Yesterday I was talking to one of the librarians at Richmond Heights Memorial Library, one of our MLC partners, about the new digital products we are adding. She was very excited about Hoopla, the new digital media service (see article on back page), while I said I was probably more excited about SELF-e, the service that allows library users to publish their eBooks online (also on back page).

‘Well sure,’ she said, ‘Webster Groves is the writers’ library.’ I asked what she meant by that, and she said, ‘You know how several of the MLC libraries are known for specializing in one thing or another? Well, we all see Webster Groves as the library for writers.’

I was surprised by this, though it’s not a designation I would want to deny. We have had writers groups here before, and we like to feature appearances by local authors whenever we can. When local Newsman Don Marsh wrote his memoirs several years ago, his first appearance to introduce the book was here; and when Julius Hunter published a novel last year, he introduced it here before appearing at any other local library.

We have had a poetry reading here every April (National Poetry Month), including readings by two Missouri Poets Laureate. We have a plaque on the wall with an essay by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Jonathan Franzen, describing how he learned his love of reading at Webster Groves Public Library.

When they wanted to premiere a series of creative writing classes, the editors of River Styx literary magazine turned to us as the best environment for them, and almost every session of those classes has been sold out. We are the chosen location for literary salons by the Irish American Writers and Artists. We also have two staff members who have published a history of Webster Groves.

So yes, we plan to embrace the new SELF-e product, and run workshops to show budding local writers how to use it. Just one more way we plan to continue developing as The Writers’ Library!

tcooper@wgpl.org

FAMILY YOGA A FUN EXPERIENCE!

On Thursday, July 30 we held our second session of Yoga for Families. A good group of parents and children attended and had a great time experiencing some basic yoga moves together.

The Library provides the yoga mats and an instructional video which leads parents and youngsters through a simple yoga workout. Afterwards we cool down and enjoy healthy snacks.

Healthy exercise, together with maintaining strong reading skills, is the theme of this summer’s reading club, which is called On Your Mark, Get Set . . . Read!

We have scheduled one more session of Family Yoga on Thursday, July 14. Don’t miss it! Please call the Children’s Room at 314.961.7262 for more information.
On Friday, June 17 we had our Annual Meeting. We conducted a short business meeting to elect officers, but mostly it was a time to socialize, enjoy refreshments, and take stock of all the things we had accomplished as a group throughout the previous year. It was also a time for members to take a look at the new Reading Garden on the front lawn, which had been one of our major funding efforts.

We continue to stock the book carts at the Recreation Center and the pool. Our next Book Blitz will happen on October 14 & 15 in conjunction with the Kirkwood Public Library's sale. Hope everyone has a great 4th of July and a great summer.

TOP REQUESTS

1. The Nest, by Cynthia Sweeney
2. Before the Fall, by Noah Hawley
3. Eligible, by Curtis Sittenfeld
4. Miller’s Valley, by Anna Quindlen
5. The Girls, by Emma Cline
6. The Summer Before the War, by Helen Simonson
7. First Comes Love, by Emily Giffin
8. The Rainbow Comes and Goes, by Anderson Cooper
9. Vinegar Girl, by Anne Tyler
10. The Last Mile, by David Baldacci
11. Barkskins, by Annie Proulx
12. Extreme Prey, by John Sandford

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, August 2 at 6 p.m.
A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman

Saturday, August 6 at 2 p.m.
Funny in Farsi, by Firoozeh Dumas

SELF-e Coming to WGPL!

Do you have the manuscript for a book that you worked on for years but don’t know how to approach publishers, or can’t afford the expense of self-publishing?

Coming soon, Webster Groves Public Library, along with the other libraries of the MLC, will offer a new service called SELF-e.

SELF-e helps you publish your manuscript as an e-book, and puts it on a statewide distribution forum called Indie Missouri, where people throughout the state will be able to read your book.

SELF-e doesn’t take away your right to continue seeking publication of your manuscript elsewhere. It only provides a place where people can read your book—and where you can tell family and friends to look if they want to see your work.

Most exciting of all, editors at Library Journal, the main trade publication for libraries, will be looking at all the books that go onto SELF-e, and the ones they like best will be moved up to the national list of indie books, so your work can be read all across the country.

Look for SELF-e on our Website soon!

MLC LIBRARIES ADD HOOPLA!

Very soon, the libraries of the Municipal Library Consortium (MLC) will begin offering Hoopla—a digital service that brings you hundreds of thousands of e-books, movies, full music albums, and audiobooks.

From Hollywood blockbusters to bestselling artists and authors—not just the hits, but the niche and hard-to-find as well. Hoopla provides library users the freedom to experience, explore and enjoy what you want, when you want, and where you want.

It’s simple to access and use: once it’s available, just look for the Hoopla link on our Website to get started. All you need is your library card, a Web browser, smart phone or tablet to get started. As always, if you have any trouble figuring out how to use the service, you may call our Reference Department at 314.961.7277 and set up an appointment for someone to guide you through the process.

FRIENDS NEWS

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