Shakespeare 400

Searching for “Shakespeare 400” on the web this month will result in a plethora of events, programs, books, and even ideas in London and around the world on how to celebrate the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s death in 1616.

But if you can’t make that “leap over the pond,” you can celebrate at the Milwaukee Public Library with Optimist Theatre’s To Be! Shakespeare Here and Now presentation in the Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room of the Central Library on Saturday, April 23 at 2 p.m. The show is a one-person interactive presentation, featuring actor Ron Fry as William Shakespeare. Dynamic interpretations of excerpts from some of Shakespeare’s most famous works combine with a humorous look at life in Renaissance England with plenty of opportunities for audience members to star alongside The Bard.

The newly renovated Tippecanoe Branch offers Powerful Rhyme: The Art of William Shakespeare on Tuesday, April 12 from noon to 7:30 p.m. A day full of entertainment will include a sonnet slam, Hidden Treasures of the Library: Rarities of Shakespeare presentation (2-4 p.m.), performances, discussion, music and more.

Milwaukee Public Library has a large number of Shakespeare-related rarities including The Works of Mr. William Shakespeare (1709) the oldest work of Shakespeare in the rarities collection. This unique set is edited by dramatist Nicholas Rowe, illustrated with intricate woodcut designs by artist François Bontard, and engraved by Elisha Kirkall. The Poems of William Shakespeare, (1941) a limited edition set beautifully designed - and autographed - by acclaimed typographer Bruce Meyers is one of the rarities that will be on display at the Tippecanoe Branch program on April 12. Other Shakespeare rarities listed in the library’s online catalog can be viewed in person by calling the Art, Music and Recreation Department at 414.286.3071 to schedule a showing.

Additional Shakespeare programs sponsored by Milwaukee Public Library are listed on the library’s website at www.mpl.org/Shakespeare400.

You could be quoting Shakespeare without knowing it!

“As good luck would have it” The Merry Wives of Windsor

“Be-all and the end-all” Macbeth

“Break the ice” The Taming of the Shrew

“Dead as a doornail” Henry VI Part II

“Eaten me out of house and home” Henry IV Part II

“The game is afoot” Henry IV Part I

“In my heart of hearts” Hamlet

“Love is blind” The Merchant of Venice

“Wear my heart upon my sleeve” Othello

Compiled by BBC America

There are books, DVDs, and CDs available at your Milwaukee Public Library if you care to do your Shakespeare celebrating at home.

Why not try The Year of Lear by James Shapiro. 822.33 BS5285Y. Great for literature and history buffs, this book takes an in-depth look at the events happening around Shakespeare in 1606 that helped guide him creatively toward writing the masterworks of King Lear, Macbeth and Antony and Cleopatra.
Inspiration starts here - we help people read, learn and connect.

When the Milwaukee Public Library adopted this mission statement in 2013, we rededicated ourselves to serving our community and using our most powerful tool to help others - our team.

Through their work and commitment, we offer services and programs to the youngest and oldest among us, as well as everyone in-between. Our early education programs, job training classes, and cultural programming create lifelong connections to the library and an abundance of programs, online tools, and books to help along the way.

We pride ourselves on programming for children - from our Summer Reading Program to Ready to Read with Books2Go, which specializes in outreach to preschool and child care centers.

We recently hired a new Education Outreach Services Specialist who is dedicated to developing our out-of-school learning initiative that targets teenagers and who will also work closely with our great Teen Advisory Board.

For years, the library has offered free basic computer courses on everything from word processing to spreadsheets to PowerPoint presentations. The popular Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room Educational Series covers topics of interest including rarities, local history, authors, artists, and natural history.

And, a team of librarians is developing a new service initiative aimed at meeting the needs and interests of those over 50. More about that later this year.

One of our most exciting new lifelong learning opportunities is access to an expanded list of online courses offered by Gale Courses to all City of Milwaukee Public Library cardholders. There’s more about this free educational tool on the back of this issue of The Reader.

Henry Ford once said, “Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.”

The Milwaukee Public Library is the first and best stop for access to free lifelong learning.
Friends Provide More Than 1200 Books to Next Door Foundation

Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library selected Next Door Foundation to receive a set of new books, including classic titles from favorite characters like Clifford, the Berenstain Bears, Miss Nelson, Curious George and more. The books have been given in honor of Dr. Mary Kellner, an advocate for children and literacy, and a previous recipient of the MPL Foundation’s Benjamin Franklin Award. Dr. Kellner has been a long time champion of the Milwaukee Public Library, and has put thousands of books in the hands of inner city Milwaukee youth with Next Door Foundation.

Books for Kids is a Next Door Foundation program that distributes books to children throughout the Milwaukee community. The goal is to inspire young people to develop an appreciation and love for books, while improving reading fundamentals, school preparedness, and their chances of achieving long-term academic success.

You can show your support for literacy and join the Friends efforts by renewing your membership. Please check this newsletter mailing label for your Friends membership status.

Architectural Tour of Central Library and a FREE Book

Experience fascinating Milwaukee Public Library history every Saturday at 11a.m. at the Central Library, located at 814 West Wisconsin Avenue. Tours begin in the rotunda and tour goers will receive a coupon for a free book at the end of the tour in the Bookseller Book Store and Cafe. Central Library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To arrange for a special tour or to learn more about becoming a docent, please call (414) 286-TOUR.

Summer Used Book Sale

Saturday, June 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ~ Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Bookseller Corridor, 1st floor
Featuring a large selection of children’s books. 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.

Coincides with Doors Open Milwaukee
The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain by Bill Bryson. 914.1 B916R.
Bryson returns to England, where he had not lived since 1995, for an affectionate and humorous look at what has changed (or not changed) in the last two decades from Bognor Regis to Cape Wrath, with many stops along the way.

The Betrayal: The 1919 World Series and the Birth of Modern Baseball by Charles Fountain. 796.35764 F771B.
Just in time for the start of baseball season, this book examines a pivotal event in the history of the sport. When Shoeless Joe Jackson and some of his Chicago White Sox teammates were accused of throwing the World Series, the investigation that followed and the penalties handed out helped bring the sport out of the gambling underworld and set it on the road to becoming America’s Favorite Pastime.

Leonard: My Fifty-year Friendship with a Remarkable Man by William Shatner with David Fisher. 927.973 N713S.
William Shatner, Star Trek’s Captain Kirk, shares his memories of colleague and friend Leonard Nimoy (aka Mr. Spock) who died in 2015. Shatner shares anecdotes of their work, personal lives, and friendship.

Woman With a Blue Pencil by Gordon McAlpine. Mystery.
Sam Sumida, a Japanese-American, is looking for his wife’s killer in post-Pearl Harbor America when he realizes he doesn’t seem to exist. He has no records, someone else lives in his home, and he has no place to go. He is a discarded character in someone else’s novel, having been replaced when Pearl Harbor makes Japanese characters unsellable. The story unfolds amidst Sumida’s lost fiction, his Korean-American revised replacement, and the editor’s correspondence with the author.

The Visitors by Simon Sylvester. Mystery. Men have been disappearing on the Scottish island Bancree. At the same time, Flora and her new friend Aisla have been looking into Scottish mythological creatures for a school assignment. What do selkies have to do with the disappearances and what do they have to do with Flora’s new friend and her father?

Lovable Livable Home by Sherry Petersik. 645 P484.
Filled with great design and DIY inspiration, Sherry and John Petersik offer tips for every room of the house. Imaginative, fun, and easy projects are explained through simple steps and bright photographs.

Salt to the Sea: A Novel by Ruta Sepetys. YA Fiction.
As the end of World War II approaches, thousands of refugees are fleeing the approaching Russians with the desperate hope of reaching the sea, and freedom. The ship Wilhelm Gustloff offers salvation, but ultimately leads to an even greater tragedy.

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi. 616.99424 K141.
Neurosurgeon Paul Kalanithi’s unforgettable memoir tracks his transition from doctor to a patient diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. His thoughts on mortality, family, love, medicine and more will remain long after the book is finished.

The Heart by Maylis de Kerangal. Fiction.
A fatal car accident sets into motion a flurry of fateful events in this gripping French novel. In the midst of a family’s grief, decisions must be made at a moment’s notice throughout the rigorous process of organ transplantation.

Contributed by Tippecanoe Branch staff Kyle Davis, Christopher Gawronski, Jennifer Hron and Fawn Siemsen-Fuchs.
Parents and teachers often look for books that provide springboards for conversations and a deeper understanding of people and the world in which we live. Last Stop on Market Street with words by Matt de la Pena and pictures by Christian Robinson is one such book. Winner of the prestigious 2016 Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, Last Stop on Market Street shares valuable lessons through its unassuming and authentic narrative. Gaining perspective from his grandmother, relatable young CJ learns to appreciate and see the beauty in his community and the richness of the everyday people he and his grandmother encounter while riding the city bus. As only a grandmother can, Nana turns every one of CJ’s subtle complaints into lessons of gratitude and perspective. Newbery Medal Committee Chair Ernie J. Cox said about the book, “Read it aloud to someone. The use of language to elicit questions, to spark imagination and to make us laugh is at its best when spoken. Read the book and start talking.” And once you’ve read this one, check out other titles that are springboards to learning some of life’s most valuable lessons. And keep talking.

If You Plant a Seed words and paintings by Kadir Nelson. PIC NELSON. Ages 4-8.
In this simple story about kindness, two friends plant seeds and watch their garden grow. They quickly learn that through compassion and sharing they can have a rich abundance.

Beautiful Moon: A Child’s Prayer by Tonya Bolden; illustrated by Eric Velasquez. PIC BOLDEN. Ages 4-8.
In this beautifully illustrated story about a boy who forgot to say his prayers before going to sleep, the reader is reminded to think about those who are less fortunate than most and to help those in need.

Sidewalk Flowers by JonArno Lawson; illustrated by Sydney Smith. PIC LAWSON. Ages 4-8.
Along a walk with her father, a little girl gathers flowers and gives them as gifts to those she encounters. This wordless picture book reminds us of the importance of small gestures.

In Bonnyripple, grudges of all sorts were kept by Cornelius, the grudge keeper, leaving his house overrun with petty squabbles. When a brisk wind blows through town, grudges are upturned, forcing the townspeople to own up to their pent-up resentments. The rich language and charmingly detailed illustrations will motivate readers to discuss the value of forgiveness.

Despite the cultural tradition of only boys playing the drums, Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a young Cuban girl, aspires to become a drummer. Her determination allows her to break down barriers and pursue her dream.
Inspiration starts here – we help people read, learn, and connect. Milwaukee Public Library has made it easier than ever for you to learn with the library’s subscription to Gale Courses.

Choose from a catalog of more than 350 free courses, including Genealogy Basics; Discover Digital Photography; Writing Effective Grant Proposals; Introduction to Windows 8; Beginner’s Guide to Getting Published; Teaching Adult Learners; How to Get Started in Game Development; Start Your Own Edible Garden; Introduction to Interior Design; Assisting Aging Parents; Starting a Consulting Practice. An individual purchasing one of these courses could expect to pay up to $150 a course on their own. City of Milwaukee cardholders have free access to any of the courses offered on the library’s website at www.mpl.org/databases/all/95.

Whether you’re looking for professional development or personal enrichment, there’s something for everyone. Each class runs for 6 weeks, is taught online with a real instructor, and consists of 12 lessons you can take at your convenience. Pass the final and receive a certificate of achievement. Visit the course listings and find your own inspiration!