



The Friends Corner

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

As the campaign to renovate and build a new addition to our 101 year-old Library building progresses, we are busily preparing for our biggest event of the year, the **Literary Gala Dinner** at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum on Wednesday, June 8th. We hope you will join us for a very special evening of great history as you tour the museum and great wit as you listen to this year's guest speaker, Pulitzer prize-winning columnist Art Buchwald. Tickets are available by calling me at 617-698-8003 or Jennifer White at 617-698-9898. If last year's enthusiasm is any indication, reserve your space early since the event is sure to be a sellout!

Our Gala at the JFK Library is just the beginning of a summer season of fun, food and fabulous music. On Saturday, June 11, we celebrate the Library's 101st anniversary with Strawberries and Cream on the Library Terrace from 10am-noon. On Wednesday, June 29th, we will sponsor the annual family cook-out to kick-off the Children's Summer Reading Program. The children's librarians have planned lots of new activities to make the program even more fun this summer. Look for more details! And to round out the summer fun, the Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library will co-host a Band Concert at the Gazebo, on Tuesday evening, July 12, featuring the local Irish band "*Tradition.*"

If you haven't made it to the upper level of the Library to see the newly refurbished **Art Gallery**, be sure to stop by soon. Local artists Myrna Freedman, Nicholas Phakos, Elva Proctor, and Miriam Wotiz, graciously offered their works for our inaugural exhibit, and 20% of the proceeds of the sale of their works are donated to support Library programs. In mid-June, we will introduce a new exhibit featuring collectibles owned by Milton residents. If you have interesting items, which you have collected from your travels, and would like to loan them to the Library for exhibit in the "**Milton Collects**" show, please contact Dr. Herb Wotiz at 617-696-4044.

As usual, it's a busy time around the Milton Public Library...and the Friends of the Library are right in the middle of it all! If you would like to be part of the fun, and help us organize the many activities and programs we have planned for the fall, please contact me at cdspiros@comcast.net or 617-698-8003.

Happy Summer!

Director's Message

By Phil McNulty

As you might guess, book selection and purchasing is one of the most enjoyable parts of the library business, just as book browsing is probably the most enjoyable part of your typical library visit. We buy upwards of 5000 books, DVDs, music recordings and audio books every year. The goal is to hit your highest interests, key

Director's Message

...continued

information needs and cover the amazing array of interests that residents in a town of 26,000 may have. On the handful of titles of very high interest we try to buy additional copies – basically a copy for every three or four requests in the system. This ratio should allow us to get a newly published book to you within two months of your request, barring snags like late returns. About 10% of purchases go to East Milton, which reflects the level of activity at the branch compared to the Main Library.

The good news from this year's town meeting is that two years of reductions in the book budget have been reversed and the town supported component of our book budget has been restored to FY 2003 levels, or \$70,000. The other major part of our book budget is a revolving account that puts your overdue fines and lost card or book fees to good use. That brings in \$42,000 per year.

There are two goals for our materials budget. The Mass. Board of Library Commissioners requires that we expend 13% of our total budget on the collection as one of five standards of certification. State certification gets Milton residents the privilege of borrowing materials at any other Massachusetts libraries, and gives us the ability to apply for grants, such as the Library Construction Grant round we are now awaiting the results of, as well as an annual incentive grant of close to \$25,000. For next fiscal year, this calculates to a target of \$122,000.

This is a minimal goal, and not necessarily an indicator of service excellence. You will also notice that our two main sources of income for library materials will leave us about \$10,000 short for next year. There are

several other sources that we have needed to tap in the past few years. The most important of these has been the Friends of the Library, with proceeds from their book sales. Some large individual donations have also helped in the last two years.

The Long-Range Plan adopted last year developed a more output oriented goal to try to make sure the book budget supports good service. The plan looked at a wide variety of statistics for fifty Massachusetts Libraries closest in population to Milton. Planners picked ten of these as model libraries based on their circulation per capita. The materials budget per capita for these libraries ranged from \$6.07 to \$10.83, compared to Milton's \$4.68. (The median was \$5.15). The plan sets a goal of \$6 per capita spent every year on materials for the collection. This gets us above average and within sight of the best libraries, while setting a target of \$156,000 in collection spending that could be achievable within a few years.

It is another front of progress for the library. Hopefully we will get more good news in July when the results of the Construction Grant round are announced. Good news there and good news on the fundraising front will allow us to bring the Library Building Project to a vote at a fall town meeting.

Book Discussions & More

By Marjorie Jeffries

The Library Book Discussion Group will meet the first Monday in October, so look for a book review around Labor Day.

The Short Story Contest will be held in February, 2006 not in the fall as usual.

The Building Project & Accessibility

By Phil McNulty

The second of our series on how the building project will improve library service focuses on accessibility. Bottom line, the ease of getting into and around the library determines how much the library will be used. Good accessibility is critical for the disabled in our community, but is of great help to us all.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by Congress in 1990. It has tremendously enhanced accessibility nationwide by its requirement that substantial renovations in public facilities include the achievement of full accessibility. There are very detailed requirements for things like ramps, but also specific requirements for libraries in terms of aisle width and required turnarounds at the ends of aisles.

Unfortunately, our library is currently a vast collection of obstacles. Starting at the sidewalk, you run into stairs everywhere until you come around to the Reedsdale Road driveway. The slope of that drive far exceeds the minimum 20:1 grade needed to avoid installing a ramp. If you get up that driveway, perhaps by parking in one of the two handicapped spaces here, you do get to a ramp, but it does not comply with the ADA requirements.

Inside it is even worse. Although there are four levels, elevator service only connects the lower with the main level. The Art Gallery area in the 1904 building and two levels of stacks in the glass-floor stack wing are completely inaccessible to the disabled. The narrow stair shown here is the only way to access half of our non-fiction collection.



Book aisles are recommended to be 42” wide, but must be at least 36”. None of the aisles in the glass floor stack wing are 36” wide, and some in the 1958 addition are not. Aisles need to have a 48” turnaround and must not dead-end. Think of someone trying to get a wheelchair into our Fiction or Mystery aisles. We have enough difficulty when more than one person tries to get down these aisles at a time.

The new plan simplifies the number of levels to three, and gets elevator service to all of them. Book aisles meet the 36” minimum requirement and some in high-use areas attain the 42” preferred width. The paths of travel around furniture will meet clearance requirements.

Entry will be much easier with grade level entries at front and back. People will be able to maneuver wheelchairs and strollers from the sidewalks without hitting steep slopes.

Making the library ADA accessible is required by law, but it also will make the building much more usable for everyone.

Children's Room News

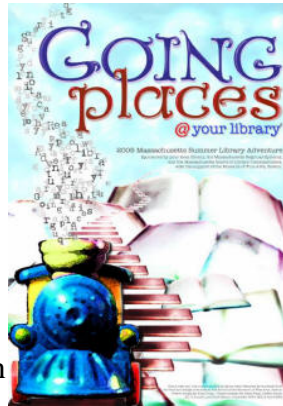
By Elaine Weischedel

Going Places @Your Library is this year's statewide summer reading theme.

Registration for the reading club will begin on June 20, with a kickoff program on Wednesday June 29 at 3p.m. featuring Peter Boie, magician. Peter got his start using books in his home town library, and has performed at libraries throughout New England, earning rave reviews. The summer reading club will run through August 12 with weekly prize drawings for participants. On Wednesdays there will be special programs for school-age children. July 14 features a special Bastille Day celebration – a French language story time with Marie-Laure Brown. Preschool story times will resume as well, on Mondays for babies and toddlers and on Fridays for ages 3-5.

During June Milton third and fourth grade students will be visiting the library to get a head start on summer reading. We're looking forward to a very active summer.

By the way, if you have any old toy trucks, boats, planes, or other type of vehicles that you would be willing to loan us for the summer, please contact the children's department. Even broken items are okay, as we will be using them to decorate the room in keeping with our "Going Places" theme.



Looking for Home Libraries

The Milton Library Foundation is planning a house tour in the Fall of 2005 or Spring 2006. The event would highlight Milton homes with libraries. Either the library or the entire first floor would be made available for viewing. To move forward with planning this event, we need referrals to residents whose homes have libraries and who might permit their home to be featured.

This is an exciting project with potential for both raising visibility and funds for the library expansion and renovation.

If you know of homes with libraries or if you are willing to head up or assist with planning this event, kindly contact

Kathi Heffernan at 617.696.8740 or
kheff@comcast.net or
Connie Spiros at 617.698.8003 or
cdspiros@comcast.net

Great Courses Series

By Shirley Pyne

Have a yen to get back in front of a great professor at a college level course? Try one of the great courses series that the library just picked up from the Teaching Company. The courses are either on Audio CD or DVD. Each volume contains a guidebook with a course outline, a summary of each lecture, an outline of each lecture, and a glossary. These are some of the courses available at Milton.

Change and Motion: Calculus made clear,
taught by Michael Starbird, University of Texas.

A series of 24 thirty-minute lectures on DVD are intended for the non-mathematician. "Alongside Shakespeare's plays and Beethoven's symphonies, calculus is one of the greatest achievements of the human mind. Yet, few of us understand the

powerful simplicity underneath it. Award-winning Professor Starbird explains the beauty of calculus to those who have been unable to see its power because of the bewildering way it is usually taught.”

The United States and the Middle East: 1914 to 9/11, taught by Salim Yaqub, University of Chicago.

Twenty four thirty-minute lectures on DVD give historical context to current events. The course explores the growing United States involvement in the Middle East and the Middle East’s quest for independence and the antagonism between the two nations. Professor Yaqub is the son of a Palestinian mother and an American father. This puts him in a unique position to describe the events from both viewpoints.

The Joy of Science, taught by Robert Hazen of George Mason University.

In a series of 60 thirty-minute lectures on DVD, the professor demonstrates the need for a basic knowledge of scientific principles. Scientific literacy can be used in making informed decisions about health care, environmental issues, and use of technology. Subjects covered include scientific method, principle of relativity, Big Bang Theory, solar system, and the ethics of genetic engineering.

William Shakespeare: Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, taught by Peter Saccio of Dartmouth College.

In a series of 36 thirty-minute lectures on audio compact disc, Saccio explains that William Shakespeare’s writing is important because of the richness of the language, the characterizations, the variety of emotions depicted, and the number and length of his plays. Plays discussed are: *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Measure for Measure*, *Richard III*, *Richard II*, *Henry IV 1 & 2*, and *Henry*

V., *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*. This series of lectures may be useful for students with literary criticism assignments.

Understanding the Human Body: an Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology, Anthony Goodman, M.D., Montana State University.

The course consists of thirty two lectures on DVD, 45 minutes per lecture. The intended audience is the interested layperson, who wants to understand how the body works and why it sometimes doesn’t work. Lectures are organized by body system and include detailed color illustrations, life-sized models, and in one lecture, a video shot during surgery. If you’ve ever wondered why you shiver when you are cold, or why you have heartburn when there is nothing wrong with your heart, this is the course for you.

News from East Milton

By Pat Bergin

Spring has arrived at the East Milton Library. The grass is growing, the trees and flowering shrubs are in bloom and, thanks to Thayer Nursery, mulch has been spread on the flower beds and everything edged and trimmed. It is a time of year when everyone wants to be out walking and enjoying the warmer weather.

For parents and young children in the area a trip to the library has included stopping in for story time. There are two programs offered per week. On Monday nights at 7:30 our 3-5 year olds arrive (often in P.J.’s) to listen to stories, sing songs, and do a simple craft. On Friday mornings at 10:30 toddlers have their turn. They too have a chance to listen to simple stories, sing, and color a beautiful picture. These story times

are also a good opportunity for both parents and children to socialize and interact in a safe low-key environment.

The East Milton Library is also planning some events for our faithful adult patrons and friends. On Tuesday, May 24, at 2:00 P.M. Carolyn Martino, a Rhode Island storyteller, will entertain us with stories from “Bella Italy”. Ms. Martino will tell traditional Italian stories and folktales, as well as stories from her own Italian family. This promises to be a lively and entertaining program, so please join us.

On Tuesday, July 12, at 2:00 P.M. we will be treated to the music of Kevin Hubbard, a solo, classical guitar player. This is a perfect way to escape the heat of summer—sipping lemonade and listening to the soothing sounds of classical Spanish guitar.

Please join us for both special programs planned for adults, and feel free to ask the librarians for details.

Have a great Spring and Summer!

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 24 2pm - East Milton Branch	Bella Italy Carolyn Martino tells traditional Italian stories from folktales and her own family.
Wednesday, June 8 6:00 pm-10:00 pm	Literary Gala at the JFK Library and Museum Join us to hear <i>Art Buchwald</i> , Pulitzer Prize winning humorist for the Washington Post. For tickets, call 617-698-8003 or 617-698-9898 by June 3rd. Seats are \$100.
Saturday, June 11 10:00 am-12:00 noon	Strawberries and Cream on the Library Terrace! In celebration of 101 years in the main library building.
Monday June 20	Summer Reading Program signup begins at 9am
Wednesday, June 29	Summer Reading Program Kickoff 3pm: Peter Boie: Magician – Main Library Children's room 4:30-6pm: Kickoff cook-out! – Library Terrace
Wednesday, July 6 2pm	Jewelry Making Kids age 8 to 12 get to make their own beaded jewelry.
Tuesday, July 12 6:30 pm – Town Hall Lawn 2pm – East Milton Branch	Gazebo Concert featuring the Irish Band “Tradition” Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Milton Library Foundation Kevin Hubbard, Classical Guitar
Thursday, July 14 2pm	French Language Story Hour School-age children can hear stories in French on this Bastille Day event.
Mondays – 10:30 July 11 through August 8th	Small Wonders - “Lap sit” story times for babies & toddlers. No Registration required.
Fridays – 10:30 July 8 through August 12 th	Time for Tales - Stories for ages 3-5. No registration required.

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



What is it?

If you have a guess, e-mail Phil McNulty at pmcnulty@ocln.org, or send us regular mail to 476 Canton Ave., attention "What is it?"

One name drawn from all correct answers will receive a coupon for a replacement card or \$3 in fines.

Answer next issue

Renew or Join the Friends of the Milton Public Library

NOTE: Membership runs on a calendar year basis.

Invoices are mailed each November for the following year's dues.

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
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Milton, MA 02186

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Join us!
Literary Dinner Gala:
JFK Library and
Museum on
Wednesday, June 8th

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, Starting June 25)
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



View of the Proposed Library Expansion

Milton Public Library Newsletter:
May 2005.