Summer is here, and once again the Milwaukee Public Library’s Super Reader Program is calling on kids to read every day to stay smart and sharp.

Keeping children’s minds active with reading is one of the best ways to combat brain drain during the long summer months when kids are out of the classroom. Research shows that children who do not read over the summer can see the knowledge and skills they developed throughout the school year begin to diminish, setting them back when school starts again in the fall. Fifteen minutes of daily reading is all that is needed to stop this brain drain. Whether it be 15 minutes at one time or spread throughout the day, daily reading is a great habit to develop. Reading daily leads to better readers, and good readers do better academically.

The Super Reader Program, for kids ages 12 and under, offers fun and enriching reading incentives. Participants earn prizes for signing up, reporting their reading to librarians, and completing the program. Whether Super Readers are reading to educate or to entertain, they should read what they love. Children are more motivated to read when they can pick books that suit their interests, and at the library, they can find the things they’ll love.

Children who are too young to read on their own can participate by listening to stories read by others. Reading aloud to young children is an especially good way to model a love of reading and to help little ones get ready to read. Adults can read to kids; and kids can read to adults, to friends and siblings, or even to the family dog. Listening to audio books counts, too!

Summer reading is equally important for teens. While teens might be busy with jobs and extracurricular commitments, finding time to read every day will support them in their future endeavors, including college and the workplace. Young adults ages 13-18 can participate in Put Your Face in a Book, which, like the Super Reader program, offers incentives for making reading a priority in life. Great books for teens, in a variety of genres and exploring innumerable topics, can be found at the library.

Encouraging children and teens to read what they love for at least 15 minutes per day will foster reading as a lifelong pursuit, the greatest incentive of all! Both the Super Reader Program and Put Your Face in a book run from May 18 to August 31. For more information, please visit the library’s website: www.mpl.org/summerreading/.
I’m always delighted to walk through our libraries in the summer and see them crowded with children filling out Summer Reading folders, participating in programs, carrying home yard signs, window clings and free books. It brings to mind my own excitement as a child whenever summer reading time rolled around full of the promise of lazy summer days spent reading the many favorite books I discovered at the library.

But why should the kids have all the fun? There’s no reason summer reading excitement should stop at any age. Librarians are always ready with new recommendations for the next great read. Give them the titles of the last few books you enjoyed and they’ll find something new that fits your interests.

And speaking of something new, stop by the new East Branch and take part in the Book to Art Club for adults. Engage with popular literature in a hands-on, imaginative way each month. Read the selected novel, then work on an art project inspired by the story. The first program in the series is on Tuesday, May 26 at 6 p.m. and features *Where’d You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple. Register for the program online at mpl.org or call 414.286.3011 by May 22. Additional programs are scheduled for June 23, July 28 and August 25, all at the East Branch.

How about starting your own summer book club? Get together with friends in the backyard and read this summer’s offerings by best selling authors Catherine Coulter, J.A. Jance, Iris Johansen or Stuart Woods while sipping some lemonade or iced tea. Or maybe it’s time to put that new fire pit to use for an evening of scintillating literary conversation by starlight?

Whether you take a book to the beach, on the plane, or just in the backyard, make reading a special part of your summer this year and feel like a kid again!
From the Friends of the Library

Friends and Docents Tour Studios Preserving Historic Central Library

What a thrill to tour the renowned Conrad Schmitt Studios in February with fellow Friends members and docents! On the workroom floor, artisans were laboring on stained glass using methods passed down through the ages.

Elsewhere, designers were producing restoration renderings using Photoshop and 3D modeling software. We gingerly touched gossamer sheets of gold leaf and viewed miniscule paint core samples from Central Library through a 3D microscope.

Thanks for letting us participate in this tour!

Submitted by Pauline Beck, Friends member
Photo above: Touring Conrad Schmitt Studios; right: cutting lead channel
Pauline Beck photographer

Docent Tour Founder Elaine Berke Retires

It is with much appreciation that the staff of the Milwaukee Public Library recognizes Elaine Berke for 26 years of exemplary service as a volunteer and docent.

Elaine shared her expertise from years of docent work at the Milwaukee Art Museum and worked closely with Library staff to develop a docent-led architectural tour of the Central Library after years of renovation work were completed.

The program launched in 2001 and since then, Elaine has given tours for hundreds of visitors, some of whom were inspired to then volunteer as docents themselves.

Elaine officially retired from docent service in April.

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. NEW TIME: Tours begin at 11 a.m. on Saturdays in the rotunda. To arrange for a special tour, please call (414) 286-TOUR. To learn more about becoming a docent, please call (414) 286-8720.

Summer Used Book 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. Next Sale: Sept. 19 – 10-cent Sale

There will be a 2-for-1 sale in the Bookseller Used Book Store during the sale.
Yahoo was founded in 1994, before Google, or Amazon, or Facebook, and by the late 1990s was the most popular starting point for internet users. Carlson’s book details the fascinating rise and fall of the company and Mayer’s valiant attempt to save it.

Gods and Kings: The Rise and Fall of Alexander McQueen and John Galliano by Dana Thomas. 746.920922 T455. 2015.
Thomas, a Paris-based fashion writer for Newsweek, writes about the tragic lives of British designers Alexander McQueen and John Galliano, while also chronicling the three decades in which fashion went from a cottage industry to a cutthroat business.

Approach spring cleaning using the KonMari Method, developed by Japanese cleaning consultant Marie Kondo, to create, experience and maintain a clutter-free home.

“If you don’t deal with your emotions, one day your emotions are going to deal with you.” Poet and Grammy Award-winning artist J. Ivy leads an inspiring poetic journey of healing and forgiveness as he shares his emotions of growing up without a father.

Dreamfire by Kit Alloway. Young Adult Fiction. 2015.
Enter the Dream universe where Joshlyn Weaver and other dream walkers protect the unsuspecting world from its own nightmares. As Joshlyn begins training a dream walker named Will, a new, powerful force surfaces. Will they be able to stand together and defeat this threat?

“In love we find out who we want to be; in war we found out who we are.” The occupation of France by Nazi Germany drove two sisters to make difficult life-changing choices. Isabelle joined the Resistance and Vianne was forced to accommodate a German captain after her own husband was captured.

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson. 940.4514 L334. 2015.
Drawing on the vast array of available archived materials, Larson has produced a compelling, in-depth historical account of the sinking of the British ocean liner Lusitania in this 100th year anniversary of the event.

The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl by Issa Rae 305.48896 R134. 2015.
Rae shares her comical accounts of navigating life as an introvert in a world heavily concentrated on stereotypes. This is a book about growing pains, self-discovery, self-esteem, and the ability to accept the awkwardness in ourselves and others.

And Sometimes I Wonder About You by Walter Mosley Mystery. 2015.
Leonid McGill, the NYC based private eye, is back and trying to balance his cases with achaotic personal life. When asked to track down a client’s cousin, Celia, who is about to inherit millions, he declines. But after someone breaks into his office, he finds himself pulled into the mess of Celia’s old-money family anyway. Not that he has time; he’s got to save who he can, incriminate the guilty, find his own father, reconcile (if possible) with his wife and girlfriend and attend the wedding of Gordo, his oldest friend.

Contributed by Center Street Library staff Hermoine Bell-Henderson, Carl Chopp, Kim Johnson, and Zarina Mohd Shah and Central Library fiction selector Jacki Potratz.
Check out one of these books and be inspired to discover your own inner super powers!

**I Am So Brave! A Book About Overcoming Fears** by Stephen Krensky; illustrated by Sara Gillingham. (Ages 2-4) BRD KRENSKY
In this bright and colorful addition to the Empowerment series, toddlers learn about facing fears including loud noises, dogs, and goodbyes.

**Fly!** by Karl Newsom Edwards (Ages 2-5) PIC EDWARDS
Fly desperately wants to be able to do the things his other animal friends can do like wiggle, jump, and march. Will Fly discover his own special skill?

**Elephants Can’t Jump!** by Jeanne Willis; illustrated by Adrian Reynolds (Ages 3-6) PIC WILLIS
All the other animals are able to jump except Elephant, despite his best efforts. Elephant feels blue until his own unique ability is just what is needed to save the day.

**Wild About Us!** by Karen Beaumont; illustrated by Janet Stevens (Ages 4-8) PIC BEAUMON
Warthog likes himself, warts and all! Join him and other animals as they celebrate their unique qualities in this comical, rhyming story celebrating diversity.

**The Hero in You** by Ellis Paul; pictures by Angela Padrón (Ages 5-10) 782.42083 P324Q
Readers can learn about some of the most extraordinary people throughout U.S. history and sing along with the CD.

**Absolutely Almost** by Lisa Graff. (Ages 8-12) FIC GRAFF
Albie is, quite literally, an average fifth-grader, which is part of the problem. After getting kicked out of his high-achieving school, his new babysitter helps him see the value of his many strengths.

**El Deafo** by Cece Bell; color by David Lasky (Ages 8 & up) GRPH BELL
This graphic novel/memoir, based on Bell’s own experience, details her struggles and triumphs in adjusting to hearing loss. While “The Phonic Ear” initially sets her apart, she learns to embrace her new superpower.

**Great Reads for Teens**
Check out one of these exciting teen books this summer and bring back the fun in reading.

**All the Bright Places** by Jennifer Niven (Age 15 & up) FIC NIVEN
Theodore Finch is the school misfit. Violet Markey is dealing with the tragic death of her sister. Their paths cross on the ledge of their school’s bell tower. Suicidal thoughts swirl through each of their minds daily. Virginia Woolf’s poetry and their school project may help them see their lives in a different light.

**I Was Here** by Gayle Forman (Age 12 & up) FIC FORMAN
Cody Reynolds wants to know why her best friend Meg committed suicide. While retracing her dead friend’s footsteps, she makes some startling discoveries.

**Shadow Scale** by Rachel Hartman (Age 12 & up) FIC HARTMAN
In the sequel to *Seraphina*, half-dragon, half-human Seraphina seeks out others like herself when war breaks out between humans and dragons and she must outwit a terrifying half-dragon who uses mind-controlling powers.
Milwaukee Public Library Names New Poet Laureate: Matt Cook

Milwaukee Public Library is proud to announce the selection of the 2015-2017 Poet Laureate, Matt Cook.

The Milwaukee Poet Laureate project, initiated in February 2000, is sponsored by the Milwaukee Public Library and supported by the Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library. The project committee selects a local poet to serve as Milwaukee Poet Laureate for a two-year term. The poet laureate makes several guest appearances during the term, promoting poetry throughout the community.

Matt Cook graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Master’s Degree in English, and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Memphis, and lectured extensively at both universities. He lives in Milwaukee’s Riverwest community.

Many of his poems have been read by Garrison Keillor on National Public Radio. He appeared in the five-part PBS series The United States of Poetry.

Matt Cook is the author of four books of poetry: In the Small of My Backyard, Eavesdrop Soup, The Unreasonable Slug, and most recently, Proving Nothing to Anyone from Publishing Genius Press.

See the library’s website at mpl.org for information on his inaugural event.