



Milton Public Library

Letter No. 2005 - 1

We Appreciate Your Continuing Support.

January, 2005

Director's Message

By Phil McNulty

As the new year starts, work related to the building project is focused on fund-raising and grant writing. Our grant application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is due on February 9. We will not know until July whether it is successful, but if it is, the grant will provide as much as 3.5 million dollars for the project.

The fund-raising conducted by The Milton Library Foundation is progressing nicely. Over two hundred thirty people responded with donations to the town-wide mailing sent out just after Thanksgiving by the Milton Library Foundation. This was a very encouraging response rate.

Library Cards

Milton Public Library cards now have a new look. Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library and art work by our own Terry Hall, we now have a series of cards depicting many of the historical libraries in Milton. Each card will also have a key-tag version as well, so that you'll always be able to have your most important "charge card" with you.

Everyone signing up for a new card will get one of these. Current cardholders can upgrade to a new one for our card replacement fee of \$3. All of that money goes into our new book purchase fund.

The Friends Corner

*By Connie Spiros, President,
Friends of the Milton Public Library*

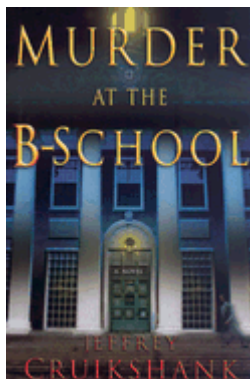
The year 2005 will be a very special one for the Milton Public Library as it moves several steps closer to realizing its plans to renovate and build a new addition to the 100 year old building standing on Canton Avenue. The timeline for the project includes many major milestones this year including submitting our application for a state construction grant in early February, hearing the results of that application in July, and conducting a town wide vote in the Fall of 2005 to approve the building plan. Our goal as Friends of the Library is to make sure all residents of Milton are aware of the importance of this project and to ask for their support in making it happen! To that end, we encourage you to help us get the word out. We have several programs and special events scheduled this year designed to bring people to the Library, and to remind them just how important the Library is to our community. We urge you to get involved!



The Friends Corner

...continued.

Have Lunch with the Author-on Saturday, February 5, 2005, at 12 noon. Join Milton resident Jeffrey Cruikshank, author of *Murder at the B School* for a presentation and light lunch at the Milton COA, 10 Walnut Street. please RSVP at 617-698-8003, or cdspiros@comcast.net.



Tour the Boston Public Library-on Sunday, March 13, at 3 pm. Here's a chance to take a guided tour of the first publicly supported municipal library in America, and the first public library to lend a book. Our one-hour tour will include the newly restored John Singer Sargent murals titled "The Triumph of Religion". Look for details on this special tour soon on our Library's web site.

Our April event will be a **Gardening Workshop** with Boston Globe Gardening Columnist, **Carol Stocker**. Watch for more details on that soon.

Winter Wonderland Book Sales are in full swing every Saturday, from 10 am-12 noon. We have a great variety of books available for sale at very reasonable prices. (Sorry, no book donations accepted at this time!) In 2004, we raised over \$7,200 in sales of donated books, and all the money will be used to purchase more new books for the Library, so please support our weekly sales now through March 26!

Speaking of donated books, after every season of book sales, we take those books

that have not sold and donate them to *Hands Across the Water*, an organization that sends books to countries in need. Our last supply of books was part of a shipment of 500 boxes sent to an organization that promotes literacy among children in poverty-stricken areas in the Philippines. We received a wonderful letter of thanks for supporting their efforts.

A beautification plan is taking place on the upper level of the Library as we make the underutilized quiet study room more attractive and more comfortable. The Friends are providing the funds to "spruce up" the room with a fresh coat of paint and new comfortable chairs and tables. Local artists will exhibit their works in the room and we may let small groups host meetings there, all to encourage greater use of the space. We'll keep you posted on the timing for the new look!

As always, I close this update with a request for your good ideas, comments, suggestions and *most of all, your help as a volunteer*. The Milton Public Library is OUR Library! Contact me at cdspiros@comcast.net or 617-698-8003.

Electronic Resources

World Book Online

Your library card not only got a new look, it also got more powerful. If you have home internet access, you can use your library card to access the World Book Encyclopedia. Go to the Research section of our web page at: <http://www.miltonlibrary.org/research.asp> and click on the World Book Online link. After you enter your card number, you will be forwarded to the World Book site.

You will have access to all of the articles and illustrations of the print version, plus a

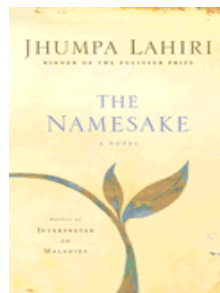
lot of added features. One of these is an atlas that links you to more precise maps of a given area or articles related to the place names shown. Another is an online dictionary. Current events are shown with links to relevant encyclopedia articles for more background or depth.

The World Book is available to Milton Public Library cardholders through a special license we have negotiated. Your card can also give you access to a host of resources purchased for libraries by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners and the Southeast Mass. Regional Library System. These include over 600 full-text magazines, specialized medical and health databases, business directories and much more. These can all be accessed through the Databases link on the Research section of our web page.

Book Discussions & More

By Marjorie Jeffries

February's book is **The Namesake** by Jhumpa Lahiri. A newly married couple from Calcutta, India comes to live in Cambridge, Mass. You glimpse firsthand the struggle between becoming American and adhering to the traditions of the homeland. The discussion date is Monday Feb. 7. As usual, there is a choice of three discussion sessions to attend: 10 am and 7:30 pm in the Library Conference room and 4 pm. in Building 5 at Winter Valley.

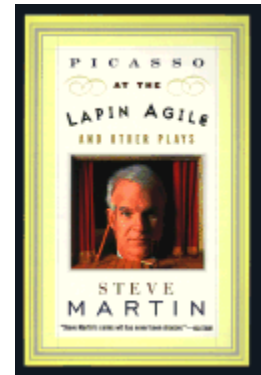


The March discussion will be on Monday the 7th as well, at the same times noted above. The book will be **The Pickup** by Nadine Gordimer.

Ms. Gordimer has been writing about her native country, South Africa for decades, high lighting the terrible tragedies of Apartheid and now describing through her novels, aspects of life post Apartheid. *The Pickup*, highlights the twenty-something generation, some of their attitudes and actions as they struggle with ideals and reality. Come, share opinions about the book or about South Africa, and also hear Ms Gordimer for a few minutes on tape.

Discount copies of book discussion titles are available at the library.

The next session of **Reading Plays Together** will take place in the Milton Public Library, Wednesday, January 26, 7 to 9 pm. We will read the play by Steve Martin, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, an engaging comedy, which will be performed by the Milton Players, February 18, 19, 25, and 26 at the Woman's Club, Reedsdale Rd, Milton. The Director of this play, Paul Conroy, will join us on the 26th eager to talk with the group about the play, directing or other drama questions. After reading the play together it will be fascinating to see it performed in February. Bring a copy if possible and join the fun!



Third Writers Workshop sponsored by the Milton Public Library will take place in 6 sessions, Sundays 3 to 5 pm. Location is Winter Valley, Building 5 (last building up the hill) because the Library is closed Sundays. Once again we are fortunate to have Ron Fletcher, (Boston College High School English Department) as our teacher.

Dates are: January 30, February 13 and 27, March 13, April 3 and 17. No sign up necessary. Bring your check for \$85 made out to Ron Fletcher and join us January 30th at Winter Valley.

Children's Room News

By Elaine Weischedel

Story times are back! Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. children ages 3-5 are invited to "Time for Tales." Tanya James and I will alternate weeks, presenting a mix of stories, songs, and related activities for youngsters.

On Mondays at 10:30 a.m. a new "lap-sit" program is available for babies and toddlers. Featuring nursery rhymes, finger plays, lots of songs, and simple stories "Small Wonders" is a wonderful way for the littlest listeners to enjoy the library.

On Wednesday February 9 children can Make-a-Valentine when they visit the library. Paper doilies, ribbons, and other Valentine fixin's will be available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Children up to 12 years of age can put their imagination to work and craft some special valentines for Mom, Dad, or another special someone.



In December, a bead-maze / sand table unit was added to the pre-school area of the library. The table features several bead and wire mazes and a glass topped sand area through which children can move magnetic frogs and lizards. The table was donated by the Milton Junior Women's Club and has been a big hit with the kids.

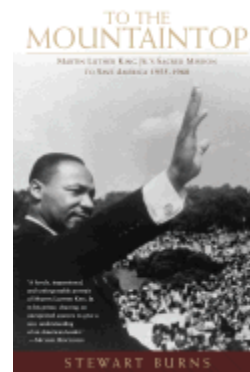
Book Reviews

By Shirley Pyne

There are several holidays in February: Lincoln's Birthday, President's Day, and Valentine's Day. In addition to these holidays, February is National Black History Month. These are some books that tie in with February holidays and celebrations.

To the Mountaintop: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Sacred Mission to Save America, 1955-1968

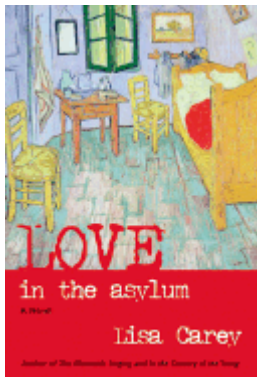
by Stewart Burns. In this latest book on King, Burns discusses the spiritual vision that drove the Civil Rights leader and made him "the most important social leader of the twentieth century." Source materials come from speeches, letters, writings, and oral histories of key meetings.



Mississippi in Africa: the Saga of the Slaves of Prospect Hill Plantation and Their Legacy in Liberia Today, by Alan Huffman. Wealthy Mississippi cotton planter Isaac Ross, who died in 1836, stipulated in his will that his Prospect Hill Plantation be sold and his two hundred slaves be freed and sent to an abolitionist colony in Liberia, on the western coast of Africa. The book tells two stories. One is the legal fight between the disapproving Ross heirs and the estate. The other story is that of the freed slaves in Liberia, who were forced to fight with local tribes for their right to live in their new land. Journalist Isaac Ross shows that the current unrest in Liberia is caused in part by the cultural clash between the native Africans and the descendants of Prospect Hill, who retained their American Southern lifestyle.

American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies, by Michael W. Kauffman. The story of Lincoln's assassination is familiar to all. In this book, Kauffman sheds new light on the background and motives of John Wilkes Booth, the mechanics of his plot to topple the Union government, and the trials and fates of the conspirators. In the process, Kauffman corrects some misunderstandings about the event.

Love in the Asylum, by Lisa Carey. This is the unlikely love story of two patients in the Abenaki Mental Hospital. Alba Elliot suffers from depression and has been in and out of the hospital for over ten years. The twenty



five year old children's book writer is tired of being crazy and waiting for a miracle.

Oscar Jameson, a thirty-year-old drug addict has been enrolled in the rehab program by his frustrated brother.

Oscar doesn't believe he has a problem, and

he doesn't trust his counselors. The two patients are attracted to each other, but move cautiously. Alba finds letters that were written seventy years earlier. In the letters, Mary Doherty describes atrocities done to her. In the process of learning Mary's story and trying to right an old wrong, Alba and Oscar begin to heal. "A superbly crafted, poignant narrative of tragedy and triumph, Lisa Carey's moving third novel is a testament to the surprising resilience of the human heart", according to the amazon.com product description.

Time for Two's registration

Register your two-year olds for a series of 35-minute literacy sessions to be held at the Library on Tuesday mornings in March. A choice of two sessions will be available, either at 9:30 am or 10:30 am. Librarian and Educator Joan Goodman returns for this special program

Monday, February 14, 2005

East Milton Branch

By Pat Bergin

Since coming to the East Milton library in mid-November, I have come to appreciate what a really special place it is. It has the feel of a small town library where everyone knows everyone else. The patrons seem to know each other as well as the staff, and conversation flows easily as stories are exchanged. It is small enough for the staff to be able to locate books for people, to place holds, and to recommend new titles. There is a warm and welcoming atmosphere in East Milton.

In the months to come, I hope to re-establish the children's story hours on Mondays and Fridays, arrange for various speakers and performers to visit the library, and possibly start a book discussion group for avid readers.

So please stop by and say hi and feel free to share your opinions and comments about how to maintain and even improve the very special East Milton branch library.

Calendar of Events

Mondays at 10:30

Small Wonders

A "lap-sit" story time for babies and toddlers. Nursery rhymes, songs, fingerplays, and age-appropriate stories. The programs will be held through March. No registration required

Saturdays at 10:30

Time for Tales

Story time for children ages 3-5. Stories, songs and related activities. Elaine Weischedel and Tanya James will alternate weeks through the end of March. No registration necessary.

Saturdays from 10:00 to Noon

Winter Wonderland Book Sales

The Friends of the Library book sales will extend through March. Come and see what bibliographic gems may have been unearthed from your neighbors shelves.

Saturday, February 5, 2005 at Noon

Lunch with the Author – Jeff Cruikshank

RSVP to Connie Spiros at 617-698-8003

Location is the Council on Aging

Monday, February 7, 2005

Book Discussion – The Namesake

Monday, February 14, 2005

"Time for Two's" registration

Sunday, March 13, at 3 pm

Tour the Boston Public Library with the Friends

Monday, March 7, 2005

Book Discussion – The Pickup

For the latest information on events, visit www.miltonlibrary.org

Milton Library Foundation Campaign Progress



Friends officers Connie Spiros, Elaine Gelinias and Elizabeth Mock present a \$34,000 check to Milton Library Foundation President Tim Fallon. The check represents the net gain from the Centennial Gala held at the John F. Kennedy library last June.

The Presentation occurred December 15 at the Friends / Foundation Holiday Party.

Renew or Join the Friends of the Milton Public Library

Your membership dues are tax deductible (IRS approved)

- Yes**, I would like to RENEW my membership
 Yes, I would like to JOIN the Friends as a NEW MEMBER
 Please notice the change of name/address/phone number (enter new information below.)

- | | | | |
|---|------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Citizen | \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$500 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$_____ |

(For **membership renewals**, no need to fill out name and address if label on reverse side is correct.)

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____ EMAIL _____

Please make your check payable to:

Friends of the Milton Public Library

And mail it with your completed application to:

Friends of the Milton Public Library – PO Box 54 – Milton, MA – 02186

The Friends appreciate your additional financial support!

Friends of the Milton Public Library
476 Canton Avenue
Milton, MA 02186

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**Winter Wonderland
Book Sales**

Every Saturday through March
10 am to Noon
Main Library Lower Level

Milton Main Library

476 Canton Avenue
Milton, Ma 02186
Tel. 617-698-5757
Fax. 617-698-0441

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday 9 – 9
Friday 1 – 5:30 (Summer 9 – 5:30)
Saturday 9 – 5 (Closed Summer)
Sunday Closed

East Milton Branch

334 Edgehill Road
Milton, MA 02186
Tel. 617-698-1733

Hours of Operation:

Monday 1 – 6, 7 - 9
Tuesday & Thursday 1 – 5:30
Wednesday Closed
Friday 9 – 12, 1 – 5:30
Saturday & Sunday Closed



**Milton Public Library Newsletter:
January 2005.**

