

The Ellington Reader **ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY**

MAY 2024

760 THORNTON RD, PO BOX 26 ELLINGTON NY 14732 EMAIL: INFO@ELLINGTONLIBRARY.ORG Website: ellingtonlibrary.org www.facebook.com/Ellington-Farman-Library

PHONE 716-287-2945

STAFF LIBRARY DIRECTOR JUDITH WHITTAKER

LIBRARY CLERK SUZANNE SISCHO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LISA RICKARD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023 PRESIDENT **BETH SPEAS**

VICE PRESIDENT ARISSA HITCHCOCK

SECRETARY DREANN CSORBA

TREASURER MARY JANE GRIFFITH

TRUSTEES

SUF CALA DOTTY STOREY **DELORES YOUNG** CINDY WRAGGE

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDY	11-7
TUESDAY	11-7
WEDNESDAY	11-7
THURSDAY	11-7
FRIDAY	CLOSED
SATURDAY	10-1
SUNDAY	CLOSED

The Ellington Farman Library Board of Trustees meets on the last Monday of each month in our Library Community Room. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. The Public is welcome to attend. Agenda & documents to be discussed at the monthly meeting can be requested from the library 24 hours prior to the open meeting at which the documents will be discussed. **OUR NEXT MEETING: 5/20/24 CLOSED MONDAY MAY 27 MEMORIAL DAY**

Offering A Positive Future in Literature

I heard an interesting segment of a broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR) concerning the higher than usual incidence of anxiety occurring in our current society's younger people. The discussion participants offered up a lot of ideas as to why that is and what could be causing it.... ideas



ranging from rampant sickness and pandemics, bullying, climate change worries, cost of higher education and a host of others. One person brought up the idea that we could take a hard look at our contemporary literature that we are offering to the "masses". This librarian's ears perked up at the mention of literature being a possible cause of increased cultural anxiety. Now that got my attention. What could be the connection between the fiction that we read and our overall anxiety levels?

I've been pondering this and here is my perspective, perhaps based on a small sliver of experience but I offer it up for thought. I order books for the library of all genres and for all ages. I routinely look up titles on New York Times bestsellers lists, Caldecott winners, Young Adult and junior best selling literature lists, etc. What I have found is there is a huge amount of popular fiction for juniors based on dystopian worlds. Dystopian fiction imagines society at its worst. Characters often suffer from poverty. illness, or extreme control, with human misery and oppression serving as common themes. You can think of a Dystopia as the opposite of Utopia. Like all Dystopian novels they take the worst of what the current world has to offer and magnify it by 10. In these novels human society is characterized by human misery, such as squalor, oppression, disease, overcrowding, environmental destruction, or global war. I'm finding more and more of this genre particularly in fiction targeted to juniors and young adults, those aged 12-18. More importantly, these are many of the novels that are on the best seller lists which means they are being read in greater amounts.

In the realm of literature this current generation is reading extensively about worlds that are focused on the worst mankind has to offer. If we add in the distressing current real topics in society today it doesn't take much to understand why they may think the world is a hopeless place to exist in. Dystopian fiction allows readers to consider the possibility of the end of the world and in doing so, it challenges its readers to see beyond the here and now and predict what their future may look like. Would the average 12 year old know that the future does not have to look like what is presented to them as a steady view of destruction?

I am by no means saying these popular novels have nothing good to offer. If you read through to the end there is usually a character that defeats the evil in the imagined world and therefore becomes the definition of a hero. Many times they include a wonderful mix of characters who then band together to be heroes. I'm only questioning the fact that too many times we are offering up a seriously despondent world view that seems to permeate young peoples literature. If we offer them a future only filled with destruction then why would they want to live in that world?

"Protopia" is recent term, coined by futurist Kevin Kelly, founder of the online magazine Wired. It is defined as the opposite of a "Dystopia". In Dystopia, people are stuck in some kind of recurring pattern of societal suffering. If I understand it right, then a Protopian society is a world where people are free to actively work together towards an improved life for everyone. We could say that a Protopia philosophy is one where we believe that using the best of our abilities in the present could project a positive future. A thoughtful consideration of a positive future might help tamp down the anxiety of the present. Could offering more literature with that themed philosophy bring about just a little less anxiety?

NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

JAMES

ADULT FICTION

PERCIVAL EVERETT JOHN SANDFORD SCOTT ALEXANDER HOWARD THE OTHER VALLEY **TEA OBREHT DOUGLAS WESTERBEKE**

RUSSELL BANKS SULARI GENTILL **RICHARD OSMAN** DAVID BALDACCI JUDE DEVERAUX JENNIFER CHIVERINI JOHN GRISHAM LEIF ENGER LINWOOD BARCLAY **RICHARD OSMAN** NANCY THAYER

TOXIC PREY THE MORNINGSIDE A SHORT WALK THROUGH A WILD WORLD AMERICAN SPIRITS THE MYSTERY WRITER THE MAN WHO DIED TWICE **CALAMITY OF SOULS** UNFINISHED MURDER THE MUSEUM OF LOST QUILTS **CAMINO GHOSTS** I CHEERFULLY REFUSE I WILL RUIN YOU THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB THE SUMMER WE STARTED OVER

ADULT NON FICTION MAGGIE JACKSON RICARDO NUILA MONTY ROBERTS

STEVE INSKEEP CAL NEWPORT

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

SOYOUNG PARK T.L. SIMPSON

SNOW GLOBE STRONG LIKE YOU

DIFFER WE MUST

SLOW PRODUCTIVITY

UNCERTAIN

HORSES

THE PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL

THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO

LARGE PRINT FICTION

MARCIA MULLER THOMAS MORAN **RICAHRD OSMAN** MARIE BENEDICT RILEY SAGER ADDISON ARMSTRONG THE PLAGUE OF THIEVES AFFAIR WATER. CARRY ME THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB THE MITFORD AFFAIR THE HOUSE ACROSS THE LAKE THE WAR LIBRARIAN

JUNIOR FICTION **ERIN HUNTER**

WIND

CHILDRENS LAUREN EMMONS CANDACE RANSOM SUSAN VERDE

NO CATS IN THE LIBRARY FIELD DAY I AM ONE

The following have been added to our collection of quilting books thanks to a generous patron. They are older books but are new to our library.

COLETTE WOLFF.....SEASONAL PATCHWORK & QUILTING BESTSELLING BAZAAR:PATCHWORK DIANA MCCLUN.....QUILTS, QUILTS, AND MORE QUILTS CLASSIC AMERICAN QUILT COLLECTION......BASKETS BETTER HOMES & GARDENS.....GREAT PATCHWORK COLLECTION

ADULT BOOK CLUB

The Adult Book Club meets the third Thursday of every month at 11am. In May they meet on the 16th and will be discussing the book " The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom. The book club members choose their monthly titles and the library provides copies to all members if needed. New members are always welcome.

BOOK REVIEW THE KITCHEN HOUSE Kathleen Grissom

When a white servant girl violates the order of plantation society, she unleashes a tragedy that exposes the worst and best in the people she has come to call her family. Orphaned while onboard ship from Ireland, seven-year-old Lavinia arrives on the steps of a tobacco plantation where she is to live and work with the slaves of the kitchen house. Under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, Lavinia becomes deeply bonded to her adopted family, though she is set apart from them by her white skin.

Eventually, Lavinia is accepted into the world of the big house, where the master is absent and the mistress battles opium addiction. Lavinia finds herself perilously straddling two very different worlds. When she is forced to make a choice, loyalties are brought into question, dangerous truths are laid bare, and lives are put at risk.

369 pages, Paperback First published February 2, 2010 Genre: historical fiction BOOK REVIEW BY https://www.goodreads



BOOK SUMMARIES OF THE MONTH

ADULT FICTION: I CHEERFULLY REFUSE BY LEIF ENGER

GENRES: Science Fiction, Dystopia

"The transcendent latest from Enger (Peace Like a River) is at once a dystopian love story, a nautical adventure, and a meditation on loss, kindness, and natural beauty. The story unfolds in a near-future America where the billionaire class has complete control and reading has been abandoned. Even so, narrator Rainy and his wife, Lark, have found happiness in a small town on the shores of Lake Superior. Their idyll ends with the arrival of a new boarder, Kellan, a fugitive from a billionaire's work camp. After Lark is murdered by Kellan's pursuers,

Rainy leaves his home in a small sailboat, both to escape the killers and in the hope that he'll find Lark's spirit among the islands where they fell in love. He weathers violent storms while sailing to various lakeside towns, where outsiders are easy targets for extortion and robbery. In a desperate world where kindness is a luxury, Rainy befriends the few people willing to help him, including a young girl who joins him on his journey, and discovers a path forward. In lesser hands, Enger's story could veer toward fatalism, but it's clear he holds the same infectious optimism as Lark, who believes "the best futures are unforeseen." *This captivating narrative brims with hope.*

Book review online by https://www.publishersweekly.com/9780802162939 336 pages, Hardcover First published April 2, 2024

ADULT NON FICTION: DIFFER WE MUST BY STEVE INSKEEP

GENRES: HISTORY, POLITICS, BIOGRAPHY

From journalist and historian Steve Inskeep, a compelling and nuanced exploration of the political acumen of Abraham Lincoln via sixteen encounters before and during his presidency, bringing to light not only the strategy of a great politician who inherited a country divided, but lessons for our own disorderly present

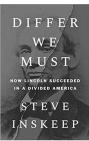
In 1855, as the United States found itself at odds over the issue of slavery, then lawyer Abraham Lincoln composed a note on the matter to his close friend, the heir to a slaveholding

family in the South. Lincoln – who was morally against the institution of slavery – rebuked his friend for his opposing views, he lectured him, he challenged him. But in the end, he wrote: "If for this you and I must differ, differ we must." Throughout his life and political career, Lincoln often agreed to disagree. Democracy demanded it –even an adversary had a vote. The man who went on to become the sixteenth president of the United States has assumed many roles in our historical consciousness, but most notable is that he was, with no apology, a politician. And as Steve Inskeep argues, it was because he was willing to engage in politics – to work with his critics, to compromise with those whom he deeply opposed, and to move only as fast as voters would allow – that he was able to lead a social revolution.

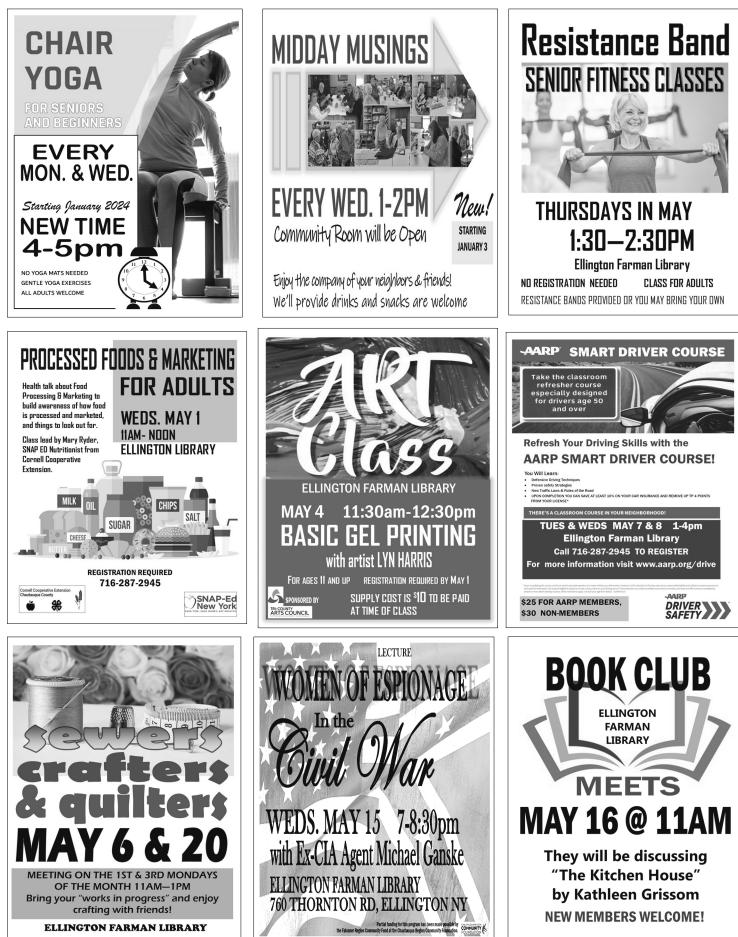
in Differ We Must, Inskeep illuminates this master politician's life through sixteen encounters. Some of these meetings are well known, and others more obscure, but all take on new significance when examined in detail. Each interaction was with a person who differed from Lincoln, and in each someone wanted something from the other. While it isn't clear if Lincoln was able to alter his critics' beliefs – many went to war against him – nor if they were able to change his, what is notable is that he learned how to make his beliefs actionable, via precise and practical techniques. Lincoln was a skilled storyteller, and a great orator. He told jokes, he relied on sarcasm, and often made fun of himself. But behind the banter was a master storyteller, who carefully chose what to say and what to withhold. He knew his limitations and, as history came to prove, he knew how to prioritize.

As the host of NPR's Morning Edition for almost two decades, Inskeep has mastered the art of bridging divides and building constructive debate in interviews; in Differ We Must, he brings his skills to bear on a prior master and in doing so forms a fresh and compelling narrative of Lincoln's life. With rich detail and enlightening commentary, Inskeep expands our understanding of a politician who held strong to his moral compass while navigating between corrosive political factions, one who began his career in the minority party and not only won the majority, but succeeded in uniting a nation.





UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS



A Little Library Trivia Game!

MAY TRIVIA QUESTION

The British Library holds two complete copies of what incredibly valuable 15th-century book, the first to be mass-produced using movable metal type?

- 1) Gutenberg Bible
- 2) The White Queen by Philippa Gregory
- 3) The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
- 4) The Diamond Sutra

Make your guess at the circulation desk in the month of May. Winning guess receives a little gift and bragging rights!

April TRIVIA QUESTION : What state in our country has a library that stretches across into another country?

Answer: Vermont The Haskell Free Library is a Victorian building that straddles the Canada–United States border, in Rock Island (now part of Stanstead), Quebec, and Derby Line, Vermont, respectively. Both Canadians and Americans can use the library. Canadian members are allowed to cross the border by using the sidewalk and the entrance on the American side. However, visitors must be aware: family reunions or any cross-border visits are not allowed inside the library.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ESPIONAGE IN THE CIVIL WAR: presentation by Michael Ganske

Michael Ganske is a graduate of Iowa State University and served in the United States Army where he was assigned to the White House Communications Agency. He had the privilege of serving Presidents Ford and Carter. In August 1978, he entered the Central Intelligence Agency as a professional multi-disciplined counterintelligence officer where he performed a variety of duties including two overseas tours of duty. Mr. Ganske retired in November 2000 and was awarded the Career Intelligence Medal. He moved with his family to Clymer NY and started "Silver Eagle Consulting LLC" performing federal background investigations, security evaluations, threat analysis, security vetting for commercial partners, lectures on espionage for universities and civic groups and is the past Lead Instructor for the Director of National Intelligence's (DNI) on defensive counterintelligence.

On Wednesday May 15th from 7-8:30pm Mr. Ganske will bring his expertise to our library to speak on the topic of Women Spies In the Civil War, part of his American Counterintelligence Series. This presentation will explain the significance of female Spies during the Civil War with a discussion of the dynamics and impact of espionage as practiced during the Civil War. Mr. Ganske will help us understand methodologies and tradecraft utilized such as; The Secret Line, Codes, Flags, Balloons, etc. The case study of Harriett Tubman will be presented.

This program is free of charge and no registration is required.

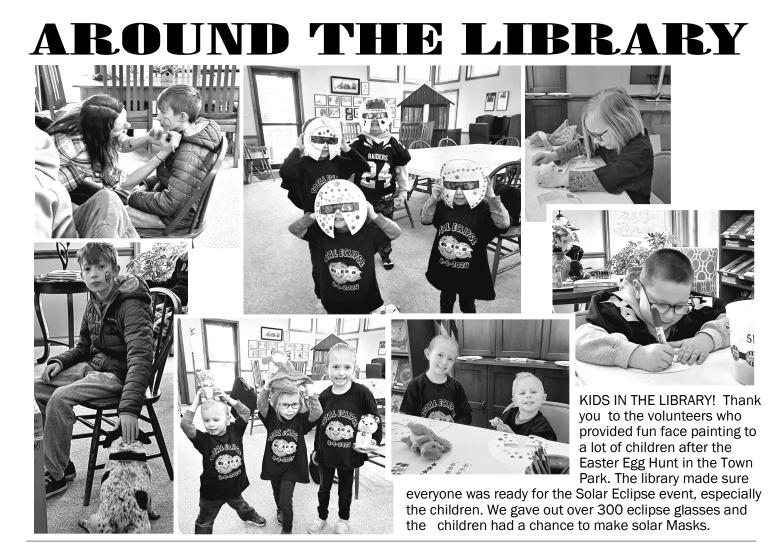
Partial funding for this program has been made possible by the Falconer Region Community Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.





Congratulations to Barbara for correctly guessing the March Trivia question We only had two correct guesses!





AS A POINT OF INFORMATION:

Our library is pursuing sustainable funding this year through a proposal that would add the library to the Town of Ellington General Election Ballot. More information will be coming and informational sessions will be scheduled the closer it gets to election time in November.

We would like the public to know that you may receive a visit from a board of trustee or community member with a clipboard. They are seeking signatures for a Petition to be able to place the Ellington Farman Library on the November ballot. This is our first step in seeking sustainability funding. This petition does not mean that you are voting at this time with a positive or negative vote; it only means that you think the funding for the library should be a question on the November ballot.

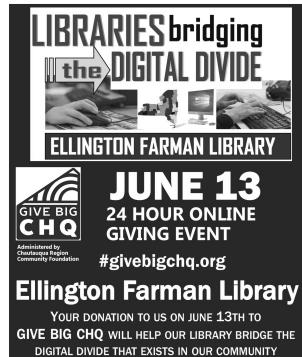
Library Jokes!

Why did the librarian fall down? He was in the non-friction section.

How do libraries make sure novels stay warm? They give them book jackets.

Why can't librarians finish mystery books? They keep reading between the lines.

SAVE THE DATE



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK- SHARE OUR POSTS - VISIT OUR SITE www.givebigchq.org/organizations/ellington-farman-library-association

GIVE BIG CHQ: ONLINE FUNDRAISER for Nonprofits "Bridging the Digital Divide"

"Bridging the Digital Divide" campaign is focused on the library being the technology conduit that will significantly improve the educational, social, and economic opportunities of our community members. The digital age transformed the way we access information. Unfortunately not everyone has seamless access to that information. The gap between people who have that access and those who don't is called the Digital Divide. The three legs of the digital divide are internet access, technology and digital literacy. Ellington Farman Library is working to address that digital divide in the following ways.

This year we hope to complete an interior updated data wiring project throughout our whole building. This will provide more secure internet access to our patron computers and provide data outlets to allow for future technological growth. It will also include an outside stronger wi-fi signal so people can have access to high speed internet outside our building and beyond, even into the Town Park. This internet will be available 24/7 even when our building is closed. The Chautauqua/Cattaraugus area our library serves has some of the highest rates in New York State of families who have no internet access or computers at home. Completed online job applications, school testing and more diverse online programming will be some of the results of our library's expanded secure internet. Another issue we need to address is our current computers are 10 years old and the time has come when we need to purchase newer technology. Better internet security and higher internet speeds do not signify improvement if our computers are not able to handle it.

Your donation to our "Bridging the Digital Divide" campaign will ensure that our technology stays updated and our hi-speed internet stays streaming for all to use inside and outside our building. Community members who lack internet at home will be able to use our computers to not only apply for jobs online but to update their skills. All who use our computers will have secure access while in our library. Students will be able to complete school assignments that they couldn't do at home without internet access. Members of the community will be able to find digital assistance. Updating and keeping pace with the digital world is not about technology at all, it's about people and the equal access to information services the library can offer to those people.

Your donation on June 13th will help us break through the technological barriers that exist in our rural community by providing equal, updated and secure informational access to all. Thank you for partnering with us by supporting this cause, our library and the community.

Our unique website is : https://www.givebigchq.org/organizations/ellington-farman-library-association

MAY DISPLAY CASE: SPRINGTIME TEA TIME!

The gals from Kennedy and Ellington are presenting Springtime Teatime this month for our display case. The display will include fancy family teatime cups and teapots. What other items will they find in their homes? Who knows what treasures they will find?

The concept of Afternoon Tea appeared during the mid-19th century. Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford, introduced the concept of Afternoon Tea in 1840. The Duchess got hungry around four o'clock in the afternoon, and the evening's meal wasn't until 8 pm. That meant there was a long time between lunch and dinner.

What kind of tea do they drink on Downton Abbey? Tea for the caddies at Downton Abbey might have been purchased in London from shops such as Twinings or The United Kingdom Tea Company, a favorite of the Duke of York. Earl Grey was available but herbals and fruit flavored teas were not to be had, and teabags didn't come into vogue until the middle of the 20th century.

During the 1880s upper-class and society women would change into long gowns, gloves and hats for their afternoon tea which was usually served in the drawing room between four and five o'clock. The afternoon tea tradition was born inside the houses of the rich and fortunate but once summer came around they wanted to take this fabulous time of day outside into their beautiful gardens. Tea was a fine delicacy at this time and the people drinking it wanted the whole world to know they could afford it. Rich families would get their portrait's painted with fine china and exquisite teas featured so people would know their extreme wealth. Aren't we glad that a wonderful selection of teas are available now to the "commoners" to enjoy! We hope you enjoy this display!



MAY 2024 ELLINGTON FARMAN LIBRARY 716-287-2945 ellingtonlibrary.org

S	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fi	Sat
					2	S	4
0140	OPEN HOURS 11AM -7PM MONDAY THRI 10AM-1PM ON SATURDAY CLOSED FRIDAY & SUNDAY CLOSED FRIDAY & SUNDAY	OPEN HOURS 11AM -7PM MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 10AM-1PM ON SATURDAY CLOSED FRIDAY & SUNDAY		11am—noon Cornell: Processed Foods & Marketing 1-2 Midday Musings 4-5pm Yoga	1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class		11:30- 12:30pm Art Class: Learning Gel Printing w/ artist Lyn Harris Ages 11 and up
ß		9	7	œ	6	10	11
		11— 1pm Craft Group 4-5pm Yoga	1-4pm AARP Safe driving Course	no Midday Musings 1-4pm AARP Safe driving Course 4-5pm Yoga	1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class		
12		13	14	15	16	17	18
		4-5pm Yoga		 1-2 Midday Musings 4-5pm Yoga 7-8:30 ClA: Women of Espionage in the Civil War: Michael Ganske 	11am Book Club 1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class		8am—10am Potluck Breakfast
19		20	21	22	23	24	25
		11– 1pm Craft Group 1-2pm Young Time: n Neckla Ages 3	1-2pm Young Children's Time: make an Edible Necklace Ages 3-6	1-2 Midday Musings 4-5pm Yoga	1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class		
26		27	28	29	30	31	
		LIBRARY CLOSED Memorial Day		1-2 Midday Musings 4-5pm Yoga	1:30-2:30pm Resistance Exercise Band Class		