Meet the Author: James Bradley

From the bestselling author of Flags of our Fathers, Flyboys, and The Imperial Cruise comes a spellbinding history of turbulent U.S.-China relations from the 19th century to World War II. James Bradley will present his newest book, The China Mirage, on Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. in Centennial Hall, 733 N. Eighth St.

In The China Mirage, Bradley uncovers the 19th-century plan to create a “New China” and “Americanize Asia.” From drug dealer Warren Delano to his grandson Franklin Delano Roosevelt, from the port of Hong Kong to the towers of Princeton University, from the era of Appomattox to the age of the A-Bomb, The China Mirage explores a difficult century that defines U.S.-Chinese relations to this day.

A native of Wisconsin, Bradley’s interest in history began at an early age when he read an article by Harry Truman which encouraged young people to read historical biographies. That love of history fostered an even greater desire to travel the world to broaden his knowledge of other countries and cultures. “I traveled around the world when I was twenty-one, from the U.S. to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, France, Germany, Italy, England and back to the United States. At twenty-three I graduated with a degree in East Asian history from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.”

Bradley first appeared on the literary scene after writing Flags of Our Fathers, the stirring account of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima which he was compelled to write in an effort to understand why his father, John Bradley, never spoke of the historic event in which he participated.

Following the publishing of the book, and the release of the movie on which it was based, Bradley began the Bradley Peace Foundation. “For the past ten years, the James Bradley Peace Foundation and Youth For Understanding have sent American students to live with families overseas,” wrote Bradley. “Perhaps in the future when we debate whether to fight it out or talk it out, one of these Americans might make a difference.”

This author event is sponsored by the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library and Boswell Book Company.
What do Michael Collins, Stan Laurel, Dwight D. Eisenhower, H.P. Lovecraft, Col. Sanders, and Muddy Waters all have in common?

They’re all celebrating significant birth anniversaries this year, and they’re all represented at the Milwaukee Public Library.

In one place, you can find books by H.P. Lovecraft and about Dwight D. Eisenhower, DVDs on the life of Michael Collins and the performances of Laurel and Hardy, magazine articles on Col. Sanders and his famous chicken recipe, and CDs of the music by Muddy Waters.

Equally important, you’ll find staff who know you’ll read anything by Virginia Woolf, anxiously await the next James Patterson on audio CD, recently learned how to download Freegal on your iPhone, and are thrilled to be able to borrow an entire season of Downton Abbey on DVD at one time. Library staff get to know their regular customers’ likes and dislikes and strive to fill their needs.

April 12-18 is National Library Week, and during that time we’re focusing on the customer connection which is integral to our three organizational values: Creating a City of Readers, Anchoring Healthy and Vibrant Neighborhoods, and Contributing to a Strong Milwaukee. In addition to having the services and materials our customers are looking for, Milwaukee Public Library values the connection with our customers that makes the difference between a library, and your library.

As the weather turns toward spring, I encourage you to venture out to your library more often. Get to know the staff, and get to know your library better. Make use of the multitude of materials, programs and services you have free access to as a Milwaukee Public Library customer. We look forward to getting to know you better.

Charles Durward: Close to Nature, Close to God

In 1862, artist Bernard Durward moved with his family to what became known as Durward’s Glen, near Baraboo. It was remote and unspoiled and for Durward it was an Eden-like environment that brought him closer to God and his Catholic faith.

His son, Charles, shared this faith and love of the natural world and in 1873 produced an illustrated Floral Calendar as a testament and reflection of that faith. This book is now in the collection of the Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room at the Central Library.

Graeme Reid will present a free Evening Spotlight program to the public on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Krug Rare Books Room at Central Library.

With 20 years of experience in arts management/curatorial work, Reid is Director of Collections at the Museum of Wisconsin Art. This will be Reid’s fifth talk for the Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room Educational Series.

Vision: The Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee.

Mission: Inspiration starts here – we help people read, learn, and connect.

Library Director ............................................................ Paula A. Kiely
Board of Trustees .......................................................... John Gurda, president;
                           Michele Bria, vice president; Supv. Theodore Lipscomb, financial secretary;
                           JoAnne Anton, Denise Callaway; Ald. Midele Coggs; Sharon Cook; Ald. Ashanti
                           Hamilton; Ald. Nik Kovac; Chris Layden; Joan Prince; Dir. Mark Sain
MPL Foundation Board of Directors President ............ Arthur Harrington
Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library President ....... Marsha Huff

The Reader is published ten times per year by the Milwaukee Public Library to celebrate reading and share news about books, library services and events. The Reader is mailed to members of the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library, distributed free at library locations and available at www.mpl.org. Call (414) 286-3572 or send an e-mail with questions or comments to mailbox@mpl.org
Thank You to Our Generous Super Reader Donors!

Each May, Milwaukee Public Library kicks off the Super Reader Summer Reading Program and we couldn’t do it without the help of our generous donors. We know that reading over the summer prevents “summer slide.” This summer reading loss is cumulative, meaning students don’t “catch up” in fall because the other students are moving ahead in their reading skills. Sadly, by the end of sixth grade, children who lose reading skills over the summer can be two years behind their classmates.

With the help of the donors listed below, the library’s Super Reader program helped encourage a love of reading for more than 20,000 kids and teens last summer! With your help we can look forward to record-breaking participation again this year.

To make a gift online, please visit www.mpl.org/support or use the enclosed donation envelope.

Northwestern Mutual Foundation  Lubar Family Foundation
Faye McBeath Foundation  Dan and Nicole Renouard
Brewers Community Foundation  Wochinske Family Foundation
Helen Bader Foundation  R.A. Stevens Family Foundation
WE Energies Foundation  Ralph Evinrude Family Foundation
Stella Jones Foundation  Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust
Sheldon & Marianne Lubar

First Look at 2015 Books

Wednesday, April 8
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Central Library
First floor, Mozart’s Grove
6-7:30 p.m.
East Branch
Ellipse Community Room

Get a first look at new titles that have been catching the attention of the librarians at your Milwaukee Public Library. Reserve them now and be among the first to read them!

This program is part of Milwaukee Public Library’s Docent Enrichment Program and all are invited.

Take a Tour of Beautiful Central Library

Last year, hundreds of MPL visitors were treated to FREE guided tours of Central Library every Saturday which provided background on the architecture and history of the building. Central Library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays in the rotunda. **Beginning April 25, the tour time will change to 11 a.m.** To arrange for a special tour, please call (414) 286-TOUR. To learn more about becoming a docent, please call (414) 286-8720.

Summer Sale

Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

All proceeds from this sale benefit the Milwaukee Public Library. Friends members may enter sales 30 minutes before the public with current membership card. Please use the Eighth Street entrance and present your card.

**There will be a 2-for-1 sale in the Bookseller Used Book Store during the sale.**
Blood Magick by Nora Roberts. Romance. 2014. Branna, Iona and Connor are descendants of the powerful Dark Witch who sacrificed herself to protect her children from an evil sorcerer. In this third book of Roberts’ series, the sorcerer continues in his attempts to steal their power and destroy them.

Extreme Weather Survival Guide by Thomas Kostigen. 613.69 K868E. 2014. Whether you’re browsing for interesting facts and tips or preparing for the worst, this National Geographic guide fits the bill. This is an excellent reference source for information, definitions and advice on understanding and dealing with extreme weather.

Smithsonian Encyclopedia of Garden Plants for Every Location. Edited by Jenny Hendy, Annelise Evans. 635.9 E564. 2014. Anxious to get into the garden? Browse this in-depth guide to all things plants. The collection provides information on planting conditions, environment, styles, water/sun needs and appropriate hardiness zones. Great color photos banish the dull, gray days of winter.

True Love by Jennifer Lopez. 927.973 L8638. 2014. After a reflective two-year journey, Jennifer Lopez gives an intimate account of her most defining periods. Captivating photographs provide readers with an intimate glimpse of Lopez’s world. As a mother, actress, and artist, Lopez reveals lessons learned in love, confidence, and resilience while sharing how she confronted her fears and transformed herself into a stronger person.

The Children’s Crusade by Ann Packer. Fiction. 2015. This intimate novel follows the complicated relationships within the Blair family for three decades. Bill purchases land in what will become Silicon Valley. He marries Penny, who longs to be an artist, but suffocates under the weight of being domestic and raising their children. Each family member tells their side of the story, good and bad. As the years roll by there are heart-wrenching memories and resentments; all rendered so clearly that you’ll recognize bits of their experiences in your own life.

Contributed by Atkinson Library staff Casey Lapworth, Shauna Miller and Irene Moraniec and Central Library fiction selector Jacki Potratz.
The Week of the Young Child is celebrated nationwide during the month of April. From April 12th through the 18th, Milwaukee Public Library will participate in this annual event that highlights the importance of early childhood literacy and raises awareness of the programs and services that meet those needs.

Parents can help cultivate their young child’s early literacy skills by incorporating the Five Practices into their daily routine: Read, Talk, Sing, Write, and Play. Reading to children for as little as 15 minutes a day will help them be ready to read by engendering a love of reading, as well as teaching them that books provide us with information in many different ways.

The library’s preschool story times, which are geared towards children between the ages of 3 and 5, foster early literacy skills and are open to child care centers and families. Central, East and Zablocki libraries also host a playgroup for children aged 0 to 2 along with their parents or caregivers. The Play and Learn series at Washington Park Library promotes early literacy through themed play. These programs take place every Saturday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and include themes such as Pizza Parlor and Bakery Shop, where children can learn about places they might visit in their communities and experience in their neighborhood using pretend play.

To learn more about other programs that the library offers, visit the website at www.mpl.org.

**TALK**
*Mealtime* by Elizabeth Verdick, illustrated by Marieka Heinlen. (Ages 0-3) BRD VERDICK. Children are introduced to simple manners, nutrition, and enticed to try new foods. Tips for parents and caregivers are included. **Extension:** Make pudding with your child while talking them through each step. They can help pour the mix, add the milk, and stir the two together. Enjoy the snack together!

**SING**
*Old Manhattan Has Some Farms: E-I-E-I-Grow!* by Susan Lendroth; illustrated by Kate Endle. (Ages 3-8) PIC LENDROT. Old MacDonald with a 21st century twist! Various types of urban farming and gardening are depicted in cities across North America. **Extension:** As the book notes suggest, sing the book instead of reading it and try changing the city to Milwaukee! Children can also plant seeds in containers to create a small garden.

**READ**
*Books Always Everywhere* by Jane Blatt; illustrated by Sarah Massini (Ages 2-5) PIC BLATT. The simple rhyming text and charming illustrations highlight that books of all sizes and themes can be enjoyed everywhere! **Extension:** Visit the Milwaukee Public Library often so you have books “always, everywhere” for your child.

**PLAY**
*The Nowhere Box* by Sam Zuppardi. (Ages 3-7) PIC ZUPPARD. In this ode to a classic toy, the cardboard box, a young boy uses his box and imagination to escape his younger siblings, but discovers sometimes playing with others is more fun. **Extension:** Get your children a big cardboard box and let their imaginations run wild playing and decorating.

**WRITE**
*A Letter for Leo* by Sergio Ruzzier. (Ages 3-7) PIC RUZZIER. Leo the postman has never received a letter despite the many he has delivered. After making a new friend, Leo’s wish for a letter might finally come true. **Extension:** Play post office! Give a child paper and envelopes along with crayons, pencils and pens to draw and scribble to pretend to write a letter and then deliver the mail.
Skype with Author Steve Berry

Don’t miss Milwaukee Public Library’s first Skype event. Bestselling author Steve Berry will be appearing live on screen at Capitol Library via Skype from Florida on Tuesday, May 5 at 6 p.m.

Blending historical fact with pulse-pounding fiction, The Patriot Threat is a startling revelation of the true nature of income tax in the United States. The 16th Amendment to the Constitution is why Americans pay income taxes. But what if there were secrets that call into question decades of tax collecting? Cotton Malone is asked to track a rogue North Korean who may have acquired some top secret Treasury Department files—the kind that could bring the United States to its knees.

Steve Berry is the New York Times and #1 internationally bestselling author of nine Cotton Malone adventures, four stand-alone thrillers, and four short-story originals. Books will be available for sale from Boswell Book Company.