An Online Auction to Benefit the Associates of the Boston Public Library

October 16–25, 2020
To participate in the BID IT! BOOK IT! auction, please visit www.BiditBookit.org.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at Auction@AssociatesBPL.org or (617) 536-3886.
The Associates of the Boston Public Library is dedicated to preserving and protecting the hundreds of thousands of remarkable items in the BPL’s Special Collections: John Adams’ personal library, a Shakespeare First Folio, historic letters from Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, etchings by M.C. Escher, stunning illuminated medieval manuscripts, early photographs of John F. Kennedy’s political campaigns, and so much more.

The preservation of these national treasures is critical, as is our support for digitizing as many as possible so that people around the country—and the world—can experience and enjoy them. Now more than ever, we need your help. The pandemic forced the cancellation for this year of our most significant fundraiser—Literary Lights. In response, we reached out to many of the remarkable authors and artists we have honored as our Literary Lights over the past three decades and asked them to join in this online auction. They responded very generously and our auction catalog is packed with one-of-a-kind literary items!

As you peruse the remarkable contributions by authors and artists from all genres available for bid, please know that they—AND YOU—are providing key resources to ensure that the rare and remarkable items in the BPL’s Special Collections are publicly available for generations to come. THANK YOU!
Want to know more about how *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* came to be and what inspires its remarkable creator Jeff Kinney? The winning bidder for this item will have the opportunity, along with up to seven friends, to meet Jeff Kinney, tour An Unlikely Story—the bookstore he created in his hometown of Plainville, Massachusetts—as well as the studio space where Greg Heffley and Rowley Jefferson and all their friends and family begin each new adventure.

Jeff Kinney is the world renowned author of *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, which began as an online publication shared in installments in 2002. In 2007, the first print edition was published and became an immediate bestseller. Today, more than 200 million copies of the series are in print worldwide, the books have been translated into 64 languages, and on a typical day more than 70,000 readers access it online. *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* has been on the *New York Times* bestseller list continually since its initial publication—now more than 500 weeks in total! The winning bidder for this item will enjoy a rare opportunity to meet this remarkable author and artist in person.

Lois Lowry has won almost too many awards to count! *Number the Stars* and *The Giver* both received the prestigious Newbery Medal. The American Library Association has bestowed on her its esteemed Margaret Edwards Award honoring an author and a body of work for making a significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. She has also received the National Jewish Book Award, the Regina Medal, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award (twice), and dozens of others.

Now you and a small group of your friends or your book group (up to ten) can talk directly with the author via a Zoom session. Share tea and treats with Lois Lowry and find out what inspired her to begin writing, where her ideas come from, and who are her favorite characters and authors. This is truly a remarkable opportunity for the legions of fans of Lois Lowry’s work!

**JEFF KINNEY** will give up to eight guests a private tour of his Plainville, MA, bookstore—An Unlikely Story—during 2021 at a time that is mutually convenient for the author and the high bidder and when it is considered safe, according to health guidelines, to do so. The tour will end with a visit to Jeff’s Wimpy Kid studio, a beautiful creative space where his books are made. The approximate length of the tour is 30 minutes. The Associates of the Boston Public Library will coordinate arrangements.

**Lois Lowry** will participate in a 30-minute Zoom session with the winning bidder and up to nine guests. Prior to the session, the winning bidder will receive a package containing Lois Lowry’s favorite tea and treats to enjoy with her as you chat.

The winning bidder, along with up to nine guests, will participate in a 30-minute Zoom session with **LOIS LOWRY** to be scheduled at the author’s and the winner’s mutual convenience between November 1, 2020 and October 31, 2021. The Associates of the Boston Public Library will host the session. Prior to the session, the winning bidder will receive a package containing Lois Lowry’s favorite tea and treats to enjoy with her as you chat.
John Grogan
Writing from Your Life: A Conversation with the Best-Selling Author of *Marley & Me*

Have you ever wondered how the story of one (incredibly loving and loyal, but completely disobedient) dog could capture the hearts of readers the world around, becoming a *New York Times* No. 1 bestseller translated into 30 languages? Or maybe you want to know how the Editor of Rodale’s *Organic Gardening* became one of the most beloved and successful memoirists of our time? Or maybe you just want to know how to build your own ukulele? The multi-talented John Grogan is happy to talk to you about any (or all) of these things as you share a glass of wine and a bite of cheese.

A journalist for 25 years, John Grogan became a best-selling author with the 2005 publication of *Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World’s Worst Dog*. He is also the author of the acclaimed *The Longest Trip Home: A Memoir*, along with a host of children’s books, many based on Marley.

John Grogan’s love of organic gardening and of working with his hands, especially in his woodshop, has continued through the years and is documented on his blog which can be found at johngroganbooks.com. The winning bidder will enjoy the chance to talk to John Grogan about any or all of the things that fascinate him.

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Amor Towles
Creating Characters: A Virtual Presentation by Best-Selling Author Amor Towles

How does an author go about inhabiting the mind of someone with whom he has little in common—a young woman in 1930s New York suddenly thrust into the most glittering of social circles or an aging Russian aristocrat under house arrest in a hotel in Moscow after the Bolshevik revolution? *New York Times* best-selling author Amor Towles has done both to incredible effect, and invited us to share his journey. Now you (and up to 49 of your guests) can hear from Amor Towles as you join him for a virtual discussion of his work.

Amor Towles is the author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, which spent more than one hundred weeks on the *New York Times*’ bestseller list, and was named one of the Best Books of 2016 by the *Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and NPR. His first novel, *Rules of Civility*, was named one of the Best Books of 2011 by *The Wall Street Journal*. His books have been translated into over 35 languages.
Min Jin Lee
Who Writes History?

In the first line of her best-selling and widely acclaimed book *Pachinko*, Min Jin Lee writes “History has failed us, but no matter.” Explore the meaning of that line with the author herself. Who gets to write history and whose stories are excluded? What does this say about what we really know about ourselves? This is a conversation perfectly suited to the times in which we live.

Min Jin Lee is the author of *Free Food for Millionaires*, which in 2007 was selected as one of the Top Ten Novels by *The Times of London*, and *Pachinko*, a finalist for the National Book Award and named one of the Best Books of 2017 by *The New York Times*. *Pachinko* was also the recipient of the Medici Book Club Prize, has been translated into over 30 languages, and appeared on over 75 lists of the best books of the year. Min Jin Lee is the recipient of fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, as well as the fiction fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, which has inducted her into its Hall of Fame. She is currently a writer-in-residence at Amherst College.

Ambassador Nicholas Burns
Diplomacy in a Rapidly Changing World: A Conversation with Ambassador Nicholas Burns

America’s relationship with other nations has changed dramatically over the past several years and no one is better able to parse what is required of America in the world today—especially as we navigate increasingly fraught relationships with our allies in Europe—than Ambassador Nicholas Burns. Join this highly respected and renowned diplomat for a conversation on America’s current international challenges and what steps we should be taking to prepare for the future.

Ambassador Nicholas Burns is the Roy and Barbara Goodman Family Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Relations at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. He is the Founder and Faculty Chair of the Future of Diplomacy Project and Faculty Chair of the Project on Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship. Ambassador Burns is also Executive Director of the Aspen Strategy Group and Aspen Security Forum, and Senior Counselor at the Cohen Group. He serves in senior advisory positions to a large number of non-profit institutions and international organizations.

Ambassador Burns served in the United States government for twenty-seven years. As a career Foreign Service Officer, he was Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from 2005 to 2008, U.S. Ambassador to NATO (2001-2005), Ambassador to Greece (1997-2001), and State Department Spokesman (1995-1997).
Do you love *Wicked*, *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*, *After Alice*, and his latest, *A Wild Winter Swan*, not to mention all the other wonderful books that have sprung from the imagination and the pen of Gregory Maguire? Now is your chance to talk directly with the author himself and to learn what inspires him to write such truly enchanting stories.

The author has graciously donated 45 minutes of his time to talk to you and, if you wish, a small group of your friends or your book group (maximum of 10 people). He will even share his own glass of wine and his favorite nibble of Shropshire blue cheese, virtually, with you, the host, as you chat.

The high bidder will receive a 45-minute Zoom session with **GREGORY MAGUIRE** to be scheduled at the author’s and the winner’s mutual convenience between November 1, 2020 and October 31, 2021. The Associates of the Boston Public Library will host the session for up to ten people. Before the Zoom session, the winning bidder will be sent wine recommended by the author as well as cheese and appropriate accompaniments to be enjoyed during your time together.

The session will include a welcome and some casual remarks by Gregory Maguire, possibly a brief reading, and a chance for questions and answers and discussion. The mode is informal, convivial, and celebratory.
The winning bidder, and up to five of their guests will receive a 30-minute Zoom session with David Gergen to be scheduled at the Professor's and the winner's mutual convenience between December 1, 2020 and October 31, 2021. The Associates of the Boston Public Library will host the session.
What are we to make of the events of the past year? The arrival of the pandemic, the loss of so many jobs and businesses, a presidential campaign being conducted virtually, and charges of interference in our election process by outside actors. A dramatic year indeed!

How do all of these things fit into the narrative of our nation and our world? No one could be a better guide to viewing 2020 through the lens of history than Jill Lepore, distinguished Professor of American History at Harvard University, renowned staff writer at The New Yorker, and the author of the New York Times bestselling These Truths: A History of the United States.

Jill Lepore is also the host of the podcast, The Last Archive (www.thelastarchive.com), which in its inaugural season took on the question “Who killed truth?” The high bidder and up to five guests will have the opportunity to discuss 2020 with this remarkable historian and what, if anything, it may tell us about the future we will share.

What lessons for today can be gleaned from Henry IV, Richard III, Julius Caesar, and other Shakespearian works? In many of his plays, Shakespeare wrote insightfully of tyrants and populism, of demagoguery and the consequences of an indifference to truth. His words seem prescient in our current troubled debate.

Distinguished literary historian Stephen Greenblatt has, for the past 20 years, been the John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard. He is the renowned author of the New York Times bestseller Will in the World and won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for The Swerve: How the World Became Modern. During your Zoom session, Professor Greenblatt will talk with you about his most recent work Tyrant: Shakespeare on Politics.
As The New Yorker’s chief Washington correspondent, Jane Mayer works to unravel some of the most complicated political stories of our time: the influence of money in both campaigns and governance, the relationship between Congressional leadership and occupants of the Oval Office, and the genesis of a host of accusations and conspiracy theories. No one untangles a story and gets to the fundamental truths better than Jane Mayer.

The winning bidder will receive a 60-minute Zoom session with WILLIAM MARTIN (or, if appropriate and desired, an in-person presentation) for up to 25 people to be scheduled at the author’s and the winner’s mutual convenience between November 1, 2020 and October 31, 2021. If by Zoom, the Associates of the Boston Public Library will host the session. Before the session, the winning bidder will be sent a signed and inscribed copy of The Lincoln Letter.

Have you ever wondered what the world looked like to Abraham Lincoln, especially during his years in Washington?

We invite you and a group of up to 24 additional guests to join New York Times best-selling author William Martin for an hour-long presentation via Zoom on Abraham Lincoln’s growth from the Constitutional lawyer in the White House to the avatar of a new birth of freedom. In a series of rare images, you will look into Lincoln’s eyes and walk the streets of Civil War Washington as Martin takes you through the research for his novel, The Lincoln Letter. If you prefer, and are local to the Boston area, when (and if) the need for social distancing ends, William Martin will present this lecture in person to your group.

The winning bidder, and up to six guests, will receive a 30-minute Zoom session with JANE MAYER and Joseph Finder to be scheduled at the authors’ and the winner’s mutual convenience between November 1, 2020 and October 31, 2021. The Associates of the Boston Public Library will host the session.

Before the session, the winning bidder will be sent a signed and inscribed copy of The Lincoln Letter.

Jane Mayer

As The New Yorker’s chief Washington correspondent, Jane Mayer works to unravel some of the most complicated political stories of our time: the influence of money in both campaigns and governance, the relationship between Congressional leadership and occupants of the Oval Office, and the genesis of a host of accusations and conspiracy theories. No one untangles a story and gets to the fundamental truths better than Jane Mayer.

Join Jane Mayer and best-selling author Joseph Finder in a conversation about the importance of investigative journalism in our country today and the challenges our current politics pose for telling truth from lies and fact from fiction. You will have plenty of time to ask your own questions of this remarkable writer.

Jane Mayer has served as a staff writer for The New Yorker since 1995. She is the author of the New York Times bestseller Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right, named by The New York Times as one of the ten Best Books of 2016. In 2008, she wrote the bestseller The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals, also named one of the ten best books of the year by The New York Times. Both were based on pieces originally published in The New Yorker. Jane Mayer is the recipient of the George Polk Award, the John Chancellor Award, the Goldsmith Book Prize, and the Frances Perkins Prize for Courage, along with other honors too numerous to list.
Joseph Finder
See Your Name in Best-Selling Author Joseph Finder’s Next Book

Have you ever dreamed of being a character in a novel, especially one full of intrigue and surprises? Well now that dream can come true! Best-selling author Joseph Finder has agreed to put the high bidder’s name into his next thriller.

Joseph Finder is the New York Times best-selling author of sixteen suspense novels, including his enormously popular Nick Heller series. His most recent book, published early this year, House on Fire, is the fourth in the series and takes readers on a fast-paced and timely mystery full of meticulously crafted twists and turns.

The winning bidder’s name will appear in JOSEPH FINDER’s next novel. The Associates will confirm all details with both the high bidder and the author at the conclusion of the auction. The winning bidder will also receive a signed copy of Joseph Finder’s most recent work House on Fire inscribed with their name.

Roz Chast
Own an Original Literary Drawing from Award-Winning New Yorker Contributor and Author Roz Chast

Do you laugh out loud when you encounter one of Roz Chast’s inimitable works in The New Yorker? Does her ability to take life’s everyday trials and tribulations and throw them into bold (and humorous) relief tickle your funny bone? Now you have the unique opportunity to own an original drawing by this truly remarkable and renowned artist.

To benefit the Associates of the Boston Public Library, Roz Chast has created an original drawing “New from Lockdown Press.” This remarkable cartoon is not only witty but also wryly reflects the unprecedented times in which we are all living.

The winning bidder will receive this original, signed drawing by ROZ CHAST created for the Associates of the Boston Public Library. The work is on paper measuring 8 ½ inches x 10 ½ inches and is rendered in ink and wash. It is unframed. The drawing will be sent via overnight delivery to the winning bidder.
In 2018, Scholastic Books commissioned renowned artist Brian Selznick to create a whole new set of covers for the 20th anniversary of the immensely popular Harry Potter series. His haunting black and white images bring Harry, Hermione, Ron, Dumbledore, Snape and so many others to life as never before.

For this auction, Brian Selznick has donated three personal copies of the posters produced by Scholastic, signing each one and inscribing it with the name of the winning bidder. This is a remarkable opportunity for fans of Harry Potter to own a piece of art and publishing history!

Brian Selznick is the widely admired author and illustrator of a host of children’s books, including the Caldecott Medal winner The Invention of Hugo Cabret, which was made into the Oscar-winning movie Hugo directed by Martin Scorsese. Among his other well-known works are Wonderstruck and The Marvels. His most recent work is his first for adults. Live Oak, With Moss brings to life 12 poems written by Walt Whitman. To see more of Brian Selznick’s work visit his Instagram page @thebrianselznick.

Nicholson Baker is the author of ten novels and numerous works of nonfiction. His most recent book Baseless: My Search for Secrets in the Ruins of the Freedom of Information Act was published this past July to critical acclaim. A frequent contributor to The New Yorker, his other books include the novel The Anthologist; the New York Times bestseller Substitute: Going to School with a Thousand Kids; and the best-selling Vox. Nicholson Baker is the recipient of the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Hermann Hesse Prize, and a Katherine Anne Porter Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The winning bidder will provide a photograph to the Associates from which Nicholson Baker will work. The author and artist will create a signed portrait in pencil on paper. The winning bidder will receive the portrait via secure mail before December 31, 2020.
Buy a Reproduction of One of the Remarkable Pieces of History in the Boston Public Library’s Special Collections

Red Sox Doerr, Williams and DiMaggio Show Their Athletic Prowess in Stunning Photo by Leslie Jones

Three of the all-time greats to play for the Boston Red Sox were Bobby Doerr, Ted Williams and Dom DiMaggio. In the 1940s they all played together with Doerr at second base, Williams usually in left field, and DiMaggio in center field. Famed Boston photographer Leslie Jones captured this image of the three demonstrating just how high they could jump in pursuit of a fly ball. This photograph is being made available by the family of Leslie Jones especially for this auction.

Will Bradley Art Nouveau Advertising Poster for Columbia Bicycles

This beautiful depiction of two women riding Columbia Bicycles was created for the Pope Manufacturing Company of Hartford, Connecticut. The design, the winning entry in a national competition, was created by Massachusetts-born artist Will Bradley (1868–1962) when he was 27. Bradley was one of the leading exponents of the Art Nouveau style in commercial art in the United States and hailed as the “Dean of American Designers” by The Saturday Evening Post.

Anti-Slavery Broadside

In the 19th century, one of the ways to rally public sentiment was the posting of broadsides throughout the community. The Anti-Slavery Collection in the Boston Public Library’s Special Collections is home to a number of broadsides that were used around the city in the years before emancipation. This broadside quotes from the stirring words of the 1776 Virginia Constitution.

Charming Jessie Willcox Smith Illustration of a Mother Reading Fairy Tales

Famed for her depictions of children, artist Jessie Willcox Smith (1863–1935) was commissioned by Scribner’s Magazine to create a series of eight images of “A Mother’s Days” in 1902. This illustration capturing a mother reading fairy tales to her children was the fourth in the series and is reproduced from a unique Louis Prang & Co. chromolithographic proof in the collection of the Boston Public Library. In 1991, Smith became only the second woman to be inducted into The Hall of Fame of New York’s Society of Illustrators.
Julian Fellowes, the creator and sole writer of *Downton Abbey*, has donated one of his own copies of the script of the very first episode of the blockbuster saga. This is the episode, set in April of 1912, that introduces us to the Earldom of Grantham and the drama that occurs when the heir to the estate and his son both die in the sinking of the *Titanic*. The script sets the scene for the fascinating look into the life of all the characters who live and work at Downton. Making this item even more special, Julian Fellowes will not only sign the script, he will also personally inscribe it to the winning bidder.

Julian Fellowes began his career in the arts in the 1970s, as a character actor in theatre, television and movies. In the 1990s, he began to write TV adaptations of novels, notably *Little Lord Fauntleroy* and *The Prince and the Pauper*. Fellowes’s breakthrough came with his first produced screenplay, *Gosford Park*. It earned him several honors, including an Academy Award for best original screenplay. He wrote scripts for *Vanity Fair*, *Separate Lies* and *From Time to Time* (both of which he also directed), *The Young Victoria*, *The Tourist*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Chaperone* and most recently the *Downton Abbey* movie.

He has written three best-selling novels, *Snobs*, *Past Imperfect*, and *Belgravia*. He is responsible for the ‘book’ of the Broadway musicals, *Mary Poppins* and *School of Rock*—for which he received a Tony nomination.

In 2010 Fellowes created and executive produced *Downton Abbey*, which began following the fortunes of more than a dozen major characters, from the Earl and Countess of Grantham down to the scullery maid, in the pre-World War I period. The show became a massive success both in the UK and abroad, airing on MASTERPIECE on PBS in the United States. Over its six seasons, *Downton Abbey* received 69 Emmy Award nominations; winning 15, including writing and Outstanding Miniseries or Movie for Fellowes. Some of his other television writing credits include *Titanic*, *Doctor Thorne*, *The English Game*, and *Belgravia* based on his novel. In January 2011, he was given a peerage and entered the House of Lords as the Lord Fellowes of West Stafford.

The high bidder will receive one of JULIAN FELLOWES’s personal copies of the script for the first episode of *Downton Abbey*. At the conclusion of the auction, the winning bidder’s name will be provided to Fellowes who will sign and inscribe the script. The script will be delivered to the winning bidder by secure post as soon as possible after the close of the auction.
Smart People is a play deeply rooted in modern American politics. Set in the years from 2007 to 2009, as Barack Obama was running for and winning the presidency. The play was described when it debuted at Boston’s Huntington Theatre as “quick-witted, wildly intelligent, and as entertaining as it is unsettling.” In this remarkable work, Diamond uses her characters—four Harvard intellectuals—to tackle racism and other thorny issues head on, but with both humor and heart.

Lydia Diamond is an award-winning playwright whose works include: Toni Stone (2019 premiere at Roundabout Theatre Company), Smart People, Stick Fly (Broadway run at Cort Theatre), Voyeurs de Venus, Harriet Jacobs, and The Bluest Eye. Her work has been performed at theaters throughout the country including: Arena Stage, The Goodman, The McCarter, Second Stage Theater, The New Vic Theatre, Company One, The Guthrie Theater, Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Long Wharf Theatre, Writer’s Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, and many others.

Diamond has been a W. E. B. DuBois Institute Non-Resident Fellow at Harvard, a Sundance Playwright Lab Creative Advisor, a Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellow, a Sally B. Goodman Fellow, a Huntington Playwright Fellow, and a National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Playwright in Residence at Steppenwolf. She is the 2020 recipient of the Horton Foote Prize, has an honorary MFA from American Conservatory Theatre, an honorary doctorate from Pine Manor College, sits on the Dramatists Guild Legal Defense Fund board and is on faculty at University of Illinois at Chicago.
Few writers of history can capture our imaginations the way that Nathaniel Philbrick can. From his National Book Award-winning *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*, to the 2007 Pulitzer Prize finalist *Mayflower*, to his most recent work *In the Hurricane’s Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown*, Nathaniel Philbrick never ceases to amaze us.

Now this renowned author has personally selected a set of his works and will inscribe each to the high bidder. This is the opportunity to own a history library like no other!

**Geraldine Brooks**

**A Strikingly Beautiful Signed Copy of March**

*March* by Geraldine Brooks is one of the most beloved works of historical fiction in recent years. The winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction brings us inside the life of the father who is notably absent in Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women*. Through his eyes and his words, we see the brutality of the Civil War and the cost of conflict on families, relationships and long-held beliefs.

This commemorative edition was given to Brooks by Easton Press as part of a very limited run. The book is bound in leather with 22-karat gold accents, printed on archival quality, acid-neutral paper with gilt page ends and silk end sheets.

The book is signed by Geraldine Brooks and will be personally inscribed by her to the high bidder.

**The high bidder will receive the three books from Nathaniel Philbrick’s American Revolution series: *Bunker Hill: A City, A Siege, A Revolution; Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution; and In the Hurricane’s Eye: the Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown*. The name provided by the high bidder will be included in each book’s inscription and the books will be delivered to the high bidder as soon as is possible after the close of the auction.

**After the auction concludes, Geraldine Brooks will inscribe this copy of March to the person of the high bidder’s choosing and the book will be shipped to the high bidder by the Associates of the Boston Public Library prior to December 15, 2020.**
Deval Patrick

Five Books that Illuminate the Need for Economic, Social, and Racial Justice in America

Deval Patrick has a unique vantage from which to view, and understand, recent events in our nation. Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, the love and support of his community propelled him to become the first in his family to attend college and then go on to law school. In a career that spans public service and the private sector, he has worked for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, led the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department, been a senior executive in two Fortune 50 companies, founded an impact investing fund, and served as the first black Governor of Massachusetts, winning his contest in a landslide.

With a unique range and depth of life and leadership experience, and an English major’s reverence for good writing, he is well-positioned to choose five books that make the case for a more urgent response to the deep inequality around us, heeding the voices of our better angels.

Deval Patrick served as Governor of Massachusetts from 2007 to 2015. In 1994, he was nominated by President Bill Clinton to serve as the country’s Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department, a position he held until 1997. Today, Deval Patrick is the Founder and Chairman of the TogetherFUND, a political action committee dedicated to supporting Democratic candidates running in places where Democrats have not competed in the recent past.

The winning bidder will receive five books personally selected and signed by Deval Patrick that make the case for a more urgent response to the deep inequality around us, heeding the voices of our better angels. Each book will include a brief note regarding its importance. This miniature library of social justice will be sent to the winning bidder by the Associates of the Boston Public Library in early to mid-December.

Susan Faludi

Defining Works of Feminist Writing

If you wanted to put together a reading list of works illuminating feminism, who better to ask than Susan Faludi? The best-selling author of Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women, has curated for the Associates of the Boston Public Library, a collection of six books that underscore the role, and critical importance, of feminism. She will write a brief note in and sign each volume.

Published in 1991, Backlash won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Non-Fiction. Since then, Susan Faludi has gone on to write Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Man, and The Terror Dream: Myth and Misogyny in an Insecure America. Her most recent work In the Darkroom—is an investigation of the father she barely knew growing up and the meaning of identity in our world today.


The winning bidder will receive six books personally selected and signed by Susan Faludi that comprise a small library of feminism. At the conclusion of the auction, the set of books will be sent to the winning bidder by the Associates of the Boston Public Library.
Susan Orlean
A Personally Inscribed Copy of The Library Book and Other Favorite Works

Did the story of the Los Angeles Public Library fire in 1986 rivet you from the very first page? Journalist and Staff Writer for The New Yorker Susan Orlean brings us inside the world of each story she covers—conveying not only the devastation of the raging conflagration of over 400,000 books but also demonstrating through prose and image the critically important role that libraries continue to play in our society today.

For the Associates of the Boston Public Library, Susan Orlean has agreed to personally inscribe a copy of The Library Book for the winning bidder and she will also personally select five additional books that she thinks are “must reads”, adding a personal note about why she loves each. This is a library any book lover will cherish!

In addition to The Library Book, Susan Orlean is the New York Times best-selling author of The Orchid Thief. Her other works include: Rin Tin Tin: The Life and The Legend; Animalish; Saturday Night; Lazy Little Loafers; and The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup.

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Kathryn Lasky
A Young Adult Library Chosen by Newbery Honor-winning Author Kathryn Lasky

In these tumultuous days, the perfect gift for any teen is this miniature library focusing on issues of justice and empathy. The library has been chosen by Newbery Honor winner Kathryn Lasky, and each volume in the set will be personally inscribed by her with a message about what makes it special!

This wonderful library will include: The Giver by Lois Lowry, The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome, Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt, and To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee.

Kathryn Lasky is the author of over 100 books for children, including Sugaring Time and Newton’s Rainbow, as well as the Bears of the Ice, Guardians of Ga’Hoole, Night Witches, Wolves of the Beyond, and The Dear America Diaries series. Her two latest novels are The Portal and The Burning Queen, part of her Tangled In Time series.

She is also the author of works for adults under the pen names Kathryn Lasky Knight and E.L. Swann. In 2021, her latest works will be published: a picture book, She Caught the Light: Williamina Stevens Fleming: Astronomer will tell the story of a Scottish immigrant to America who overcame long odds to help lay the foundations of modern astronomy; and a new novel Faceless, set in World War II Berlin.
GrubStreet with a Side of Inspiration
Do You Aspire to Improve Your Writing or to Publish Your Work?

Greater Boston is fortunate to be home to one of the nation’s premier creative writing centers, GrubStreet. GrubStreet is a non-profit that revolves around the idea of writers helping writers, making sure all voices are represented, and that writing is vital and relevant. They offer hundreds of creative writing programs and events for writers from all backgrounds, aged 13 to 113. Scholarships are available for all their offerings, and many programs are free.

The Associates of the Boston Public Library is also pleased to help bring emerging voices to the literary marketplace through our annual Writer-in-Residence program, which provides a stipend and a private office in the BPL to a promising author with the understanding that they will spend nine months creating an original book for children or young adults. Since 2005, many recipients of the residency have published award-winning works of fiction created during their time in the Library, including Annie Hartnett (Rabbit Cake), Elaine Dimopoulos (Material Girls), Natalie C. Anderson (City of Saints and Thieves) and Jennifer De Leon, whose Don’t Ask Me Where I’m From was published in August of this year.

The Egyptians Binding Dies and First Edition
Unique Memento and First Edition, First Printing Copy of Isaac Asimov’s The Egyptians

There are precious few things in the modern publishing world that are truly one-of-a-kind, but for each hardcover book there is only one set of binding dies (also known as binder’s brasses)—heavy, hand-tooled engraved reverse cast images used to stamp the title, author’s name and colophon onto the spine of the book as well as artwork or other design element onto the cover. Dies such as these seldom appear on the market since they are routinely destroyed when a book is declared “out-of-print” in hardcover. (One such die for the 1942 winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Esther Forbes’ Paul Revere and the World He Lived In, is held in the Special Collections of the Boston Public Library.)

These dies from Isaac Asimov’s The Egyptians, the third in his Historia Universal Asimov series written when he was on the faculty of Boston University, were rescued when the book was declared out-of-print in the early 1980s. For Asimov fans, this is a truly precious item to own. The two dies will be accompanied by a first edition, first printing of The Egyptians in very good condition. This set of literary history can be yours if you are the winning bidder.

Author of more than 400 books, Isaac Asimov (1920–1992) is best known as one of the seminal authors of American post-war science fiction. Among his most famous works are the Foundation Trilogy and Robot series. In addition, he was a prolific author of books on science and popular forays into history with his Historia Universal series.

The winning bidder will receive a $700 gift certificate to GRUBSTREET good for any course or combination of workshops, up to $700 in value. The certificate must be redeemed by August 1, 2021. The winning bidder will also receive three books published by authors who wrote their novels while recipients of the Associates of the Boston Public Library’s Writer-in-Residence Fellowship. Each book will be inscribed by its author with a message of inspiration.

The winning bidder will receive, by secure post, the two binding dies pictured here, as well as a first edition, first printing copy of THE EGYPTIANS from the Associates of the Boston Public Library as soon as is possible after the conclusion of the auction.
Boston Public Library Private Tour

Enjoy a Private Tour of the Art and Architecture of the BPL Followed by a Splendid Tea

The Boston Public Library’s 1895 McKim Building, dubbed “a palace” for the people by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, is considered one of the finest examples of 19th century architecture in America. The Central Library in Copley Square is home to some of the most remarkable works of sculpture, wall painting, and decorative art in our city. The Abbey Room boasts fifteen panels by Edward Austin Abbey depicting Sir Galahad’s Quest of the Holy Grail. The Puvis du Chavannes Gallery holds this renowned 19th century artist’s only mural installation outside of France. Consisting of nine panels, the work illustrates some of the disciplines that one can pursue within the library: Philosophy, Astronomy, History, Chemistry, Physics, Pastoral Poetry, Dramatic Poetry, and Epic Poetry. Perhaps the most staggering mural work in the building is the Sargent Gallery, a masterwork by famed artist John Singer Sargent. Over 29 years, Sargent labored to create his interpretation of the theme Triumph of Religion. When he died in 1925, only one panel (meant to depict the Sermon on the Mount) remained to be done.

These are just a few of the treasures you will have the opportunity to view and learn about if you are the winning bidder for this item. Your private tour will begin with a greeting from the President of the BPL David Leonard. It will be conducted by an experienced guide and can include up to six people. After the tour, you and your guests will be treated to a sumptuous high tea in the Library’s Courtyard Tea Room, a beautiful space overlooking the McKim Building’s stunning courtyard. This tea is being generously donated by our friends at The Catered Affair.

The winning bidder and up to five additional guests will be greeted by the President of the Library, and then provided a private Art & Architecture tour of the Central Library in Copley Square. The tour will last approximately one hour, and will be scheduled during normal Library hours of operation on a day and time that is mutually convenient for the winner and the guide. It will take place once the Library is again fully open to the public and once it is safe to provide in-person tours and dining. At the conclusion of the tour, the group will be treated to high tea in the Library’s Courtyard Tea Room courtesy of The Catered Affair.
Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, is a leading figure in narrative nonfiction, interpreting the human condition, and an impassioned voice for demonstrating how history can help us understand ourselves, our country, and our current era of upheaval.

Through her writing Wilkerson brings the invisible and marginalized into the light and into our hearts. Her debut work, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Heartland Prize for Nonfiction, the Anisfield-Wolf Award for Nonfiction, among many others. Her most recent work *Caste* has been hailed by *The New York Times* as an “instant classic” and “the keynote nonfiction book of the American century this far.

Isabel Wilkerson will personally inscribe copies of each of these books to the winning bidder of this item.

THE WINNING BIDDER WILL RECEIVE HARDCOVER COPIES OF BOTH ISABEL WILKERSON’S *THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS* AND *CASTE*. IN EACH, SHE WILL SIGN THE BOOK AND INSCRIBE IT WITH THE NAME PROVIDED BY THE WINNING BIDDER. THE BOOKS WILL BE SHIPPED TO THE WINNING BIDDER BY THE ASSOCIATES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AS SOON AFTER THE AUCTION’S CONCLUSION AS IS POSSIBLE.
An Online Auction to Benefit the Associates of the Boston Public Library

October 16–25, 2020

To participate in the BID IT! BOOK IT! auction, please visit

www.BiditBookit.org

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at Auction@AssociatesBPL.org or (617) 536-3886.

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Associates of the Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 538-3886
Hello@AssociatesBPL.org
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