The Friends of Milwaukee Public Library will welcome their first Pulitzer Prize-Winning author this spring when #1 New York Times bestselling author Elizabeth Strout takes the stage at the annual Spring Literary Luncheon. This popular annual event brings together Friends members, library supporters, book clubs and literary enthusiasts from across Milwaukee. The event will be held on Friday, May 5, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Wisconsin Club, 900 West Wisconsin Avenue.

Strout will discuss her recently published book Anything Is Possible (2017), which was written in tandem with My Name Is Lucy Barton (2016) and expands on the small-town characters encountered by Lucy and her mother. The new book develops an unforgettable cast who cope with love and loss. “As I was writing My Name Is Lucy Barton,” says Strout, “it came to me that all the characters Lucy and her mother talked about had their own stories - of course! - and so the unfolding of their lives became tremendously important to me.”

“Strout’s new novel reverberates with the deep bonds of family, and the hope that comes with reconciliation. Anything Is Possible again underscores Elizabeth Strout’s place as one of America’s most respected and cherished authors.” (Penguin Books)

Strout’s New York Times bestselling novel, My Name is Lucy Barton, is a first-person narrative which looks at small-town life from multiple perspectives. It was longlisted for the 2016 Man Booker Prize and was listed as one of the Best Books of 2016 by NPR and appeared on the 100 Notable Books of 2016 list in the New York Times.

Strout won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2008 for Olive Kitteridge, which weaves together thirteen narratives into one masterful novel with Olive, unforgettable and larger-than-life, appearing in each story. Olive Kitteridge was adapted into a miniseries on HBO in 2014. Elizabeth Strout has also been a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize. In addition to several other beloved novels, Strout has written short stories that have been published in a number of magazines, including The New Yorker and O: The Oprah Magazine. She lives in New York City and Portland, Maine.

At the luncheon, Elizabeth Strout will talk about her new novel and sign copies, which guests will receive with their reservations. Boswell Book Company will offer additional titles by Strout for purchase. One of the raffle prizes will be an opportunity to sit at the author’s table. For reservations to the Spring Literary Luncheon, please see the enclosed invitation or register online at www.mpl.org/litlunch.

- Contributed by Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library Board President Barbara Franczyk.
In March I posted a review of the book I was reading, M.F.K. Fisher’s *The Gastronomical Me*, on the library’s Facebook page as a response to the #ReadersUnite initiative and invited other readers to participate. Thousands participated in this national campaign, and MPL received more than 350 local interactions across our social media outlets with recommendations from older favorites like *West With the Night* by Beryl Markham and *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt, to new works like *Truevine* by Beth Macy and *Purity* by Jonathan Franzen.

Along with the titles came great comments like: “I am reading *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* to my 7yo. I’ve never read the series myself, so I sneak moments to read his book. Half way through book one and we both are really enjoying it.” “I love my library. I’ve read 6 books in the past 3 weeks and I just love the feel of a paper book (not electronic).” “I am FINALLY reading Jane Fonda’s 2005 *My Life So Far*. I bought it when Ms. Fonda spoke at Central Library’s Centennial Hall, followed by a book signing.”

In addition to offering the best in reading materials to our customers, being able to connect with them like this is one of the pure joys of librarianship.

That’s why I’m looking forward once again to our participation in the Big Read. In the next issue of the Reader, you’ll learn more about *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, the feature book for Big Read MKE. Our kick-off event will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Library which will include readings from the book, a performance featuring dances from the Caribbean, craft activities and of course, books to check out.

I hope you’ll join us on that Saturday or at one or more of the programs we have planned. In the meantime, pick up a copy of *In the Time of the Butterflies* and plan to participate in Big Read MKE this year.

**Free Online Resources From MPL**

Milwaukee Public Library provides free access to online databases for MPL card holders. These popular resources span a wide range of subjects and interests. The complete list of resources is available on the library’s website at www.mpl.org/databases/all.

Gale Courses are free 6-week classes offered on a wide variety of topics including computer skills, starting a small business, improving homeschooling skills and even assisting aging parents.

ReferenceUSA is an easy-to-use directory of people, companies and market research. It has a tremendous collection of data records that can be used as a people or business address/telephone directory, job hunting tool, company or industry analysis source, mailing list creator, and more.

NewspaperARCHIVE has a rich backfile of 19th-20th century newspapers - great for genealogy buffs!

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* database offers quick access to 20th and 21st century Milwaukee news about people and events.

PressReader features up-to-the-minute news from America and around the world, including today’s issues of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and *Chicago Tribune*. PressReader allows users to read, translate, print and share via social media interesting articles found in those newspapers.

If you haven’t tried any of these yet – check them out today!

*Contributed by Central Library librarian Cathy Markwiese.*
Milwaukee Public Library has entered into an historic partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools to provide complete, free digital access to all the library’s online resources to every student in the district.

LibraryNow, as the program is called, gives every MPS student from 1st -12th grade access to online tutoring help, book and music downloads, magazines, games, research databases and more, simply through using their MPS student ID number. LibraryNow gives students access to the full array of online resources offered by MPL wherever they are – in school, at home, on tablets, phones, laptops or desktop computers. LibraryNow also allows students to log on and use computers at all Milwaukee Public Library branch locations.

“We are focused on strengthening the connection between library resources and our city residents through a number of initiatives,” said Milwaukee Public Library Director Paula Kiely. “We have increased hours, expanded educational and entertaining programming and reduced barriers to access by forgiving fines and fees. LibraryNow will build on our efforts by expanding learning opportunities for MPS students through help with schoolwork and skill development, ultimately providing lifelong benefits. And, it’s all available at their fingertips.”

Students can access LibraryNow through the MPS student portal or by visiting LibraryNow.org. Students are encouraged to visit their local neighborhood branch of Milwaukee Public Library to upgrade to a full access card which allows them to check out materials.
Renew Today!

There’s no better time to renew your Friends Membership than now - just before the Spring Literary Luncheon!

Show your support for MPL and reading in Milwaukee by joining the Friends and their literacy efforts through the renewal of your annual membership. Stay tuned for exclusive benefits like Friends field trips, behind-the-scenes tours, special member “coffee breaks” with access to new release books and more. Please check this newsletter mailing label for your Friends membership status. Call (414) 286-8720 or renew at mpl.org/friends.

Make a Difference for Your Library

The Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library advocate for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning through annual memberships. To join the Friends or renew your membership, please visit www.mpl.org/friends or call (414) 286-8720.

Tours of historic Central Library are free and open to the public Saturdays at 11 a.m. To schedule a special tour or to learn about becoming a tour guide, please call (414) 286-TOUR.

Spring Used Book Sale - Coincides with Dr. Seuss’ Birthday Celebration

Saturday, Mar. 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ~ Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Bookseller Corridor, 1st floor

Featuring a large selection of gently used adult and children's books, comics, magazines, CDs, records, audio books and more. 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 March, the Bookseller will feature a selection of half-priced children's fiction books.

Next Sale: Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m. -4 p.m. Summer Sale at Central Library
RSVP  Seating is limited. Please reply by Thursday, April 27. Reservations will be held at the door. Ticket price includes a hardcover copy of the book.

Individual Seat  
$70 each - Qty: ____

Friends Member Seat  
$60 each - Qty: ____

Patron Seat*  
$150 each - Qty: ____

Corporate Table of 8*  
$1,000 each - Qty: ____

*Includes Friends membership, preferred seating and mention in the program.

Special thanks to our event partners

Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library invite you to their annual

Spring Literary Luncheon

Friday, May 5, 2017

The Wisconsin Club
900 West Wisconsin Avenue

Author Signing
Raffle - Win a chance to lunch with Ms. Strout
11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Lunch and Program
Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Featuring

Elizabeth Strout
and her new novel “Anything Is Possible”

Spring Literary Luncheon online reservations: www.mpl.org/litlunch

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to: MPL Foundation
☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

Name on Card_______________________________________________

Account #_____________________________ 3 digit security #_____

Exp. _______ Signature ________________________________

I cannot attend. Please accept my enclosed contribution $_______

Name/Corporate Name (list additional guests)
__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _____  Zip _____________

Phone ___________________ Email ____________________

Menu Options:  (1) Southwest Salad Qty: ____
(2) Vegetarian Pasta Qty: ____  or (3) Salmon Entree Qty: ____

MPL Foundation/Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library
814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 286-8720 Friends@mpl.org

photo by Leonardo Cendamo
Sorry Not Sorry: Dreams, Mistakes and Growing Up by Naya Rivera. 927.973 R6215A.

Glee star Naya Rivera shares insight on her life as a child star, as a teen collecting unemployment checks to support her family, working in retail, and then finally making her way back into Hollywood stardom.

And I Darken by Kiersten White. Fiction. In this feminine retelling of the life of Vlad Dracul, Lada Dragwlya is not your typical princess. Instead of preparing to be a delicate wife, she trains to be a brutal warrior. Abandoned with her brother to be raised in the Ottoman Empire, she learns the key to survival is being ruthless and cunning.

Trainwreck: The Women We Love to Hate, Mock, and Fear…and Why by Sady Doyle. 305.40973 D754. The “Trainwreck” is a female celebrity stereotype replete with sex scandals, drug use, and mental breakdowns. Doyle attacks the media for its portrayal of these women and examines why society loves to hate them.

Potty Training in 3 Days by Brandi Brucks. 649.62 B888. More overwhelmed and traumatized by the attempts of potty training your two year old than she is? Brucks provides a simple, helpful, direct read that takes the stress out of making a little mess, and results in no more dirty diapers.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky. 925.082 I247. Just in time for Women’s History Month, Ignotofsky’s delightfully illustrated adult picture book profiles female scientists from the well-known Marie Curie, Emmy Noether, and Ada Lovelace, to the lesser known Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, French volcanologist Katia Krafft, and cytogeneticist Barbara McClintock.

Game Changers: The Unsung Heroines of Sports History by Molly Schiot. 796.0922 S336. Inspired by her Instagram feed @theunsungheroines, Schiot’s book is filled with facts about women who were pioneers in their sport including Althea Gibson and Kathy Switzer and lesser known women such as skater/surfer Peggy Oki and tennis pro/spy Alice Marble.

Sex Object: A Memoir by Jessica Valenti. 92 V1557A. Written in a series of vignettes from different times in her life, Valenti explores how exhausting and stifling it is to live as a woman. Topics range from street/online harassment, to parenting, to cultivated self-hatred. As the writer’s individual story, it is thoughtful and brave; as a story typical to half the population, it is disheartening.

Kill the Next One by Federico Axat. Mystery. In this psychological thriller, nothing is what it seems and nothing can be trusted. Layers of untruths are revealed in a stunning set of twists and turns. If you enjoy an unreliable narrator and are not afraid of a trip into the unconscious mind, you will appreciate this unique novel.

Where Am I Now? by Mara Wilson. 927.973 W7515A. You may not know the name Mara Wilson, but if you’ve seen the movies Matilda or Mrs. Doubtfire, you’ll most likely recognize the tot in the cover photo. Mara’s all grown up now, and bares her soul in essays about her Hollywood childhood that are frighteningly relatable, given that few of us were child stars. Written with candor and humor, Where Am I Now? is an insightful, empowering, and entertaining read.

Contributed by Capitol Library staff.
Full STEAM Ahead at Your Library

This spring STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) fills the library! STEAM-based programs strive to spark children’s natural curiosity and engage literacy and problem-solving skills through open-ended, hands-on learning.

The programs listed below will use conductive thread to create light-up wearable art. Learn the basics of coding, explore electronics using play dough, make a robot play a song…and much more!

- **After School Tech Time - East**
  Thursdays, Mar 2, Apr 6, 3:30-4:30 pm
- **Minecraft: Hour of Code - Tippecanoe**
  Tuesday, Mar 7, 4-5 pm
- **LEGO+ - Tippecanoe**
  Tuesdays, Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25, 6-7 pm
- **Spring Break LEGO Club - Mill Road**
  Tuesday, April 11 and Wednesday April 12, 1-3 pm
- **STEAM Spring Break - Tippecanoe**
  Tuesday, Apr 11, 1-3 pm
- **Crafternoon - Tippecanoe**
  Tuesday and Apr 18, 4-5 pm

Join the STEAM fun at your library and then check out one of these great books to extend the fun at home!

- **Bedtime Math. The Truth Comes Out** by Laura Overdeck; illustrated by Jim Paillot. 513.2 O9577B 2015. Ages 5-9. There are challenges for a range of ages and over 100 fun, kid-appealing problems to solve in this book that has something for everyone and is an easy way to make math part of every day!

- **The Kid’s Book of Simple Everyday Science** by Kelly Doudna. 507.8 D728. Ages 6-8. Inspire budding scientists by using materials found around the home in 40 different exciting activities that teach basic science concepts.

- **Paint Lab for Kids: 52 Adventures in Painting and Mixed-Media for Budding Artists of All Ages** by Stephanie Corfee. 751.4 D797. Ages 7-14. A great introduction to painting techniques that will inspire anyone to create, with enough projects to try something new every week of the year!

- **Coding Projects in Scratch** by Jon Woodcock. 005.133 W886 2016. Ages 8-14. Readers can develop the building blocks for coding using this guide and the free online coding program, Scratch.

- **Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects: Build, Invent, Create, Discover** by Jack Challoner. 507.8 C437 2016. Ages 8 & up. Featuring an array of fun projects of varying degrees of difficulty, youth can explore science and make some cool projects, including sticky slime and edible creations!

- **Cool Flexagon Art: Creative Activities that Make Math & Science Fun for Kids!** by Anders Hanson and Elissa Mann. 516.156 H252. Ages 8-14. Origami meets geometry lesson as readers create their own flexagon art in this combination math and art book.

Many STEAM programs offered at MPL will feature materials supplied by MKE Mixers — a free service provided through Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS). Learn more at one of our upcoming MKE Mixers programs, or head to mkemixers.org!
Celebrate Women’s History Month

Celebrate Women’s History Month at your library by attending one of these great author events in March.

Award-winning author Kathie Giorgio shares stories from her fifth book, *Oddities & Endings: The Collected Stories of Kathie Giorgio* on Monday, March 6, 6-7 p.m. at Central Library. The book is a compilation of Giorgio’s stories previously published in literary magazines and was selected for the “Top 100 Must Reads for the Summer” list by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

As a part owner of one of Wisconsin’s smaller craft breweries, Tami Plourde has defied expectations and helped to shape the evolving story of beer in Wisconsin. During *Women in a Male-Dominated Field: The Beer Industry* on Tuesday, March 21, 6-7:30 p.m. at the East Branch, Tami will share her story and recognize the other women who are opening doors for a new generation of women who are both excited and well qualified to walk through those doors.

*Playing Through the Fence,* by Mary Dowell, is part memoir, part self-help for emerging leaders or anyone seeking inspiration while facing obstacles in her career journey. Meet Mary Dowell on Monday, March 27, 6-7 p.m. at Central Library as she shares powerful reflections on the lives and careers of nineteen accomplished women, sometimes against what seemed like impossible odds, as they challenged barriers on their paths to success.