

Milton Public Library

Newsletter



Milton Public Library est. 1870

Letter No. 2004 - 2

March, 2004

Milton Main Library

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Director's Message

By Phil McNulty

I am going to have to start off this month's message with a list of travails. Our old and creaky buildings lead off the list. As frost let go of its grip on the land, the roof of the Main Library addition let go of its ability to shed water. Leaks opened up in three major areas of the Young Adult / Non-Fiction area. With amazing luck, almost none of the leaks were over book shelves. Only one dictionary has been lost so far. The other big issue has been the heating systems. Repair bills have mounted to over \$8000 so far this year, for the boiler at East Milton and the pair at the Main Library. Bottom line, they have hit the end of their useful life.

On March 10 we made a presentation to the town's Capital Committee, detailing some of the repair work we would like to see done at all three of our buildings. East Milton also has roof issues, and we presented a variety of door problems and mortar deficiencies that need repair there. The capital committee has little available to give on such repairs, but they were able to support \$10,000 for Geotechnical survey work at the main library needed for our grant application.

On a more hopeful note, we have finished a report on services at the East Milton Branch, including results from the user survey conducted at the branch in January and February. You may see this report from the East Milton page of our web site, or at the reference room of either library.

Work on the parking lot progresses. The gravel is laid and leveled, and a fence has been installed along the hillside next to the library. Next steps will be lighting, curb cuts and directional signage.

Major good news came for our building project with the announcement of a new state grant round for library construction. This much-anticipated news will allow us to file for our grant next February, and hear the results in July 2005. This fits in perfectly with the calendar envisioned by the Trustees and Space Needs Committee. This spring there will be votes allowing us to apply for the grant, and to review the schematic design. A full funding vote would not come until

the spring of 2005, or the end of that year at the latest.

The schematics themselves are nearly finished, and the LSNC is working towards approval. At this point they are carefully balancing costs and examining the merits of limestone vs. pre-cast and other elements of the preliminary cost estimate.

Definitely a lot going on, but we can see how our short-term travails will be transformed into long-term progress.

Friends Of The Library News

By Connie Spiros

Book Sale News

We're off to a great start! Our Winter Wonderland Sales started on January 25th, and by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have sponsored 10 sales and raised over \$2500—a new record for winter sales! (Look for the final total in the next newsletter.)

Thanks to the volunteers who tirelessly help us shelve books and work the sales each Saturday. Without them, we could never make these sales so successful!

Gene Boylan	David Jackson
Marie-Laure Brown	Ruth Johnstone
Jocelyn Burke	Agnes Keenan
Enid Chapman	Carole Kristal
Anita Chase	Donna and Joe Roche
Terry Douglass	Helen Sim
Joan Gancarski	Suzette Standing
Krys Glavin	Hallie Touger
Carol Hahnfeld	Ruth Tucker

What happens to the books on the shelves after the sales you might ask?

Once our Winter Sales are over, we will pack up the balance of the books and donate them to *Hands Across the Water*, ("HATW") an organization that ships books to countries in need. If you are able to help us pack up books and/or help us deliver the books to the HATW containers, please contact me at 617-698-8003 or cdspiros@comcast.net. Our goal is to deliver the books sometime mid to late April. After, we clear the shelves and clean the shelves, and then it will be time to take in new donations. And **PLEASE no donations now! Wait to hear from us later in the spring.**

A Special Word of Thanks

The Friends would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Helen Buchanan, who has donated a membership pass to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to visit a world-renowned museum, thanks to the generosity of Friends like Helen!

Do You Have a Green Thumb?

As the daylight hours of March grow longer, thoughts of crocuses and daffodils fill our minds. And, if you're a gardener looking for foolproof gardening ideas, then we have a great event for you! Carol Stocker, gardening columnist for the Boston Globe, will be the featured speaker for the Friends of the Library Speaker Series, on Monday, April 12 at 7:30pm at the COA. In celebration of the Library's Centennial, Carol's presentation "100 years of Great Gardening!" will include recommendations for plants that were popular a century ago and still make for beautiful gardens today. The event is free and refreshments will be provided by Starbucks Coffee.

Book Discussions

By Marjorie Jeffries

It's a Trifacet!

Translation: three (obviously) interrelated activities! (Facere, Latin, to make or do)

This Centennial Year for Our Milton Public Library is blossoming with programs special to this year. The Trifacet on the other hand, is connecting three activities that the Library has been sponsoring over the years: book discussions, writing workshops and the writing contest, this year expanded to include essays.

How will this work? It starts with the MILTON READS campaign in which the whole town will read the SAME book: *Theodore Roosevelt* by Louis Auchincloss. This book has been chosen for its availability, readability and accessibility to many, young and old, male and female and is both enjoyable and educational. *The Tale of Two Teddies* by Kathleen Bart was chosen for the young population but we all love teddy bears!

Okay, so you read the book and come to the Library Book Discussions:

Supper at the Radio Café, 6:30, Friday, April 2

Coffee at the Library, 2:00, Saturday, April 3

Tea in Building 5 at Winter Valley, 3:00, Monday, April 5
The regular Discussions at the Library, 10:00 and 7:30, Monday, April 5

Or talk about it in your own reading group, then what? Then you come to the Library Writing Workshops starting Sunday, March 28, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Building 5 at Winter Valley. (March 28, April 4, 18 and 25, May 2 and 16).

Okay, now you have valuable tips about your writing and writing in general. What do you do with this knowledge? Why you write either an essay or short story and enter the Library Writing Contest this Fall. The Short Story Contest is expanded to include essays.

How does all this relate to our Centennial? Well, a small stipulation of the Writing Contest is that it must include some reference to Theodore Roosevelt, of the era in which he was politically active. Don't panic! Your work may simply include a teddy bear reference! Massive research is neither required nor necessary. Your story or essay (5 pages max) can take place at any time and be about so many subjects, (take note of T.R.'s enormous areas of interests) that your creativity will in no way be circumscribed!

The Auchincloss book is at the Library for sale, for rent or to borrow. Start reading and come to the Writing Workshops (March 28, April 4, 18 and 25, May 2 and 16)

Centennial Update

By Gene Boylan

JFK CENTENNIAL GALA - Everyone should have received a save the date card for the June 9, 2004 dinner featuring guest speaker, David Halberstam, the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, author, and historian. We will celebrate the once-in-a-lifetime centennial of the Milton Public Library at 476 Canton Avenue. The event will be held at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. It will begin with cocktails or a tour of the museum, followed by dinner and Mr. Halberstam's remarks. With the baseball season in full swing, he will explore the Red Sox of the Ted Williams era as depicted in his best-selling book, "The Teammates" - the story of Ted, Johnny Pesky, Dom DiMaggio, and Bobby Doerr - their playing days together and their sixty year friendship. After dinner, there will be a book signing by the author. As my friend, the Yankee fan, tells me this could be our year. So save the date now for a great time this summer to celebrate our library - its contribution to our community and its future.

From The Reference Desk

By Dan Haacker

Good Blood by Aaron J. Elkins

Veteran mystery writer Elkins' newest has Forensic Pathologist Gideon Oliver visiting Italy with a friend that is related to the well-heeled Italian deGrazia family. They can, in fact, trace their lineage back to the Holy Roman Empire. Gideon gets involved when a teenage son of the wealthy deGrazia family is kidnapped. The kidnappers are demanding a ransom of 5 million Euros. Next the skeletal remains of a deGrazia family member that disappeared, supposedly in a boating accident 10 years ago, are discovered at a construction site. As Booklist says this "cleverly plotted" mystery is "top-shelf reading for those who like puzzles rather than gunplay".

Shadow Account by Stephen Frey

Frey's latest takes place in the world of investment banking. Conner Ashby is checking his e-mail when he accidentally sees an interoffice memo that alerts him to the fact that his company is involved in serious corporate fraud. Shortly after that an intruder breaks into his apartment and Conner just barely escapes with his life. As the story progresses one finds a very tangled web. Frey as Publisher's Weekly says has "the undeniable ability to explain complex financial transactions while at the same time providing plenty of action". Frey is in great form as he unravels this complex conspiracy.

Muletrain to Maggody by Joan Hess

This is Hess's 14th mystery taking place in the small Arkansas town of Maggody. This time around the Stump County Historical Society wants to do a reenactment of a local Civil War Battle called the Skirmish at Cotter's Ridge. While researching in an old diary, they find out that a shipment of Confederate gold was hidden during the skirmish and has never been found. This peaks the interest of just about everyone in town. The search is on and the antics are nonstop. When a couple of dead bodies turn up things start to really get interesting. As Publisher's Weekly says, Hess "offers yet another deliciously funny and deviously puzzling mystery".

The Game by Laurie King

For those who like historical mysteries they might want to try Ms. King's latest entry. It features Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes on a visit to India to see Sherlock's very ill brother, Mycroft. While in India they get involved in the search for Kimball O'Hara, a missing English spy. Kimball is the same character,

now grown up, of the Rudyard Kipling's children's story, Kim. In Amazon.com it says: "King's masterful plotting and skill at making history leap from the page...brings alive an India fraught with unrest and poised for change (giving the reader) an unpredictable mystery with brilliance and character to match".

Hard Revolution by George Pelecanos

This detective novel again features black Private Investigator Derek Strange. In what is described as a prequel to his earlier books, Pelecanos again has the setting of Washington, DC. The time is 1968, mostly just before the riots that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. A large part of the story is the story of Derek and his brother Dennis. In 1968, Derek is a young cop while his brother is involved in drugs and a life of crime. Through his characters Pelecanos writes what Publisher's Weekly calls a "brilliant study of a society tearing apart as racial tensions escalate". "Hard Revolution is a rich, dramatic, totally engrossing story".

Ain't She Sweet? by Susan Elizabeth Phillips

Popular romance novelist Phillips's latest centers around the character of Sugar Beth Carey. She returns to her native Parrish, Mississippi after 15 years and 3 marriages. Once the "queen of all surveyed", Sugar Beth is now down on her luck. The long time residents of this small Southern town haven't forgotten her past misdeeds and some of them are out to get her now. One of them, Colin Byrne, is out for revenge after Sugar Beth tried to ruin his career years ago. Ain't she sweet is a story of courage and redemption...of friendship and laughter...of love and the possibility of happily-ever-after".

A Risk Worth Taking by Robin Pilcher

Robin, son of prolific author Rosamunde Pilcher, tells us the story of successful London investment banker, Dan Porter. All was going well for Dan in his work and life until he lost his job along with many others in the dot.com debauchery. Now his wife, who makes more money than him, his son, who has dropped out of college, and his daughters, who can't cope with now having to attend public instead of private school, are adding to Dan's plight. In this contemporary novel we learn how Dan must now prioritize these new changes in his life. *A Risk Worth Taking* is a "thought-provoking novel...a poignant and engrossing story about the real choices many adults face when they start taking stock of their lives".

Acquisitions

By Shirley Pyne

Travel Guides

One of our book vendors recently had a special selection of travel guides. We purchased fifty eight guides on countries that are popular, countries for which we need material, or guides for special interest groups. These are a few.

Washington, D.C. with Kids, by Sandra Burt and Linda Perlis and *Disneyland & Southern California with Kids*, by Michael and Trisa Knight list the best family attractions, lodging, and eating places. Both books have helpful sidebars with money-saving tips, or tips for parents and teachers that will make the attraction more enjoyable, or brain-teaser questions for children. Both books also offer “quick guide” charts to the attractions, the location, age appropriateness, and hours. The Disneyland “quick guides” also list the height or age requirement, duration, and scare factor of the attractions.

Let’s Go Adventure Guides are written for travelers who prefer a physically active vacation. In addition to the usual information on lodging and sights to see, and night life, there are entries for outdoor activities. *Alaska Adventure Guide* tells the readers where and how to kayak down calving glaciers alongside seals and otters, where to play arctic baseball with Inupiat natives under the midnight sun, or how to unearth a village’s ancient archaeology while digging in an island rainforest. With the *Southwest USA Adventure Guide*, readers can climb the dunes of White Sands National Monument by moonlight, push 70 miles per hour down the Olympic bobsled course near Park City, Utah, or camp under green waterfalls on the floor of the Grand Canyon.

The *For Dummies* series has information on how to do just about anything. Their travel guides tell you how to get started by deciding when to go, planning a budget, and planning for travel needs; they tell you how to iron out the details by choosing where to stay and booking a room. Chapters on settling in and exploring describe the sights to see. We have three books in this series: *Seattle & the Olympic Peninsula for Dummies*; *Chicago for Dummies*; and *Cruise Vacations for Dummies*. The Cruise vacations title also describes the various cruise lines and the typical day at sea, and gives advice on dressing for dinner and on budgeting for tips at the end of the cruise.

Cruise vacations seem to be gaining in popularity. *Fodor’s Alaska Ports of Call* will help readers to select the top restaurants, shops, hiking, and fishing places near the pier. Recommended shore excursions and tips for exploring on your own are also included, as well as basic information on cruising. Fodor’s *Caribbean Ports of Call* will help readers discover the best of the ports in just a few hours. Highlighted are the best lunch spots, snorkeling spots, day sails, island tours, and beaches.

The Compass American Guides series presents an insider’s guide to the region. The writers and photographers are residents of the area and they talk knowledgeably about the history and culture of the area. The abundance of color photographs sets these travel guides apart from the rest. We purchased the following guides in this series:
Las Vegas, by Deke Castleman
Santa Fe, by Lawrence W. Cheek
Connecticut & Rhode Island, by Anna Mundow
Massachusetts, by Patricia Harris, David Lyon, Anna Mundow, and Lisa Oppenheimer.

The Collected Traveler series will help readers learn about the places so that they can better understand where they are going. Each guide is a collection of previously published essays and annotated bibliographies, and tips. These guides will not give you a list of sights to see, but they will give you a feel for the area. We purchased *Southwest France, the Collected Traveler*, selected by Barrie Kerper.

The following are guides to countries or cities for which we needed more information:
Let’s Go Travel Guide to India & Nepal
Frommer’s Beijing
Frommer’s Greek Islands
Frommer’s Greece (includes coverage of the 2004 Olympics)
Let’s Go Travel Guide to Eastern Europe (covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, and others)
Fodor’s Peru
Frommer’s Cancun, Cozumel, & the Yucatan
Let’s Go Travel Guide to Puerto Rico
Let’s Go Pacific Northwest
Frommer’s Mexico
Frommer’s Virgin Islands
Fodor’s Australia
Frommer’s South Africa

Spring Programs **In the Children's Room**

By Anne Parker

On Saturday, April 3, at 9 a.m., there will be a sign up for story hours for the 3 to 5 year olds. The story hours will be held on Saturday, April 17, May 1, May 15 and May 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 17, at 2:30 p.m., storyteller Jennifer Smith performs fairy tales from around the world.

Monday, June 28, at 9 a.m., there will be sign up for our annual Summer Reading Club. A family cookout held by the Friends of the Milton Public Library will be held that evening from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

From The Young Adult Room

By Pat Bergin

A variety of new historical fiction books have arrived in the Young Adult Room. Here is just a sample of the many new titles we have received.

Hear the Wind Blow-A novel of the Civil War-by Mary Downing Hahn

When Haswell Magruder takes in a Confederate soldier to this Virginia farm, he has no idea what a terrible chain of events his action will set off. His family farm is burned to the ground by enemy Yankees leaving Haswell and his younger sister on their own. Haswell, at just thirteen, is now the head of the family. After leading his sister to the safety of relatives, Haswell sets out to find his older brother who is serving in the Confederate army. As he gets closer to the fighting, his journey becomes a passage into manhood as he encounters situations he never thought he'd have to deal with. This is a fast-paced, convincing story of the last days of the Civil War.

The Land by Mildred D. Taylor

In an act of rebellion, Paul-Edward runs away from his home and his family in Mississippi in the 1880's. Although he both loves and fears his father, he is determined to make it on his own and to someday own a piece of land every bit as good as his daddy's. However, for a black boy in the post Civil War South, this is no easy task. Paul-Edward tries his hand at horseracing, lumber camps, and even the world of business in an effort to make his dream come true. Along the way Paul-Edward falls in love, learns the true value of friendship, and discovers his own inner strength.

This book is a prequel of the Newberry Award winner, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and will be enjoyed by all fans of Mildred Taylor.

The Hollow Tree by Janet Lunn

This is the story of fifteen year old Phoebe Olcott, a young girl who lives in New Hampshire in 1777 at the height of the Revolutionary War. When her cousin Gideon is hanged as a British spy, she finds a secret message from him containing the names of Loyalist families who are to be protected by the King's soldiers. Phoebe decides to deliver this message herself to the British general at Fort Ticonderoga. The only problem is she has never been outside of New Hampshire and has no idea how to survive the wilderness with fighting Patriots and Tories all around her. Phoebe's journey becomes a true adventure in which she must face rebel guns, wild animals and gnawing hunger as the cold winter sets in. With the companionship of a friendly house cat and a young Loyalist, Jem Morrissey, Phoebe summons the strength to finish her journey, keep them all together and accomplish her mission.

A Sea So Far by Jean Thesman

This novel is set in 1906 at the time of the great San Francisco earthquake. The lives of two young girls, one wealthy, the other poor, come together in an unusual way because of the catastrophe. Kate Keely is a strong willed orphan who has to quit high school and work to support herself and her elderly aunt. Jolie Logan is wealthy but still recovering from scarlet fever and the trauma of her mother's death. Kate is hired as Jolie's personal companion but both girls are stubborn and proud and their relationship is strained. When Jolie's father suddenly decides to send them to Ireland, Katy is ecstatic, until she is told she must keep a Logan family secret from Jolie at all costs.

The girls' exhausting journey to Ireland and the life they live with Jolie's aunt, as well as the friendship they develop, is well described and clearly portrays what life was like at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Secret School by Avi

It is 1925 in a remote town in the Colorado Mountains when fourteen year old Ida Bidson decides she wants to be a teacher more than anything in the world. She just needs to finish eighth grade so she can move on to high school. But, unexpectedly, her one room schoolhouse closes down and Ida sees her dream of becoming a teacher slipping away. If only she could keep the schoolhouse open without anyone finding out about it. But every school needs a teacher. Ida begins to think that maybe she could be that teacher. But she will have to be very careful to keep it a secret. This is a well-written, engrossing story of a strong, independent young woman who is determined to take her future into her own hands.



Friends of the Milton Public Library

Spring Activities and Events Calendar

Friday, April 2

6:30pm

Saturday, April 3

2:00pm

Monday, April 5

10:00am

3:00pm

7:30pm

Monday, April 12

7:00pm

7:30pm

A Sunday in May

Saturday, May 1

May 27-29

Wednesday, June 9

Friday, June 11

4:30pm

Monday, June 28

4:30pm

Milton Reads Discussion

Bring your *Theodore Roosevelt* book and chat at the Radio Coffeehouse, Central Avenue

Milton Reads Discussion

at the Library

Milton Reads Discussions

at the Library

at Winter Valley

at the Library (sponsored by Java Jo's)

Friends Membership Meeting

Milton COA, 10 Walnut Street

Carol Stocker, Boston Globe Gardening Columnist "100 Years of Great Gardening!"

Milton COA, 10 Walnut Street

Friends Annual Meeting

Look for more details soon.

Let's Make Spring Baskets

Children make Spring Baskets for Milton's elderly at the Library - time to be announced soon.

Friends Annual Spring Book Sale

Centennial Gala at the JFK Library & Museum

Tickets will be available in April

Happy 100th!

Celebrate the Library's centennial with Strawberries & Cream on the Library Terrace

Children's Summer Reading Program

Registration and Family Cook-Out on the Library Terrace

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

Individual

\$15

Family

\$25

Sponsor

\$50

Patron

\$100

Benefactor

\$500

Other

\$_____

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

(Please note: the date on the label refers to the date on which you last paid your membership dues)

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

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

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, April 12
7:00pm

Friends Membership Meeting
Milton COA, 10 Walnut Street