

**HERSHEY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

# Book Notes

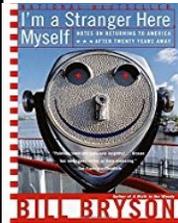
**A Bi-Monthly Publication from the Hershey Public Library**

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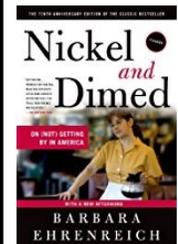
**January/February  
2017**

## Modern America

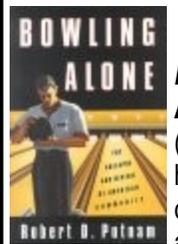
Listed below are a few books with the intertwined topics relevant to America today, including perspectives on our culture, the nation's economic disparities and issues of race.



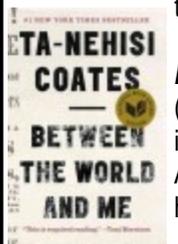
***I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America After Twenty Years*** by Bill Bryson (973.92 BRY, LP973.92 BRY, cd 973.92 BRY) - Bryson relocated to New Hampshire after spending two decades in Britain. This humorous, insightful work by him written in letters showcases the often wonderful but bewildering contradictions in America.



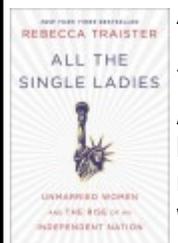
***Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America*** by Barbara Ehrenreich (305.569 HER) - Ehrenreich brings the news of America's working poor so clearly and directly in her work conveying with it a deep moral outrage and a finely textured sense of lives as lived.



***Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of the American Community*** by Robert Putnam (306.097 PUT) - The Internet is awash in fans, hobbyists and ideologues seeking fellowship in cyberspace and beyond and in this book Putnam acknowledges how Americans are still more likely to be involved in voluntary associations.

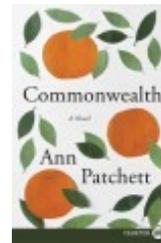


***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates (305.8 COA) - At a time when institutional racism increasingly threatens the lives of African American men, Coates attempts to teach his son how "to live free in his black body."

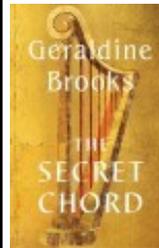


***All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation*** by Rebecca Traister (306.81 TRA) - In 2009, the proportion of American women who were married dropped below 50 percent and the median age of first marriages dramatically increased to age 27. In this work, Traister explores the roots of this seeming phenomenon.

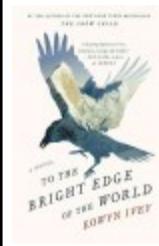
## Some of the Best Books of 2016



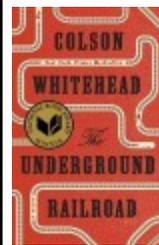
***Commonwealth*** by Ann Patchett (FIC PAT, LP FIC PAT, cd FIC PAT) - In the early 1960's, Los Angeles policeman Keating hosts a christening party for his daughter. A chain of events rearranges the Keating family in the five decades to come.



***The Secret Chord*** by Geraldine Brooks (FIC BRO, LP FIC BRO, cd FIC BRO) - Brooks explores the life of the biblical King David a thousand years before the Christian era. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.



***To the Bright Edge of the World: A Novel*** by Eowyn Ivey (FIC IVE) - In March 1885, Lieutenant Colonel Allen Forrester and his team set out for a previously unmapped area of Alaska and along the journey they encounter many American Indian legends and mythical incidents they cannot explain.



***The Underground Railroad*** by Colson Whitehead (FIC WHI, LP FIC WHI) - Whitehead tells the story of Cora, a teenaged slave on a Georgia plantation. This bold, fresh representation of slavery questions central myths of African American identity.



***The Vegetarian*** by Han Kang (FIC HAN) - When a terrifying nightmare convinces a dutiful suburban housewife to dispose of all the animal products in her house and adopt a strict vegan diet, her family and friends are initially incredulous.



***All the Birds in the Sky*** by Charlie Jane Anders (FAN AND) - Patricia and Laurence are normal teenagers. But Patricia is a witch who speaks to birds and Laurence is a genius. They have to work together to save a dystopian world that is rapidly succumbing to climate change and raging epidemics. Can witchcraft and science exist side by side?

### New Adult Winter Reading Program

Stop by the library to sign up for the "new" Adult Winter Reading Program "Yahtzee Reading Challenge." Read four books that fit into the various genres and receive a mug and raffle tickets. Tickets will be entered into a drawing at the end of the program (March 31) for gift cards to local merchants. The mugs, game boards and prizes are made possible thanks to the *Friends of the Hershey Public library*.

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### Adult Coloring Group

The library's newest and very popular "hosted group" is the **Adult Coloring Group**. If you are looking for a way to relax this winter and spring stop by the group's monthly meetings that begin at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

**Wednesdays**

**January 11 and February 8.**

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### Adult Enrichment Classes this Winter/ Spring at the Library

**Writing Your Memoirs** - Sundays, January 22 through February 26

**Teen/Adult Writing Class** - Mondays, March 6 through April 3

**Lightroom** - Saturday, March 11

**Altered Glass Class - Suncatchers** - Wednesday, March 15

**Altered Glass Class - Bowl** - Saturday, March 18

**Japanese Art Appreciation** - Thursdays, March 23 through April 13

**Wine Basket mMking Class** - Saturday, March 25

**Photoshop** - Saturday, April 1

**Paper Flower Craft Class** - Saturday, April 22

**Living Herb Wreath Class** - Saturday, April 29

**Veggies-Ready, Set, Go....** - Tuesday, May 2

**There is a fee for each of the classes listed above. Registration must be done at the library.** The library does not keep any of the fees. The fees are determined by the Instructors.

### Don't miss these great programs in March and April sponsored by Friends of the Hershey Public Library

#### "Mountains of the Heart" A Natural History of the Appalachians with Scott Weidensaul

**Sunday, March 5 @ 2:00 p.m.**

Stretching almost unbroken from Alabama to Belle Isle, Newfoundland, the Appalachians are one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. Renowned author and avid naturalist Scott Weidensaul will present how geology, ecology, climate, evolution, and 500 million years of history have shaped one of the continent's greatest landscapes into an ecosystem of unmatched diversity and beauty. The long-awaited 20th anniversary edition of Weidensaul's classic "Mountains of the Heart" was released in February 2016 and will be sold and signed at the event. It has been fully revised to reflect the changes in ecology, conservation and natural history over the past two decades

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#### "Gaining Ground" with Forrest Pritchard Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 2:00 p.m.

Forrest Pritchard is a 7th-generation professional farmer and bestselling author. His farm, Smith Meadows, has been a leader in the farmer's market movement for more than 15 years. As a columnist for Huffington Post and a regular guest on NPR, Forrest has become a national spokesman for the sustainable food and farm revolution. His first book, *Gaining Ground*, takes a humorous and serious look at how he reinvented his family's farm for the 21st century and was the 2016 One Book, One Community Selection in our area. His second book, *Growing Tomorrow*, tells the stories of several sustainable farmers and includes recipes. Books will be sold and signed at the event. This program has been co-sponsored by the Friends of the Hershey Public Library and The Endowment Trust of the Hershey Public Library.

**The programs are free but registration is necessary and can be done either online @ [www.hersheylibrary.org](http://www.hersheylibrary.org) or by calling the Circulation Desk @ 533-6555.**

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### Top Pick for Book Groups

**Georgia** by Dawn Tripp (FIC TRI) - In this impressive historical novel, Tripp delves into the life of visionary artist Georgia O'Keeffe.