

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# READER

Events • Books • Services

April 2019

Vol. 77 No. 3

## Field Work MKE



*On the last day of the world  
I would want to plant a tree*

*W.S. Merwin from "Place"*

*How do you see yourself in the natural world?*

**Field Work MKE: Exploring the Ways We Know Our World, a Poetry and Science Collaboration** is a new partnership between Milwaukee Public Library and the Milwaukee Public Museum. This project, funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), is administered through Poets House, a national poetry organization based in New York City and a frequent library partner.

MPL and MPM, along with project Poet in Residence Alison Hawthorne Deming, developed collaborative programming that illuminates the ways poetry supports STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning.

Special programming throughout the year and a physical poetry path that will be installed around Central Library and Milwaukee Public Museum is aimed at deepening the public's connection to the natural world and providing an opportunity for greater understanding of the natural sciences.

**The Poetry Path Kick-off** is scheduled for Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m. at the Central Library. Mayor Tom Barrett will join the event which will feature interactive poetry readings, hands-on science learning and more.

The library and museum joined forces in hosting a **Field Work MKE Youth Poetry Contest**. An award ceremony and poetry reading will take place at the Central Library on Saturday, May 11, from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. for ages 7-12 and on Saturday afternoon from 2-2:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee Public Museum on for ages 13-18.

**Urban Wildlife: Poetry in Your Backyard** programs for families have been taking place at branch libraries throughout the city since January and will end this month with programs at Washington Park, Zablocki and Mill Road.

Former Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kimberly Blaeser and a Lakeshore State Park naturalist will lead a walk along **Lakeshore State Park** on Friday, May 31, beginning at 6 p.m. at 500 N. Harbor Dr. Learn about this unique urban oasis and observe the natural world through the eyes of a poet.

Read more about the project and programming online at [www.fieldworkmke.org/](http://www.fieldworkmke.org/).



P O E T S  
H O U S E



INSTITUTE of  
Museum and Library  
SERVICES

**mpm**  
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM



FROM THE



# CITY LIBRARIAN

PAULA A. KIELY

Social media, flyers, websites, Enews, the *Reader* – the many ways we share news with our customers continues to change and expand.

The *Reader* – in its numerous iterations – has been part of our communications arsenal for more than 75 years. The first issue in September of 1942 was a simple, typed, two-sided piece of paper that included a few brief paragraphs of news and information on the front, and a list of new book purchases on the back. The opening paragraph stated, “It will be the purpose of this paper (named after you, Milwaukee Reader) to inform you of books and services available at your Public Library.”

Beginning in 1947, the *Reader* took the form of a newspaper and included four pages of articles, book-lists, and services. From 1954 to present, the *Reader* always included news items and book recommendations. There were periods when the *Reader* alternated with a separate *Calendar* publication which listed events.

Throughout those 75 years we varied the *Reader's* size, appearance, and content based on the needs of our customers and the opportunities afforded by the evolving marketing landscape. We always endeavored to keep foremost in mind the interests of our customers and how we could be the best stewards of the funds we budget for the programming and services we provide on a daily basis.

Once again, we're taking a look at the *Reader*. We've included a survey in this issue that I encourage you to complete and return to your Milwaukee Public Library. I'd like to hear your thoughts on what you value in the *Reader* and use that information to fuel discussions of how we communicate with and serve you in the future.

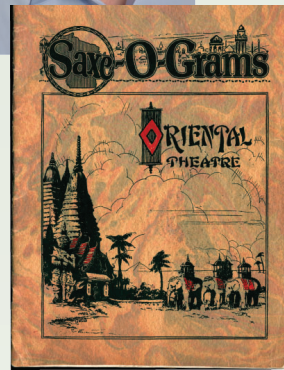
For those of you who aren't aware, this edition of the *Reader*, as well as issues dating back to 2014, is available on the library's website at [www.mpl.org/Reader](http://www.mpl.org/Reader).

As we look ahead to what the *Reader* may look like in 2020, I want to thank you for your valued readership, your input, your support, and your faith in us as we strive to provide you with the best service the Milwaukee Public Library can offer.

## John Gurda Donates Rare Materials to the Milwaukee Public Library



Local historian and retired MPL Board of Trustees President John Gurda donated many photos, German music scores, and other materials that readers have given to him over the years to Milwaukee Public Library as part of its Historic Milwaukee Performing Arts Collection.



This collection is comprised of a large number of theater programs and ephemera related to the performing arts in and around Milwaukee and includes materials from myriad performing arts companies, various local theater companies and touring companies.


One of the gems donated by Gurda is a 24-page Oriental Theatre opening night program from

July 2, 1927. It includes articles on manager Jack Plant and organist Bernard Cowham, and ads from local businesses in the Six Points area of Farwell, North and Murray.



Milwaukee Public Library Historic Photo Collection

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY



# READER

Events • Books • Services

**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 ..... Michele Bria, president;  
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Ald. Nik Kovac, Matthew Kowalski, Prof. James Marten, Ald. Michael Murphy,  
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MPL Foundation Board of Directors President ..... Dan Renouard  
Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library President .... Barbara Franczyk

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](http://www.mpl.org). Call (414) 286-3572 or send an e-mail with questions or comments to [mailbox@mpl.org](mailto:mailbox@mpl.org)

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**READER**  
**SURVEY**

As the Milwaukee Public Library looks towards future options for bringing you news and information on events, programs and services, please fill out this survey and return to your Milwaukee Public Library or mail to Communications & Marketing, Milwaukee Public Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

**1. The current *Reader* includes the following regular features.**

**Please rank features in order of importance to you:**

(1 = most important; 5 = least important)

**Cover Article**

1    2    3    4    5

**Children's Room**

1    2    3    4    5

**The Bookshelf**

1    2    3    4    5

**From the Friends**

1    2    3    4    5

**From the City Librarian**

1    2    3    4    5

**General News/Program Announcements**

1    2    3    4    5

**2. How often would you like to see issues of the *Reader*? (Please check one)**

- 4 times per year (seasonally)
- 6 times per year
- 10 times per year (current schedule)
- 12 times per year (monthly)

CONTINUED ON BACK

**3. Please rank the sources on which you rely for information about the Milwaukee Public Library events:**

(1 = most often; 5 = least often)

*Reader* newsletter

1    2    3    4    5

Milwaukee Public Library website

1    2    3    4    5

Social Media

1    2    3    4    5

Flyers obtained in-person at your library

1    2    3    4    5

Community calendar/advertisements in newspapers

1    2    3    4    5

Children's Calendar of Events

1    2    3    4    5

E-newsletter (You can sign up for the weekly Enews on the front of the library's website.)

1    2    3    4    5

Word of mouth

1    2    3    4    5

**4. What changes would you like to see to the *Reader* newsletter?**

**5. Please feel free to make any additional comments below:**





# FROM THE FRIENDS

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## OF THE LIBRARY

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### Exclusive Invitation

Friends Members are invited to join MPL's Docent team on Wednesday, May 22 at 11 am for a private tour of the Tripoli Shrine Center, located at 3000 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Shriner Bruce Nelson will lead the group through one of the most unique temples in the country. Space is limited.

**Please R.S.V.P. to Kristine at [kapeter@mpl.org](mailto:kapeter@mpl.org) by May 15.**

*Tripoli Shrine Center image*



### Welcome Bookseller Volunteers

The Friends are thrilled to share that 13 volunteers have joined the Bookseller team in 2019! Welcome to Margaret, Karen, Jacob, Bee, Jean, Joanne, Michael, Mike, Autumn, Emily, Damian, Linda, and Patty. The Friends are grateful for your support.

The Bookseller is a unique used book, media and gift store in the Central Library operated by the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library and staffed almost entirely by volunteers. For information about volunteering in the Bookseller, please email [Bookseller@mpl.org](mailto:Bookseller@mpl.org)

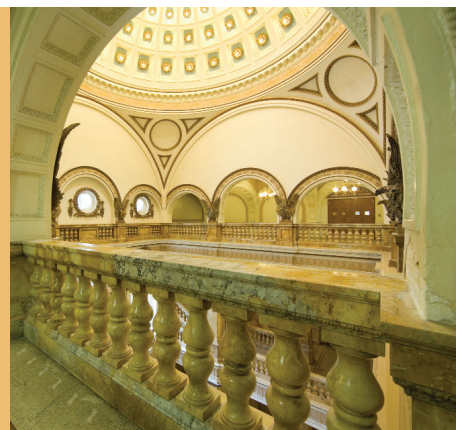


### Docent Tours

Learn about the fascinating history of the Milwaukee Public Library during a free Architectural Tour of Central Library, located at 814 West Wisconsin Avenue. Docent-led tours are offered every Saturday at 11 a.m. beginning in the Rotunda and last approximately one hour.

End your tour in the Bookseller Used Bookstore & Café and receive a coupon for a FREE book.

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.

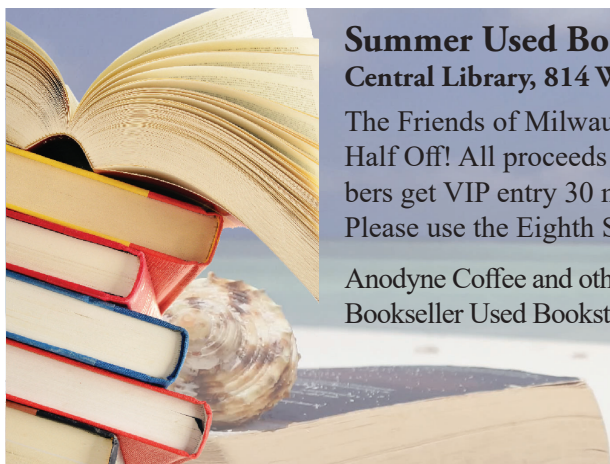


### Summer Used Book Sale ~ Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.; Community Room 1

The Friends of Milwaukee Public Library present their annual Summer Sale, Everything Half Off! All proceeds from this sale benefit the Milwaukee Public Library. Friends members get VIP entry 30 minutes before the general public with current membership card. Please use the Eighth Street entrance and present your card.

Anodyne Coffee and other refreshments are available for purchase in the R Café located in the Bookseller Used Bookstore.

**Special for the month of April is Sports.  
Next Sale: Saturday, September 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 25-cent Sale**





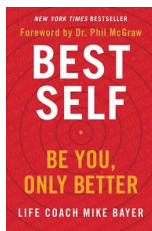
# THE BOOKSHELF

## Magical Negro: Poems by Morgan Parker.



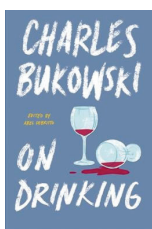
A collection of poems focused on the experience of Black Americans, and in particular, Black womanhood. Included are poems of celebration and trauma, congregation and objectification. The analysis of the Black experience in America is thoughtful and honest, establishing collective experiences and airing grievances as part of pointing out deeply rooted patterns of behavior.

## Best Self: Be You, Only Better by Mike Bayer.



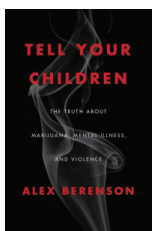
Are you really living your “best life?” Bayer, a personal development coach and mental health specialist, has created an interactive text that helps readers identify what their “best self” looks like. By analyzing core values, it is possible to achieve greater happiness, identify what is holding you back, and implement positive changes in your life.

## On Drinking by Charles Bukowski.



This newly published collection of poetry and prose by Bukowski focuses on something that was a fixture of his life from his early teen years on: alcohol. His musings on his relationship with the hard stuff reveal his lowest and darkest moments, as well as some of his highest and happiest.

## Tell Your Children: The Truth About Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence by Alex Berenson.



Legalization of marijuana has been a hot button topic, with most arguing that marijuana is a harmless drug that benefits everyone from cancer patients to people who suffer from anxiety. Berenson argues that many of our beliefs about marijuana are false.

## Invasive Species by Marwa Helal.



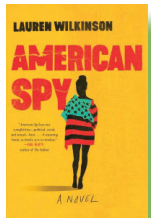
This prose poem focuses on critical themes in our cultural landscape, creating space for unseen victims of discriminatory foreign policy: migrants, refugees – the displaced. Helal transfers lived experiences of dislocation and relocation onto the reader by obscuring borders through language.

## Oculus: Poems by Sally Wen Mao



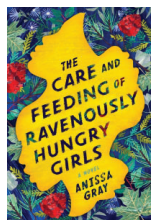
These poems cross into animated worlds, examine robot culture, and haunt a necropolis for electronic waste. With a speculative imagination and a sharpened wit, Mao powerfully confronts the paradoxes of seeing and being seen, the intimacies made possible and ruined by the screen, and the many roles and representations that women of color are made to endure in order to survive a culture that seeks to consume them.

## American Spy by Lauren Wilkinson.



Based on a true story, and written as a letter to her sons, a Cold War FBI intelligence officer falls in love with the Communist president her task force is investigating. Marie Mitchell is a young black woman who admires Thomas Sankara, and agrees to join the task force to undermine him. Mitchell eventually seduces Sankara and takes part in the coup that brings him down.

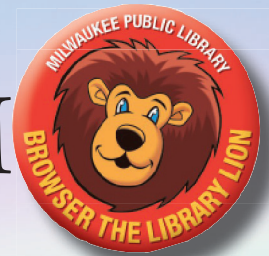
## The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls by Anissa Gray.



When the eldest of the three Butler sisters and her husband are arrested, the Butler family moves from being respected members of their small community to totally disgraced. No one knows why they have been arrested, and Althea's younger sisters are left to care for her daughters and try to make sense of what is happening.



# CHILDREN'S ROOM



## We Need Diverse Books



*Imagine a world in which all children can see themselves in the pages of a book.*

This is the mission statement behind We Need Diverse Books ([diversebooks.org](http://diversebooks.org)), an initiative in children's literature to advocate for storytellers who represent the experiences of marginalized people, with regard to race, ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, LGBTQIA identity and disability. Every child wants to recognize themselves in the stories they read, and every child needs to see the reflection of our diverse communities represented on the page.

#OwnVoices is a similar movement that supports authors who share a marginalized identity with their characters.

How diversity is depicted, especially by those who have firsthand experience, is crucial to presenting a realistic portrayal of the world. We champion the authors who share their authentic voice with young readers and hope it inspires them to share their own stories.

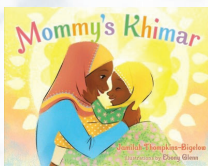
Our April programming celebrates National Poetry Month, Earth Day, Arab American Heritage Month and El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), but the library is committed to sharing diverse and #OwnVoices books for children in our collection and programs throughout the year.



**Festival of Colors** by Kabir Sehgal & Surishtha Sehgal; illustrated by Vashti Harrison. Ages 3-8

In this vibrant picture book, Chintoo and Mintoo make brightly colored petal-powders for Holi, the Indian Festival of Colors, where family,

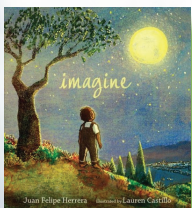
friends, and neighbors come together to celebrate fresh beginnings.



**Mommy's Khimar** by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow; illustrated by Ebony Glenn. Ages 4-8

A young girl plays with her mother's khimar in this whimsical picture book. Wearing the flowing head scarf,

she soars to the clouds or becomes a speedy superhero. Best of all, she feels a special connection to her mother.



**Imagine** by Juan Felipe Herrera. Ages 4-9.

A boy grows into a man as he lyrically describes a life's journey that has moved him between two worlds: a bustling US city and a rural migrant-worker village.



**Sarai Saves the Music** by Sarai González. Ages 7-9.

Sarai is a 4th grader on a mission. With budget cuts looming, the school band program is in danger of being cut. Along with friends and family, she hatches a plan to save the music!



**Front Desk** by Kelly Yang. Ages 8-12.

While working at a motel run by her Chinese immigrant family, ten-year-old Mia balances needy residents, a heartless motel owner, and her seemingly unreachable dreams of becoming a writer.



**Courage** by Barbara Binns. Ages 8-13.

In this poignant coming-of-age story, 13-year-old T'Shawn tries to navigate a home life filled with poverty and violence while also pursuing his passion for diving.



## Creative Economy Week May 11-18

Creative Economy Week is a statewide initiative co-sponsored by Arts Wisconsin and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, which promotes and celebrates the creative economy in Wisconsin's communities. The annual Creative Economy Week focuses on community engagement through the arts, creative opportunities, and the arts and creativity as an investment for Wisconsin.

In coordination with the Gathering Art, Stories and Place project, events will begin at the Mitchell Street Branch on Monday, May 13 from 5-7:30 p.m. with **Open Jam Sessions with Dria Rushing, aka DJ DRiPSweat.**

On Tuesday May 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. the week continues with **Talking Shop: The Cost of Art**, a panel discussion on the real cost of art and how artists need to advocate for themselves and how organizations and institutions need to

adjust their budgets and attitudes to pay artists what they are worth.

Networking and art business events are being finalized for Wednesday and Thursday and a special **Meet & Greet with Gathering Art, Stories & Place Artist-in-Residence Celeste Contreras** will close out the week on Friday, May 17 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Mitchell Street Branch.

Additional programming details are available on the library's website at [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org).



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### MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARIES - 414.286.3000

**Atkinson** 1960 W. Atkinson Ave. • **Bay View** 2566 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. • **Capitol** 3969 N. 74th St.  
**Center Street** 2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave. • **Central** 814 W. Wisconsin Ave. • **East** 2320 N. Cramer St.  
**Martin Luther King** 310 W. Locust St. • **Mill Road** 6431 N. 76th St. • **Mitchell Street** 906 W. Historic Mitchell St.  
**Tippecanoe** 3912 S. Howell Ave. • **Villard Square** 5190 N. 35th St. • **Washington Park** 2121 N. Sherman Blvd.  
**Zablocki** 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave. • **Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library** 813 W. Wells St.  
**MPL Express at Silver Spring** 5550 N. 64th St. • **Community Education and Outreach Services** • [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org)