Friedrich Nietzsche

Friedrich Nietzsche was born in Röcken, Saxony in 1844. He attended the University of Bonn, where he studied theology and philology (the study of languages). Nietzsche left Bonn for Leipzig and, in 1869, left Leipzig for Switzerland and the chair of classical philology at Basel University. (At this time Nietzsche also served as an ambulance orderly in the Franco-Prussian War.) While at Basel, Nietzsche befriended Richard Wagner. At first Nietzsche favorably compared the musical dramatist with Classical Greek playwrights, notably Sophocles. Later, he distanced himself from the overly pompous, egoistic composer.

In 1879, Nietzsche resigned his professorship at Basel, and published *The Birth of Tragedy*. In his first book, Nietzsche compares the victory of the Greeks over the Persians with that of the Germans over the French, and contrasts the beliefs of the followers of Dionysus (the Greek god of the underdog) with the notions of revolution then percolating throughout the European Continent. In later books, the controversial Nietzsche espoused the temporary nature of our existence, stated that God was dead and therefore life was meaningless, and conducted a frustrating search for metaphysical certainties and moral absolutes. He was a superb author, who coined such terms as the 'blond beast' and the 'Superman'. He wrote in a lucid, logical manner; using similes, irony, metaphors, symbols, sarcasm, and 'in jokes'. He was also an incurable misogynist who had a gloomy view of life. After examining the origins of morals, truth and illusion; he wrote *Human, All-Too-Human*. When he noticed that the observations of Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx (published in their *Communist Party Manifesto*) were selling like hotcakes, while *Beyond Good and Evil* – which Nietzsche considered his best work – wasn't, he wrote *The Genealogy of Morals*. In *Genealogy*, he explains the origin of 'good' and 'bad,' and why Europe's nobility was caving in to the working class.

Throughout his life, Nietzsche maintained a critical eye on European events (notably Otto von Bismarck's unification of Germany). In 1886, he wrote *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (by far his most popular book), in which he explains his entire philosophy. In 1888, he wrote his autobiography, *Ecco Homo*, in which he tells the reader: "Here I am. Take it or leave it." In 1889, while walking through Turin's Piazza Carlo Alberto, he saw a coachman beating his horse, rushed to the horse's rescue, and while hugging the equine's neck, collapsed from sheer mental exhaustion. He remained a complete nut case until his death in Weimar in August of 1900. Later, the Nazis, egged on by Nietzsche's younger sister Elisabeth, tried to associate the philosopher with their own aspirations. Such was not to be. For openers, Nietzsche despised anti-Semitic behavior.

Essay by Bill Lounsbery

KRL has many of Nietzsche's books.

BOOK WORMS (monthly, 7 pm)

On Monday, May 20th, we discuss *The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley* by Hannah Tinti .
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Technology
Drop In Tech Help   **every** Friday, 2:00-3:30 pm
Drop in to learn basic computer skills with the help of volunteers and library staff.   All Ages

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ONGOING SALE: Pre-owned Books are
On Sale every day during normal Library Hours.

For Adults

Writers Cafe: Monday, May 6th 6-7:30 pm
Work on your own writing with quiet companionship. All genres, styles and levels of experience are welcome. Coffee and tea provided. *Repeats on 1ˢᵗ Monday in June*

GREAT GIVE KITSAP – April 23rd

Dear supporters of the Manchester Library,

Once again this year, the Friends of the Manchester Library will be participating in the **Kitsap Great Give** on Tuesday, April 23rd. We hope you can help out this year with a donation of any size.

Here is an overview of the event: The **Kitsap Great Give** is a 24-hour, online giving event organized by the *Kitsap Community Foundation* and their Presenting Partner, the *United Way of Kitsap County*, for the benefit of charities in the greater Kitsap area. About 300 charities are participating this year, including the *Friends of the Manchester Library*. The event will be held on Tuesday April 23rd, 2019, all day until 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time). Anyone can go to the website www.kitsapgreatgive.org and donate to as many participating nonprofits as they wish.

All donations made during the event will be proportionally matched by a local bonus pool organized by *Kitsap Community Foundation* and sponsorship dollars donated by the *United Way of Kitsap County* and corporate and individual sponsors.

You can also donate during **Early Giving** April 9th through April 22 **at 6 p.m.** at www.kitsapgreatgive.org. Your donations to Friends of the Manchester Library will grow with the help of **Great Give**. Thanks for your on-going support of our great little Library in Manchester!

Kind regards,   Carol Kowalski, Vice-President

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