



Friends of the Newark Free Library

February 2019

Editor – Patricia Rachek

New Castle County Reads 2019 – Mudbound

Pat Birchenall, Library Manager



New Castle County Libraries are excited to announce that the 2019 NCC Reads title is *Mudbound*, by Hillary Jordan. Mark your calendars now for an evening with the author on Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00 pm at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.

The 2008 novel was the winner of the Bellwether Prize for fiction and the American Library Association's Alex Award. With its exceptional writing, this compelling read

focuses on two Mississippi Delta families, one black and one white, whose lives intersect in the post-World War II Jim Crow era.

Author Barbara Kingsolver said about *Mudbound*, "This is storytelling at the height of its powers... Hillary Jordan writes with the force of a Delta storm." And Tayari Jones, author of *An American Marriage*, said *Mudbound* is a "...tremendous gift, a story that challenges the 1950s textbook version of our history and leaves its readers completely in the thrall of her characters."

About the author:

Hillary Jordan graduated from Wellesley College and received an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia University. She is the author of another novel, *When She Woke*, and is currently working on a sequel to *Mudbound*.

For a summary and additional information about *Mudbound*, please visit www.hillaryjordan.com. For those of you who use Goodreads, you can also visit her page at <https://www.goodreads.com/scrabblegirl>.

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WEBSITES:

Friends of the Newark Free Library
www.friendsofthenewarkfreelibrary.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

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Related programs at the library:

The Newark Free Library will host the following book discussion programs:

- Tuesday, April 9 – noon
- Tuesday, April 16 - 7:00 pm.

Both programs are open to everyone. Participants may request a copy of the book at the library's Information desk.

The library will also host a related program on Sunday, March 24 at 2:00 pm called *The Original Black Panthers: 761st Tank Battalion*, presented by Dr. Abdullah Muhammad. This heroic group was the first African American tank battalion in combat during World War II, and a pivotal character in *Mudbound* was a member of the group. The story of brings alive the contrast between the respect they engendered during the war and some of the problems they faced when returning home. The program is free and open to everyone.


New Castle County Reads presents

THE ORIGINAL BLACK PANTHERS: 761ST TANK BATTALION

The 761st Tank Battalion, known as the Black Panthers, was the first African-American tank battalion in combat during World War II. Learn more about this heroic group of men, cited in our New Castle County Reads selection, *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan, during one of the following New Castle County Reads programs presented by Dr. Abdullah R. Muhammad, Ed.D.

Sponsored by New Castle County Library Friends Groups.
Adults. Registration requested.

- Brandywine Hundred Library, 3/19, 6:00 P.M.
- Bear Library, 3/23, 1:00 P.M.
- Newark Free Library, 3/24, 2:00 P.M.
- Route 9 Library & Innovation Center, 3/26, 6:00 P.M.





Looking for a good book? Check out *New Castle County Staff Recommendations*:

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



From the President

Judy Taggart

Dear Friends,

As the Board plans how the Friends will support the Newark Free Library this year, I have to brag about the members of the Board, all of whom give their creativity, time and energy in support of our Library. Throughout this newsletter, you can read about the variety of activities the Friends support. Please see the list of Board members in this newsletter. A very special thank you goes to Shu Chein Liang, former president, who last spring handed over a complete and vibrant board. It is wonderful to build and expand on her legacy.

A special shout out must go to each of YOU who financially support our Friends and who volunteer for our Library. Without you, we couldn't provide so many "extras" for our Library. In each newsletter, you will learn of recent purchases. Look for signage on items in the Library that indicate the item is a gift from the Friends. And of course, Newark has the best library staff of all libraries---warm, friendly, and helpful.

The transformation of libraries is a major initiative of the American Library Association. Libraries change lives and communities, advocate for lifelong learning, and provide access to the world from our home and while on the road. Just ask Richard Waibel, Lifetime Member of the Friends of the Newark Free Library, who downloaded a Delaware library eBook from the Amsterdam airport!

Libraries are a smart investment by the taxpayers! It is not what libraries have for people but what libraries do for people. The Newark Free Library, as all Delaware libraries, is transforming. The Newark Library is a digital hub - you can sign up for a demonstration of the 3D printer or try a coding class for teens and adults. You can request training on your new device. You can request help to download eBooks. Our Library also assists in helping

make children “school ready,” provides employment assistance, and even offers health services. Our Library is no longer the Library of our parents!



**Friends of the Newark Free
Library Board 2018-2019**

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Adebanjo Oriade

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From the Library Manager

Pat Birchenall



Thank you for helping to make 2018 another successful year for the Newark Free Library, through your support of the Friends group, and through your use of the library. But did you really take advantage of all that we have to offer? So much is going on at the library all the time. If you didn't attend any of our programs last year, perhaps this will be the year to try our popular monthly offerings such as the card-making classes and writing programs. Attend a top-notch free music performance, sponsored by the Friends. If you have musical talent yourself, you may want to join in our Open Mic nights and try performing in a low-pressure, fun environment. Learn Spanish or JavaScript. Learn about local history or current events through speaker series at the library. Do you wonder what 3-D printing is all about? You can watch our printer in action and learn how to design your own printed item.

Kids can continue to enjoy the twice-monthly Lego program, also sponsored by the Friends, and the Scratch coding program, led by UD students. Storytime sessions, both daytime and evening, will help children learn to love reading, and hopefully to develop the library habit for life.

All of these activities are free for everyone! Check our new events calendar on our website, or pick up a quarterly program brochure at the library to find out about everything that's going on.

In addition to continuing these great programs, our staff members are looking forward to using the new camcorder and video editing software purchased recently by the Friends to enhance our services in many different ways, such as publicizing our events, creating instructional videos for patrons, and providing opportunities to capture memories through interviewing family members or friends and neighbors about the past. Stay tuned for more information about these new opportunities. We look forward to seeing you in the library in 2019!

Delaware Library Legislative Day

Judy Taggart, FNFL President

Library advocates including members of the Friends of the Newark Free Library recently met individually with Delaware Senators and Representatives to voice the need for an increase in funding for our libraries. We are requesting an additional \$1 per resident or approximately \$1 million. There has not been an increase in library standard support for 10 years although 13 libraries have been built or increased in size.



*Rep. Paul Baumbach and
Judy Taggart, FNFL
President*

An additional \$1 per resident WILL HELP Delawareans get... increased library programs for children which spark the joy of reading and learning, key to success in school and life; increase library hours; provide one-on-one assistance with resumes and online job applications; increase partnerships to expand access to opioid support services; and offer insurance assistance and health screening.



*Carol McKelvey, FNFL
Board Member and Sen.
David Sokola*

Please let your State Senator and Representative know you support increased funding for libraries.



*From l: Beth Ann Ryan,
Judy Taggart, Rep. David
Bentz*



*Rep. Edward Osienski
and Pat Birchenall, NFL
Manager*

Reading House

Carol McKelvey, FNFL Board Member

The wonderful party celebrating our new gifts to the Children's room was reported in the *Newark Post* on January 4, 2019. The reporter, Josh Shannon, selected a charming picture of our children in the new reading house. The article pointed out the wonderful energy in the room that day.



*From l to r: Council Members
Lisa Diller and Janet Kilpatrick*

After the party, Judy Taggart, FNFL President, sat down with Council Members Lisa Diller and Janet Kilpatrick to discuss the important contributions libraries make to our communities. Our efforts dovetail with First Lady Carney's focus on early childhood literacy. These Council Members have continually supported libraries in legislative hall and have specifically assisted us with discretionary financial contributions.

In our State, there have been recent library building projects. The Route 9 library is an example of forward thinking. Appoquinimink is slated to have a new library in the next few years. As Friends, we keep supporting our library and lobbying our Council Members for more state funding for libraries. Council Members Diller and Kilpatrick are great advocates. Join us in thanking them for the wonderful new things here at Newark Free Library they have helped to facilitate.

*"Libraries will get you through
times of no money better than
money will get you through times of
no libraries." Anne Herbert*

Friends of the NFL Support Library Events

Katy Ferrero, FNFL Board Member

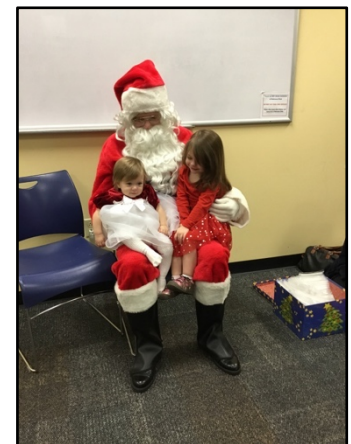
A small but cleverly costumed group represented the library to march in the annual Newark Halloween Parade. Our group featured two Cats in the Hat, 3 Things One and Two, Curious George, the Man with the Yellow Hat, and a pair of Penguins of literary note. As we marched along Main Street packed with a cheering crowd (including cheers such as “yay library!”), we all felt like celebrities! As a lifelong Newark resident, I can’t recall a bigger crowd for a parade. After the parade, the FNFL handed out treats and pencils for Trick or Treat on Main Street. Thanks to Judy Taggart, Deb Morehead, and Barbara Jo German for helping me make this activity possible. **Think about joining us next year!**



Storytime With Santa



Once again, the children attending the final story time of 2018 at the library had a special visitor! After a holiday story, about 90 children (in two separate sessions) enjoyed a visit with Santa! Included in the festivities were a holiday craft and refreshments provided by the Friends. Each child took home a winter themed coloring/sticker book (also provided by the Friends). Children, parents, grandparents, and day care staff all had a great time!





THE FRIENDS OF THE NEWARK FREE LIBRARY
INVITE YOU TO

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING AND THANK YOU BRUNCH

Sunday, April 7th, 2019

11:30 -1:00 PM

Newark Free Library

In honor of library supporters who generously provide funding, volunteer time and talents to enhance our library services.

Brunch catered by Caffè Gelato at \$15 per person.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Friends!

Looking to get a little more involved with the Friends of the Newark Free Library? Throughout the year, the Friends participate in a number of events to help support the Library and its wonderful programs. Upcoming FNFL events include:

- The Friends of the Newark Free Library annual Membership Drive (January-February) where volunteers are needed to help prepare our membership renewal letters, and to staff our Membership table at the Library.
- An evening with Caroline Todd – Please join us on February 6th at 7pm as we welcome Caroline Todd, half of the best-selling mother-and-son writing team known as Charles Todd. Caroline will be reading from her latest novel. So come by and enjoy an evening with this remarkable woman.
- Spring Music Programs at the Library – Although these events are organized by the Library staff, the Friends help fund these programs and FNFL members are often on-hand to serve as greeters.
- Annual Brunch and Meeting of the Friends of the Newark Free Library (April) – This event takes place in the spring, but the planning for next year's lunch begins in just a few months. So, if you have an interest in being on the planning committee, please let us know. Volunteers are also welcome on the day of the event to help greet FNFL Members, set up and clean up.
- Newark Co-op Farmers' Market – where the Friends generate interest in our Library by offering free, gently used books on food and gardening. Help introduce our friends and neighbor to the great resources available at our local library
- Newark Community Day (Sept) – where the Friends of the Newark Free Library offer free, gently-used books for children and the Library offers residents the chance to obtain a library card. Join us for an hour or two at the FNFL table, and help us spread the word about the wonderful things going on at the Library.
- Trick or Treat with the Friends of the Newark Free Library (Late Oct) will participate in Newark's Halloween Parade and sponsor a Trick or Treat table on Main Street.



If you're interested in volunteering just a bit of your time to help with one of these events, please send me note at dedmm@aol.com and let me know what you think you'd like to do. I'll then put you in touch with the appropriate event coordinator from the FNFL Board.

With my thanks,

Deb Morehead
Volunteer Coordinator, FNFL Board of Directors



Music Programs for the Winter of 2019

Pamela Nelson, Reference Staff

The Library was pleased to offer monthly music programs this fall as the season opened with an **Open Mic for Teens and Adults** on August 31st attended by musicians and vocalists supported by a loyal group of audience members. The Program for October was a return engagement of the **Diamond State Chorus** under the direction of Pamela Nichols as the a cappella women's ensemble captivated the audience with upbeat selections and jazzy swing tunes. This program was sponsored by the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**. November saw the premier performance of the **First State Flute Choir** under the direction of Scott Zeplin. Though the ensemble rehearses and gives concerts in Newark, this was their first performance at the Newark Free Library

December brought the return of the **First State Ringers**. Led by Ruthie Toole, the Ringers presented two performances of holiday music. These programs were also made possible by the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**. The year ended with the final **Open Mic** of 2018 on December 28th. Returning musicians were supported by their fans and library patrons. One highlight for the evening was the first performance on a hurdy-gurdy. The next **Open Mic** sessions are Friday, March 29th and then May 31st, 2019.



2019 began as we welcomed the **Pyxis Piano Quartet** in a program featuring women composers entitled "**Feminine Mystique**." The program will include Gwyneth Walker – "*Letters to the World*" for Piano Quartet (With the poetry of Emily Dickinson); Germaine Tailleferre – *Sonate Champêtre*; Dora Pejačević – *Piano Quartet in D minor, Op. 25*; Rebecca Clarke – *Lullaby and Grotesque* for viola and cello.

The musicians in the Quartet are Luigi Mazzocchi, violin; Amy Leonard, viola; Jennifer Jie Jin, cello and Hiroko Yamazaki, piano. The performance was

scheduled on **Sunday, January 27th at 2:00 pm**. The Quartet was founded in 2009 and performs extensively in the area. This is the tenth year of their chamber music series at the Delaware Art Museum.

On **Friday, February 22nd at 7:00 pm**, the **Sylvia Olden Lee Music Guild**, a chorus of 10 - 12 women will present a



program in honor of African-American History Month. The Guild is an advocate for all genres of African-American music, and the program will include spirituals and poetry.

The **Daniel Bennett Group** will join us again on **Friday, March 8th at 7:00 pm**. The Jazz Trio features Daniel Bennett on Winds – sax, flute, clarinet, oboe - joined by renowned guitarist Nat Janoff and master percussionist Koko Bermejo on drums. In 2018, Daniel Bennett released "*We Are the Orchestra*." This album features Bennett's opera arrangements for the "Whitman at the Whitney" theater production at the Whitney Museum in New York. The Trio's music is a mix of jazz, avant-pop and American folk music. Bennett recently composed the musical score for the stage adaptation of *Frankenstein* and *Brave Smiles* presented at the Hudson Guild Theatre in Manhattan. We are excited to welcome back the Daniel Bennett Group.



All three of these performances in 2019 are made possible through the generosity of the **Friends of the Newark Free Library**, and their support is greatly appreciated as we are able to offer so many programs.

I've Been Reading...

THE FALL OF THE OTTOMANS: The Great War in the Middle East By Eugene Rogan

Basic Books, 2015; 485 pp.

Reviewed by

Roy H. Lopata



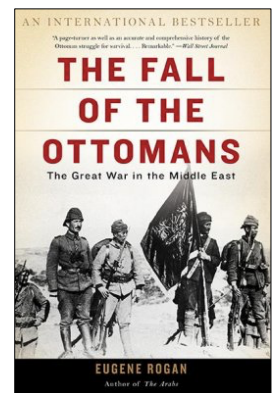
If you are a “Baby Boomer,” more than likely the history you learned in grade school consisted primarily of your locale’s colonial beginnings, the American Revolution and Civil War, the two World Wars and FDR and the New Deal. Outside of our participation in the overseas wars, your “world history” was typically limited to overviews of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, the coming of Christianity and a cursory review of the roots of the modern world found, so we were taught, in the rise of Western Europe.

If you went to college, your education regarding the past typically remained more of the same, except in somewhat greater depth. The best example of this is the requirement that most of those of my generation who attended college faced – a freshmen year class in “Western Civilization” - - apparently the only civilization that mattered. If you learned anything about the Ottoman Empire or the Turks, it might be some reference to the “sick man of Europe,” or about Richard the Lionheart and the Crusades. This somewhat lengthy introduction is intended to underscore that if you have some curiosity about the history of a part of the world beyond our shores, and are also interested in the origins of our present bedevilmments in the

Middle East, than *The Fall of the Ottomans* is for you.

Rogan, a professor of Modern Middle East History at Oxford, has produced a magisterial study of the Ottoman Empire and its role in the First World War that ultimately led to the end of its six hundred year rule and at its height encompassed all of the Middle East; North Africa; the Horn of Africa; and all of southeastern Europe to the gates of Vienna. Rogan begins with the Empire’s long history as the center of the Muslim world but quickly turns to its struggles in the Balkans at the outset of the 20th Century and its increasing economic and political weaknesses that led, in 1914, to its alliance with Germany and reluctant participation in the First World War. All of this happened in the midst of revolutionary changes in Turkey – the heart of the Empire – led by the “Young Turks,” military based reformers who hoped to modernize and to a certain extent secularize Ottoman government and society.

Rogan spends most of the volume focusing on the evolving fortunes of the Turkish war effort including their surprising 1915 victory at the Dardanelles Strait that controlled access the Black Sea and the Mediterranean (known as the “Gallipoli Campaign”) that resulted in the thousands of British Empire casualties (mostly Australian and New Zealanders) and meant that the Ottomans would not be easily driven from the war. Next Rogan examines the Turkish responses to the Russian invasion from the east that eventually resulted in what Rogan labels as the genocidal destruction of the Armenians who lived in the path of the invading Czarist armies or in other Turkish regions far from the battlefield. While Rogan notes that a very small Armenian minority supported the Turk’s Russian enemy, there was no justification then (nor now) for the wanton killings and destruction of Armenian life in Turkey.



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Rogan then traces in fine detail the Turks initial successes in Mesopotamia, Syria and the Sinai, but then shows how the British were eventually able to capture the famous historical and religious centers of the Ottoman Empire including Baghdad, Damascus and Jerusalem. He colorfully describes the “Arab Revolt” against their Ottoman rulers that was skillfully exploited by the British and French to ensure that the spoils of the Ottoman Empire as it collapsed would remain in the hands of these colonial nations. He notes, too, the doomed efforts of T.E. Lawrence (“Lawrence of Arabia”) to assist the Arabs in establishing their own nation in the Middle East. He describes, as well, the British government’s issuance of the famous “Balfour Declaration” that committed the British government to the establishment in Palestine (then a province of the Ottoman Empire) of, “a national home for the Jewish people,” that represented the first step in the long process that led to the creation of Israel in 1948. That Declaration, however, conflicted with many of the partition plans that the British had previously agreed to with their French and Russian allies and also conflicted with their commitments to the Arabs who had participated in the war against the Ottomans. Rogan explains how these contradictions in British and French colonial policies eventually resulted in conflicts in the Middle East that continue into the 21st Century.

In sum, Rogan has provided an outstanding military and political history of the decline and fall of the once mighty Ottoman Empire during the First World War that most of us, if we considered it at all, thought of as a sideshow best portrayed by Peter O’Toole as “Lawrence of Arabia” rather than a real struggle that played such a crucial role in shaping the world in which we now live.



LINCOLN'S LAST TRIAL: The Murder Case That Propelled Him To The Presidency

Dan Abrams and David Fisher

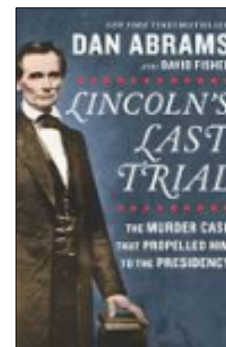


Reviewed by

Robert Taggart

This is a fascinating, mostly-true, story of Lincoln's last murder trial in the stifling hot summer of 1859 in Springfield, Illinois. Springfield then was a small, bustling town of about 5,000 people where everybody seemed to know everyone. The state capital had a large contingent of capable lawyers, and Lincoln was simply the most famous of them. Having litigated more than 3,000 cases, including 27 murder cases, Lincoln was an experienced attorney, able to represent all sides in a large variety of situations.

We know what occurred in the State of Illinois vs Peachy Quinn Harrison case because the court stenographer, Robert Hitt, took copious notes during the trial. By pure chance, his transcript was found in an old shoebox in the garage of the defendant's relative in Fresno, California in 1989. The transcript showed Lincoln at his lawyerly best, getting the defendant off after the man had knifed his attacker, killing him. Lincoln and his previous mentor, Stephen Logan, succeeded in building a case of self-defense. It was a difficult case because the victim had not been armed, though he had attacked Harrison with his fists. They won the case because of Lincoln's careful attention to the witness statements and his persuasive style with the judge and jury.



Lincoln used logical and plain-spoken arguments in a folksy, friendly manner that won the jury over to his side. His dry wit, colorful storytelling and strong sense of justice made for a masterful presentation. He would use his well-known honesty and ability to see himself in the defendant's place, while using any emotion necessary, to persuade the jury that the defendant was trapped into forceful action that could not have been avoided.

Robert Hitt sent his transcriptions daily by telegraph to a major Chicago newspaper which were passed on to readers in all major cities so they were able to follow the trial. Lincoln was already famous because of the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates, also described by Hitt. This belies the book's subtitle, because Lincoln was already being "propelled" by his own actions, including the speeches he was about to give in Ohio and New York. However, he would have been hurt politically if he had lost this case, so the positive result of the trial definitely enhanced his fame. The current reader may wonder whether Lincoln really proved his client's innocence, but his skillful presentation style convinced the jury as he would also convince a wider audience at the upcoming Chicago Republican National Convention in 1860. Lincoln was famous for a good reason. After all, as Hitt wrote, "winners win".

Library Display Cases

Deb Morehead, FNFL Board Member

Do you belong to a local organization that delves into the history of the region? Are you a member of a group or club that focuses on creative arts? Do you have a hobby you'd like to share with others? Do you have a personal collection that you wish others could see and enjoy? Well, you've come to the right place!



There are five glass display cases, situated throughout the library, that are begging for items to show off! So why not think about using one to share your interests with other library patrons?

You could take advantage of a display case for a month, two months, or even three months. Currently, the display cases are highlighting The Newark Symphony Orchestra, an FNFL member's personal collection of pottery bowls, and a wonderful travel-log. Your eye-catching display could be next!

All you need to do is fill out a request form, available from the library staff. If your proposal is accepted, then we will help you plan the start and end dates for your display. What could be easier?

Library Calendar Online @

<https://de.evanced.info/delaware/lib/eve/ntcalendar.asp>

Want to know what is going on at the Newark Library? Sign up for the Newark Free Library "Weekly Happenings". It is emailed every Sunday with the upcoming week's activities. It serves as a great reminder of the variety of opportunities at our Library. Just stop by the reference desk and give your email.



