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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 14 no. 8 — April 1, 2019



## KIDS' EVENTS

### Story Time with Katie RAH!

Tuesday, April 9 & 23 at 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, April 11 & 25 at 9:30 a.m.

### Baby Story Time

Thurs., April 4 at 9:30 p.m. (with Miss Phyllis)  
Friday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m. (with Miss E)  
Thurs., April 18 at 9:30 a.m. (with Miss Phyllis)  
Wed., April 24 at 9:30 a.m. (with Miss E)

### Pajama Story Time with Miss E

Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

### Story Time in Chinese with Christy Moyi

Saturday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m.

### Webster Rocks! Kindness Rock Painting Club

(ages 7 and up)  
Wednesday, April 10, 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

### LegoMania!

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

### Nanny-Manny-Mommy-Daddy Café

Wednesday, April 17, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

### Whiskers & Tales

Monday, April 22, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

### Animals in My Backyard: presented by the

#### Endangered Wolf Center

Saturday, April 27, 2 p.m.

## TEEN EVENT

### Teen Advisory Group

Monday, April 8 at 6:30 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, April 21, for Easter.

## A CONVERSATION STOPPER

I was traveling recently through Louisiana, mostly Mandeville and New Orleans. At an afternoon gathering of people I had not met before, the conversation was flowing freely. I met a man who talked in great detail of hunting wild pigs. When I showed interest, he even brought up several photos on his phone of the huge, dead beasts and shared them.

We talked of the weather, which was very different in Louisiana than in St. Louis. But once we exhausted that subject, someone thought to ask me, 'What do you do?'

'I am the director of a public library,' I said, and awaited the reaction. Some people suddenly found that there were interesting sights to behold out the windows, or that their drinks needed replenishing; some simply looked down at their empty hands, counting seconds until the awkward silence passed.

People don't really know what librarians do. Mostly they think we read. That's right. I

arrive at work each morning, sit down to my desk and crack open a book and read all day.

Many people, when they hear I am a librarian, tell me they'd love to be a librarian, so they can read all day. My response is to point out that I have worked in libraries since the 1980s and have *never* read a book at work.

We recently had a job ad posted for a Reference Assistant. The job description laid out the type of work to be done and the requirements in a candidate. Nowhere did it say, 'must like to read,' and yet more than half of the cover letters mentioned a love of reading.

Maybe that's why it's not hard to find people who believe libraries are on their last legs, primed for a coming obsolescence. Big building full of people sitting reading, what possible usefulness can there be in that?

Here's my advice. Next time you meet a librarian, just ask him or her, 'What do you do all day?' The answer might surprise you.

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## NEW SERVICE: CHECK OUT A LIBRARIAN!

In our ongoing pursuit to provide innovative and exciting user experiences, Webster Groves Public Library has initiated a new service: Check Out a Librarian. This is a unique chance for families or individuals to have an actual librarian stay in their homes, providing informed insights, sympathetic viewpoints on the day's news, and quick access to someone to discuss that book you've just read with.

Since most librarians are introverted by nature, you will find your temporary companion to be quiet and clean, though admittedly prone to arranging your bookshelves in Dewey order without asking first.

This is a rather lengthy checkout period (three weeks), so there is the requirement to

provide food, shelter, and other basic needs. Most of our librarians are omnivores, but there are vegetarian options available. We belong to the Municipal Library Consortium, so we do have access to vegan, paleo-, gluten-free, keto, and other diets through interlibrary loan.

If you have questions about this exciting new service, please call the Library. Before you do, however, please check the date on which this newsletter was published.



## TOP REQUESTS

1. *Where the Crawdads Sing*,  
by Delia Owens
2. *Becoming*,  
by Michelle Obama
3. *Educated*,  
by Tara Westover
4. *Inheritance*,  
by Dani Shapiro
5. *Run Away*,  
by Harlan Coben
6. *The Silent Patient*,  
by Alex Michaelides
7. *Wolf Pack*,  
by C. J. Box
8. *The Threat*,  
by Andrew McCabe
9. *Nine Perfect Strangers*,  
by Liane Moriarty
10. *Maid*,  
by Stephanie Land
11. *Say Nothing*,  
by Patrick Keefe
12. *Circe*,  
by Madeline Miller

## COLLECTING TAB TOPS

In March, Troop 407 Girl Scout Ashlynn Parikh asked permission to leave collection boxes at the Library desks to collect tab tops. The collection was for her troop's Bronze Award. Within days, two Library staff members had come in with their own tab top collections, totaling many years' worth of saving them. Ashlynn was pleasantly surprised on a recent visit to find that there were already many more tab tops than would fit into her collection boxes.

Tab tops are collected and donated to Ronald McDonald House, which provides a variety of services to the families of sick children.

The Bronze Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve, and involves planning, teamwork, service, and community involvement. The Troop 407 collection boxes will be in place through April 5, in case anyone else has thousands of tab tops just sitting around.



Girl Scout Ashlynn Parikh holds a jug full of thousands of tab tops.

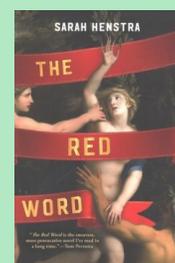
## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, May 4 at 2 p.m.



*The Red Tent*,  
by Anita Diamant

Tuesday, May 7 at 6 p.m.



*The Red Word*,  
by Sarah Henstra

## POETRY READING APRIL 20th

April is National Poetry Month. In keeping with long tradition, Webster Groves Public Library will celebrate with a poetry reading on Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m. This year's featured poets will be Maria and Alex Balogh.

There will also be some fun poetry events the week of April 14 - 20, courtesy of Webster Groves Arts Commission. This is the third year that the Arts Commission is celebrating poetry month with events such as a children's

poetry workshop and a haiku writing workshop. Watch for the times and places for those events.



## FRIENDS NEWS

On March 1, the Friends of the Webster Groves Public Library helped welcome the Irish-American Writers and Musicians for another successful visit. The Meeting Room was filled and the tables were loaded with wonderful food as writers and musicians entertained all who came to share the evening.

Beyond the Page is the Friends' occasional event for meeting and discussing how books and reading have influenced

the lives of different members of our community. The next Beyond the Page will be held on Friday, June 21 at the Library. The Annual Meeting of the Friends will be held before the program. More details to come in the next edition of *Page 61!*

Line up your summer reading at the next Book Sale on June 27 - 28 at the Library. We are always in need of people to help set up, staff the sale and take down afterwards. If you would like to volunteer for the Book Sale, please call Nancy Hiatt at 314.962.4846.



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