



February 16, 2012

February is Black History Month

The Milford Town Library celebrates Black History Month with a display of books, films and music by and about Black Americans from the time of slavery until the present.

The display is on the round table near the Biography and Staff Picks shelf, and presently features books on Harriet Tubman, the Black Panther Party, the Rise of Jim Crow, and Condoleesa Rice, as well as books, films or music by or about Tupac, Zora Neale Hurston, Sidney Poitier, the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many other distinguished people and events in our history.

The display will change during the next two weeks bringing items of Black American history, art, biography and literature to the attention of our patrons. Find a book, movie or piece of music you are unfamiliar with and take it home to enjoy.

Did you Know: AIDS Turned 30?

June 5, 2011 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) being discussed openly in the medical literature to alert, inform, and mobilize health care individuals. Much has changed for the better since 1981 and a new book, ***AIDS at 30: a History by Victoria Harden*** is thorough and eye-opening.

For example, the number of people who have actually died from AIDS is not known partly because in the years prior to its identification, there were those who succumbed to the disease which was classified as something else. In contrast, due to reporting procedures, as of 2010, the number of people worldwide infected with HIV is 33.3 million. And thanks to aggressive advocacy, research, and funding, their prognosis is cautiously optimistic.

Harden, a founding director of the Office of NIH History at the National Institutes of Health, has written widely about AIDS in the past and lectured extensively about the disease. She is also the author of *Inventing the NIH: Federal Biomedical Research Policy, 1887-1937* and *Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever: History of a Twentieth Century Disease*.

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Senior Book Group

The Senior Book Group will discuss Haley Tanner's debut novel ***Vaclav & Lena*** on Tuesday, February 21 at 10am at the Milford Senior Center.

Vaclav and Lena meet as children in an ESL class in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. Vaclav is precocious and verbal. Lena, struggling with English, takes comfort in the safety of his adoration, his noisy, loving home, and the care of Rasia, his big-hearted mother. They practice a magic act together, foreshadowing Lena's eventual disappearance as one day, Lena simply does not show up for school.

For the next seven years without a glimpse or a word from or about her, Vaclav says goodnight to Lena without fail, wondering if she is doing the same somewhere. On the eve of Lena's seventeenth birthday he finds out.

Newcomers are always welcome to the discussions and may participate on a regular or book-by-book basis. For more information about the book group, please call the library's Information Desk at 508-473-2145, ext 219.

. AARP Tax Assistance

The schedule for Tax Assistance for the AARP Tax Assistance Tax Counselors is filling up rapidly. Only a few openings remain on Saturdays March 24 and 31. Tax Assistance is available through the AARP to assist senior citizens and low income persons prepare their 2011 Federal and Massachusetts income tax returns.

Those who are eligible for the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker, please remember to bring your 2011 real estate and two water/sewer bills and receipts with you. For most, these will be the bills issued in Feb. and May (payments 3 and 4 for fiscal 2011), and Aug and Nov (payments 1 and 2 for fiscal 2012). If you do not have records of your payments, copies may be obtained from the Town Treasurer's Office.

Please remember that only simple tax returns can be handled by the volunteer tax counselors. To make an appointment for Tax Assistance, call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145, ext. 219. Appointments are at one hour intervals beginning at 9am. The last appointment will be at 2pm.

Mary Webber: Featured Artist

Award winning artist and Milfordian Mary Webber has paintings, portraits, and woodcuts on exhibit during February. Mary is highly skilled in many artistic media including printmaking, watercolor, and oil painting.

Mary's artistic abilities were evident from early childhood and she was always encouraged by her parents. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and her Master's of Fine Art from Boston University.

Mary considers herself both a painter and a printmaker. Her artwork, whether printmaking or painting, goes beyond the underlying structure and form into the dimension of

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visual and sensual movement. These invite the viewer to explore, not only in space, but in time, the vast depths and distances in nature in her landscapes.

Mary's paintings will be on exhibit through February 29. Please come by and appreciate the beauty, the color and amazing versatility of Mary's work.

Contemporary Book Group

The Contemporary Book Group will discuss **The Forgotten Waltz** by Anne Enright on Wednesday, February 29 at 7pm in the Childrens' Program Room. Enright, a Dublin native, won the Booker Prize for her novel **The Gathering** in 2007. Her other books include **The Portable Virgin, The Wig My Father Wore, What Are You Like?, The Pleasure of Eliza Lynch, Yesterday's Weather** and **Making Babies**.

The Forgotten Waltz brings Enright's exquisite powers of perception and storytelling to bear as her heroine Gina Moynihan reflects on the great love of her life, Sean Vallely. In Enright's hands the tenor of everyday life is lifted, transformed, and examined bringing readers on an inner journey.

For more information or to reserve a copy please contact Shelley at 508-473-2145 or ssgammat@cwmares.org

Vintage Valentine's Display

Throughout February, vintage Valentine postcards, books, lace, and heart-shaped tins and boxes adorn the adult display case near the reference desk. On loan from the collection of a hopeless romantic who wishes to remain anonymous, the items will charm and disarm you.

The famous lovers Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler can be found on the cover of sheet music for "My Own True Love" alongside black and white photos of angelic cherubs, and whimsical Victorian postcards with some formal and some cheeky sentiments. Popeye and his girl Olive Oyl are here too.

Near the Biography New Books, the round table displays a selection of romantic titles of all sorts. Everyone should find something of interest here.

Besides Valentine's Day celebrated each February 14, February is American Heart Month.

Paul LaVallee Publishes Third Book

Congratulations to local author Paul LaVallee who published his third novel in November!

The new book *Firewatch* is a companion piece to Paul's earlier historical novels, ***Rattle of the Looms*** and ***Emery's Mansion*** which take place in the mills of the Blackstone River Valley and evoke the spirit of a time long past when the mill was the heart and soul of the community, with lunch whistles and the hustle and bustle of a common enterprise.

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Firewatch brings the harsh reality and inevitability of the declining mills into focus where the activity stops, having been sent overseas, leaving abandoned buildings on “firewatch”.

Paul, a life-long resident of the Blackstone River Valley, is a Marine veteran of the Korean war, a former VFW Commander, a DAV member, and a “non-bocce” playing member of the Italian-American (ITAM) war veteran's post.

To reserve **Firewatch**, **Rattle of the Looms**, or **Emery's Mansion**, please call the library's Information Desk at 508.473.2145, ext 2 or visit the library's website at www.milfordtownlibrary.org.

Tax Forms are Here!

The Milford Town Library has received both Federal and Mass State 2011 Tax Forms. They may be found on a metal cart near the front door. All the basic Federal forms and instructions are here, as well as Resident and non-Resident Massachusetts State forms.

We are requesting that patrons take only one copy of the Massachusetts State Resident forms. These forms are difficult to come by and seem to disappear rapidly. Please consider other patrons when taking forms home.

Additional forms and forms for previous years can be found at: www.irs.gov for federal filing and www.mass.gov/dor for state filing.

Children's Spring Story Times

Registration is required for all Spring Story Time Programs and will begin on February 26th in the Children's Room. The lottery will be held on March 9th after 12pm. This five week program runs from March 12th to April 13th, 2012

Parents and caregivers may register children in person, by phone (508-473-2145 X216), or online at www.milfordtown.library.org. When registering online, please fill out the form on the Children's page.

The following programs will be offered:

- **Storytime:** for ages 3-5 on Tuesdays at 10am
- **Toddler Time:** for ages 2-3 on Wednesdays at 10am
- **Art with Heart:** for grades Kindergarten to three on Thursday at 4pm
- **Mother Goose on the Loose:** for infants from birth to age 2 on Fridays at 10am

Precinct Changes

The Town of Milford has redistricted its precincts due to the increase in population. In case you are unsure of your current precinct designation, the Milford Library has obtained a map of the new precincts and a list of the streets and the precincts to which they now belong.

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The map and the list are on an easel located near the windows at the beginning of the periodical shelves. Should you need to consult the list by removing it from the board on the easel, please make sure you return it to its proper place when you are finished.

A list of Precinct polling places is on the easel for people who have been assigned to new precincts. This should also be left on the easel. Thank you.

Ongoing Programs

- **Recycle** your used printer cartridges and help the Friends of the Library earn funds.
- **Food Pantry** donations from the library have been greatly appreciated. More job layoffs mean more people using the Food Pantry. Donations are delivered weekly by staff member.
- **Museum Passes** are available to many area museums, zoos and attractions.
- **Book Sale Table** has items for all ages replenished weekly.

Library News is compiled weekly by Reference Librarian Mary Frances Best