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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 13 no. 1—September 2017



## KIDS' EVENTS

**Baby Story Time with Miss Phyllis**  
Thursday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, September 21 at 9:30 a.m.

**Story Time with Miss Phyllis**  
Saturday, September 9 at 2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m.  
Thursday, September 14 at 10 a.m.  
Tuesday, September 26 at 10 a.m.  
Thursday, September 28 at 10 a.m.

**Pajama Story Time with Miss Phyllis**  
Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m.

**Webster Rocks!**  
Kindness Rock  
Painting Club  
(ages 7 and up)  
Saturday, Sep-  
tember 16 from  
2 - 3:30 p.m.



**Whiskers & Tales**  
Thursday, September 21  
from 7 - 8:30 p.m.



**LegoMania!**  
Saturday, September 23, 2 - 4 p.m.

## TEEN EVENTS

**Coloring Club (ages 12 to adult):**  
Saturday, September 30, 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, September 3 and  
Monday, September 4 for Labor Day.

## BUTTERFLIES

Last October, we invited volunteers to help us create a butterfly garden on the Library's west parking lot. Several people came, including four teenaged girls and a few adults.

The work was not easy. To plant milkweed and other bee- and butterfly-friendly plants, we had to rip out a lot of bush honeysuckle. Luckily our volunteers were up to the task and we got a good start on a garden.

Several weeks ago I was in the parking lot with a co-worker, looking at the beginnings of our butterfly garden, hoping it would soon look like a garden. It was the height of the hot, dry summer, and nothing looked promising. My co-worker said that a new garden takes three years: 'survive, strive, thrive,' she said, describing the phases the new plants go through over those years. Apparently a well-known saying among gardeners, though it was the first I'd heard it.

In the next few weeks, I was surprised to see several plants doing more than 'surviving.' We had blossoms and gaudy flowers bursting

out on cardinal flower, mist flower, Brown-eyed Susan, and hyssop. We also expect great things from our wild petunia, swamp milkweed, columbine, goldenrod, and several others.

Several days ago I saw the first butterfly on one of our bushes. A few days later I saw two more.

Yesterday, a co-worker came in the office to report a monarch caterpillar nibbling on one of our milkweed plants. We were so excited that we put a photo of the little creature on Facebook.

Okay, so it's only one. But it's a start. When I passed this morning the honeybees were swarming the blossoms, and that's a good thing. Can't wait to see how our butterfly garden 'strives' next year.

[tcooper@wgpl.org](mailto:tcooper@wgpl.org)



## CELEBRATING THE ECLIPSE

Area libraries had no idea what a challenge it would be, trying to provide eclipse viewing glasses to everyone who wanted them. As 'eclipse mania' heated up, we were fielding more than a hundred phone calls a day from people looking for them. It only got worse as area retailers, pizza joints, Amazon, and other sources ran out.

Most of us handed out thousands of pairs of glasses, but held back sufficient numbers so that people attending our own eclipse-related events would have them.

A large crowd of people started arriving on our front lawn as early as 9 a.m. to see the slow buildup of the eclipse. It was a hot, hu-

mid day, but everyone stayed for the spectacular occurrence.

Much thanks goes to Don Ficken and other people working with the St. Louis Astronomical Society, who began preparing us and the whole region for the eclipse nearly two years ago. Without their informed guidance, nobody would have been as well-prepared or as knowledgeable about the eclipse. Their partnership is greatly appreciated.



## TOP REQUESTS

1. *Camino Island*,  
by John Grisham
2. *Into the Water*,  
by Paula Hawkins
3. *The Late Show*,  
by Michael Connelly
4. *Al Franken, Giant of the Senate*,  
by Al Franken
5. *Y is for Yesterday*,  
by Sue Grafton
6. *A Gentleman in Moscow*,  
by Amor Towles
7. *Beartown*,  
by Fredrik Backman
8. *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*,  
by Gail Honeyman
9. *Mrs. Fletcher*,  
by Tom Perrotta
10. *House of Spies*,  
by Daniel Silva
11. *Paradise Valley*,  
by C. J. Box
12. *The Identicals*,  
by Elin Hilderbrand

## CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS!

Starting October 11, the Library will have a new book discussion group. Called *History through Biography*, it will focus on recent biographies of people who have been influential in history.

The group will be led by Sam Harned, who taught History for 31 years at Clayton High School. He is also an adjunct professor at Washington University, and gives frequent Gallery Talks at St. Louis Art Museum.

The *History through Biography* group will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except December) at 6 p.m. The first book will be *Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet*, by Lyndal Roper. For more information about the book group, call Tom at the Library at 314.961.3784.

## HALLOWEEN FILM SERIES



Join us Fridays in October for scary movies. Films will be shown at 7 p.m. on the 13th, 20th, and 27th. Check our Website later this month for listings.

Free soda and popcorn too!

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, October 3 at 6 p.m.



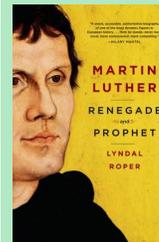
*Imagine Me Gone*,  
by Adam Haslett

Saturday, October 7 at 2 p.m.



*Tell the Wolves I'm Home*,  
by Carol Rifka Brunt

Wednesday, October 11 at 6 p.m.



*Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet*,  
by Lyndal Roper

## AUTHOR STEPHEN KLING DISCUSSES THE BATTLE OF ST. LOUIS

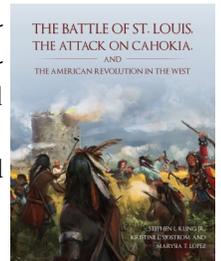


On Saturday, September 16 at 2 p.m., author Stephen Kling will visit to discuss his book *The Battle of St. Louis, the Attack on Cahokia, and the American Revolution in the West*.

This comprehensive and well-researched book tells the little known history of the battles in and around St. Louis and along the Mississippi River, when the Americans and their Spanish allies defeated attacks from the British with their Indian mercenaries. Despite the little coverage this history gets, it was of

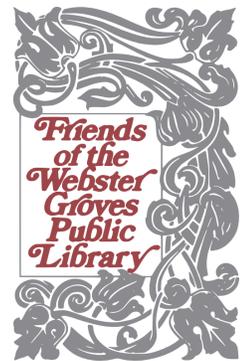
major importance in establishing the geographical extent of the United States after the war.

Copies of the book will be sold at the event.



## FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends meetings don't start again until the end of September, but we haven't been ignoring our goal of supporting of the Library. Over the summer, Friends volunteers have maintained the Library on Deck at the Webster Groves swimming pools and the Library on Ice at the skating rink. Based on the number of books passing through both of these carts they have been a popular source of reading material over the summer. We are looking forward to many new undertakings in the coming months, so watch this space to see ways in which you can be part of the adventure!



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