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The Newsletter of
Webster Groves Public Library, v. 2 n. 6,
March, 2007

Thanks, Ladies!

Today I was walking through the library, trying to think of what I would write in this space this month, when my eyes lit on a beautiful azalea that had just arrived. It was some shade of purple – I'm sorry, but being a man I only recognize four or five basic colors. The ladies at the desk convened a discussion over whether it was fuchsia, heliotrope or aubergine, and the distinctions quickly became a little too much for me.

You may be wondering how a plant could just 'arrive' without my knowing it. For many years, the library has received a monthly (well almost monthly) gift from the Women's Garden Association of Webster Groves. They rotate among the various groups, and this one was from Group 5. Like those first crocuses of spring, or a magic circle of mushrooms, these lovely plants and floral arrangements just appear. Sometimes in March we receive a shamrock, and during the Christmas season we may get a little fir tree. Some staff members remember a particularly striking arrangement of bromeliads one year.

I think this is a wonderful tradition, and it serves to remind me of just how much libraries are institutions bound by their traditions. No matter how much we advance in the online world, people still turn to us to find some of the most basic things – a place to check out Dr. Seuss books for the kids, a good cookbook when you want to try something new, a quiet place to read the Post-Dispatch. And for all the technological change being forced on us these days, most librarians are still pretty traditional people. I know that when I finish banging away at my computer after a day of work, I can't wait to get home and relax with a good long novel.

So I am interested to see what treats are in store for us throughout the spring and summer months (I can't imagine how someone produced an azalea in full bloom on March 1), and I am grateful to all the ladies of the Women's Garden Association of Webster Groves for giving us something to look forward to each month.

TRIVIA QUESTION

Last Month's Question:

Excluding religious texts such as the Bible or the Koran, what is the bestselling book of all time?

According to the Guinness Book of Records, the biggest selling book of all time is – The Guinness Book of Records.

Is there any logical meaning to the phrase 'open sesame?'

Library Changes its Web Address

Anyone who has used our Web site probably knows that we have had a long and somewhat cumbersome Web address – www.wgpl.lib.mo.us. That is the protocol for public libraries in the United States, and we have been stuck with using it because the best alternative, www.wgpl.org, was already taken. It belonged to a family in another state who maintained their own Web site that they called The World's Greatest Place to Live. But we've been monitoring it for a long time, and finally a few months ago, that family relinquished their hold on that domain name, and we were able to reserve it.

You can now find our Web site at www.wgpl.org. If you type the old address, it will still refer you to this address, but you will probably just want to use the simplified version from now on.



March in the Children's Room

Wednesday, Mar. 7:
Storytime & Crafts with
Miss Michelle – 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 13:
Storytime & Crafts with

Miss Phyllis – 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 14: Storytime & Crafts with Miss
Phyllis – 10 a.m.

Thursday, Mar. 15: Storytime & Crafts with Miss
Phyllis – 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 27: Storytime & Crafts with Miss
Phyllis – 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 28: Storytime & Crafts with Miss
Phyllis – 10 a.m.

Thursday, Mar. 29: Storytime & Crafts with Miss
Phyllis – 10 a.m.

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 am to 9 pm
Friday and Saturday 9 am to 4:30 pm
Sunday 2 pm to 5 pm

This Month's Most Requested Books:

1. *The Boleyn Inheritance*, Philippa Gregory
2. *Double Bind*, Christopher Bohjalian
3. *Next*, Michael Crichton
4. *Nineteen Minutes*, Jodi Picoult
5. *Step on a Crack*, James Patterson
6. *Dust: a Richard Jury Mystery*, Martha Grimes
7. *Plum Lovin'*, Janet Evanovich
8. *The Audacity of Hope*, Barack Obama
9. *Secret*, Rhonda Byrne
10. *Dear John*, Nicholas Sparks
11. *High Profile*, Robert B. Parker
12. *Skylight Confessions*, Alice Hoffman

Friends of the Library Book Fair Date is Set

The Friends of Webster Groves Public Library Book Fair will be held on the last weekend in April. It will be held in a storefront in Crestwood Square, 9051 Watson Road, just behind the Applebee's Restaurant.

Volunteers are always welcome to help sort and display books, manage the crowds, and clean up after the event. It's hard work, but usually pretty much fun, especially

Capacity Crowd Learns About the Fate of Pass Christian, Mississippi

On Saturday afternoon, February 24, around 75 people came to the library to hear architect Cindy Easterling talk about her experiences in Pass Christian, Mississippi, a town that was nearly destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in August, 2005. Ms.



It was a standing-room only crowd on hand to hear Ms. Easterling's presentation.

New Service Makes E-mail Notification Better Than Ever

If you are among the nearly 20% of library patrons who have their e-mail address in their patron record, you already know how handy it is to receive e-mail notices of books being held, and advance notice of when items are due. We recently added a new feature - advance notice of when your library card is about to expire. Your card needs to be revalidated every two years, and an expired card prevents you from renewing or placing requests online. With advance notice, you have a few weeks to get by the library, present ID, and get the card updated.

If you don't have your e-mail address in your record, it's never too late to add it. Just stop by the library with your card (or call) and ask someone at the circulation desk to add it for you. It only takes a moment.

if you love books. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nancy Hiatt at 962-4846 or Debbie Ladd at 968-8759. The hours for the sale are:

Thursday, April 26	4 to 9 pm (\$7 admission)
Friday, April 27	10 am to 8 pm (free)
Saturday, April 28	10 am to 8 pm (free)
Sunday, April 29	10 am to 5 pm (free)

Easterling presented scores of photographs of once beautiful old homes, now mostly leveled by the storm. She spoke of the residents' efforts to try and rebuild their homes and their lives.



Cindy Easterling (center, in pink) explains some of her photographs to people who attended the event.

