Q&A WITH CARY AUTHOR CHARLIE DONLEA

Please describe your writing process. I’m an earlier riser and the morning is when the best ideas flow for me. Writing novels means meeting deadlines. A typical novel is ninety thousand words (about 300 pages), so if I manage to write a thousand words a day I can get through a draft in about three or four months.

Because of these deadlines, I can’t wait for the perfect scene to come to me. I write with urgency, knowing that what initially finds the page is not my best work and that much of it will be scrapped on subsequent drafts. But my editor’s advice is that in order to write the perfect manuscript, you have to first write one that’s imperfect. That’s music to my ears, because imperfect first drafts are my specialty.

Does living in Cary, or northern Illinois, influence your writing? How? Both of my books take place in fictional North Carolina towns, so I’m not sure what that says about Illinois. But a particularly loved character in Summit Lake was from the Midwest. He had different values and a different attitude than the east coast characters, and many readers picked up on this. The book has too many secrets to delve into his psyche without spoiling things, so to understand his motives coming from a good Midwest family (and his fate), Cary residents will have to give Summit Lake a read.

continued on page 5...
Program registration begins Friday, February 17 online, by phone, or in person. Online registration begins at 8 am. Please notify us if you need to cancel your registration.

BECOME AN EXPERT ▼

TORNA DO PREPAREDNESS
Wednesday, March 1, 7-8 pm
Carrie Carlson of Emergency Management McHenry County will discuss what to have ready for the storm, best place to shelter, proper communication tools, and more.

AARP SMART DRIVER
Wednesday, April 5 & Thursday, April 6, 12-4 pm
AARP membership is required. Along with attendance both days. Registration is required, along with attendance both days. AARP membership is required. Attend one of many classes designed to prepare you for safe driving.

MAKE IT ▼

CRAFTFLOP DROP IN
Wednesday, March 8, 1-3 pm
Show off your creativity to celebrate International Women’s Day. Try embroidery, hand sewing, felting, button making, and more. Staff will help you learn these methods and make something to take home.

SPRING FLOWER BASKET
Thursday, April 13, 7-8 pm
Create a colorful flower filled basket. Peggy Garvin will provide the materials and instructions; please bring your own pruners. Register at the library to pay the $15 materials fee. No refunds.

STAMPING WITH VICKI
Saturday, March 11, 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Add a uniquely special touch to your personal correspondence. Join Vicki Oberlies in making your own hand stamped cards that can be used throughout the year. All supplies provided.

KNIT ONE, CROCHET TOO!
Monday, March 13, 10 April 8, 7-8 pm
Do you like to knit or crochet? Join us to work on your latest project while you chat with others who also enjoy needle crafts. Or just drop-in if you need some help with your project. All experience levels welcome. We will meet the second Monday of every month.

CREATE A QUOTE OF POETRY ART
Saturday, March 18, 10:30 am-12 pm
Inspired by the poems of Gwendolyn Brooks in honor of her 100th birthday, Christine will teach you how to incorporate a poetry quote into a creative design, then add color with watercolor pencils. Beginners welcome!

GET HEALTHY ▼

ANOREXIA NERVOSA;
MY EXPERIENCE
Thursday, March 16, 7-8 pm
Sherru Fowler will share her daughter Monica’s battle with anorexia. This presentation is designed to spread awareness and help others understand the complexities of anorexia nervosa.

BALANCE WORKSHOP
Monday, April 10, 2-3 pm
Program held at Centegra Physical Therapy and Sports Rehab-Cary. Jennifer Schaffer of Centegra will focus on fall prevention including ways to make your home safer, assessing your risk of falling, and exercises to improve your balance.

FOR FUN ▼

BUNCO
Thursday, March 30, 6:30-8:30 pm
Join us for a fast paced, easy to learn dice game. Enjoy refreshments and compete for a variety of prizes. Limited to 24 players.

100 THINGS TO DO IN CHICAGO BEFORE YOU DIE
Wednesday, May 17, 7-8 pm
Author Molly Page will discuss some of the one hundred adventures in her candid insider’s guide. She promises an authentic taste of the Windy City whether you’re taking a weekend-sized bite or sticking around for the buffet of a lifetime. Book sale and signing will follow the presentation.

CULINARY BRUNCH IDEAS
Wednesday, March 8, 6:30-8:30 pm
Chef Maddox is back to get your mid-morning started on the right foot. These dishes will be an asset in preparing a wonderful brunch for family and friends. The program will range from quiches to fruit salads to little sweets to enjoy with one’s coffee.

GEOGRAPHY ▼

POLISH GEOGRAPHY: FOUR STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH
Sunday, March 19, 2-3:30 pm
Steve Szabados will give a brief summary of the border changes in Polish history, then discuss the records that are available in both the US and Poland, where to find them and how to interpret the documents.

GEOGRAPHY INTEREST GROUP
Saturday, April 30, 1:30-3 pm
Join local geography enthusiasts as we share our expertise. Bring your own laptop or use one of ours.

FOR OUR FOODIES ▼

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BOOK READERS Nook ▼

SPRING BOOK BUZZ
Thursday, April 6, 7-8:30 pm
Back again, Robert Haddock, our Penguin Random House rep, will feature books set for spring release. Goodie bags, door prizes and refreshments!

JOB & CAREER SUPPORT ▼

ADVANCED MICROSOFT WORD
Saturday, March 11, 10-11:30 am
Learn to insert images, screen shots, text boxes, and tables. We’ll also cover creating your own templates. Working knowledge of Word required.

ADVANCED MICROSOFT EXCEL
Saturday, March 11, 12: 30-2 pm
Learn to create charts, graphs, and link data from multiple spreadsheets. Working knowledge of Excel required.

GOOGLE APPS SUITE
Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 pm
Learn how to use Docs, Sheets, Forms and more to organize your files for work or home. Registration required.

A TO Z DATABASE
Thursday, March 23, 7-8 pm
Demo of the AtoZ Database available through the library. The rep will cover how to do people and background searches, job searches, business profiles, sales leads, and market research. Registration required.

STARTING AN ETSY ONLINE STORE
Wednesday, May 24, 7-8:30 pm
Learn the basics of how to set up a business on Etsy, showcase your products, and grow your business on websites like Pinterest.

BOOKS ON TAP
Join us for a lively discussion. Books are available each month at the Service Center.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION
Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 am
March 22: March by Geraldine Brooks
April 25: A Man Called Ove
May 24: A Mother’s Reckoning

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION
Join us in a lively discussion. Books are available each month at the Service Center.

ORPHAN TRAIN AUTHOR
CLARK KIDDER
Wednesday, April 12, 7-8 pm
Clark Kiddder, author of Emily’s Story: The Brave Journey of an Orphan Train Rider, will recount the story of his grandmother who at age 13 rode an orphan train to the Midwest in 1906. A book signing will follow.
TEEN TECH ▼

LEGO ROBOTICS BASICS
Sunday, March 5, 1-3:30 pm
Grades 4-12. An intro to LEGO Mindstorm robots. Learn about the robot's hardware and the interface used to program it. This class is a prerequisite for the Teen Robotics Workshops.

LEGO ROBOTICS WORKSHOP
Sundays, March 26, April 9 & May 21
1-3:30 pm
Grades 6-12. Come for a special robotics team challenge or explore on your own with a LEGO Mindstorms robot. You must have attended the Basics class or one of the previous Robotics Workshops. A summer robotics clinic does not qualify.

MAKE IT ▼

CRAFTERNOON DROP IN
Wednesday, March 8, 4-6 pm
Celebrate International Women's Day. Try embroidery, hand sewing, felting, button making (see below!), and more. Staff will help you learn these methods and make something to take home.

CREATE A QUOTE OF POETRY ART
Saturday, March 18,10:30 am -12 pm
Inspired by the poems of Gwenidolywn Brooks in honor of her 100th birthday, Christine will teach you how to incorporate a poetry quote into a decorative design, then add color with watercolor pencils. Beginners welcome!

TANGLED BUTTERFLIES COLORING WORKSHOP
Saturday, March 18, 1-2 pm
Butterflies and Zentangle are the inspiration in this workshop. Draw or trace a butterfly to decorate and color following Christine's instructions. Learn tips for improving your colored pencil techniques. Beginners welcome!

DIY TEA CUP CANDLES
Friday, March 31, 10-12:30 pm
Grades 6-12. Make a teacup candle to take home using the jar method. We'll use soy wax and essential oils; if you have allergy concerns please contact Becky at 847.639.4210 ex 227. Registration required.

HENNA TATTOO WORKSHOP
Saturday, April 15, 1-2:30 pm
Learn all about henna: its uses, designs, and how to create a tattoo by yourself. Each person will leave with a small tattoo and a Henna kit. There is a materials fee of $10. No refunds. Additional supplies will be available for purchase at a discounted price.

3-D DRAWING CACTUS
Friday, May 5, 12:30-2 pm
Grade 6-8. Come use our 3D drawing pens to create your own plastic cactus. Take your creation home to use as a Mother's Day gift or bedroom decoration. Registration required.

ADULTING ▼

JOB FAIR 101
Wednesday, April 5, 7-8 pm
Ages 15-21. Get ready for the Teen Job Fair. Find out what to expect, what to bring, and how to be prepared to apply for job openings. We'll also discuss key skills for a successful interview. Registration required.

TEEN JOB FAIR
Sunday, April 9, 1-4 pm
For young adults age 15-21. Looking for a job, either part-time or year round? Come and meet with local companies looking to hire teens, learn how you can apply to a young adult training and internship program, and pick up materials on volunteer opportunities. No registration required.

HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE WITHOUT GOING BROKE WORKSHOP
Tuesday, May 2, 6:30-8 pm
My College Planning Team will share their expertise and guide you through action steps to reduce college costs and still attend the college of your choice. Both parents and students are encouraged to attend.

CHICAGO WOLVES PLAYER VISIT
Thursday, March 2, 7-8 pm
Meet Chicago Wolves hockey player Mackenzie MacEachern, check out his hockey gear and find out about his path to success. There will be an autograph session after the presentation.

MAKER CLUB
Mondays, March 27, April 10 & 24, May 8 & 22
6:30-7:30 pm
All ages; ages 12 & under with an adult. Make your own tech-based project with the guidance of Ryan Lockheed and other DiYers. Choose from one of our projects or pick your own. Fees may apply to some supplies. Attendance at every meeting is not required. Registration is preferred, walk-ins welcome.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY
Saturday, May 6, 9 am-5 pm
We will have a variety of comics, provided by Modern Age Comics in Algonquin, including Sonic, Rick and Morty, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Zeld, and more. The first 200 patrons can pick one to take home!


... CONTINUED DONLEA Q&A FROM COVER

Which authors/books have influenced your writing? So many. Dennis Lehane, Nelson DeMille, Gillian Flynn and Thomas Harris to name a few. Two authors, in particular, who have influenced my writing are John Grisham and Pat Conroy. *The Firm* was the first novel that captivated me – held my attention to the point that I skipped college classes to finish it. It was the book that made me want to be a writer. Pat Conroy's *The Lords of Discipline* is so well crafted that I could read it one hundred times and learn something new about storytelling each time. I pull these two books out every year to remind me to write smart suspense and tell a grand story.

Please describe your new book, *The Girl Who Was Taken*. It is a chilling story about two high school seniors who go missing one summer night, and the dark truth behind their return. One girl is never found, while the other miraculously escapes. She writes a memoir about her time in captivity, which rockets onto the bestseller list and thrusts her into the public's eye. But as the investigation into the still-missing girl forces on, many begin to question the claims made in the memoir. It is filled with twists and a shocking ending that should keep readers guessing and engaged to the final page.

Do you have a memorable library experience from your childhood that you could share? I hated reading when I was a kid. I somehow managed to get through my entire academic career without reading an assigned novel - Cliff's Notes were my friend. I didn't read my first novel for pleasure until my junior year of college.

In high school when I was required to read *Romeo and Juliet*, I knew I'd never get through it on my own. I checked out the audio version (vinyl records back then) and listened to the whole thing. I've been a library fan ever since. *
BALLOON INFLATION STATION
Monday, March 27, 1-2 pm
or 2:45-3:45 pm
Ages 8 & up. This is a workshop that teaches the “tools” that balloon twisters use to create amazing balloon sculptures, with a cool advanced sculpture created right in front of them. Every child gets to make a variety of balloon sculptures that they can keep!

HANSEL AND GRETEL
Tuesday, March 28, 11 am-12 pm
All ages. You’ve probably heard the story of Hansel and Gretel, but you’ve never seen one quite as hilarious as this! Come see the patchwork elephant, a flagpole along with those of their elders. Adults register as age 21.

BUNNY BINGO
Saturday, April 8, 11:12 am-12 pm
All ages family program. Play bingo for spring-themed prizes. Register for only one session, in person only. Limit of nine families for each session.

SUPER STOIE SHOW
Monday, May 8, 4:30-5:30 pm
Ages 7-8. Reserve a child and enjoy the story of Hansel and Gretel as they find their way home and listen to a story. Register for each child.

FAMILY STORYTIME
For children birth to age 6 with an adult. Stimulate your child’s senses through books, rhymes, music and movement. Pickup free tickets at the Service Center.

MONDAYS 5-11:30 am
April 4 - No Storytime
May 1, 8, 15, 22

TUESDAYS 10-10:30 am
April 4 - No Storytime
May 2, 9, 16, 23

THURSDAYS 6:30-7 pm
April 2 - No Storytime
May 2, 9, 16, 23

FRIDAYS 10-10:30 am
April 3 - No Storytime
May 2, 9, 16, 23

THE WORLD
Ages 5-6. An exploration of music and our imagination around the world.

Tuesdays, March 14 & April 25
3:15-4 pm
Grades K-2. Explore the world and learn about music in other countries and listen to a story. Register for each session. Limited to 20 students.

MAKE IT ▲

LEGO CLUB ▲
Saturday, March 8, & May 6
Friday, March 31, 1:30 pm
Grades K-5. Enjoy building with your friends! Your creations will be put on display in the library.

3D DRAWING CACTUS
Friday, May 5, 2:30-4 pm
Grades 4-5. Use a 3D drawing pen to create your own cactus for decoration or to give as a gift. Registration required.

ELMER THE ELEPHANT
Monday, May 5, 4:30-5:30 pm
Grades K-2. After reading one of the books about the patchwork elephant, Elmer, by David McKee we will create a tissue paper collage of the colorful elephant. Limit 20 students.

CANDY LETTER CHEMISTRY
Thursday, April 27, 6:30-7:30 pm
Grades 2-4. Use baking soda, vinegar, and colorful paper to create your own ribbon. Registration required.

SPECIAL STORYTIME & CRAFT
Thursday, May 11, 6:30-7:15 pm
Grades 2-5. Play a building game and then construct toothpick, jelly bean, and marshmallow Geodesic Domes.

DOGGY TALES STORYTIME & CRAFT
Saturday, May 27, 10:30-11:30 am
Grades 3-6. Play a building game and then construct toothpick, jelly bean, and marshmallow Geodesic Domes.

EVENING STORYTIME
For children birth to age 6 with an adult. Stimulate your child’s senses through books, rhymes, music and movement. No tickets needed.

THURSDAYS 6:30-7 pm
March 2, 9, 16, 23
April 3 - No Storytime
May 1, 18, 25

PRESCHOOL STORIES ▲
For ages 3 1/2-5. Help your preschooler get ready to read and build skills through stories, music and rhymes. Caregivers must remain in library; pick up child’s name tag at the Service Center.

Tuesdays, 9:30-10 am
March 7, 14, 21
April 4 - No Preschool Stories
May 2, 9, 16, 23

CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK
May 1-7
Checkout a children’s book and enter to win a special prize basket.
The Spring Used Book Sale is on April 22 from 9-5 and April 23 from 1-5. Sunday’s bag sale is $5 per supplied bag. Teachers who bring ID will receive half-off their purchases.

Upcoming FOCAL meetings are at 7 pm on March 2, April 6, and May 11 at the library.

FOCAL is sponsoring two $500 scholarships to college bound high school seniors who reside within the Cary Area Library district and have assisted FOCAL and the library with book sales and/or various library programs. Applications will be available on the library website or from high school advising offices beginning March 13. Applications are due by April 24.

Easter
Mother’s Day
Memorial Day
Memorial Day
Closed 9-1, Open 1-5

CLOSINGS
April 7
April 16
May 14
May 28
May 29

Thank you!
We would like to extend our thanks to these businesses who helped make our Grand Reopening a success:

Breaking Bread
Brunch Cafe
CL Graphics
Crystal Lake Brewing Co.
Discount School Supply- Nancy Maycroft
George and Alberta England

We also received a $200 donation from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to use towards early literacy efforts. We have purchased interactive, educational toys for the Playspot including puzzles, an alphabet phonics center, a farmers market color sorting set and more.

Pictured left to right: Library Director Diane McNulty and Susan Fasano from DAR

Friends of the Cary Area Library
Friends of the Cary Area Library
Jewel - Osco
Kojak’s
Scorched Earth Brewing Co.
WhichWich Superior Sandwiches

Books & Bytes is published four times a year with updates on our website.