

Page 61:

The Newsletter of
Webster Groves Public Library, v. 4 n. 4,
December, 2008

Once Again – Why Is It Page 61?

A loyal library user called me a few weeks ago to note that it had been a while since I explained why this newsletter is called 'Page 61.' The caller knew, both because he had read the first newsletter when I explained it, and because, being a long-time patron, he understood about the significance of page sixty-one in many libraries. But he thought it advisable that the subject be revisited anew once in a while, and I agreed.

The shortest way to do this is to suggest that if you have one of our books lying about, open it to page sixty-one. There (provided it is a book that has at least 61 pages) you will notice that the name and address of the library are stamped on the page. Every book your library owns has that stamp on page 61. Not only that, but you can visit libraries across the region and across the country and find many that stamp their names and addresses on the same page.

Why page 61? I do not know, and I have never made any headway in investigating the question. I have asked the oldest librarians I can find (and believe me, we are a superannuated lot), but the best any of them can tell me is 'that's how we've always done it.'

Why did we choose it for the name of our newsletter? Because this small mystery represents to me the almost mystical dedication of librarians to tradition. Yes, we may have long ago abandoned card catalogs for computerized catalogs, and we may have as many users who come in each day to use the Internet as come in to check out books. But if you scratch almost any librarian, even the one who's helping you access online information or set up your first e-mail account, you'll likely find a soul steeped in the traditions of the public library; a person who loves good books, is dedicated to the freedom to read, and who is lit up by a good reference question more than by almost anything else.

So we call our newsletter Page 61 in homage to the traditions we hold dear, even as we work to modernize and carry your public library ever onward into the 21st century.

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DECEMBER IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Tuesday, December 9: Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, December 10: Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

Thursday, December 11: Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

Monday, December 15: Story Time with Miss Michelle, 2 p.m.

Thursday, December 18: Pajama Story Time with Miss Laurene, 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 20: Visit a Live Reindeer from Cindy's Petting Zoo!

11:30 to 12:30.

Tuesday, December 23: Christmas Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, December 30: New Year's Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.



Website of the Month: YELP

www.yelp.com

This website is subtitled 'Real people, real reviews,' and that seems to be just what it offers. From the homepage you select a city from all across the United States – even your own hometown. Then you find a selection of reviews by real people of restaurants, nightclubs, museums and other attractions in that city. Great information about where to eat, where to shop and what to see.

What makes it even more fun is that you can easily create a profile and rave about your favorites (or pan the places you hated).

LIBRARY CLOSED DECEMBER 17th FOR ANNUAL IN-SERVICE DAY

The library will be closed on Wednesday, December 17th for our annual staff In-service Training Day.

We will reopen on Thursday, December 18th at 9 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

The library will be closed Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1st for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

This Month's Most Requested Books:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Scarpetta</i>, Patricia Cornwell 2. <i>The Brass Verdict</i>, Michael Connelly 3. <i>The Story of Edgar Sawtelle</i>, David Wroblewski 4. <i>Divine Justice</i>, David Baldacci 5. <i>The Hour I First Believed</i>, Wally Lamb 6. <i>American Wife</i>, Curtis Sittenfeld | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. <i>The Gate House</i>, Nelson DeMille 8. <i>The Private Patient</i>, P. D. James 9. <i>Testimony</i>, Anita Shreve 10. <i>Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i>, Stieg Larsson 11. <i>The Shack</i>, William P. Young 12. <i>Cross Country</i>, James Patterson |
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Next Month's Book Discussion Selection:

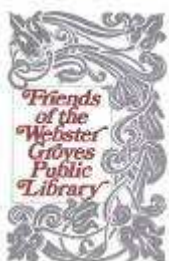
You Have to be Careful in the Land of the Free, by James Kelman.

January 5 at 6 p.m. Call 961-3784 for information.

Recommended Reads

Commemorating our historic election of the first African-American as President of the United States, here is a list of some of the best books, both fiction and non-fiction, about the struggle for civil rights in American history.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uncle Tom 's Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe 2. Souls of Black Folks, W. E. B. DuBois 3. Notes of a Native Son, James Baldwin 4. The Fire Next Time, James Baldwin 5. Native Son, Richard Wright 6. Black Boy, Richard Wright | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The Strange Career of Jim Crow, C. Vann Woodward 8. Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison 9. Up from Slavery, Booker T. Washington 10. Autobiography of Malcolm X, with Alex Haley 11. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Frederick Douglass |
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Friends News

2008 has been a good year for the Friends and we are very proud of the donations we made to the library. We paid for 80% of both the Children's Summer Reading Program and the purchase of Large Print books. We also donated 2 audio-visual cabinets, children's sports books, new copies of children's classics, and a Cricut diecut machine for making professional-looking signs and bulletin boards. Those purchases, plus the money the library receives from our Book Sale shelves, total over \$25,000! In addition, this year we sponsored a book signing and a poetry reading and are currently encouraging children to read by giving them a special Webster Groves Public Library book bag when they read one of the suggested children's classics.

But now we need your help. It is time for our annual membership drive. Look for your application in the mail soon and with your generous membership donation, we can continue to make our wonderful library even better!

2008 Memorials and Donations

This was a good year for donations and memorials. Many people gave gifts to the library in memory of friends and loved ones, or just for special occasions. Below is a list which we hope is complete. If we forgot to list yours, we're very sorry.

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| <p>In Honor of Jon Furst's Service to the Library
Webster Groves Library Board</p> <p>In Honor of Mary Glenn Peyton's 94th Birthday
Stacy & Felino Deleste</p> <p>Magazine & Book Donations
Jefferson Township Republican Women's Club
Gerald Phelan
Webster Groves Garden Club #23 (Daffy-Dils)
Members of the Friends of the Library</p> <p>In Memory of Steve Brayfield
Jan & Bill Erdman</p> <p>In Memory of Alvin Cross
Jan & Bill Erdman</p> <p>In Memory of Geoffrey Galucia
Jan & Bill Erdman</p> <p>In Memory of Barbara Strike
Jan & Bill Erdman</p> | <p>In Memory of Dorothy Tomaro
Jan & Bill Erdman</p> <p>In Memory of Thomas Vespereny
Jan & Bill Erdman</p> <p>In Memory of Adele Weiss
Jan & Bill Erdman</p> <p>In Memory of Baby Caister
Rebecca Lumley</p> <p>In Memory of Lily Jane Snider
Rebecca Lumley</p> <p>In Memory of Sage Mercy Talley
Rebecca Lumley</p> <p>General Donations
Anonymous
Mary Seton Kennedy</p> <p>In Memory of Charla Sausele
Pat & Ben Linehan</p> <p>In Memory of Marguerite Cornish
Marjorie Weisenfeld-Green</p> <p>In Memory of Don Corey
Katherine Corey</p> | <p>In Memory of Sarah Wethington Grant
JoAnn & Charles Berger
Ann & David Boyce
Mary Ann Calhoun
Shirley Daley
Nancy Dalton
Joyce Devlin
Norma & Daniel Fraser
Nancy & Barry Hiatt
Mary & John Medley
Mary Alice Wethington</p> <p>In Memory of Alice Tkach
Mary Jane Crews
Sally Davidson
Gina Frey
Nelle Garrecht
Mary-Margaret Richardson
Rita Rundquist
Alice Snodgrass
Pat Wiltse
Katherine Ziegler</p> |
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