Libraries DO Matter

Milwaukee Public Library employees answer a lot of questions every day – when is the library open? What location is closest to me? Is the latest bestseller available? Can you help me download a book to my device? What programs are available for teens? Children? Seniors? But the most vexing question of them all is “Do libraries really matter anymore?”

Unsurprisingly, it comes from someone who is unaware of all our libraries have to offer.

An opinion piece entitled *Amazon Should Replace Local Libraries to Save Taxpayers Money* appeared recently on the Forbes.com website and was met with such severe outrage that the magazine quickly removed it from their site, saying “Forbes advocates spirited dialogue on a range of topics, including those that often take a contrarian view. Libraries play an important role in our society. This article was outside of this contributor’s specific area of expertise, and has since been removed.”

For those who still perceive the public library as only a warehouse of books, here are some highlights from the MPL 2020 Progress Report:

- More than 9,000 children attend Teacher in the Library sessions each year
- Hundreds of teens visit the library’s Teen Job Fairs to learn how to apply for a job and to set up interviews with local businesses
- An average of 4,500 reservations are made annually for the library’s meeting room spaces
- Milwaukee Public Library has renovated three branches into mixed-use developments and is in the process of building a third (Progress on the next project is detailed on page 2.)
- More than 6,000 free programs are offered annually at the library for patrons of all ages
- Education and Outreach Services provide 280 senior van site visits, 400 child care deliveries, and average 100 school and nursing home deliveries each year
- More than 13,500 people are friends of the library’s Facebook page

Material loans, meeting spaces, programs, activities and audience numbers can be recorded, but how do you tally experiences like falling in love with a favorite book, finishing the summer library program, learning a new skill, getting the signature of a favorite author, meeting people with similar interests or facing similar challenges, getting a child’s first library card? The library isn’t a grocery store where you walk in, take something from a shelf and pay for it. So many of the interactions inside a library can’t be quantified.

Libraries matter. Less than $100 of each Milwaukee household’s annual tax bill supports 13 libraries, a 24-hour express library, and provides access to over a hundred online databases, thousands of programs, millions of books, and countless experiences. It’s a pretty good value for so much more than a book store.
Libraries are enduring institutions because they are evolving institutions. As patron needs evolve, so do our libraries. As mentioned on the cover, our newest redevelopment project will replace the Mill Road Branch, which has been in a limited service model while the new project is designed and built.

Construction has begun at 7717 W. Good Hope Road and we hope to complete the project in 2019. The new 18,400 square foot library will be part of a mixed-use apartment development with 65 units.

Features of the new library will include a larger and more flexible community room, more access to computers and technology, a makerspace for hands-on learning which includes a 3D printer and laser cutter, a dedicated teen space, a bright and engaging children’s space, a comfortable laptop lounge with fireplace, new study rooms, and flexible, functional and cozy seating throughout the library.

Watch for more information on the project and news about the grand opening. We’d love to see you there!
An Afternoon with Richard Drew: Invitation to a Front Row Seat to History

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Richard Drew is best known for capturing the devastating image of Falling Man on September 11, 2001, but his portfolio is filled with memorable images of figures from history, sports, music and entertainment. Drew reflects on the stories behind the images on **Sunday, November 4, from 2-3:30 p.m.** in Central Library’s Centennial Hall, 733 N. Eighth St.

One of four photographers present during the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, Drew has photographed Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Yasir Arafat, Golda Meir, British royalty, and every United States president beginning with Lyndon Johnson. He also captured images of film stars like Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra, music legends from Luciano Pavarotti to the Beatles, and sporting greats Wilt Chamberlain, Willie Mays, Muhammad Ali and Pele in action.

Join him for this rare opportunity at a glimpse behind the camera for fascinating stories of universal icons and historic moments. **Registration is required; please register online at www.mpl.org or by calling 414.286.3011.**

Southern Cuisine’s Unsung Heroes: African American Founders of American Culinary Traditions

Join Venice Williams, Executive Director of Alice’s Garden in Milwaukee, on **Saturday, November 3, 2-4 p.m.** in Central Library’s Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room, as she discusses the bedrock contribution of Black cooks to American and Southern food culture.

The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session and time to view other notable cookbooks from the Milwaukee Public Library collection that have been profiled in *The Jemima Code* by Toni Tipton-Martin.

Reservations required; please call 414.286.3011 or register online at www.mpl.org.
Wine and Book Pairing Experience on Giving Tuesday, November 27, 5:30 pm

Giving Tuesday, November 27, is a day to celebrate you, our generous donors who support Milwaukee Public Library Foundation. Donate to join in the fun for a Wine and Book Pairing special event this Giving Tuesday! Your donation helps provide inspiration and opportunity for families, job seekers, entrepreneurs, curious minds, and book lovers of every age.

Support the library with a glass of wine in one hand and a book in the other—could anything be better? Savor featured wines and explore perfect library book pairings in Central Library’s elegant Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room. Whether you have a taste for wine and books that have a light, bubbly feel, or those that are dry and bold, there is something for everyone to experience and enjoy.

Indulge your passions for fine wine, great books and your love for the library. Between now and November 27, please make your reservation with a donation of $150 and make a difference for your neighbors who value the Milwaukee Public Library and its mission. The library is a trusted community safe place, where families in Milwaukee can build literacy skills that will transform readers into lifelong learners. Go to mpl.org/wineandbooks, or call (414) 286-3784 for more information or for assistance with your donation.

Thank You, Lawyers for Libraries

The Annual Lawyers for Libraries Member Social at the Central Library was a wonderful evening of socializing and learning about the positive impact the Milwaukee Public Library is having in our community.

(Pictured at right: Frank Gimbel, Judge Janet Protasiewicz, Charlotte Siegel. Pictured below: Milwaukee’s legal community in the beautiful Richard E. and Lucile Rare Books Room. Erika Ehley, photographer)
**Pop Up Sale Success**

Thank you to the Milwaukee Public Market for hosting a special Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library “Pop Up” Book Sale. The sale was a success with more than 1,400 books sold! All of the proceeds from Friends book sales benefit literacy in Milwaukee for children and adults through new books and materials at the library.

If you love to shop and dine locally, the Milwaukee Public Market at 400 N. Water Street also has $1 books available daily at the Friends book carts on the second floor.

The Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library are grateful to partner with the Milwaukee Public Market, who help support the Friends’ mission to advocate for libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning.

**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 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 Used Book Store and Café. 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.

**Holiday/Children’s Used Book Sale**

**Saturday, November 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Community Room 1, first floor

Features a large selection of gently used books including adult fiction and nonfiction titles, new and used children’s books and holiday books. All proceeds from this sale benefit the Milwaukee Public Library. Friends members may enter sales 30 minutes before the public with a current membership card. Please use the Eighth Street entrance and present your card.  

October in-store special: Cookbooks

Interested in volunteering in the Bookseller or at Friends Book Sales? Email friendsbookseller@gmail.com for more information.

The first book sale in 2019 will be the Spring Sale on Saturday, March 2, coinciding with the Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss celebration at the Central Library.
Black Fortunes by Shomari Wills.  
Black Fortunes recounts the stories and personalities of the first six African American men and women who became millionaires following emancipation. Amassing such a fortune and the power that comes with it takes determination and courage that few possess, but for former slaves and their children, the journey was more difficult and often riddled with violence. A fascinating read that brings to light the first black business titans of America and the nearly insurmountable obstacles they faced on their journeys.

The Third Hotel by Laura Van den Berg.  
This is part realistic portrayal of grief and part psychological thriller. What exactly Clare sees and experiences is up for debate. Attending a film festival with tickets purchased by her recently deceased husband, Clare is shocked to discover her husband alive and must uncover the truth.

The Trigger: Narratives of the American Shooter by Daniel J. Patinkin.  
America has the most gun-related deaths of any country among developed nations. Looking beyond the headlines, there is a moving backstory for every shooter and victim. Patinkin explores six accounts of those who have shot someone. He shows that behind the gun, there are tragic, yet fascinating, stories about the person that pulls the trigger.

The Masterpiece by Fiona Davis.  
Two women, living 50 years apart, find themselves working at Grand Central Terminal in New York City. In 1928, the station is home to the Grand Central School of Art, where Clara Darden is teaching. Meanwhile, in 1974, Virginia Clay is forced to find work for the first time in her life. She takes a position at the information booth at the now rundown terminal. When it’s marked for demolition and redevelopment, a mysterious painting found in an abandoned studio links the two women.

The Female Persuasion by Meg Wolitzer.  
In this tale of self-discovery, college student Greer Kadetsky is given the opportunity to work for her feminist idol, Faith Frank. But power and love don’t often live side by side, and such is the truth for Greer who risks losing her high school sweetheart, Cory. Swayed by the ‘female persuasion’ and modern feminism, she must decide what is more important to her.

Josh and Hazel’s Guide to Not Dating by Christina Lauren.  
Hazel and Josh start setting each other up on a string of double dates, although strangely, they always find themselves having more fun with each other than their dates. There’s definitely nothing going on between Josh and Hazel, right? As Josh delves into Hazel’s eccentric habits, and she learns more about his traditional Korean mores, they find unexpected connections and realize that maybe opposites do attract.

Last Shot by Daniel José Older.  
A Star Wars novel. Years after successfully defeating the Empire and starting a family with Princess Leia, Han Solo is surprised to find his old friend Lando Calrissian at his door with a price on his head. What follows is an adventure across the galaxy that includes Chewbacca, an Ewok, and a figure from both of their pasts.

A Dark Night in Aurora by William H. Reid, MD, MPH.  
This factual account centers on James Holmes, the young man who killed 12 innocent moviegoers in Colorado in 2012. Reid, the forensic psychiatrist who was appointed to interview the killer before his trial, gives the reader an unbiased, accurate explanation of what drove Holmes to commit this atrocious act and provides insights into the epidemic of mass shootings nationwide.

Contributed by Mitchell Street staff Greg Comly, Sarah Davies and Anthony Frausto and Central Library librarian Jacki Potratz.
It’s Written in the Stars

Libraries around the nation recognize Teen Read Week during the second week of October—a celebration of young adult books and a time when teens are encouraged to read and become regular library users. This year, the theme is “It’s Written in the Stars,” urging teens to read outside of the box and try out new genres that inspire.

The Milwaukee Public Library strives to support teens all year and encourage creative thinking by offering programs, contests, and many ways to get involved at the library, including the opportunity to become a Teen Intern or join the Teen Advisory Board or Teen Volunteer Club.

This fall teens are encouraged to submit their favorite original piece of art to the Teen Art Contest, explore their creativity with spooky make-up challenges, and plan for the future with different college and career workshops. The Northwestern Mutual Foundation Studio M makerspace at the Mitchell Street Branch has open making times encouraging teens to geek out at the library.

Through library spaces, resources and programs, MPL helps teens to think creatively, stretch their imaginations, and reach for the stars.


The Beauty That Remains by Ashley Woodfolk. Ages 14 & up. It’s hard to put the pieces back together after a life has been shattered by loss. Autumn, Shay, and Logan are each struggling with personal tragedies in this novel of grief, love, and music.

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi. Ages 14 & up. Seventeen-year-old Zélie vividly remembers the day her family was destroyed and magic disappeared. When the chance arises to bring magic back, Zélie arms herself with new allies and an explosive secret, beginning a quest that could change the world.

Here to Stay by Sara Farizan. Ages 12 & up. Bijan Majidi is a model student and an instant basketball star. When a cyberbully sends a photoshopped picture making him look like a terrorist, Bijan wants to ignore it, but administration searches for the culprit, causing heated political opinions throughout the high school.

For Every One by Jason Reynolds. Ages 12 & up. This inspirational poem is written for every kid who dreams of something better, by the award-winning author of Long Way Down.

Girls Resist!: A Guide to Activism, Leadership, and Starting a Revolution by KaeLyn Rich. Ages 14 & up. If you are looking to make a change in the world around you, this small guide will help you understand social activism and give you ideas on how to champion your cause.
200th Anniversary of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*

In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Milwaukee Public Library presents film screenings, book discussions, crafts and science experiments throughout October.

- **Watch screenings of the Universal Horror classics**
  - *Frankenstein* and *Bride of Frankenstein* and join a book club discussion of the original text that started it all at the Tippecanoe Branch:
    - **Wednesday, October 10, 6-7:45 pm**
    - *Frankenstein* Film Screening and Discussion
    - **Wednesday, October 24, 6-7 pm**
    - *Frankenstein* Book Discussion
    - **Wednesday, October 31, 6-7:45 pm**
    - *Bride of Frankenstein* Screening and Discussion

- **Create terrible toys** by mixing parts for a new disturbing Frankentoy creation during Freaky Frankentoys at the Tippecanoe Branch on Tuesday, October 9, 3:30-5 p.m.

- **Sew your own Frankenstuffie** with fabric and e-textile technology at the East Branch on Thursday, October 25, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Supplies will be provided).

- **Meet members of UW-Madison’s Neuroscience Training Program** at the East Branch on Saturday, October 27, 12-3 p.m. Real human brains will be available to hold, along with other activities related to neuroscience research and diseases. Learn how electricity can be used to reanimate a cockroach leg. Frankenstein-inspired books and films will be available for browsing.

- **Assemble a mixed-media monster** by putting those Frankenstein skills to the test at the Central Library on Saturday, October 27, 2-3 p.m.