficult times. She will suggest places to explore to find your own healing. Finally, Brenda will share tips on how to travel safely and how to make sound travel decisions. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Chester County Library.

**25 She’ll Grow Out of It—Wont She?** Telling the difference between “typical teenage behavior” and a red flag. Dr. Janet Sasson-Edgette, Psy.D., tells us that the present-day narrative about adolescence in this country says that teenagers are supposed to get moody, irresponsible, non-communicative, and generally unpleasant to be around. That sets the bar pretty low and makes it hard for parents to know when their teen’s unbecoming or worrisome behavior is actually signaling a need for professional attention. Let’s talk about how to differentiate between behaviors that are truly age-appropriate and those that we have come to recognize as being reliable red flags for problems already taking place or likely to develop in the future. Time: 7:00 p.m. Location: Chester County Library.

**28 DFTBA Book Club “Eleanor and Park” by Rainbow Rowell.** Join us at the Lionville Starbucks to discuss “Eleanor and Park” by Rainbow Rowell! Open to all Nerdfighters! The D.F.T.B.A. Book Club will meet monthly to discuss pre-chosen books popular within the Nerdfighter Community. Although not officially affiliated, we closely align to the ethics and mission of the Nerdfighter Community, as set forth by John and Hank Green. Time: 7:00 p.m. Location: Starbucks, 111 Eagleview Blvd., Exton.
Meet the Grantmakers Panel Discussion

Are you a member of a nonprofit organization in the Chester County area? Involved in grant-seeking and fundraising for your organization and looking to increase your knowledge and success?

Join us on Friday, April 28th, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. for a Meet the Grantmakers panel discussion at the Chester County Library in Exton. Scheduled panelists include May Pritchard of the Pew Charitable Trusts and Charles Huston III of the Huston Foundation.

These area grantmakers will discuss a variety of topics such as how their foundations operate, funder perspectives on the grant-making process, expectations for grantseekers, and what distinguishes a successful grant application. Following the panel discussion, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of the grantmakers and to briefly learn about free grantseeking resources at the Chester County Library.

There is no charge to attend, but advance registration is required: to register, visit the “All Programs” calendar at http://chescolibraries.org/events. We hope to see you at the library for this exciting event!

The Chester County Library is pleased to offer our Meet the Grantmakers event as part of our work as a partner of the Funding Information Network (FIN) of the Foundation Center of New York. More information about the Chester County Library’s FIN resources is available by visiting http://www.chescolibraries.org/tools-research and selecting “Funding Information Network.”

If you’d like to know more about grantseeking resources at the library (including the Foundation Directory Online Professional or Pennsylvania Foundations Online databases) or have questions about the Meet the Grantmakers or other FIN events, please feel free to contact us. You can reach us by email us at fin@ccls.org, or call the Reference Desk at 610-280-2620.

- Thomas Berman, Assistant Reference Supervisor
- Lois Shupp, Reference Librarian

How many seconds do you have to make an impression on LinkedIn?

With over 450 million users, LinkedIn is an increasingly popular professional social media platform that is indispensable for jobseekers and also serves a critical networking tool and professional electronic rolodex for those who are not in career transition. Learn how to make it work for you at LinkedIn 1: Profile Basics on Saturday, March 18th, at 10 a.m. in the Struble Room of the Chester County Library.

At this session, you will learn some best practices, tips, and tricks that you need to know to enhance or modify your LinkedIn profile. Learn how to turn on and off your privacy settings, how to view your profile in different ways, key factors for your photo, how to customize your URL, and much more. Our speaker will be Lynne M. Williams, BS, MA, ABD. As the owner of Around the Clock Executive Helper, she and her team provide virtual assistance supporting busy executives, solopreneurs, small businesses, and jobseekers. Let Lynne teach you how to leverage your LinkedIn to build your sphere of influence!

-Meghan Lynch, Business Outreach Librarian
Let’s Learn a New Language!

Planning a trip to Italy and want to learn some phrases to help you communicate with the locals? Interested in brushing up on your Spanish skills? Do you know someone who’s learning English and could benefit from an extra way of practicing and learning the language at their own pace?

For a wide variety of language-learning goals, the Chester County Library System subscribes to Mango Languages, an online language program that you can use at no cost from home or work. All you need is an internet connection and an active library card and you’ll be ready to start learning!

Mango Languages currently provides lessons in 72 different languages, from American Sign Language to Yiddish, and English language courses taught in 21 different native languages. Mango lessons simultaneously teach speaking, listening, and reading skills. Language instruction is broken down into units, chapters, and lessons, with interesting and helpful cultural notes interjected throughout.

Beyond the Mango Language Conversation courses available for every language, select languages also offer a placement test to help you decide where to begin your language studies. Also, for some languages, full-length movies are available that allow you to follow along with and explore the dialogue. From within Mango Languages, you can select “All Movies” to see which languages have this option. Finally, thematic and cultural “Specialty Courses” such as “Medical Spanish” or “Saint Patrick’s Day Irish” give you even more to explore and enjoy.

You can get started with Mango Languages on your computer or download the free Mango Languages app to your tablet or smartphone. To access Mango from your computer, visit www.chescolibraries.org, select “Tools & Research,” “All CCLS Databases,” and then select “Mango Languages.” You can easily create your own personalized account, which lets you track your progress and pick up where you left off studying the last time.

The Mango Languages app provides access to core conversation courses and has the added benefit of allowing you to download lessons to study later when you don’t have an internet connection. Some extra options such as placement tests and movies are only available via the full computer version.

Questions about using Mango Languages? Want to learn about more language-learning resources at the Chester County Library, such as CDs, books, and DVDs? Stop by the Reference Desk, or contact us at 610-280-2620 or ref@ccls.org. Happy learning!

- Laura S., Reference Librarian
NEW RELEASES

MARCH 2017

BOOKS

FICTION

The Book of Polly by Kathy Hepinstall
The Collapsing Empire by John Scalzi
Dangerous Games by Danielle Steel
The Devil’s Triangle by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison
Exit West by Mohsin Hamid
In This Grave Hour by Jacqueline Winspear
Man Overboard by J.A. Jance
Mississippi Blood by Greg Iles
Taduno’s Song by Odafe Atogun
Vicious Circle by C.J. Box

NONFICTION

Agent 110 by Scott Miller
Ageproof by Jean Chatzky
Charlton Heston by Marc Elio
Ice Ghosts by Paul Watson
Learn Better by Ulrich Boser
Madame President by Helene Cooper
No One Cares About Crazy People by Ron Powers
The Price of Illusion by Joan Juliet Buck

AUDIOBOOKS

3/1 In Farleigh Field by Rhys Bowen
3/7 Two Good Dogs by Susan Wilson
3/14 Her Secret by Shelley Shepard Gray
3/17 In This Grave Hour by Jacqueline Winspear
3/21 The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See
3/21 Vicious Circle by C.J. Box

MUSIC

3/3 Divide by Ed Sheeran - Pop
3/10 Heartworms by The Shins - Rock
3/10 Trophy by Sunny Sweeney - Country
3/17 Climate Change by Pitbull - Rap
3/24 Identity by Colton Dixon - Religious
3/31 Migration Blues by Eric Bibb - Blues

MOVIES

3/7 Moana - Family
3/7 Loving - Drama
3/14 The Edge of Seventeen - Comedy
3/14 Fences - Drama
3/21 Lion - Drama
3/28 Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them - Adventure

VIDEO GAMES

3/3 The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild - Nintendo Switch
3/21 Mass Effect Andromeda Deluxe - PS4