Happy Birthday, Browser!

On **Saturday, July 29**, the Betty Brinn Central Library Children’s Room will be home to the first-ever Browser Birthday Bash. Families are invited to join in the celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with face painting, balloon animal creations, stories, games, and live entertainment with Ms. Jen and the Jellyfish and magician Tim Glander. Share your birthday wishes in a card for Browser at the event.

Browser was introduced to the city (without a name) at the Grand Avenue Mall on April 20, 1985 for National Library Week and Imagination Celebration, a week-long series of city-wide arts events for children. He was also part of Milwaukee’s City of Festivals parade on June 22, 1985. The sculpted lion was created by local artist Bob Geniusz under the direction of Marjorie Walker, director of Theatre School Ltd.

A naming contest was held during the summer and Browser the Library Lion was selected from several hundred entries. Eight-year-old Kathleen Simeth was the only one to submit the winning name of “Browser the Library Lion.”

Browser was given his first makeover as a live mascot in late 1993. Last year, he was given another makeover, and along with that came the idea of officially celebrating Browser’s Birthday - August 1.

Browser is a born-and-bred Milwaukeean whose best friends include the Cat in the Hat, Curious George, and Billy Bookworm. His favorite color is Super Reader Red and he enjoys reading *Color Zoo* by his good friend Lois Ehlert and *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen. Hobbies include reading, going to the library, and bowling, and he loves music, dancing, grand openings and hugs. Browser also collects bookmarks of all shapes and sizes - especially homemade bookmarks.

In addition to his party at Central Library, Browser will be visiting ten of the branch libraries this summer as well. For a complete listing of Browser events, pick up a copy of the library’s Calendar of Events at your local Milwaukee Public Library or view it online at mpl.org/for_youth/kids/. There’s also a Browser coloring sheet in the calendar, or you can pick one up at your Milwaukee Public Library. Enter your coloring page in a drawing at the library for a chance to win great prizes (while supplies last).
FROM THE CITY LIBRARIAN

Every week I receive a list of all the events that are happening throughout the Milwaukee Public Library System - a list that is also sent to a number of media, marketing, and library advocate outlets in Milwaukee. Often that list can be more than four pages long - for just one week of events and activities.

When people ask us if libraries are still relevant today, it doesn’t take me long to recall that list and the many reasons people come to the library beyond books and reading.

Our community partners, neighbors, and dedicated staff are responsible for programs that include gardening tips, music programs, knitting circles, art workshops, trivia challenges, child care education, journaling sessions, small business help, genealogy classes, yoga, PTSD strategies, U.S. citizenship classes, instruction on using electronic devices, workshops on ecology and sustainable power, resume help...get the idea?

Milwaukee Public Library has become “the third place” to many in our community. They come for the program, to connect with neighbors, learn something new, and then take home a book or two on the subject to further their enjoyment.

We’ve established ongoing relationships with partners like the Urban Ecology Center, Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Boswell Book Company, Voces de la Frontera, Artists Working in Education, Ex Fabula, Sunset Playhouse, Milwaukee Youth Theater, Milwaukee Public Museum, Woodland Pattern, and so very many more.

And we continue to offer book clubs, author visits, story times, poetry readings, book parties, reader’s advisory assistance, and quiet places to enjoy the newest bestseller.

Providing connections to our community, teaching new skills, educating and entertaining - the library has a place in everyone’s life. Join us!
Children in Milwaukee Deserve to Be Ready To Read

Infants participating in the Ready to Read Program already know how to handle a book because their care providers read with them every day. Research shows the most critical time to build connections that affect learning and literacy are in the first three years of a child’s life.

The Milwaukee Public Library and the Ready to Read Program continue to successfully support Early Literacy in our community—for childcare providers, children and their families, with ways to help prepare children to be ready to read when they enter school.

Thanks to your support, Ready to Read with Books2Go / Libros Para Llevar will enhance its ability to reach more children by providing childcare centers in underserved neighborhoods with bilingual early literacy outreach coaching services in Spanish-speaking classrooms. Ready to Read programs are offered free-of-charge for families, providing literacy-based thematic play environments for parents to interact with their children and reinforce learning.

MPL also provides free ongoing continuing education classes for childcare teachers, with workshops that focus on the Six Skills for Early Literacy: print motivation, phonological awareness, enriched vocabulary, narrative skills, print awareness, and letter knowledge.

Please join our supporters to continue expansion of this important Early Literacy outreach at mpl.org/donate.

The Ready to Read Program continues to reach thousands of children and families and is generously supported by the following sponsors – thank you!

Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust
The Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Barbara Goldberg & Associates
Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc.
Marianne and Sheldon Lubar
Northern Trust
David and Diane Buck
CT Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
Linda J. Lubner
Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation
Susan and Howard Hopwood

Because of You, Reading With Browser the Library Lion is a Celebration

Thanks to the many donors who supported Browser’s Makeover campaign. Doesn’t he look friendly yet fierce? Being the MPL mascot has always meant big hugs, high-fives, and introducing children to a love of reading. We look forward to celebrating with all of you and Browser at his Birthday Party! See the cover of this Reader for details of this fun family event. It’s not too late to receive a plush Browser the Library Lion by making a gift of support of $100 or more for the Summer Reading Program at mpl.org/donate.
Summer Used Book Sale
Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ~ Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Community Room 1, 1st floor

Featuring a large selection of new and used 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.

During the month of June, the Bookseller will feature a selection of books on CD.  
Next Sale: Saturday, September 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 10-cent Sale at Central Library

Exclusive Invitation for Friends and Donors  
First Access To Fall’s New Book Releases

Thursday, July 20th, 7:30am
Central Library
Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room

Bring a friend and have your morning coffee at the library! We invite you to select complimentary books from the Advanced Readers collection of soon-to-be-released titles.

Hear from Jacki Potratz, MPL Fiction Selector, as she gives insights about book selections such as the new novel from fashion executive/socialite Lucy Sykes and journalist/editor Jo Piazza. Sykes and Piazza co-wrote Fitness Junkie, their second book together after The Knockoff.

For fans of Gone Girl, hear about The Marriage Pact by Michelle Richmond, a psychological thriller with film rights already optioned to Twentieth Century Fox.

Please RSVP to Kristine at 414-286-8720 or kapeter@mpl.org by July 17.
“But the books brought me things. This is my point. They made me feel less alone.”
– Elizabeth Strout, excerpt from My Name is Lucy Barton

Thank you Friends, sponsors, volunteers, book clubs and library lovers who attended the Spring Literary Luncheon. A sold out Wisconsin Club crowd laughed and loved author Elizabeth Strout.

The Friends of Milwaukee Public Library, together with Boswell Book Company and the Wisconsin Club, were thrilled to host the Pulitzer Prize-winning and #1 New York Times bestselling author. Strout inspired with her emotional truthfulness and elements of compassion in a personal reading of Anything is Possible. She also shared childhood memories of why she has always identified as a writer, saying, “We’ll only see the world from our point of view.”

If you missed the luncheon, you can still join the Friends literacy efforts with your annual membership gift of support at mpl.org/friends.

Pictured at left: Daniel Goldin, Mario and Cathy Costantini, Elizabeth Strout, Mayor Tom Barrett, Paula Kiely, Ryan Daniels, and Barbara Franczyk
(photos by Andy Holman)

Architectural Tour of Central Library and a FREE Book at the Bookseller and Cafe

Experience fascinating Milwaukee Public Library history every Saturday at 11 a.m. at 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.
Astrophysics for People in a Hurry by Neil deGrasse Tyson. 523.01 T994.
Most science books are difficult to understand, and the average person is often left with more questions than answers. In this book written for the non-science public, one of the country’s most beloved scientists leads a tour of the cosmos and answers the big questions from black holes to the search for extraterrestrial life.

Black Privilege: Opportunity Comes to Those Who Create It by Charlamagne Tha God. 927.973 T357.
Charlemagne Tha God, a nationally syndicated radio host, has been described as “Hip-hop’s Howard Stern.” Tha God uses his life story to demonstrate that no matter where you come from, being honest with yourself will allow you to be successful.

The Handmaid’s Tale by Margaret Atwood. Fiction.
Atwood’s 1985 dystopian American future is skillfully crafted from a concoction of dark historical events and religious iconography and today reads like a frighteningly plausible tale of civil rights lost. Life in a sanitized, post-constitution, theocratic dictatorship is described by the handmaid, Offred. The book has recently been made into an original series on Hulu.

Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?: And Other Questions You Should Have Answers to When You Work in the White House by Alyssa Mastromonaco with Lauren Oyler. 92 M42443A.
Alyssa Mastromonaco worked for President Obama, starting with then-Senator Obama while in her 20s, through two presidential terms, eventually as deputy chief of staff in the White House. Her down-to-earth and witty memoir is an inspiration for ambitious young women everywhere, or anyone who seeks to be highly organized while maintaining a sense of humor.

You’re Welcome, Cleveland: How I Helped Lebron James Win a Championship and Save a City by Scott Raab. 796.323092 J279RA2.
In 2010, Lebron James left Cleveland for Miami to try and win an NBA championship. Many fans considered this a traitorous act against the people of Cleveland. In 2014, James returned to Cleveland to try and win a championship for his hometown. Raab reveals this journey to redemption for James, himself, and the fans of Cleveland.

A gut-wrenching story of two talented orphans who hope to have their own circus show. Set in Montreal during the Great Depression, it tells of their journey from unfortunate beginnings, separation and suffering to eventual success. The hope of triumph and love reunited begs the reader to keep turning the pages.

Insane Clown President: Dispatches From the 2016 Circus by Matt Taibbi. 324.9730932 T128.
Taibbi, a longtime political journalist, compiles his campaign trail coverage of the 2016 presidential election for Rolling Stone Magazine into a tragic, yet often hysterical, script of the current American political system. He chronicles both parties’ inability to connect with the American people and the political media’s habit of turning news into a consumer business.

Hekla’s Children by James Brogden. Horror.
When teacher Nathan Brookes took his students on a nature hike, four teens were lost, and one was found a day later. Ten years later a body is found in the same area, and police suspect it’s one of the long-missing teens. What they find is a connection to another world and an ancient evil that has been released. Brogden writes a thrilling mix of crime and fantasy.

Contributed by Forest Home Branch staff Anthony Frausto, Greg Comly, and Sarah Davies.
Children’s Room

Places to Go, Stories to Read

Every reader connects with and comprehends a story in a way that reflects his or her own experiences and knowledge. A child who has never experienced snow is likely to have a very different reading experience with A Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats than a child who has grown up in Wisconsin.

Background knowledge is an essential part of a reader’s ability to understand a story or text. While summer reading is about addressing the reading gap during summer vacation, it is also an opportunity to build knowledge through real-life experiences.

Super Reader participants earn coupons for free or reduced admission to great places to explore around the Milwaukee area. Taking advantage of the wonderful educational opportunities in our city helps children gain knowledge and experiences that build a foundation for being a successful reader. A book can be used as an introduction for an anticipated outing or can be enjoyed afterwards allowing a child to bring their new found knowledge to the reading experience.

**First Stage Children’s Theater, Milwaukee Ballet & Milwaukee's Festival City Symphony**

Lucky Lazlo by Steve Light. PIC LIGHT. Ages 4-8.
A smitten Lazlo wishes to present a rose to the lead in the Alice in Wonderland production. When a cat steals his gift, Lazlo chases him, giving readers a behind-the-scenes look and an excellent introduction to the theater.

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**Milwaukee County Zoo**

Zoo Day by Anne Rockwell; illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell. PIC ROCKWEL. Ages 4-8.
Join a family on their first trip to the zoo! Use signs and the zoo map to navigate through watercolor illustrations, visiting monkeys, lions, polar bears and parrots and creating delightful memories.

**Milwaukee Public Museum & Betty Brinn Children’s Museum**

Whether visiting one of Milwaukee’s many museums, parks, or theaters, this provides a concise and engaging overview of the fascinating and fun places to visit and explore in one’s local community.

**Milwaukee Brewers**

Being Your Best at Baseball by Nel Yomtov. 796.357 Y548. Ages 8-10.
What do speedburners, sluggers, cleats, diamonds and shutouts have in common? They are all baseball words! Before you head to Miller Park, learn about baseball history, rules and Hall of Fame players in this comprehensive and colorful book.

**Milwaukee County Parks Pools**

Leo Can Swim by Anna McQuinn; illustrated by Ruth Hearson. PIC MACQUIN. Ages 0-3.
Swimming pools are for tots, too! In this sweet story, a loving father and his son enjoy a baby swim class. Learn what to expect at the pool, removing the fear and leaving only the wonder of water!

**Wisconsin State Fair**

Before heading to the Wisconsin State Fair, read up on cows, milk and dairy. Did you know most dairy cows are milked twice each day? Build your cow know-how and then drink a cup of flavored milk at the Fair!
Meet the Author ~ Louis V. Clark III (Two Shoes)

Take a lifelong journey in prose and verse with Oneida author and poet Louis V. Clark III (Two Shoes), on **Monday, June 19, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Centennial Hall Loos Room**, 733 N. Eighth St., as he chronicles his voyage from schoolyard bullies to workplace barriers.

Warm, plainspoken, and wryly funny, Clark shares his own American Indian story, talking frankly about a culture’s struggle to maintain its heritage. His deceptively simple, poetic storytelling matches the rhythm of the life he recounts from childhood on the Rez to his life today as an elder, grandfather, and published poet. Born and raised on the Oneida Reservation in northeastern Wisconsin, Louis V. Clark III (Two Shoes) turned to poetry to continue the oral tradition of his people, the People of the Standing Stone. A member of the Iroquois Confederacy, his family is of the Bear clan.