



Spotlighting the Caldecott Medal

By Karen MacPherson

...the Academy Awards of children's literature....

Karen MacPherson and Dave Burbank present Caldecott eligible books in the Children's Room of the Library.



This fall, the Library is spotlighting the Caldecott Medal in three programs, thanks to the support of the Friends of the Library. There's our monthly **Caldecott Club** (a.k.a our family book club), plus our **Caldecott unit** for two third grade classes from Piney Branch Elementary School. And, in December, we'll offer our second annual **Mock Caldecott** program for adults.

Photographs of library programs are by Maurice Belanger.

What is the Caldecott Medal, and why all of this Library focus on it? The Caldecott Medal is given annually by the American Library Association to the best-illustrated picture book for children ages birth through age 14 published in the past year. Eligible books include picture books, illustrated non-fiction, and even graphic novels. Winning the Caldecott Medal guarantees fame and fortune to an illustrator, which is why the Caldecott Medal (and the Newbery Medal, awarded to the best-written book for kids ages birth through age 14) are sometimes called “the Academy Awards of the children’s literature world.”

The winners of the Caldecott Medal (and Newbery Medal) are chosen by a committee of librarians and other experts. This year, I’m on the 2016 Caldecott Committee, which means I am reading every Caldecott-eligible book — hundreds of books! — published in 2015. I’ll then gather with my Caldecott colleagues from January 8 through 10 in Boston, where we will discuss and debate the books we consider top possibilities. Our choice for the 2016 Caldecott Medal will be announced to the world with great fanfare on the morning of Jan. 11.

Committee members are encouraged to seek out opinions from both children and adults on eligible books, and that’s where our Library’s three Caldecott programs come in. We’ve

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Thanks Friends!

The Friends support activities for all ages. Your membership donations and our book sales make these programs possible. Please check the red expiration date on your address label to find out if it is time to renew your membership donation. Invite your friends to join too!

Caldecott Medal

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Considering 2014 Caldecott eligible books at the Library.

had our Caldecott Club for several years, but this year the discussions are extra important. Our next discussion is Monday, Nov. 2 from 7-8 p.m., and we will select our “winner” on Monday, Dec. 7 from 7-8 p.m. All ages are invited to read and discuss some wonderful picture books as we enjoy the lemonade and cookies provided by the Friends.

This year, I’m also working with two classes of third grade students at Piney Branch Elementary School on a Caldecott Medal unit. To allow the students to become totally familiar with the Caldecott-eligible books we’ll be discussing, the

Friends have agreed to purchase 25 books that will be kept in the third grade classrooms, where students can re-read them before our final vote. The books then will be donated to the school.

Finally, the Friends will help us purchase books and refreshments for our second annual Mock Caldecott for adults, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 1-4 p.m. The additional copies will be kept at the Library to be read and viewed by anyone who wants to read them in preparation for the Mock Caldecott. Please consider joining us for this special program for adults!

George Eliot’s Other Masterpiece

By Phillip Schewe

All are welcome to join the Friends for Prof. William Cohen’s introduction of the novel Daniel Deronda on October 21.

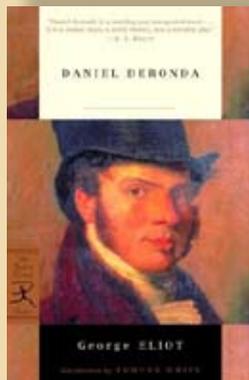
George Eliot is Charles Dickens’ only serious rival as the greatest of 19th century British novelists. She lived a life as interesting as any of the personalities depicted in her books. She was intellectually intense and sought the solitude writers often need to complete books. But she also enjoyed company and was hungry for romance, especially since she feared her plain looks (as she felt them to be) would keep her from ever marrying.

In the end she overcame the many constrictions that stood in the way of a woman striving to make her own way in the world. She became famous and rich. And she found the right man.

Middlemarch is often considered to be Eliot’s greatest book. But *Daniel Deronda*, her last novel, has much the same depth of psychology, poetic richness, and wide-scale examination of society. The Friends of the Library Big Book Reading Group will grapple with *Daniel Deronda* over four sessions, beginning with a meeting at Historic Takoma October 21 at 7:30 pm. Even if you haven’t read the book, please come to hear remarks by University of Maryland professor William Cohen, an expert in Victorian literature.

Phillip Schewe will be the moderator for the Daniel Deronda discussion series.

Join the Friends for a discussion series of



Daniel Deronda

by George Eliot



Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 pm

**Introductory talk with Prof. William Cohen
at Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park**

Discussions continue at the Community Center on
Nov 4, Nov 18, Dec 2 at 7:30pm.

Friends Reading Groups

By Tim Rahn

After we selected Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend* as the first book for the Friends Reading Group to read this year, Merrill Leffler suggested that this could be the year of the international novel. Thus began our journey from the Neapolitan slums of post WW II Italy to a rural Japanese village and from the magical fantasy of Borges to the straightforward storytelling of Tim Winton.

So that leads me to a question: Can a group of serious readers go around the world in six books? No, but they can try. And they will have their eyes opened along the way. Some snap shots from that journey:

- Ferrante in *My Brilliant Friend* describing Naples at night as a group of poor teens come up against the rich kids.
- Kenzaburo Oe, the Japanese Nobel Laureate, using experimental prose to

For more information about our reading groups and a list of all the books we've read, visit "Reading Groups" the Friends website at www.ftpml.org.

describe the experience—real or imagined—of a deranged man in a hospital in *Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness*.

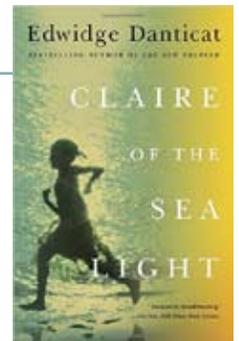
- Realizing the blind librarian Jorge Borges understood and used literature to change our perceptions of the world in our reading of *Ficciones*.
- *CloudStreet*, Tim Winton's sprawling story of two families in a big old house in Perth, Australia learning what to make of life as told by a boy called Fish.
- How children mimic parents with horrifying consequences in Scholastique Mukosonga's novel about pre-genocide Rwanda, *Our Lady of the Nile*.

The last book on our tour, *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat, takes us to Haiti and tells of the disappearance of a child. What snapshots will we take from this novel?

Join the Friends Reading Group to discuss

Edwidge Danticat's novel *Claire of the Sea Light* on Thursday, November 12 at 7:30 pm

Hydrangea Room of Takoma Park Community Center



Claire of the Sea Light takes place in a fictitious Haitian town, Ville Rose. Within the first couple of pages of the novel Danticat describes two profound events. First she tells how Claire's fisherman father has learned of the death of another fisherman and then she reveals that the father has made the difficult decision to let Claire be raised by another person. The evening of the same day, Claire's birthday, she goes missing. Danticat uses the stories of neighbors and acquaintances to explore the mystery of Claire's disappearance. We learn how Claire, whose mother died giving birth to her, has touched the lives of the other characters and what these relationships mean.

One reviewer commented that much of Danticat's fiction is about "how the coercive power of collective silence about gender, race, and inequity creates deeply personal damage for individuals." *Claire of the Sea Light*, she comments, "is a further investigation of the infinitely rippling consequences of silence."

Born in Haiti and raised in New York city, Edwidge Danticat has won numerous awards for her fiction. *Claire of the Sea Light* was short-listed for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Danticat is considered a major voice of the Haitian Diaspora.

An informative review about this novel can be found at: <http://therumpus.net/2013/09/claire-of-the-sea-light-by-edwidge-danticat/>

Fall Favorites! For many years, the Library has offered a trio of special programs celebrating autumn and winter milestones. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we're happy to offer these programs once again.

"Scary Stories" is our first program, offered on Monday, Oct. 26. At this program, master storyteller Candace Wolf will tell tales designed to get kids geared up for Halloween. For the second year in a row, she will offer two programs, each designed for a specific age group. From 7 -7:45 p.m., Candace will tell tales designed for ages 5-7. Then, from 7:50-8:50, she'll present scarier stories just right for ages 8-13.

Then, on Monday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. **Eaglebear**, a.k.a. Tomas Shash, will return with a riveting look at the dances, stories and customs of his Apache and Xicano cultures.

Marsha Goodman-Wood performing at Circle Time.



Friends and family will join Eaglebear for this exciting event, which is a perfect way to mark the fact that November is American Indian Heritage Month.

Finally, on Thursday, Dec. 17, drummer Bill Jenkins and the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will gather at the Library for our annual **Winter Solstice program**. Jenkins will kick things off at 6:30 p.m. with a drumming circle perfect for all ages. Then at 7:30 p.m., the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with their songs, stories and swagger.

In addition to this trio of programs, support from the Friends allows us to offer such monthly programs as our **Caldecott Club**, **Comics Jam**, **LEGO Club**, **Sunday Crafts**, and **Petites Chansons/French Circle Time**. Friends' support also allows us to offer our weekly **Spanish Circle Time** program. To check out the schedule of Library programs, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents. We hope you can join us at some of these great events!

Lifelong Takoma at the Library

By Jill Raymond

On October 10, the Library participated in the Lifelong Takoma event at the Community Center. Lifelong Takoma is in its second year as a new department within the City, focusing on the needs of seniors, disabled people, and their intergenerational friends, family and caregivers. The library compiled a bibliography of materials available in its collection that provide information, support, advice, and insight for those dealing with disabilities or facing the aging process. A book display in the library features many of these materials, including a number of new items, copies of the bibliography, and materials about Lifelong Takoma.

At the October 10 event, the Library had staff on hand to demonstrate usage and features of the new integrated library system, help participants apply for library cards and answer questions generally about resources that can be accessed through the Library that speak specifically to the concerns of these members of the community.



101 Philadelphia Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912

www.cityoftakomapark.org/library.

Visit the Friends at www.ftpml.org

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A color version of this newsletter can be viewed and printed at www.ftpml.org/newsletters/fall/2015.pdf

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Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
www.ftpml.org

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FTPML is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift is greatly appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution.

If you're interested in donating time and/or expertise, please let us know:

- Book Sales (semi-annual or mini-sales at Farmers' Market)
- Publicity Committee (newsletter, flyers, printing, mailings, list serve liaison, etc.)
- Table Staffing (staffing a table at the Farmers' Market or other event)
- Board of Directors or Committee Chair

May we include your name if we exchange our list of members with other Takoma Park community not-for-profit organizations? Yes No

To find out more about the Friends please visit us at www.ftpml.org.

Friends of the Takoma Park Library

Sat. Oct. 24

10 a.m. to
3:00 p.m.

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