

Milton Public Library

Newsletter



Letter No. 2004 - 1

February, 2004

Director's Message

By Phil McNulty

We are making good progress on our temporary parking lot despite the onset of winter. A collaboration of Will Sand / Canton and A.A. Will Corp. created a gravel lot with two entrances off of Canton Avenue. The two companies kept our costs to a minimum by donating key parts of the job. Will Sand donated the trucking of materials to and from the site, and AA Will donated the use of machinery to level the site. There are still a few items to accomplish before we can open the lot to the public. A fence to protect people from falling down the hillside next to the library will need to be installed, as will a proper curb cut and some lighting and signs for the site.

The plans for the new library are progressing well, after reaching a sticking point in November. The Library Space Needs Committee approved an innovative floorplan and library footprint at their meeting of January 28. The plan will preserve the 1904 section of the main building and set back an addition behind this that will turn the building into an L-shape. The plan achieves all of the goals of the building program within a footprint of almost 39,000 square feet. Next steps will be to refine exterior treatments and work on a detailed cost estimate.

While those steps forward are great, the frigid weather's impact on our antiquated heating systems forced us to take a step back. One of the two boilers at

Main Library

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

East Milton Branch

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

www.miltonlibrary.org

the main library was knocked out of service for several days in early January, causing a few days of closing. Then the East Milton Branch boiler failed, forcing a closing in the first week of February.

That, however, was not the most disappointing news from East Milton. Branch Librarian Meghan Malone has taken a position as Assistant Director / Head of Children's Services at the Randolph Public Library. We will all miss Meghan's dynamism and active programs, but we know she will do well.

Friends Of The Library News

By *Connie Spiros*

Book Sale

If there's cold weather outside, it must be time for the Winter Wonderland Book Sales! We've definitely got the cold weather, and by the time you read this, our Saturday book sales will be in full swing. Each Saturday morning from now until the end of March, we will be hosting sales from 10am-12noon. The shelves are full with many new books, and the prices are great as usual. Along with the usual hard covers and paperbacks donated by our patrons, we have our special BARGAIN BASEMENT section of Library Discards, priced to sell at 4 for \$1.

Friends Membership Drive

I am pleased to announce that the Friends are a generous group, but you already knew that! We sent out our annual membership notice last November and received a record amount of returns. Your membership fees provide the support to help fund the Library's programs and activities including children's programming, guest speakers, the purchase of equipment and most importantly, the purchase of books. Note the label on this newsletter and use it as a way to track your membership renewal date. Please keep your membership active and watch how it gets put to good use!

"Food for Thought" Cookbook

Have you got a recipe that everyone raves about? The Friends of the Library wants it!

As part of our centennial celebration, the Cookbook Committee of the Friends is gathering some of Milton's favorite recipes and compiling them into our "Food for Thought" Cookbook. If you would like to participate, you can stop by the Library and pick up a recipe form, or you can send your recipe via e-mail to cdspiros@comcast.net. Be part of a delicious idea!

Book Discussions

By *Marjorie Jeffries*

INVITATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Have you made your New Year's resolution? Why not adopt one more? Come and sample a Library Book Discussion. Then you can decide whether or not you want to become a regular

participant. You can read a brief description of the book chosen for the February Discussion and when and where the discussions take place, below. No need to read the book before you come, but I suspect you may want to read it after hearing the discussion. It's a friendly group, meeting to share information and opinions about the ideas, situations, characters or actions in the book. Besides, it's fun to meet new people and talk about books!

Milton Reads

Plans change! The discussions for the BOOK THE WHOLE TOWN WILL READ will take place in April not February as reported in the previous newsletter. We needed more time to let people know about this unique project to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our 1904 Library Building. The book *Theodore Roosevelt, Our 26th President* by *Louis Auchincloss* will be available at discounted pricing at the Saturday library book sales and daily at the Circulation Desk.

We've had several requests for the books since our last newsletter, and the books are finally here. Rental copies of *Theodore Roosevelt* by *Auchincloss* will be at the adult circulation desk of the Central Library. The rental fee is \$3.00 for one week, and \$0.50 for each additional day. This is a small book, and should be easily readable in one week. The library has copies of both this book and the children's selection, *A Tale of Two Teddies* by *Kathleen Bart*. If you'd rather not rent the book, you can check it out.

Upcoming Discussions

In the meantime the regular Library Book Discussions will take place as usual, Monday, February 2, 10 am and 7:30 pm in the Library Conference Room and 4 pm, Building 5 (last building at the top of the hill) at Winter Valley.

The book is *Sons of Heaven* by *Terrence Cheng*, a fascinating account of events that led to the shooting at Tiananmen Square in China, 1989. The life of the courageous man who stood alone in front of the oncoming tank is fictitious (his true identity is unknown). However Cheng gives us a gripping account of the circumstances in China that resulted in the terrible massacre of hundreds of students.



Centennial Update

By Gene Boylan

This year marks the centennial of the opening of the Milton Public Library on Canton Avenue. On a Sunday afternoon in June 1904 a crowd gathered to inaugurate the new building. Milton was a town of some 7,000 people. A century later, there is reason to celebrate.

SAVE THE DATE - To celebrate this centennial year, a great group of volunteers has been working over the last six months planning a Gala Dinner celebration for June 9, 2004 at the Kennedy Library. The keynote speaker will be David Halberstam, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, author, and historian. Mr. Halberstam's topic will be Red Sox Nation, as portrayed in his best-selling book "Teammates", the story of Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky, Dom DiMaggio, and Bobby Doerr. Save the Date - June 9, 2004.

MILTON READS - The first activity to start the New Year will be MILTON READS - a town-wide effort to cultivate a culture of reading and discussion by having all Miltonians read the same book at the same time to create a kind of town wide book club. The one book, one town concept was pioneered by Seattle in 1998 and has been followed by other communities across the country, including Westwood, Falmouth, Natick, and Newburyport in our own state.

"**Theodore Roosevelt**" by Louis Auchincloss was chosen as the book for adults. Roosevelt was president when the Library opened. Auchincloss' book depicts a man of numerous contradictions - hero of the Spanish-American War, creator of antitrust legislation, supporter of the first Pure Food & Drug Act, conservationist, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

"**The Tale of Two Teddies**" by Kathleen Bart was chosen as the children's book. This lavishly illustrated book tells the story of the controversy over the creation of the first two teddy bears - one in America and one in Germany. Both volumes will be on sale at the Saturday Book Sales at the Main Library starting January 24. Book discussions will occur at the beginning of April. Check out the library's website or call the library for discussion times and places in April.

BRUINS ALUMNI HOCKEY GAME - A great game is coming your way on March 24,

7:30 pm, at Ulin Rink featuring the Bruins Alumni. We will also have the kids skate against the Bruins at halftime, the highlight of last year's event. You'll be receiving a brief letter in February with further details including ways you can support the game. Tickets will go on sale at the library. The library's share of proceeds will be used to purchase books.

LIBRARY SPEAKER SERIES - Mark your calendar for the next two events.

February 10, 7:30 pm, Tuesday at the COA - A program on Phillis Wheatley,

America's first published black poet, presented by Dorothy Mains Prince

March 22, 7:30 pm, Monday at the COA - Bill Littlefield, host of NPR's

"Only a Game" speaks on Red Sox Spring Training: "Is This Our Year?"

Bill will have his books available for purchase and signing.

We can use your help. To volunteer for the Centennial Committee, call 698-8003.

From The Reference Desk

By Dan Haacker

As had been predicted, DVD players have overtaken the VCR as the preferred way of viewing movies at home. As you may be aware, many movies are now not even duplicated in the videocassette format but only as DVDs. Also, many retail establishments are no longer selling videotapes instead going for the newer technology of the DVD. We at the Milton Public Library have also recognized this trend and are concentrating our purchases and selections mainly on the DVD as opposed to the videocassette. It will not be too long before the VCR and videocassette go the same route as the LP record and 8-track tape player. The Milton Public Library has over 500 DVD titles. This collection will be expanding even more not only through our materials budget but from generous gifts from individuals and the Friends of the Milton Public Library. We are trying to get the latest and most popular titles but also want to include older classic movies as well as music, travel, and the like that are also being produced in this newer format. Here are a few of the selections that have been recently added to our DVD collection:

The Fast and the Furious

Those who like to watch the car chase sequences in movies will surely enjoy this high-octane adventure through the "sizzling streets of Miami". This stars Paul Walker as an FBI agent that goes undercover in a

gang of hijackers. Vin Diesel stars as the gang leader with his revved up '69 Dodge Charger. As Amazon.com says, it combines the time honored male fantasies of "hot cars, hot women and hot action". The sequel 2 Fast and 2 Furious has been recently released on DVD and will be added to our collection later.

Head of State

Those who enjoy a good comedy, this movie has Chris Rock starring as a candidate running for the Presidency. Rock not only stars, he also wrote and directed it. The supporting cast includes Bernie Mac as his brother and Robin Givens. If you enjoy political satire, and why not in this Presidential election year, you will have to check this out. The Fox News Channel says "Chris Rock rules, Hail to the Chief of Comedy".

The Italian Job

This movie is a remake of the 1969 crime caper film starring Michael Caine. This time the star is Dorchester native, Mark Wahlberg, who is the leader of a group of thieves. After being double crossed by fellow thief Edward Norton, Mark and his gang try to retrieve what was taken from them by Norton. The cast also includes Charlize Theron, and Donald Sutherland. The setting has nothing to do with Italy like the original, instead it takes place in the streets of LA.

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen

This action packed adventure stars Sean Connery as Allen Quatermain from H. Rider Haggard's King Solomon's Mines and features popular fictional characters from the Victorian era. Besides Quatermain we also have Tom Sawyer, Dorian Grey, Dr Jekyll, Captain Nemo and the Invisible Man in their pursuit to save the world from the villainous Fantom. Jeffrey Lyons from NBC-TV says it's a "thrill a minute".

The Lord of the Rings: the Two Towers

Part two of Tolkien's Lord the Rings trilogy is just as exciting as the first installment. Starring Elijah Wood, the quest continues "to destroy the evil Sauron and the cursed ring". As with part one, it is jammed with "action, emotion and special effects". Come and join the adventure across Middle-Earth.

The Matrix Reloaded

A continuation in this successful science fiction series this sequel continues the "over-the-top" special effects that made part one the groundbreaking hit that it was.

Again, Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne and Jada Pinkett Smith star. Richard Roeper says this is "much more than a first-rate action epic. We're in that rare territory where the sequel is a triumph over the original". Directed by the Wachowski brothers, don't miss this chapter in the quest to save humankind.

Monsoon Wedding

A very popular Indian movie from what is now being called Bollywood. The story revolves around an arranged marriage ceremony and the conflict that results when modern relationships clash with Hindu traditions. Family members from all over the world gather for the traditional four-day Indian wedding. One might make the comparison to the recent hit, My Big Fat Greek Wedding. Hopefully you will find this to be a comical look at a culture that many of us are not as familiar with as our own.

Rick Steves: Best of Travels in Europe: Germany and Austria

Rick Steves: Best of Travels in Europe: Spain and Portugal

Both of these DVDs were originally taken from the ever-popular PBS Rick Steves travelogues. Each of them is over 2 hours in length and gives one an excellent overview of the countries that are featured. Rick not only shows you the best sites and attractions to see in each country, but also offers little known gems worth exploring. Even if you are not planning a trip to any of these countries they can still be very interesting to view.

What a Girl Wants

Amanda Bynes stars as a teenager who goes to London to find her missing father, who just happens to be a British Lord (Colin Firth). Her mother (Kelly Preston) met her father in her wilder younger days in Morocco. The plot thickens and the laughs continue as this typical American teenager tries to fit into British aristocratic society. A modern day Parent Trap flick.

As always, if you don't find these DVDs or any other you are looking for at the library you can always reserve them at the Circulation or Reference Desks or online.



Acquisitions

By Shirley Pyne

As I write this column, the outside temperature is in the single digits. Some of you may be thinking of escaping to warmer climates. These are some travel guides to help you plan your trip, or dream about a trip.

Please note that new travel guides are now shelved in the stacks with the older guides. This gives us more room in the new book area and allows you to see all of the books on a country in one place.

Fodor's Bermuda has chapters on cruises to Bermuda, exploring to Bermuda, golfing, visiting beaches, outdoor sports, nightlife and arts. There are suggestions of activities for all budgets.

Cayman Islands, by Don Philpott, contains many color photos and maps. The information on eating places, hotels and attractions will be useful for travelers, and the pictures and short articles on the islands will be interesting to armchair travelers.

If you plan to stay at home and keep warm inside, these books may be helpful.

Mammoth Book of Best New Horror, edited by Stephen Jones is a collection of the year's best horror stories. Perhaps a spine tingling tale will be enjoyable when you are warm and safe inside your home.

The Best American Short Stories, 2003 edited by Walter Mosley is another collection of the year's best stories; this one is for people who don't want to be frightened by what they read.

Weekend Knits, by Vogue Knitting contains a collection of knitting projects that can be completed quickly. Tank tops, mittens, hats, and scarves are among the projects.

Beadwork Creates Beaded Bags, edited by Jean Campbell includes instructions for making 30 unique bags. They'd make great gifts or conversation pieces. Projects include an amulet bag, tooth fairy bag, wrist bag, drawstring bag, and clutches. Techniques involve embroidery, crochet, loom weaving, and bead knitting.

The Secrets of Songwriting: Leading Songwriters Reveal How to Find Inspiration and Success, by Susan Tucker is a series of interviews. The hope is that readers will learn how to: nurture their creativity, tame their inner critic, and develop their unique voice in the songwriting world, among other things. Wouldn't a cozy time at home be a good time to nurture those creative juices?

If you enjoy the winter, you may enjoy reading these books.

No Horizon is So Far: Two Women and their Extraordinary Journey across Antarctica by Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft tells the story of their historic expedition across Antarctica. They endured three months of temperatures as low as minus 35 degrees. They needed to finish their trip before winter started, with 24 hours of darkness and even colder temperatures. Although they had satellite phones, they were on their own. There was little possibility of being rescued if they ran into serious trouble. What possessed these women to undertake such a journey, and how did they accomplish it? Read this exciting tale and find out.

Everest, Summit of Achievement, by the Royal Geographical Society, London is a coffee table sized book that celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of Sir Edmund Hilary's expedition in 1953. More than 400 photographs illustrate climbing expeditions launched by the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club, culminating in Hilary's famous climb.

Ski North America, the Ultimate Travel Guide, by David Holyoak is a guide to the best ski resorts in North America. This is an indispensable reference for beginners and experts. Information on the resorts will help users decide which ones suit their experience level and sporting preferences. A section on snowboarding is included. Plentiful illustrations and maps will make this book fun for browsers and skiers alike.

Another cold weather suggestion is stay warm inside while reading one of the books recommended for the town-wide book club.

February Programs at East Milton Library



Valentine Stories

Friday, Feb 13, 2004 at 10 a.m. Call 698-1733 to register for this fun program full of stories and songs for Valentine's Day. Children will make a craft to take home. This will be Meghan Malone's last program as Head of the East Milton Branch.

Children's DVDs at East Milton

We have begun to circulate DVDs for children at the East Milton Library. These are kept with the adult DVDs in front of the circulation desk.



Friends Winter Activities Calendar

Winter Wonderland Book Sales

Saturdays, from 10am-12noon

January 24-March 27

MILTON READS BOOKS AVAILABLE

Milton Reads!

Join the town-wide book club and read about Theodore Roosevelt, America's President when the MPL opened in 1904.

Louis Auchincloss's *Theodore Roosevelt*, and *The Tale of Two Teddies*, by Kathleen Bart.

are on sale at the Saturday Book Sales

Special Events/Activities

Tuesday, February 10th at 7:30pm at the COA

Dorothy Mains Prince as Phillis Wheatley,

America's First Published Black Poet

Monday, March 22nd at 7:30pm at the COA

Bill Littlefield of NPR's "It's Only a Game"

The Red Sox and Spring Training: Is This Our Year?

Wednesday, March 24th, at 7:30pm at Ulin Rink

Boston Bruins Alumni Hockey Game

Milton Plays the Bruins!

Children's Programming

Monday, March 1st at 3:30pm at the Library

Dr. Seuss Story Hour

In Honor of Dr. Seuss's 100th Birthday!

**For more information about these activities
and the Library's centennial plans, visit the website at
www.miltonlibrary.org**

Be a Friend of the Milton Public Library

and help us Write the Next Chapter of Our Library's Future!

As a member, you can...

- Help the Library continue and enhance its service to the Milton community,
- Participate in fundraising activities including book sales, children's educational programs, author events, musical performances and book discussions,
- Help support the Library's need for new books, passes to local museums, recorded books, and many other programs.

As a member, you will...

- Receive preferential admission to many of our programs and events,
- Subscribe to The Newsletter, filled with book reviews, notices of special events, and preview information about activities around the Library,
- Meet other great people who LOVE books as much as you do!

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.)

Student/Senior Citizen

\$10

Sponsor

\$50

Individual

\$15

Patron

\$100

Family

\$25

Benefactor

\$500

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 _____

I am interested in helping out with one of the Friends activities. Please contact me about:

Fund Raising Book Sales Story Hours Author Events

Other _____

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, Web-site: www.miltonlibrary.org

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Milton, MA 02186**

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