



# Friends of the Newark Free Library

May 2017

Editor – Patricia Rachek

## DELAWARE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE DAY

Judy Taggart, FNFL member, NCC Library Advisory Board member, Delaware Council on Libraries

In April, Shu-Chien Liang, president, Cathy Wojewodzki, and Judy Taggart, members of the Friends of the Newark Free Library (FNFL) attended Legislative Day in Dover to urge our Delaware Senators and Representatives to continue to support our libraries in three areas.

**Library Standard Funding:** this funding allows our libraries to maintain regular operating hours and staffing. Dollars are also used to purchase library materials and ensure library services.

**Shared Statewide Library Collections:** support restoring and expanding funding for shared library collections statewide.

**Library Technology and Infrastructure:** support provides continued support for a shared catalogue and supports Delaware's libraries shared collections. (*continued on pg. 2*)



(l to r) Shu-Chien Liang, Cathy Wojewodzki, Rep Paul Baumbach, and Judy Taggart

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### WEBSITES:

#### Friends of the Newark Free Library

[www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.webs.com/](http://www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.webs.com/)

#### Newark Free Library main page

<http://www.nccde.org/Newark>

#### New Castle County Happenings library page

<http://www.nccdecs.org> and click on libraries and then Happenings Guide

#### New Castle County Staff Reading

#### Recommendations

<http://www.nccde.org/374/What-Do-I-Read-Next>



Friends of the Newark Free Library

## Advocacy (*continued from pg. 1*)

In addition, we requested support for continuing on-line periodicals for schools, as well as school library infrastructure, staffing, and services.

YOU can advocate for our libraries by speaking with your Senator and Representatives urging them not to decrease funding for our libraries.

Not sure who your Senator or Representative is? Contact the reference desk and they will assist you.

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## From the President

Shu-Chien Liang



Gazing out the window at all the beautiful and colorful flowers in our neighborhood while listening to Mendelsohn's Spring Song, I can't help but be amazed by the wonder of nature and the beauty of spring. I hope you all had a great winter and are welcoming and enjoying this spring season.

We had a great turnout and wonderful gathering at our Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Friends Annual Meeting and Appreciation Lunch. The performance by the Delaware twin poets was amazing and heartfelt. We really enjoyed the fabulous program arranged by board member, Mary Ann Gladnick, with assistance from the entire board. It is also my great pleasure to share that Mary Ann will also serve as a Vice President in the coming year.

We bid farewell to two of our longest serving members: Peg Saenger and Amy Shay. Peg, an ex-President and a behind-the-scenes co-President for the past year, has been a great mentor and sounding board to many of us. She provided the continuity we needed as board members came off or on the board. Amy served on just about every committee and office, including Vice President. The nominating committee she has chaired for

many years is responsible for bringing in more than 80% of the current members. Amy and Peg showed us what true volunteerism is about with their dedication and unwavering support for members, whenever needed. We really appreciate their service to the Friends and are fortunate that they will continue to support us.



(l to r) Peg Saenger and Amy Shay

With their departure, we welcome three new board members: Katy Ferrero, Roy Lopata and Deb Morehead; each brings in different skills, new ideas and energy. We are excited to have them on board. Please check out the section in this newsletter to learn more about our three new board members.

A month or two ago, I forwarded several emails regarding the news on potential library funding cuts at both the federal and state levels. I received emails later from Friends telling me that they contacted their elected officials about this issue. One of the Friends shared that he posted the news on his Facebook page and encouraged others to take action. I am very grateful to all our library supporters, especially those who not only responded, but took an additional step to encourage others to do the same. It truly takes a village.

Thanks again for not only being a Friend of Newark Free Library but also for being a strong advocate for the Newark Free Library.

## From the Library Manager

Pat Birchenall



### Volunteers Make Our Library Great!

On April 13, the Friends sponsored a Volunteer Recognition event to celebrate the wonderful work done at the Newark Free Library by our dedicated volunteers. We have one of the best library volunteer programs in the state, coordinated by staff member, Linda Llanso, and the Friends who once again made the recognition event possible. The 46 people in attendance each received certificates of recognition, along with small gifts provided by the Friends. Special thanks go to Judy Taggart and Joann Deshon, who assisted the staff at the event.

Our volunteers are a mirror of our diverse community, and their efforts enhance the library in so many ways. Our current cadre of volunteers includes 107 adults and teens, who provided over 3600 hours of service last year! University of Delaware students, senior citizens, working moms and dads, high school students, and people from all over the world contribute regularly. Our partnership with the Brennan School, which is part of the Delaware Autism Program, has brought student volunteers from the Christina School District into the library to learn job skills for almost 20 years now. Students from all high



*NFL Volunteers*

schools log hours toward the Delaware Volunteer Credit, which gives them a high school elective credit for their service of 90 or more hours.

How do volunteers help us? There are so many ways our service to you is better because of our volunteers, including:

- Pulling holds from the shelves to be sent to other libraries
- Packing materials going to other libraries
- Preparing craft materials for storytimes and other library programs
- Assisting with collection maintenance
- Shelf-reading to make sure our materials are in order on the shelves
- Participating in the Book Buddy program, taking books to homebound patrons
- Assisting staff with our Book Sale program
- Assisting with the Summer Reading Club
- Book and DVD mending and repair



*Linda Llanso and NFL volunteers*

Thank you to all of our volunteers, and thank you to our Friends group, for recognizing their valuable service again this year.





## What's New at the Library?

### WRITING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian

Experience at Newark Free Library has shown that patrons of all ages are interested in programs on writing, which are always well attended. Furthermore, the circulation stats for books on writing and publishing show that these subjects are popular nonfiction items in our collection. To capitalize on this demand, NFL is offering **monthly writing programs** that kicked off in February with a session on Self-Publishing and will run through fall 2017. Upcoming sessions for adults and teens aged 15 and above include:

*Permission to Speak: Writing Character and Dialogue* (Sunday, May 28, 2 p.m.)

*Establishing the Setting in Creative Writing* (Sunday, June 4, 2 p.m.)

*Finding the Memoir in My History* (Sunday, July 16, 2 p.m.)

*Blogging Basics* (Sunday, September 24, 2 p.m.)

*Business Blogging* (Sunday, October 22, 2 p.m.)

Two sessions offered this summer for teens are meant to encourage submissions to IMAGINE, the annual Delaware Libraries' teen literary and artistic magazine.

*Haiku Poetry: The Power of 5-7-5* (Saturday, July 8, 2 p.m.)

*Learning to Draw Using Basic Shapes* (Saturday, August 5, 2 p.m.)

For more information about IMAGINE, including submission guidelines and deadline of October 31, 2107, see <http://www.nccde.org/371/IMAGINE>

Newark Free Library has added a significant number of **new books** on blogging, self-publishing, and writing of all kinds – novels, poetry, screenplays and scripts, children's and YA books, memoirs, travel, cookbooks, and so on. These can be found in the New Books section and

in the regular nonfiction shelves. We also have two **magazines** of interest: *The Writer* and *Writer's Digest*. For help in locating these, ask at the Reference Desk for a new brochure called: *Writers ... and Aspiring Writers: Newark Free Library has books and magazines for you!*

### SCRATCH TECHNOLOGY CLUB

Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian

From February to May 2017, Newark Free Library offered for the third time a weekly Scratch Technology Club facilitated by computer science students from UD, who create lessons and oversee the activities. This is a collaboration with the Partners4CS organization, whose mission is to increase participation in computer science among K-12 students and teachers. Scratch, developed at MIT, teaches computer coding to young people using a graphics-based programming language.



UD Teachers Hui Yang, Jeanine Najjar, and Aamir Majeed help Scratch Technology Club participants design 3D objects to be printed with NFL's Lulzbot Mini

The Club also includes working with NFL's Lulzbot Mini 3D printer – the students designed and printed cookie cutters in various shapes – and with Finch robots that can be controlled through Scratch programming. The Scratch Technology Club at Newark has attracted participants ranging in age from 8 to 13, about evenly split between boys and girls.



Students gather around 3D printer to watch a job in progress.



# FNFL Annual Meeting and Brunch

Mary Ann Gladnick

The Friends of the Newark Free Library were treated to the poetic performance of The Twin Poets, Delaware's own Poets Laureate, during their Annual Meeting and Brunch. Al Mills and Nnamdi Chukwuocha artfully portrayed their own life experiences, as well as those of the children they have inspired with their performances.



*(l to r): Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Al Mills*

FNFL Board President Shu-Chien Liang welcomed the gathering of about sixty-five members and guests, introducing the New Castle County Manager of Libraries, Diana Brown, whose impassioned remarks urged legislators and Delaware citizens to continue to support the public libraries. Funding for the libraries is currently in jeopardy as state budget cuts loom.



Shu-Chien introduced the current board members after bidding farewell to the retiring President, Peg Saenger, and Vice-President, Amy Shay, both of whom received a signed framed picture of the library as a token of appreciation from the board for their years of service (see page 4).

Treasurer Noreen Campbell reported that the treasury boasts a robust balance for the upcoming year. This will enable the FNFL to continue to

support the many programs that the library offers to its patrons throughout the year.

Outgoing Vice-President Amy Shay introduced the newest board members who were soundly welcomed. They include Deb Morehead, a Genesis Healthcare product manager, Roy Lopata, a former City of Newark manager, and Katy Ferrero, a retired Delaware teacher.

Special recognition was also given to the many volunteers of the Newark Library and its supporters, including the lifetime members of the FNFL. In addition, Neva Strickland, who was unable to attend, was recognized as the most recent recipient of the Lowell Memorial Scholarship.



Following the moving performance of the Twin Poets, County Executive Matt Myers voiced his enthusiastic support of local libraries, especially their influence on children.



*Marcus Henry, NCC  
NCC Executive  
Manager*



## ***FNFL's New Board Members***

The FNFL is pleased to introduce its new board members.

**Mary K. Ferrero (more commonly known as Katy)** is a native of Newark and a lifelong patron of the Newark Free Library. Her love of reading was developed in her childhood with weekly trips to the library. She is a graduate of the University of Delaware with a degree in Elementary Education and a Masters in Special Education. She taught locally in Newark and then later for the Christina School District for 31 years. Now a retired widow, her family includes two sons, a daughter-in-law, three grandchildren, and two multi-poops.



**Roy H. Lopata** retired in 2012 after working 37 years for the City of Newark, Delaware, including over 35 years as the City's Planning and Development Director. Roy also served as Interim City Manager for Newark. During his tenure as Planning and Development Director, the Planning Department was responsible for Newark's physical and economic development and for providing staff assistance to the City's Planning Commission and the Mayor and City Council. Roy has also served on the national board of the American Liver Foundation and locally on the Board of the Newark Historical Society. He received a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Delaware.



**Deb Morehead** works as a Product Manager in Information Systems with Genesis Healthcare. Having graduated from the University of New Hampshire with degree in Medical Technology, health care has always been her career focus.

Starting out in laboratory science, she later transitioned to clinical information systems and now works in the development and implementation of software applications to support long term care operations. Originally from Massachusetts, Deb and her husband, Mark, have been residents of Newark for almost 22 years. They currently share their home with five rescue dogs. Deb has many interests to keep her busy in her spare time including cooking, organic gardening, photography and beekeeping. She is also an avid reader, and always has at least one, if not two, books going.



## **CALLING ALL READERS Summer Reading Programs**

### **2017 Newark Free Library Summer Reading Program for Adults "BUILD A BETTER WORLD"**

Susan Lipsy, Library Specialist/Reference

Summer Reading will run from **June 1 through August 12, 2017.**

Registration and recording of books read will be done on line through a computer program called "Beanstack". Come to the Adult Reference Desk for information. For the first four titles recorded, the participant will earn an online award. After these first four titles, the participant can also download a "Certificate of Completion." Once four titles are recorded, he or she will earn an online raffle ticket for a prize. After these first four titles, for every title recorded, up to 21 or more, the participant will earn another online raffle ticket. These online raffle tickets will be for a drawing of two real Newark Free Library raffle prizes. Be sure to register at only one library in the State of Delaware.

*Adult Summer Reading... (continued from pg. 6)*



As far as reviews of books read, this will be totally voluntary and will be only online. If you wish to type your review into the “Beanstack” computer program it will be available for others to read.

Following the same theme of **“Build a Better World”** and only at Newark Free Library this summer we will have **NEWARK FREE LIBRARY BINGO 2017.**

Pick up a BINGO card at the Adult Reference Desk. Fill in a line or a row. Receive a coupon for a free sale book.

Fill in the whole card and be entered for the Newark Free Library BINGO 2017 Grand Prize Drawing. Fill in a second card and be entered again!

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### **It's Summer Reading Challenge Time Again! Children, Teens and Families**

Pat Birchenall

Everyone loves the Summer Reading Challenge, with its reading incentives and exciting programs. It's a great time for children, teens and families to visit the library together, check out lots of books and other materials, learn something new and have fun. This year's theme is ***Build A Better World***, and our kids' programs will feature The Juggling Hoffmans, Scientellers, John Hadfield, Winterthur Museum, Delaware Aerospace Academy and many more, as well as weekly story times and crafts. We thank the Friends for once again sponsoring some of these special events.

The **2017 Summer Reading Challenge runs from June 1 – August 12.** Last year we added an online registration feature for the Summer Reading Challenge through a program called “Beanstack”. It's back this year, and you can

once again choose to register for the program either online or in the library. However you choose to register and keep track of your reading, do make sure to continue bringing your family in for regular visits to the library shelves, so you can just browse for a while. Make it a goal to take home a book you've never heard of before. Who knows – its author may turn out to be your new favorite. Browsing is one of the great pleasures of using a library, as it can spark connections you may have never thought of before.

Children who read (or are read to) for at least 10 hours will receive a certificate and a prize book, and other incentives will be available if they read for additional hours. Remember to log all of your reading with us, so we can show our community what great readers we have at the Newark Free Library!

## *New Children's Program*

### **1000 Books before kindergarten:**

Pat Birchenall

New Castle County Libraries recently launched a new free program called **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**, which is a nationwide initiative to promote reading early in a child's life. It is a simple premise - if a child has at least 1000 books read to them by the time they enter kindergarten they will be much better prepared.

The program was first held at a public library in Indiana and was inspired by Mem Fox's book *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever*. The book shares research that shows a correlation between reading aloud to children's ages 0 - 5 and improved reading readiness and skills.

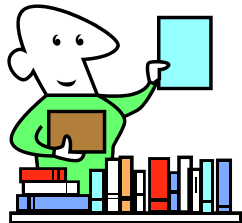
By listening to books being read aloud, children learn pre-reading skills such as understanding the  
*(continued on pg. 8)*



(continued from pg. 7)

sounds that letters make, developing a bigger vocabulary, and building background knowledge, all important skills that help prepare children for learning to read and entering kindergarten.

You can get started with 1000 Books Before

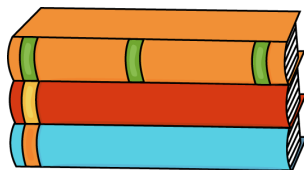


Kindergarten by visiting any New Castle County library. We will provide a packet including a reading log and lists of suggested titles. You can read your own books or check out books at the

library. Does the child in your life have a favorite book that you read over and over? That's OK - each time you read it, you can count it toward the 1000-book goal.

For every 100 books read, a child will receive a sticker on the reading log when they bring it in to the library. Once the goal of 1000 books is met, children will receive a tote bag, a free book and other activities to help promote their love of reading.

One thousand books seems like a lot, but if you read just one book a night, you will reach the goal in less than 3 years. If you read 3 books a day, your child will reach his or her goal in just one year!



Please share the news about this program with your family and friends. We look forward to helping with the journey toward 1000 books and more for each child.

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### LEGO® Club News



Due to the popularity of the LEGO® Club, **Friends of the Newark Library Board** voted to donate **\$1000** for the purchase of replacement LEGO® pieces and for the purchase of refreshments.

## THE MANY USES OF OUR STUDY ROOMS AND MEETING ROOMS

Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian

The two Study Rooms at Newark Free Library are used 80% of open hours. The Bookends Meeting Room (renovated with funds from the FNFL) is used as a third study room when available. The Study Rooms at Newark are used by individuals and groups for studying, by tutors working with K-12 students on academic skills, as quiet places for phone or Skype job interviews, and as essential places for meetings between representatives from local organizations and their clients, such as:

- Literacy Delaware ... and
- New Start – tutors from these organizations who are instructing adults with limited literacy and English language skills schedule weekly meetings with their students in our study rooms
- SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) – SCORE mentors use our study rooms to meet with clients starting small businesses
- Stand by Me (the Delaware Financial Empowerment Partnership) participants meet with counselors in study rooms

The three Meeting Rooms at Newark are used for library programs, but just as important, by local organizations as essential spaces for meeting, planning, educational activities, and outreach to the public. In FY16, 42 outside groups booked meeting rooms, many on a regular basis. Our three meeting rooms are regularly used by the following community organizations:

- Civic Associations from local neighborhoods
- Councilwoman Lisa Diller's day-long "Resource Fairs," connecting social services organizations with local citizens
- WILMAPCO public notice hearings
- Dept. of Elections polling place

### Meeting/Study room can't

- Delaware Health Information Network
- Easter Seals
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Engineers without Borders
- Creative Mentoring
- NAACP
- Moms' Club of Newark and Bear
- Gift of Life (organ donor program)
- Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H
- Math Olympiad teams
- Lego Robotics teams
- League of Women Voters
- AAUW (American Association of University Women)

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### JOB CENTER NOW WEEKLY

Sherri McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian



Newark Free Library has collaborated with the Inspiration Space / Job Center & Entrepreneurship Assistance sponsored by the Delaware Division of Libraries for several years to provide our patrons with assistance in job searching, resume creation, interview preparation, and more. Assistance to small business is also included. Because of increased demand for this service, Newark now offers **weekly sessions** of the Job Center: **Mondays** in the Bookends Meeting Room **from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

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## Music Programs for the Summer

Pam Nelson  
Reference Staff

The Summer Season of Music Programs kicks off on **Friday** evening, **June 9<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00pm** until **8:30pm** with the **3rd Open Mic** of the year. Participants age 12 & up include instrumentalists performing on guitar, piano, accordion, ukulele, etc. as well as vocalists. Participants are asked to register for a 10-minute time slot in which to perform. Walk-ins are welcome as time permits. The Library's baby grand piano is available to all performers for solo work or for ensembles. The instrument was purchased and is maintained by the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**.



Audience members of all ages are welcome to attend and support our local talent and at the same time enjoy some refreshments. Please join us for an evening of fun and good music.

The four performances in our summer music series are all sponsored by the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**, and a special thanks is extended to them for their support in making so many programs available for our patrons.

On **Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** at **2:00pm**, we welcome the **Parker-Hughes-Petrescu Piano Trio**.

Violinist **Serban Petrescu**, concertmaster of the Newark

Symphony Orchestra is joined by fellow musicians cellist **Mara Parker** and pianist

**David Hughes**. (continued on pg. 10)



(continued from pg. 9)

Both Mr. Petrescu and Dr. Parker teach at Widener University. Dr. Hughes plays professionally in the Philadelphia area and works with instrumentalists at Curtis and vocalists preparing for the PIFA Festival.

Mr. Petrescu is one of the founders of the Lyric String Quartet and has performed with the ensemble throughout the area. He is also a member of the Duo Pogany with pianist Tatyana Royshteyn.

The Trio will perform Ludwig van Beethoven's *Piano Trio, op. 70, no. 1* – "The Ghost Trio" and Ernest Chausson's *Trio in g min., op. 3*.

Following in July will be a **Vocal Recital** given by soprano **Kaye Tyson** and pianist **Joanne Hench**. On **Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**, the duo will present a program of art song selections in German, Spanish and English as well as some Gershwin selections. Both musicians perform locally. Ms. Hench is currently Director of Music/Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Newark. She has held similar positions at St. Stephen's Lutheran and Hanover Street Presbyterian in Wilmington. She has also served as Music Director for the Madrigal Singers of Wilmington and Delaware Musical Viva as well as teaching and performing in the area since 1969. We welcome their Newark Library debut.



*l to r: Kaye Tyson and Joanne Hench*

A special program in celebration of the solar eclipse is planned for **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**. Astral Harp will present "Cosmic Journeys" as photographer **Kevin Witman** presents his images of the cosmos



and **Janet Witman** accompanies the presentation on harp. Astral Harp appeared several years ago as a part of our music series at the Library, and we are delighted for their return engagement with this new program.

Winding up the summer series will a post-Labor Day **Piano Recital** featuring **Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao**. On **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**, Ms. Liao will present a program combining classics from the piano repertoire with pieces by Taiwanese and Chinese composers.

Amber is also a composer and will play pieces she has composed that are inspired by Taiwanese folk songs.



The music programs are open to all ages, and young listeners are particularly welcome as this is an opportunity to hear live music and view musicians in an informal and intimate setting.



The FNFL would like to **thank** the **Puffer family** for their generous donation.

Their gift will be used for the purchase of **adult science fiction and fantasy titles**.





## **Tips for Writing a Book Review for the FNFL Newsletter**



Catriona Binder- McCloud

### **Purpose:**

- In general, a book review provides enough information to help the reader decide whether he/she wants to read the book.
- A book review is not simply a plot summary or an unsupported opinion of how well the reader did or did not like the book.
- A book review includes information about the key elements of the book (plot, character, setting, theme, etc.) and the reviewer's opinion of how well the author has succeeded in using those elements to write an effective story.
- To keep the reader's interest, a review should be fairly short – around 300 – 500 words.

### **Writing:**

#### **Introduction:**

- To write a review, you should begin with writing a brief introduction of the book with the name of the author.
- The introduction will include the base story of the book. Summarize the book briefly in the first paragraph, revealing some of the key elements in just a few sentences (plot, character, setting, theme, etc.) Do not get bogged down in details about plot or characters - this is a short summary.
- You may want to use a passage from the book and follow it with a comment that explains why this quotation is typical (or not typical).
- You may want to tell what the author's purpose is in writing the book and how well he/she achieves this purpose.
- You may want to discuss the theme or major problem in the book; and/or present information about the author.

- You may want to relate the story to a real life incident. This may help the readers know if the book may interest them.

### **Body:**

- Write briefly about some of good and bad points and qualities. This step enables the reader to form a like or dislike for the book.
- Give examples to prove your points.
- Tie your review together with ideas related to your theme.
- Never make a book review too long, for this makes it difficult for the readers to form an opinion of the book.
- Do not give an extended plot review. This again makes it long and there is no reason left for the readers to read the book.
- Last but not the least; do not reveal the real plot or climax of the book. The authors won't be happy if you do this.

### **Conclusion:**

- End your review with a sentence that brings your theme into final focus for your reader. You might come to a conclusion about the theme, the author's purpose, or about the overall effectiveness of the book.

### **After you have written your review:**

- Let the review sit for a few days, read it out loud, listening for awkward phrases.
- Check your quotations for accuracy and appropriateness.
- Make sure that your review is not just a plot summary.
- Make sure you did not reveal too much of the plot or reveal the climax.
- Make sure you did not make general statements about the book without supporting them with specific examples or quotations.
- Ask a friend to read the review and edit your work. A fresh eye can often catch problems with the review that you might have missed.

# I've Been Reading...

## **FIERCE PATRIOT: The Tangled Lives of William Tecumseh Sherman**

**By Robert L. O'Connell**  
Random House, 2015; 404 pp.



Reviewed by  
Roy H. Lopata

General Sherman – everyone seems to know something about him: didn't he tell us that, "war is hell;" and then there was the *Gone With the Wind* portrayal of his Civil War burning of Atlanta, followed by the Union Army's raping and pillaging across Georgia as Sherman led his soldiers on the infamous "March to the Sea;" and, there was the U.S. Army's World War II Sherman Tank, which must have been named for him. Well, as Robert L. O'Connell tells us in this remarkable biography, there is some measure of truth to these recollections, but there is much more about the life of William Tecumseh Sherman.

O'Connell, separates his account into three overlapping parts – the first is a traditional biography beginning with Sherman's birth in 1820 in Lancaster, Ohio and the death of his father in 1829, with his and his siblings' subsequent placement in a foster home of a prominent Ohio family. He then describes Sherman's years at West Point; his initial Army service during the Seminole Wars in Florida followed by service in California during the Mexican War. Next O'Connell turns to Sherman's spectacular rise through the ranks during the Civil War as General

Grant's principal subordinate leading the Army of the West to victories in Tennessee and Alabama, then to the conquest of Atlanta, followed by the triumphant march to Savannah and eventually through the Carolinas, until the war ended in 1865. After the war, O'Connell describes Sherman's supervision of the Army's role in the building of the transcontinental railroads and the related destruction of the Plains Indians' civilization that stood in its way.

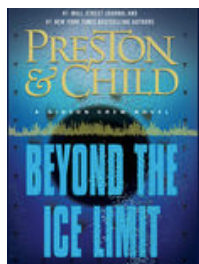
The second portion of O'Connell's biography then returns to the Civil War to describe how Sherman and his volunteer soldiers created the kind of American military we know today; that is, an army of volunteers who became capable of, "... effective conventional field operations, siege warfare, amphibious assault and anti-insurgency." Moreover, Sherman, by necessity, developed the concept of total war to which our 20<sup>th</sup> Century world became all too familiar. Finally, O'Connell debunks the myth of the burning of Atlanta – a good portion of the city was left standing, and perhaps most important, establishes that Sherman's soldiers did not rape nor did they cause significant property damage as they marched through the Georgian countryside to the Atlantic.

The third section of O'Connell's biography describes Sherman's home life, especially his difficult marriage with his wife Ellen. He notes, in this regard, how their marriage somehow survived his multiple relationships with other women, her stress inducing spendthrift ways, and Ellen's strict adherence to Roman Catholicism while Sherman remained a non-believer. O'Connell concludes his masterful portrayal by describing Sherman's post-Civil War public persona that, he maintains, paved the way for today's American culture of celebrity. All and all, a great read regarding what may have been our greatest general.

**Beyond the Ice Limit**  
**by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child**

Reviewed by Doug Tong

Five years before, Eli Glynn, the head of Effective Engineering Solutions, coordinated a mission to recover a gigantic meteorite that landed on a remote island off South America. The mission was a failure when the ship foundered in a storm and the ship sank along with the meteorite. The crew of 108 perished. Glynn survived but was left paralyzed.



Now, it seems that the meteorite was not simply a rock from another planet or debris from outer space. It was an organism that was seeking a place to live, with the premise that it could take over the place where it landed. To learn more about this “meteorite” Eli Glynn was asked to join another expedition led by Gideon Crew which eventually discovers that the meteorite organism has attached itself to the seafloor where the ship sank 5 years ago. On board are the ship’s captain, the medical team, a nuclear engineer charged with destroying the organism if needs be, and the ship’s crew.

Gideon Crew takes a small craft launched from the ship to get a closer look at the organism. The descriptions of the the mini sub’s mechanical arms used to saw through the sunken craft to get to the meteorite, the perils of operating the rover under water pressure, and the importance of oxygen for the crew of the mini sub were vivid and unforgettable. At times I felt I was aboard the ship or the mini- sub.

As the crew gets close to determining how to destroy the organism and implementing an action plan, the outer space organism senses that it has an enemy- and the “meteorite” fights back and infects some of the crew members. It takes over their minds and forces them to act as surrogate saboteurs to do the organism’s bidding. When the crew analyzes how to use the nuclear warhead to destroy the creature, they do a “what if” scenario

regarding the detonation. Meanwhile, the organism has figured out a way to destroy the planet, having attached itself to the earth via the seafloor and tying into many arteries that make up the earth’s core. The last few chapters are exciting and dramatic, making me feel part of the scene. Though I was hoping the earthlings would win, Preston and Child are known for their unexpected outcomes!

I stand by my earlier comments that anything written by the team of Preston and Childs will be a good read, well written and full of surprises and suspense. I believe they the best tandem of authors I’ve read over the past 20+ years.

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**Dodge City; Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, and  
the Wickedest Town in the American West  
(2017)**

**By Tom Clavin**



Reviewed by  
Robert Taggart

Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp were legendary gunfighters who were the epitome of the Wild West as was Dodge City, Kansas. Yet, they were more than that. Their fame in the 1870s was mainly as lawmen in Dodge City and other frontier towns. Both were effective because they kept their composure and rarely needed to shoot people. Their reputation kept most of the cowboys in line, and when that was insufficient, they “buffaloed” culprits, which consisted of slamming their guns down on men’s heads followed by a couple of days in jail.

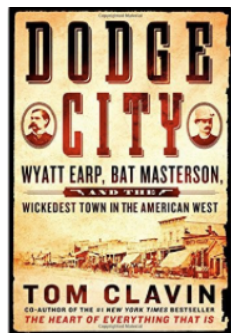
Dodge City was truly a wild city, originally named Buffalo City due to the endless buffalo herds nearby. In fact, that is how both men made their early money: killing hundreds of buffalo

*(continued on pg. 14)*



(continued from pg 13.)

each day for their skins which by 1872 were shipped East on the new railroad. Dodge City was also a main endpoint for thousands of cattle from Texas, accompanied by hundreds of cowboys



looking for cheap whiskey, women, gambling and mayhem. Bordellos and gambling halls were everywhere on the western frontier, which is how Masterson and Earp made most of their money. Being an effective lawman meant being calm, courageous, and joined

by "friends with guns" when necessary such as during the legendary shoot out at the OK corral in Tombstone, Arizona.

Though good friends, the two men had very different personalities. Wyatt was taciturn, while Bat was outgoing and natty, complete with a bowler hat. But both men were equally restless, often splitting up. They went from town to town in various states, switching jobs and women without much thought. The book also contains information about other towns, other men, and various women, and more information than necessary about their many family members, relationships and acquaintances. However, if you want to gain a detailed and often fun look at how the West was won, including the slow pacification of Dodge City, this book is worth reading. Surprisingly, both men lived into the 1920s, dying in Los Angeles (Wyatt) and New York City (Bat), so they must have done something right!

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## SEINFELDIA

### How a Show About Nothing Changed Everything

By Jennifer Keishin  
Armstrong

Simon & Schuster; 307 pp.

Reviewed by Roy H. Lopata



“Yada, Yada, Yada;” “No soup for you;” and “Not that there is anything wrong with that.” Yes, these are lines from perhaps one of the most remarkable television situation comedies of all time – *Seinfeld*. But you knew that already, didn’t you? And that to a significant extent is the theme that Jennifer Keishin Armstrong wants to impart to us: *Seinfeld*, a show created by two New York Jews with a very East Coast sensibility that left the prime time airwaves nineteen years ago, has so permeated the nation’s culture that everyone, even those nearing adulthood and born after the show moved from network to syndicated television, smiles knowingly when they hear or read the now ubiquitous catch phrases made famous by Jerry, George, Elaine and Kramer. And, according to Armstrong, these names have become iconic as well, so much so that the actors who played these characters are still remembered by these TV labels rather than their own. The star and co-creator, Jerry Seinfeld, apparently had the amazing foresight to use his real name as a character in the show to avoid any confusion in the future!

Armstrong couples her detailed exploration of *Seinfeld*’s impact on American culture with an interesting history of the show’s beginnings as a Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld thirty minute script written in February, 1989; through its early struggles to find an audience; to its triumph as the nation’s number one hit that by 1996 contributed \$200 million dollars to the billion-dollar profit made by General Electric – NBC’s parent company. *Seinfeld* had become the first regularly scheduled television show to earn \$1 million per minute of advertising, something previously reserved for NFL Super Bowl telecasts. Jerry’s relatively inoffensive and observational comedy style, coupled with Larry David’s darker and much more caustic approach (the style that he later brought to his HBO hit – *Curb Your Enthusiasm*) produced the kind of magic that, according to Armstrong, has seldom had such a significant impact on the shows that followed and the culture within which they were broadcast.

Armstrong also provides considerable material about the numerous *Seinfeld* writers, whom Jerry and Larry deliberately reshuffled every few years, who were encouraged to utilize insignificant details from their day-to-day lives to provide the framework for episodes. In retrospect, one of the obvious attributes that made *Seinfeld* so successful was that even though the characters were not really likeable, their foibles (waiting for a seat at a restaurant; annoying telemarketing calls; running out of toilet paper; and finding a reserved rental car not “reserved”) were all clearly recognizable to everyone watching. Along the way, Armstrong also explores the onerous and extremely detailed rewrite process that produced a show that gave the indelible impression that the actors “were” the people they played and were not really acting at all.

So *Seinfeld* rolls on. According to Armstrong it is now by far the most successful syndicated television show in history. Hundreds of websites (none, of course, in existence when the show originally ran) and the on-gong *Seinfeld* based special events – Minor League Baseball games with *Seinfeld* promotions; the real “Kramer” offering New York City *Seinfeld* location guided tours, and the “Soup Nazi” making personal appearances across the country -- underscore the lasting impact of Jerry and Larry’s creation. And most interesting of all, the show has left so many quotable phrases for us that some seem particularly suited for 2017, like this one:

“Jerry, just remember, it’s not a lie if you believe it.” – George Costanza.



## Events Calendar

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2 @ 2pm and 6:30pm** Friday Film – La La Land (112 min)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 @ 2pm** -Writing Workshop: Establishing the Setting in Creative Writing

**TUESDAY, JUNE 6 @ 6pm** -MONTHLY CARDMAKING WORKSHOP

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9 @ 7pm** Open Mic Music Night at the Library

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17 @ 2pm** -Saturday Foreign Film Series – Man Called Ove (116 min)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18 @ 2pm** Piano Trio - music of Beethoven and Dvorak performed by Seban Petrescu, Mara Parker, and David Hughes

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24 @ 1pm** Exploring Your Family History Through Genealogy

**FRIDAY, JULY 7 @ 2pm and 6:30pm** -Friday Film – Lion (118 min)

**SATURDAY, JULY 8 @ 2pm** Haiku Poetry

**TUESDAY, JULY 11 @ 6pm** - MONTHLY CARDMAKING WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, JULY 15 @ 2pm** - Saturday Foreign Film Series – Land of Mine (100 min)

**SUNDAY, JULY 16 @ 2pm** Writing Workshop: Finding the Memoir in My History

**SATURDAY, JULY 22 @ 1pm** - Saving Family Treasures Workshop

**SUNDAY, JULY 30 @ 2pm** Vocal Recital with Kaye Tyson

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 @ 6pm** - MONTHLY CARDMAKING WORKSHOP

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 @ 2pm and 6:30pm** Friday Film – Arrival (118 min)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 @ 2pm** -Art Workshop: Learning to Draw Using Basic Shapes

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 @ 2pm** - Saturday Foreign Film Series – The Salesmen (125 min)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 @ 7pm** -Astral Harp Music: Total Solar Eclipse

