

## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 13: NUMBER 6.....NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2018

### An American Novelist

Philip Roth is one of the most famous and honored novelists of modern American literature, his books having won two National Book Awards, three PEN/Faulkner Awards and the Man Booker International Prize. In 2010 Roth received the National Humanities Medal for his contributions to American literature.

### Featured this Month

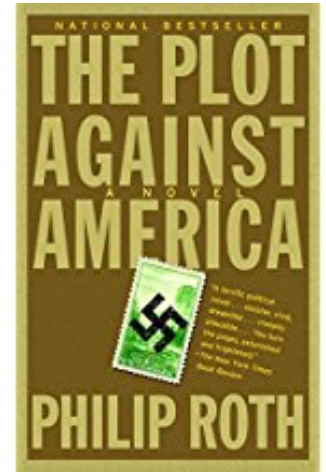
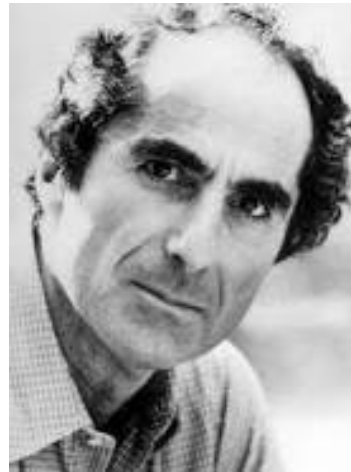
*The Plot Against America (and other titles)* by Philip Roth

Star forward Ron Patimkin, “Big Number 5” on your program, has played his last basketball game at The Ohio State University. So it’s *Goodbye Columbus*. He’s back at his parents’ house in New Jersey, where alone up in his room, he listens to a recording of his final introduction before the cheering crowd.

I grew up in Columbus. At fourteen I loved basketball. It seemed like my kind of book. But as I read on, I realized that since Big No 5 had graduated, he wouldn’t be playing any more basketball for the Buckeyes. He went to work in the family business as I did every Saturday, sacking potatoes and onions at the family grocery. I was fast losing interest in Ron’s life when the narrator and Big No 5’s sister Brenda take a late-night dip at the country club.

There are lots of memorable lines in American literature, but for me none so unforgettable as when Brenda removes the top to her swimsuit underwater: Her breasts swam toward me “like two pink-nosed fishes” is the kind of image that sticks with a young reader. Roth in a few words had turned what had become a dull book about relationships into great literature. (Later when Brenda goes to be fitted for a diaphragm, I had to ask my older sister what was wrong with her.)

In college I read *Letting Go*, about an English literature grad student and a failed romance, situations



and conditions I could relate to by then. I don’t recall at what stage of life I read *Portnoy’s Complaint*. I don’t eat liver. Later came the writer’s stages of man chronicles, as Roth and Nathan go to their respective urologists.

Roth, who died this year, is known as a Jewish writer, and he surely was—in narration, character, and subject matter. Yet, he was every bit as much an American writer as a Jewish one—and a patriot to boot. That’s never more apparent than in *The Plot Against America*. The novel, set in 1940, imagines a Nazi takeover of the United States at the end of WWII. Charles Lindbergh, American aviation hero and Nazi sympathizer, has been elected president. Nationalists reign. Jews are persecuted. Journalists are attacked. America isn’t American anymore.

Great novelists are prescient. Austen, Dickens, Tolstoy, and Twain each used fiction to sound cultural alarms about their homeland. Roth, the American-Jewish writer, did the same. He was writing fiction, but he was writing within a culture. Was he worried about his country? Did he have concerns for Jews? In the context of recent events, it would seem he had cause. Great novelists are prescient.

*Review by Stephen Siegfried*

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## New at the Library

### Audio Books

*By Alexander McCall Smith:*

**The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency**  
**The Double Comfort Safari Club**  
**The Finer Points of Sausage Dogs**  
**The Full Cupboard of Life**  
**The Good Husband of Zebra Drive**  
**In the Company of Cheerful Ladies**  
**The Kalahari Typing School for Men**  
**The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection**  
**The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon**  
**The Miracle at Speedy Motors**  
**Morality for Beautiful Girls**  
**Tears of the Giraffe ... Corduroy Mansions**  
**Tea Time for the Traditionally Built**  
**Blue Shoes and Happiness**

*by Nevada Barr:*

**Blind Descent ... Blood Lure ... Borderline**  
**Endangered Species ... Firestorm ... Flashback**  
**Hard Truth ... Hunting Season ... The Rope**  
**A Superior Death ... Winter Study**

*By Greg Iles:*

**Dead Sleep ... Mortal Fear**

*By J. A. Jance:*

**Day of the Dead ... Queen of the Night**  
**Dead Wrong ... Desert Heat**

*By Dana Stabenow:*

**Blindfold Game ... A Cold Day for Murder**  
**Breakup ... A Deeper Sleep ... A Fatal Thaw A**  
**Fine and Bitter Snow ... Hunter's Moon**  
**Midnight Come Again ... A Taint in the Blood**  
**Though Not Dead**

**The Burnt House by Faye Kellerman**  
**Capital Crimes by Jonathan & Faye Kellerman**  
**The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini**  
**The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch**  
**The Cutting Edge by Jeffery Deaver**

### Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed  
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm  
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

### Mystery

**Double Blind By Iris Johansen**  
**Shattered Mirror by Iris Johansen**  
**The Rooster Bar by John Grisham**  
**The Witch Elm by Tana French**  
*Mysteries by Aimee & David Thurlo:*  
**Bad Faith ... Bad Medicine....Death Walker**  
**Pale Death ... Plant Them Deep ... Thief in Retreat**  
**Blood Retribution**

### Films on DVD

**The Devil's Own ... The Civil War ... Heartburn**  
**The Bridges of Madison County ... The Hours**  
**Defending Your Life ... More Than Puppy Love**  
**Mad Max: Fury Road ... Hollywood Safari**  
**Where the Red Fern Grows... Wind Dancer**  
**The Tale of the Princess Kaguya ... Flightplan**  
**Three Amigos ... La La Land ... Harley's Hill**  
**The Stray... Little Heroes ..The Grudge**

### Non Fiction

**New Mexico Historical Chronology** by Don Bullis  
**Earth Memory Compass-Dine Landscapes and**  
**Education in the 20th Century** by Farina King  
**Fear** by Bob Woodward  
**Guajolotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos: The First Ten**  
**Years - A Reader**, edited by Harley G. Shaw  
**Out of the Woods: Seeing Nature in the Everyday**  
by Julia Corbett

### Fiction

**The Dog Master by W. Bruce Cameron**  
**Harriet Beamer Strikes Gold by Joyce Magnin**  
**The Storyteller's Secret by Sejal Badani**

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit  
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

### Bookmobile Schedule

**Wednesday, December 12**  
Hillsboro 1:00- 2:00 Kingston 2:30- 3:30

### Published by

THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 205, HILLSBORO NM 88042 (575-895-3349)