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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 15 no. 7 — March 2020



KIDS' EVENTS

Baby Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Thursday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Story Time with Katie RAH!

Tuesday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 12 at 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Lego Mania!

Saturday, March 14, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Spring Break Crafternoon

Wednesday, March 18, 2 - 4 p.m.

Milk & Cookies Time

Monday, March 23,
3:45 - 4:15 p.m.



Fun in the Sun Summer Camp

Open House
Saturday, March 28, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Spanish Story Time with Michelle B.

Tuesday, March 31 at 9 a.m.

TEEN EVENTS

Teen Advisory Group (TAG)

Wednesday, March 11, 6 - 7 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.

NEWSPAPERS

We had a poetry reading at the Library last Friday. One of the poets, an older gentleman, read a piece about being a paper boy. I was a paperboy when I was a kid. I sold the *Post-Dispatch* and *Globe-Democrat* in front of a Target store on South Lindbergh. Made just enough money to buy pizza and the occasional pair of bell-bottom jeans.

I remember years ago, hearing the driver on his paper route come into our neighborhood in the wee hours of the morning—the rhythmic slap, slap, slap of newspapers falling on almost everyone's drive. Nowadays you might hear the van deliver one paper, maybe two, and drive on. So few people take a paper anymore. Paper boys are a thing of the past, and I don't suppose having a paper route is very lucrative.

It's one of the things that has changed in libraries: fewer people come in to read the newspaper. I remember working at the Carpenter Branch in south St. Louis in the '90s. There were two gentlemen who jockeyed to be the first at the door every morning, who would fight over who got the *New York Times*

first.

A scene in so many old movies and TV shows is of mom getting breakfast ready while dad sips his coffee and reads the paper. While I don't cherish the elements of patriarchy this represents, I do miss people taking time to read news in the morning.

Cable news has been a scourge to American life. I think people should read some news in the morning, watch a ½ hour or an hour of news in the evening, and then go about their day. Watching MSNBC, Fox News, CNN or whatever all day does not make you more informed—it makes you more anxious. It gives you no more facts than a few well-written news stories, it only gives you more opinion, more spin, and—to judge by most of the people I talk to—more to be angry about.

Maybe I'm only nostalgic, but I think if everyone read a paper, and then spent the rest of the day thinking about it and forming their own opinions, we would be much better off. And that's my opinion.

tcooper@wgpl.org

CENSUS 2020 IS COMING

In mid-March, homes across America will receive notices to complete Census 2020. An accurate census is important for our community, as it helps determine how much federal money we get, and the number of representatives we get in the House. You can complete the census form online, by phone, or by mail.

The Library will be prepared to help anyone who needs assistance filling the form out online. You can visit our Reference Department during regular hours. We will also make librarians available to help every Wednesday through March and April at 2 p.m. Visit us in the Library's Meeting Room.

April 1 is Census Day—meaning that by that day, every household in Ameri-

ca should have received a form to fill out. Census takers will also count homeless people, and visit colleges and universities to count student populations.

Between May and July, census takers will visit homes that have not responded yet to make an in-person count.

For more information, you can visit the Website www.2020census.gov.



TOP REQUESTS

1. *American Dirt*,
by Jeanine Cummins
2. *The Dutch House*,
by Ann Patchett
3. *A Very Stable Genius*,
by Philip Rucker
4. *Long Bright River*,
by Liz Moore
5. *Dear Edward*,
by Ann Napolitano
6. *Nothing to See Here*,
by Kevin Wilson
7. *Such a Fun Age*,
by Kiley Reid
8. *The Giver of Stars*,
by Jojo Moyes
9. *Blindsight*,
by James Patterson
10. *A Long Petal of the Sea*,
by Isabel Allende
11. *When You See Me*,
by Lisa Gardner
12. *Successful Aging*,
by Daniel Levitin

DOUGLASSYEARBOOKS

We are working with Shawn Greene of the Webster Groves Historical Society to find and digitize as many editions of the Douglass High School yearbook as we can. We are asking anyone who has copies of the yearbook to lend them to the Library long enough to make a digital copy. Copying should not harm the yearbook in any way. Then we can make the digital copies available as a digital archive for the whole Webster Groves community.

If you have any questions, please call the Reference Department at 314.961.7277.

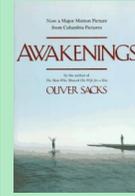
CITIZEN SCIENCE

Celebrate Citizen Science Month in April and learn about light pollution from a representative of the Dark Sky Association on April 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Citizen Science is a way for everyone to participate in the scientific process by conducting scientific experiments, collecting and analyzing data, and making new discoveries.

Look for an announcement soon about tools to check out from the Library that will turn your cell phone into a research tool to study the sky, birds, bees, flowers and the rest of the natural world.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, April 4, at 2 p.m.



Awakenings,
by Oliver Sacks
We will read the book in coordination with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis production of the opera *Awakenings*. A docent from OTSL will visit to discuss the opera before our discussion.

Classics Book Club

Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m.



The Power & the Glory,
by Graham Greene

YA Book Club

Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m.



Bloodleaf,
by Crystal Smith

IN BLACK & WHITE: WOODCUTS BY PATRICK MURPHY



Our gallery exhibit for March is *In Black & White: Woodcuts by Patrick Murphy*. As the artist himself explains it: 'After more than 40 years of working in St. Louis radio and television I thought it was high time to find a more secure line of work. Art seemed a logical choice. I discovered woodcut printing about three years ago and fell in love with it.' Patrick's exhibit will be up through March, and is viewable during regular library hours.

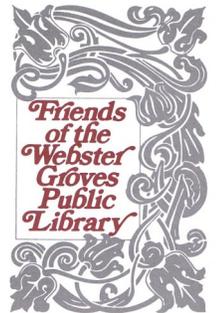
There will be a free opening reception on Friday, March 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. It is a perfect chance to meet the artist and see his work.

FRIENDS NEWS

Our new officer and committee guidelines are complete and we are actively looking for new board and committee members to help with social media, community outreach, special events, hospitality and publicity, to name a few. If serving on a Friends committee has been on your to-do list, now is your opportunity!

Upcoming events: this year's Book Sale will be on May 29 - 30 at the Library and the Friends annual meeting will be held in June. The annual meeting will feature another edition of *Beyond the Page*, an interview with a noted area resident.

A reminder to all who have not yet renewed their Friends membership—there is still time to renew, so be sure to send in your check!



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