

# Page 61:

The Newsletter of  
Webster Groves Public Library, v. 7 n. 4  
December, 2011

## PAGE 61? Huh . . . ?

Once in a while I am called upon to explain again the origin of this newsletter's curious name. I do so with pleasure, since it probably does bear some explaining. In the first place, I like unique names. For instance, when it came time for our Children's Department to name its new teen area (and Website), I gave them only one instruction: it must not contain the word 'teen' or any derivative thereof. Thus was born Winston's Lair.

In 2005, when I was pondering what to call the Library's newsletter, I did not want to use *Check It Out* or *Book Talk* or any of the usual cute, self-referential titles that such publications end up with. I had recently come to Webster Groves Public Library, and one day I happened to be paging through one of our books and noticed that it had the library's name and address stamped on page 61. I checked, and found out that all of our books are stamped on page 61. This was curious to me: I had come here after working five years at the Richmond Heights Memorial Library, where all of the books are also stamped with the library's name and address on page 61. I know of several other libraries that also stamp the same page. Why is this? Who decided? Other libraries stamp different pages. Some, in the fullness of time, have discontinued the practice, but it is a practice known to almost all public libraries.

People at these libraries never know when or why their designated page became so honored. In the interest of expanding my research this time around, I submitted the question to PUBLIB, an online, national forum for public librarians. Over the next week I saw hundreds of answers. The page, they all agreed, is called the 'secret page.' It is meant to serve as a deterrent to would-be book thieves, who might easily remove the stamped title page and spine labels, but miss the secret page. It would lurk there in silence, like a clue in a story by Poe. Many let me know what their secret page was. One fellow even uncovered the arcane information (a specialty of our type) that in the former Soviet Union (as in modern Sweden) the secret page was page 17.

A few people also noted that historically, it was the prerogative of a library's first head librarian to nominate the secret page. Well, I didn't get to do that, but I did get to name this newsletter. I named it *Page 61*, and it still interests and mystifies people years later. I kind of like that.

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## DECEMBER IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Wednesday, Dec. 7: Getting Crafty with Miss Michelle, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 12: Getting Crafty with Miss Michelle, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 13: Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 15: Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

AND Teen & Tween Craft Time with Emily, 3 p.m.

## Saturday, Dec. 17:



One of Santa's REAL LIVE Reindeer Visits the Library—on the parking lot from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.



Wednesday, Dec. 21: Getting Crafty with Miss Michelle, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 27: Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 28 : Pajama Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 29: Story Time with Miss Phyllis, 10 a.m.

## Holiday Coloring Contest

If you're planning to enter a picture into the Holiday Coloring Contest this year, be sure to submit your coloring sheet by Friday, December 23. No pictures will be accepted after this deadline.

Our judges will select winners and we will present awards on Friday, December 30. Good luck!

## Staff In-service Day

Once a year, according to an article in our by-laws, the library must close for a day to conduct staff training. That day this year will be Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be closed all day.

This year we will be working on how to help patrons acclimate themselves to a new and much larger library, what kinds of programs we can offer in our new auditorium, and other things related to the new building.

As usual on a day that the library is closed, nothing will be due, so you don't have to worry about getting anything returned that day.



## Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 am to 9 pm

Friday and Saturday 9 am to 4:30 pm

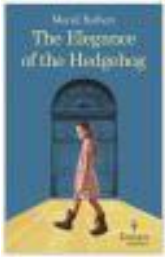
Sunday 2 pm to 5 pm

The library will be closed December 24, 25 and 26 in observance of Christmas, and December 31 and January 1 for New Year's Eve and Day.

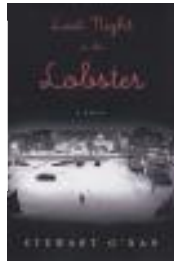
## This Month's Most Requested Books:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The Litigators</i> by John Grisham</li> <li>2. <i>V Is for Vengeance</i> by Sue Grafton</li> <li>3. <i>Explosive Eighteen</i> by Janet Evanovich</li> <li>4. <i>The Marriage Plot</i> by Jeffrey Eugenides</li> <li>5. <i>Zero Day</i> by David Baldacci</li> <li>6. <i>The Best of Me</i> by Nicholas Sparks</li> <li>7. <i>The Night Circus</i> by Erin Morgenstern</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. <i>The Drop</i> by Michael Connelly</li> <li>9. <i>The Affair: a Reacher novel</i> by Lee Child</li> <li>10. <i>Kill Alex Cross</i> by James Patterson</li> <li>11. <i>Nightwoods</i> by Charles Frazier</li> <li>12. <i>Steve Jobs</i> by Walter Isaacson</li> <li>13. <i>Boomerang</i> by Michael Lewis</li> <li>14. <i>Shock Wave</i> by John Sandford</li> </ol> |
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## NEXT MONTH'S BOOK DISCUSSIONS:



*The Elegance of the Hedgehog*  
by Muriel Barbery  
Tuesday, January 3  
6 p.m.



*Last Night at the Lobster*  
by Stewart O'Nan  
Saturday, January 7  
2 p.m.

## Staff Suggestions—December, 2011

<i>Harbor</i> , John Ajvide Lindqvist	Fiction
<i>The Monster's Corner</i> , anthology edited by Christopher Golden	Fiction
<i>India Black &amp; the Widow of Windsor</i> , Carol Carr	Fiction
<i>Started Early, Took My Dog</i> , Kate Atkinson	Fiction
<i>Hypnotist</i> , Lars Kepler	Fiction
<i>1Q84</i> , Haruki Murakami	Fiction
<i>Blue Nights</i> , Joan Didion	Biography
<i>The Space Between Us</i> , Thrity Umrigar	Fiction
<i>Love Walked In</i> , Marisa de Los Santos	Fiction
<i>The Long Summer: How Climate Changed Civilization</i> , Brian Fagen	Non-fiction



By now, every Webster Groves household with a registered voter should have received a Friends membership brochure. We hope that everyone will read about our mission and consider joining the Friends. This year promises to be one of the most exciting in the library's history and by being a member of the Friends, you can help us make it even better.

Over the past few weeks, the library staff has received many phone calls concerning book donations and whether we are going to have our annual book fair. The simple answer is we don't know yet. Our usual book fair time may coincide with the opening of the library renovation, which would be too much for our volunteers to do. If you have books to donate, please keep them until we ask for donations or, if you can't keep them any longer, please give them to another organization that holds a book fair.



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OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY  
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