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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 12 no. 9 — May 2017



## KIDS' EVENTS

### Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Tuesday, May 2 at 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 4 at 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16 at 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 18 at 10 a.m.

### Pajama Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m.

### Baby Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Thursday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 25 at 9:30 a.m.

### Planning Your Disney World Vacation!

Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m.

### LegoMania!

Saturday, May 20, 2 - 4 p.m.

### Build It with Tinker Toys & Lincoln Logs!

Saturday, May 27, 1:30 to  
3:30 p.m. (ages 4 & up)



## TEEN EVENTS

### Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.

### Teen/Adult Coloring Club (ages 12 to adult)

Saturday, May 13, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

## LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The Library will be closed Sunday and Monday, May 28 & 29, for Memorial Day.

## THE ONLINE WORLD

The other day when I was working the Reference Desk a gentleman who uses the Library's computers almost every day asked to use the telephone. He was trying to check the balance in his retirement account, something he has done many, many times from the Library's computers, but could not get into his account.

I heard the conversation he had with the person, in which he became increasingly agitated. The agency where he had his retirement account had recently tightened its security requirements, and they wanted him to use his home computer to change and strengthen his password. The only problem, he does not have a home computer. Well, he could do the same thing on his cell phone. Nope. No cell phone, only a land line.

Now I know, anyone below a certain age reading this story is going to think this is his problem. He needs to join the 21st century. But this gentleman is far from alone.

We are living in a society in which people are more and more forcibly being moved

towards using online forms of communication to get anything done. Many people have not made that transition, either out of economy, taste, or fear and uncertainty. I think a person should have the right to choose such a course.

In the end the gentleman hung up on the customer service person he was speaking with, after declaring he would be putting his money elsewhere. Good for him.

But I still wonder if there was anything else we could do to help him. And that is the essence of the librarian's mission. For decades libraries have been adopting new technologies and helping people learn to use them. We realize that we never will reach everyone. But it does not stop us from trying.

Through computer classes, book a librarian service, day to day interactions with our patrons and other ways, we hope to make the online world comprehensible to all our library users.

*tcooper@wgpl.org*

## SUMMER READING CLUB BEGINS MAY 22

This year's theme is **Build a Better World**, and we will once again feature three clubs, one for each age group: children (ages 2 and up), teen (ages 12 to 19), and adult.

There will be reading incentives and prizes in all age categories, and special prize drawings at the end of the summer.

The program lasts 10 weeks, from May 22 through August 1. To sign up, go to the Summer Reading page at our Website, [www.wgpl.org](http://www.wgpl.org), between May 22 and July 15. There will be complete instructions for how to sign up and record all of your reading minutes online.

Since the theme of the reading club is Build a Better World, we will feature programs and special guests with a



'building' theme. Watch this newsletter and our Website for schedules of upcoming events.

If you have any questions about the children's or teen reading program, call the Children's Room at 314.961.7262. For questions about the adult reading program please call 314.961.3784.

## TOP REQUESTS

1. *A Gentleman in Moscow*,  
by Amor Towles
2. *Golden Prey*,  
by John Sandford
3. *The Black Book*,  
by James Patterson
4. *Hillbilly Elegy*,  
by J. D. Vance
5. *The Fix*,  
by David Baldacci
6. *Vicious Circle*,  
by C. J. Box
7. *Mississippi Blood*,  
by Greg Iles
8. *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*,  
by Lisa See
9. *Exit West*,  
by Mohsin Hamid
10. *The Women in the Castle*,  
by Jessica Shattuck
11. *Dangerous Games*,  
by Danielle Steel
12. *The Devil's Triangle*,  
by Catherine Coulter

## DIGITAL MEDIA FRENZY!

Library patrons often ask us about eBooks and other online resources. Will these eventually replace *real* books, they want to know, and if so, how long will it take? Many people are perfectly comfortable with eBooks, but many more not at all.

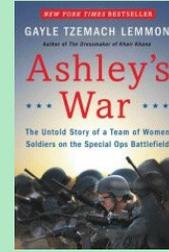
Here's an interesting fact. Webster Groves Public Library is the third largest library in the Municipal Library Consortium (MLC), after University City and Kirkwood. But in its use of digital media, it is a strong second.

We divide up the payments for things like our subscriptions to Hoopla, OverDrive, and Zinio by percentages. In the new MLC budget, which just came out, our percentage of digital media jumped from 16.6% to 22.4%. That's a significant jump and reflects Webster Groves residents' eager use of eBooks, downloadable audio books, eMagazines, and more.

It does put a strain on how much money there is for print books, but the fact is, in most libraries these days, digital media is the only real growth area. Will these eventually replace print books? I wouldn't rule it out. But I don't think it will happen any time soon.

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, June 3 at 2 p.m.



*Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield*,  
by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

Tuesday, June 13 at 6 p.m.



*The Wangs vs. the World*,  
by Jade Chang

## PASSPORT AGENCY

Webster Groves Public Library is now a Passport Acceptance Agency. We have long wanted to be able to offer this service, but because nearby Kirkwood Public Library offered it, the U.S. Department of State would not approve us as an additional site. But the State Department

now believes that the demand for passports in the next few years will be great enough to warrant another location.

We will process passport applications up until 1 hour before closing time any day we are open. There is a \$25 fee for the service, in

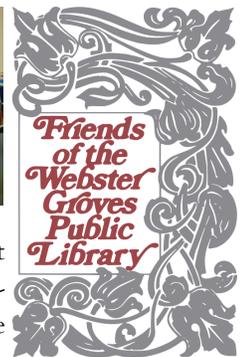
addition to the passport fees payable to the State Department.

For more information, you may call our Reference Department at 314.961.7277, or visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for general information about the passport application process.

## FRIENDS NEWS: SPRING BOOK FAIR!

The Friends will be holding a Spring Book Fair on Friday, May 5, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Library's meeting room. We will have hundreds of great books, music CDs, and DVDs at bargain prices. There will also be a small number of records. We are especially excited about the donation of several boxes of older cookbooks and bags and bags of like-new books from the 1970s. Many of them are children's and science books in perfect shape. As we did last fall, we are holding the book fair the same weekend as the

Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library and we hope you will check out their book fair too. If you miss the book fair, there are always excellent books for sale on the cart by the Library's circulation desk.



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