On Monday, October 9, at noon, the Monday Club of Webster Groves will hold a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of their building at 37 South Maple Avenue. They will unveil a Century Plaque, though the plaque is a bit late—the building opened in 1911.

The club itself is much older. Established in 1887 by Sarah Allen, they met for a long time in members’ homes, where they talked and learned about important issues in art, science, and politics. The Monday Club of Webster Groves is the oldest women’s club west of the Mississippi River.

Because of their focus on learning, members of the club felt keenly the lack of a public library in the growing community of Webster Groves. Since 1884, there had been public reading rooms, arranged mostly under the auspices of First Congregational Church, with the support of the Monday Club.

The church added a new sanctuary in 1893, including space for a reading room, a place for men to spend their leisure hours without recourse to saloons. But the committee charged with overseeing the library despaired of this mission in 1908, and closed the reading room in autumn of that year.

Jennie Jager was a member of the Monday Club, and she and her husband William were both members of First Congregational. They donated the lot at the corner of South Maple and East Cedar Avenues for a club building, with the condition that it include room for a public library. When the club building was dedicated in 1911, a new public library was also dedicated.

Webster Groves citizens approved the city’s first library tax in 1927, and the Library moved to its new location in the High School in 1928. But the relationship between the Monday Club and Webster Groves Public Library remains an important part of our history.

We hope to see you at the ceremony!

tcooper@wgpl.org

THE LIBRARY AND THE MONDAY CLUB

Every year the Webster Groves Arts Commission presents a lifetime achievement award to a Webster Groves resident who has made notable contributions to the arts. This year’s award will be given to David Clewell, a creative writing instructor at Webster University who has published several volumes of poetry and who served as Missouri’s Poet Laureate from 2010 - 2012.

In honor of this event, the Commission is planning a series of events from October 6 - 11, to be held at locations around town, including at The Novel Neighbor, The Webster Groves Garden Café, and here at the Library.

On Sunday, October 8, there will be a haiku writing workshop at the Library, starting at 2:00 p.m. It will be led by poet Ben Moeller-Gaa.

The main event of the week will be the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to David Clewell on Thursday, October 12 at 5:30, in a ceremony held at City Hall. The public is invited.

For a complete schedule of Poetry Week activities, check at the Library; The Novel Neighbor, 7905 Big Bend; or the Garden Café, 117 E. Lockwood.

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After the summer hiatus the Friends are up and running. We have adventures in the coming months. October 6 – 13 is National Poetry Week and November 17 & 18 are the mini book fair. Not only will there be openings to help with the book fair, we are also exploring some future special activities just for Friends. Look forward to e-mails telling you more about these opportunities. Meanwhile, interest in the Reading Garden pavers continues and we hope to etch more blocks soon.

**TOP REQUESTS**

1. Glass Houses, by Louise Penny
2. Y is for Yesterday, by Sue Grafton
3. The Late Show, by Michael Connelly
4. A Column of Fire, by Ken Follett
5. What Happened, by Hillary Rodham Clinton
6. A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles
7. Al Franken, Giant of the Senate, by Al Franken
8. Little Fires Everywhere, by Celeste Ng
9. Camino Island, by John Grisham
10. The Cuban Affair, by Nelson DeMille
11. Don’t Let Go, by Harlan Coben
12. Into the Water, by Paula Hawkins

**HALLOWEEN FILM SERIES**

Join us Fridays in October for scary movies. All films are free and open to everyone. Movies start at 7 p.m.

- Friday, October 13
  - Poltergeist
  - 1982 – PG

- Friday, October 20
  - Mama
  - 2013 – PG-13

- Friday, October 27
  - The Village
  - 2005 – PG-13

**BOOK DISCUSSIONS**

Saturday, November 4 at 2 p.m.

- Rebecca, by Daphne du Maurier

Tuesday, November 7 at 6 p.m.

- Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI, by David Grann

Wednesday, November 8 at 6 p.m.

- Churchill and Orwell: The Fight for Freedom, by Thomas E. Ricks

**IT’S OCTOBER—MEETING ROOM SIGN-UPs ARE OPEN!**

Webster Groves Public Library has a Meeting Room that is open to the public to use. Any non-profit group in Webster Groves may use it for free. For-profit groups may apply to use the room for a $50 fee.

Sign-ups for 2018 began on October 1. Groups may book the room up to a total of 12 bookings per year. The room is available every day we’re open except Sunday, from 15 minutes after opening until 15 minutes before closing.

The room has tables and chairs, with a maximum seating capacity of 96. Groups are responsible for their own set-up and take-down of furniture. There is a projector available. Groups are allowed to bring refreshments to meetings, but must clean up afterwards.

For the complete Meeting Room policies and a calendar of available dates, check our Website at www.wgpl.org, and select Meeting Room under the Using the Library tab.

**FRIENDS NEWS**

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