

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# READER

Events • Books • Services

February 2010 Vol. 68 No. 2

## Celebrate Black History Month



- ~ Born Velvlea Rogers in 1924, she was the first woman on Milwaukee's Common Council and the first African American elected to a Wisconsin statewide office as Secretary of State. By what name is she known in Milwaukee?
- ~ What is the SCLC?
- ~ This playwright, best known for his works, *Jitney*, *Gem of the Ocean*, and *Fences*, died in 2005.
- ~ What is President Barack Obama's middle name?

### African-American Jeopardy for Families

How well do you know your African-American history? Test your knowledge and learn something new! Prizes and refreshments provided.

**Monday, February 8**

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**

**Center Street Library**

**Tuesday, February 23**

**6-7 p.m.**

**Martin Luther King Library**

Milwaukee Public Library celebrates Black History Month with a number of special programs for children and families in February in addition to African-American Jeopardy.

Families are invited to learn about jazz, hear great jazz albums, and maybe even meet a singer/musician during **A History of Jazz in America** at Villard Avenue Library on Wednesday, February 10 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Central Library will host a **Read In** to celebrate Black History Month for children ages 6-12 on Monday, February 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Librarians, volunteers from the community and from the Milwaukee Area Reading Council will read aloud every hour on the hour from books written by or about African Americans. Children who read at least an hour will receive a certificate and a small gift.

Ten libraries will provide craft supplies for children ages 5-12 to create their own quilt pattern during a **Quilting Bee in the Style of Gee's Bend Quilters**. In Gee's Bend, the top of the quilt is always pieced by a quilter working alone and reflects a singular artistic vision. The process of "quilting" the quilt is sometimes then performed communally, among small groups of women. Children will learn more about the history of the Gee's Bend quilters while creating a quilt with paper and other art supplies.

#### Atkinson

Monday, Feb. 15, 5 p.m.

#### Bay View

Saturday, Feb. 27, 2 p.m.

#### Capitol

Monday, Feb. 1, 4:30 p.m.

#### Center Street

Wed., Feb. 17, 4:30 p.m.

#### Central

Saturday, Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m.

#### Forest Home

Monday, Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m.

#### M.L. King

Monday, Feb. 8, 5:30 p.m.

#### Tippecanoe

Wed., Feb. 10, 4:30 p.m.

#### Washington Park

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 5 p.m.

#### Zablocki

Wed., Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m.

Answers:  
Vel R. Phillips  
Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
August Wilson  
Hussein



FROM THE

# LIBRARY DIRECTOR

PAULA A. KIELY



I've decided to make myself a reading list. Not just any list, but one that includes all those books I've been meaning to read, that I should read, books that I want to reread, and those I'm embarrassed to admit I haven't read.

This won't be an all-inclusive list, but one to get me thinking about how I want to spend my valuable and far too few available hours reading.

What got me thinking about this was a conversation I had with a colleague from Chicago. Jason is in his late 30s, who I would describe as a deep thinker, intense, and rather brilliant. He wanted to know what book had made the greatest impact on my life. I admitted that I didn't have a great answer, but proceeded to describe *The Dove*, a book by Robin Graham about his solo voyage in a 24-foot sailboat at age 16 – a book that made me question my future and led me to interrupt my education during my junior year of college.

The purpose of Jason's question was that he was gathering titles for his own list – one that included only great works that would teach him something and expand his understanding of the world. He told me he had about 2,500 books left in him – if he read a book a week through his expected lifespan. What an idea!

Being a tad older than my friend I quickly calculated how many books I had left in me – just 1,872! This is stunning when I consider how many books are published each year. Looking at this number, I fully intend to choose those books carefully.

What am I reading now? *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. Told in alternating chapters set in 1942 and 2003 Paris, it's a heart wrenching story of the arrest of Jewish families by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup and a 45-year-old journalist investigating the story on its 60th anniversary. It belongs on any list.

What's your number? And what will you be reading? Some of the best works of literature, drama, poetry, essays, and so much more can be found on the shelves of your Milwaukee Public Library. Let us help you find just the right book.

# The Queens of Harmony

Celebrate Black History Month by enjoying a concert by The Queens of Harmony in the Loos Room of Central Library's Centennial Hall, 733 N. Eighth St. on **Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.**

The Milwaukee County Historical Society and the Milwaukee Public Library are sponsoring this concert by one of Milwaukee's oldest a capella Gospel groups who will perform selections from their latest CD, *Walk With Me Lord*. Copies of the CD will be available for purchase following the concert.

Admission is free, however, registration is required due to limited seating. Please call (414) 273-8288 to reserve a seat.

The six-member Gospel group was organized in 1964, and Jessie McCullum - one of the founding members - still actively performs with the group.



The Milwaukee Public Library is every person's gateway to an expanding world of information. Library staff is dedicated to providing the best in library service, guiding Milwaukeeans in their pursuit of knowledge, enjoyment and lifelong learning, and ultimately enriching individual lives and the community as a whole.

- Library Director ..... Paula A. Kiely
- Board of Trustees ..... David Riemer, president  
John Gurda, vice president; Ald. Milele Coggs; Sharon Cook; Ald. Ashanti Hamilton;  
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- MPL Foundation Executive Director ..... Meg Diaz
- MPL Foundation Board of Directors President ..... Gregory C. Oberland
- Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library President ..... Lois Blinkhorn

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)

Reader staff: Sandy Rusch Walton, editor  
Christine Murphy, writer  
Paul Wilant, printer





# FROM THE FRIENDS

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## OF THE LIBRARY

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## Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation Supports Early Literacy

In December 2009, the Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation provided a \$100,000 gift to the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation to support the successful Ready to Read with Books2Go/Libros Para Llevar program. This program provides outreach and training to child care providers, parents, and early childhood educators. The gift also included a matching grant to the MPL Foundation's children's endowment.



photo by Donald M. Murphy

## Thank you!

The Milwaukee Public Library Foundation ended 2009 on a very positive note thanks to the many generous donors who support our efforts. During 2009, the MPL Foundation was able to raise nearly \$1.4 million. This wonderful generosity allows the library to fill shelves with new and relevant materials, keep up to date with technology and provide vital programming for the citizens of Milwaukee.

## Take a Tour of Beautiful Central Library



photo by Eric Oxendorf

In 2009, hundreds of MPL visitors were treated to FREE guided tours of Central every Saturday (and other by-appointment tours), providing education on the architecture and history of the building. Central Library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tours begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturdays in the rotunda. To arrange for a special tour, please call (414) 286-TOUR or 8687.

Special thanks to our dedicated volunteer Docents! They attend monthly educational programs at MPL, and give back to their library by leading tours. To learn more about becoming a Docent, please call (414) 286-8720.

## Used Book Sales

**Saturday, Feb. 6**  
**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Featuring Romance Novels  
& Cookbooks**

Central Library  
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

*Friends members may enter the sale 30 minutes before the general public with current membership card.*

**Next sale: 10-Cent Sale**  
**May 1 at Central Library**



## 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, visit [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org) and click on "Support the Library" or call (414) 286-8720.



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# THE BOOKSHELF

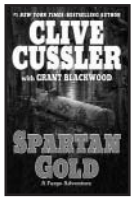
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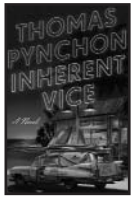
**Gale Gand's Brunch!: 100 Fantastic Recipes for the Weekend's Best Meal** by Gale Gand. 641.53 G195. 2009.

This cookbook features simple recipes with few ingredients. Gand includes scrumptious recipes for coffee cake, turnovers, doughnuts and spreads that go with breakfast food.



**Spartan Gold** by Clive Cussler. Fiction. 2009.

When the treasure hunting team of Sam and Remi stumble on a WW II U-boat in a Maryland swamp, they discover one of the bottles from Napoleon's famous Lost Cellar. If they can find the rest of the bottles, they'll have the clues to a great treasure that even Napoleon couldn't carry out of the Alps.



**Inherent Vice** by Thomas Pynchon. Fiction. 2009.

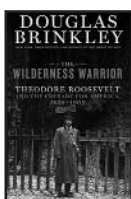
Pynchon updates the hard-boiled detective novel in this take on American noir. With more twists and turns than a drive up the Pacific Coast Highway and a soundtrack of 60's pop songs, Pynchon brings to life America's obsession with celebrities, money, and power on the edge of a continent.



**Lacuna** by Barbara Kingsolver. Fiction. 2009.

Harrison William Shepherd is the product of two worlds. The son of an American bureaucrat and his Mexican wife, he spends part of his teenage years in the household of Diego Rivera and Frieda Kahlo and meets Leon Trotsky. Because of this, he comes under the scrutiny of the House Un-American Activities

Committee. Shepherd is caught up in the most turbulent events of his times, but tries to remain aloof from them.



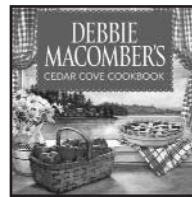
**The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America** by Douglas Brinkley. 92 R781BRI.

Roosevelt included conservation among his many progressive achievements. Brinkley's biography of the 26th president focuses on his environmental accomplishments: preserving more than 200 million acres of wilderness, saving the Grand Canyon from commercial development, and creating the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among others. Along the way he meets pioneers of conservation such as John Muir and George Bird Grinnell.



**Scary Stuff** by Sharon Fiffer. Mystery. 2009.

Antiques picker Jane Wheel is at it again in the next novel of the beloved series. Wheel battles ghosts of all kinds to find links to her past she never knew existed and in doing so, finds more than she had bargained for.



**Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove Cookbook** by Debbie Macomber. 641.5 M171. 2009.

This treasure trove of more than 130 delectable recipes is a companion to Macomber's popular Cedar Cove series. Charlotte Rhodes, one of the series' characters, tours the town's kitchens and shares recipes and stories about the people.



**Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel** by Jeannette Walls. Fiction. 2009.

This largely biographical story of Walls' (*The Glass Castle*) gritty West Texan grandmother, Lily Casey Smith, captures her indomitable spirit. Smith was born in a dirt dugout in west Texas in 1901. By six she was breaking her father's horses; at 12 she was running the ranch; at 15 she left home to become a teacher. She marries a bigamist, then a rancher, sells bootleg liquor, becomes a rodeo rider and learns to fly an airplane.



**Censoring an Iranian Love Story: A Novel** by Shahriar Mandanipour. Fiction. 2009.

A novel with two elaborately intertwined plots: the trials of an Iranian writer attempting to write a love story while grappling with the harsh censorship rules of his homeland; a story of two young Iranians who try to conduct a covert romance in Tehran. A deeply moving novel and an unforgettable portrait of contemporary life in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



**Clash of the Demons** by Joseph Delaney. Children's Science Fiction. 2009.

The sixth book in *The Last Apprentice* series follows Tom Ward, the Spook's apprentice, through some scary adventures. In order to protect the county from evil (ghosts, boggarts, witches and other dangerous creatures), Tom has to use his untrained powers to help the Spook and sometimes has to save the Spook himself.

*Submitted by Bay View librarians Clare Blasinski, Christopher Gawronski, Irene Moraniec and Library Reference Assistant Britany Buechel (Washington Park).*

# CHILDREN'S ROOM



Milwaukee Public Library will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday the month of March with a grand kick off on **Saturday, March 6**, at the Central Library. Dr. Seuss, aka Theodore Geisel, understood the importance of

providing fun, enjoyable, reading for children who were just learning how to read. We know that children read more when they like what they read and the more they read, the better reader they become.

## Kick off at Central Library

Saturday, March 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10:00, 11:00, and 12:00 – Sing and Dance along with musician Ken Baron

10:30, 11:30 and 12:30 – Laugh out loud at stories with Chris Fascione

Story nook, craft station, cookie decorating, face painting and costume characters.

## Neighborhood Library Celebrations

### Atkinson

Tuesday, March 23, 6 – 7 p.m.

### Bay View

Saturday, March 13, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

### Capitol

Monday March 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### Center Street

Saturday, March 20, 2 – 3 p.m.

### East

Saturday, March 27, 10:30 – 11:30 p.m.

### Forest Home

Tuesday, March 16, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

### Martin Luther King

Monday, March 8, 6 – 7 p.m.

### Mill Road

Saturday, March 27, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

### Tippecanoe

Wednesday, March 17, 6-7pm

### Villard Avenue

Tuesday, March 9, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

### Washington Park

Friday, March 12, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### Zablocki

Saturday, March 13, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Seuss books initially helped to launch Beginning Reader books. Today we have a large variety of high quality Beginning Readers to pick from. Raising a reader is one very important thing parents can do, and something that will have so many benefits - from good grades to eventually a great job. Raising a reader isn't hard if you follow these tips:

1. **Make reading a part of every day.** Incorporate it into your bedtime or after school routine. Twenty minutes a day is all it takes.
2. **Don't stop reading with your children** just because they have started to read on their own. Children enjoy and need to hear fluent readers.
3. **Find books with topics that interest your child.** When you find something you want to read, reading becomes a treat, not a chore.
4. **Get your child their own library card.** Children can receive a library card when they can print their first and last name.
5. **Be a role model.** Children will naturally do what they see their parents doing. Let them catch you reading. Have plenty of reading material in your house.

## Not all Beginning Readers are created equal...

The Beginning Reader section carries books with just a few words per page to books that are good for children at the end of 1st grade or beginning of 2nd grade. Below are just a few great books that range from the easier to the harder Beginning Readers:

### Crab Cab by Harriet Ziefert.

Learning to read is fun when you flip a page and presto-change-o a new word appears.

### Watch Me Throw the Ball!

by Mo Willems.

Gerald gets serious about teaching Piggie to throw a ball, but Piggie, as usual, just wants to have fun.

### Benny and Penny in Just Pretend—A Toon Book by Geoffrey Hayes.

This comic book/easy reader tells the story about a mouse brother “pirate” and his younger tag-along sister through simple word balloons and pictures.

### I Spy Fly Guy! by Tedd Arnold.

While playing hide-and-seek with Buzz, Fly Guy disappears.

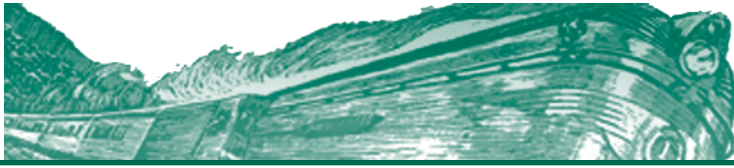
### This is My Town by Mercer Mayer.

The best parts of this easy reader are the fabulous illustrations, which match the text perfectly and include lots of signs and labels which reinforce the text.

### Annie and Snowball and the Pink Surprise by Cynthia Rylant.

Annie and Henry notice that a visiting hummingbird likes the pink petunias, so they fill the garden with pink objects to attract more hummingbirds.

To find a Beginning Reader just right for your reader, ask a librarian for help. For more tips on Raising a Reader go to [www.mpl.org/file/kids\\_families\\_index.htm](http://www.mpl.org/file/kids_families_index.htm).



# Milwaukee Road Archives

The Milwaukee Road Archives digital collection was added to MPL's website on January 4. Beginning in 2010, the Archives is making available online indexes and finding aids which will help researchers, historians, hobbyists and family genealogists, as well as the general public. In this initial stage, the digital collection includes indexes to the small selection of employee records that are part of the Archives.

While the Milwaukee Road Archives is not available for browsing, access to Archives materials described in the online collection may be arranged by contacting librarians in the Frank P. Zeidler Humanities Room at (414) 286-3061.

## MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**Atkinson** 1960 W. Atkinson Ave. 286-3068 • **Bay View** 2566 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. 286-3019

**Capitol** 3969 N. 74th St. 286-3006 • **Center Street** 2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave. 286-3090 • **Central** 814 W. Wisconsin Ave. 286-3000

**East** 1910 E. North Ave. 286-3058 • **Forest Home** 1432 W. Forest Home Ave. 286-3083 • **M.L. King** 310 W. Locust St. 286-3098

**Mill Road** 6431 N. 76th St. 286-3088 • **Tippecanoe** 3912 S. Howell Ave. 286-3085 • **Villard Avenue** 3310 W. Villard Ave. 286-3079

**Washington Park** 2121 N. Sherman Blvd. 286-3066 • **Zablocki** 3501 W. Oklahoma Ave. 286-3055

**Youth and Community Outreach Services** 286-3076 • [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org)

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Changing your address? Please let us know! To keep costs down, and in line with concern for environmental issues, we are making every effort to send only one newsletter to each address. If you're receiving more than one copy, or if you prefer to stop receiving The Reader, or if you prefer to read it on-line at [www.mpl.org](http://www.mpl.org), please call us at (414) 286-3784 or e-mail your changes to [friends@mpl.org](mailto:friends@mpl.org).