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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 14 no. 4— December 2018



KIDS' EVENTS

Story Time with Katie RAH!

Tuesday, December 4 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 18 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Junior Bulletin Board Club (grades 3 and up)

Wednesday, December 5, 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
Wednesday, December 19, 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

Cobweb Christmas: Story & Craft Time with special guest Frau Sittmann, who will read stories in English & German

Saturday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Baby Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Thursday, December 13 at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Gingerbread House Contest (See article)

December 14 to January 11

LegoMania!

Saturday, December 15, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Nanny-Manny-Mommy-Daddy Café

Wednesday, December 19, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Story Time with Miss E

Friday, December 21 at 10 a.m.

Young Hearts Crafts & Cookie Decorating

With residents of Bethesda Orchard
Saturday, December 22, 2 - 3 p.m.

Pajama Story Time & Hot Cocoa with Miss E

Thursday, December 27 at 7 p.m.

TEEN EVENTS

Teen Movie: *Solo*, PG-13

Saturday, December 29, 1 - 3 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 Wednesday, Dec. 12 for staff training, Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 24 & 25 for Christmas, and Monday, Dec. 31 for New Year's Eve.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

Yesterday, we put up a display of music boxes in the front foyer. Many of them are Christmas themed—Christmas trees, Santa Clauses, snow globes, etc. They are whimsical and pretty, and make a nice display.

We also started working on a Christmas tree made out of books—it's a fun thing we've seen a lot over the past few years. Debbie, who has been working on it, reports that building one turns out to be more difficult than it looks. When she's finished with that, she will attempt an 'Olaf,' the reindeer from *Frozen*, also made from books. We are optimistic at this point that both projects will come off splendidly.

It's fun having a big place like a library to decorate. Lights and garlands and trees everywhere make December a festive month. When I first came to Webster Groves Public Library, in these many years ago, I asked staff members to fill out surveys listing what jobs they do: and yes, I wanted to know who was responsible for holiday decorations. Experience tells me that in any work environment, there is someone who takes on such tasks.

For many years, that job fell to Pat Linehan, our long-time Adult Services Librarian. She was creative and good with such things, and her work made the holidays special. Pat retired this year, and that work passes to others.

We live in politically contentious times. People seem to want to make an argument out of everything. I once worked at a library where we put up a Christmas tree, and a patron came in and challenged us with the question, 'What is this?' We could tell she had an axe to grind, but didn't know which edge she was sharpening. Did she want us to say that it was specifically a 'Christmas tree,' and not a 'holiday tree?' Or did she want us to remove it altogether? I think in the end the director of that library told her 'it's an artificial tree with ornaments hung on it, make of it what you will.'

I'll never understand people wanting to argue over something as fun and festive as holiday décor. We put it up, we enjoy the sight of it and the happiness it brings during a cold winter month, and we're a little sad when January rolls around and it all comes down.

tcooper@wgl.org

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

One of our most popular events returns! The annual Gingerbread House Contest. We will accept and display all entries from December 14 to January 5, with voting taking place January 6 to January 11. There are 3 prize categories:

- Children (8 - 15)
- Adult (16 and older)
- Families

The rules for entries are as follows:

- Houses must be homemade: **No store-bought kits.**
- Visible house contents must be edible (gingerbread, cookies, candy, icing, and other decoration items).
- Non-edible materials may be used but only as support and must be covered up.



- No peanut butter or nuts can be used due to nut allergies.
- Entries must be brought in December 14 - January 5.
- Vote for your favorite house January 6 - 11.
- Winners will be called and prizes handed out January 15.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *Becoming*,
by Michelle Obama
2. *The Reckoning*,
by John Grisham
3. *Fear: Trump in the White House*,
by Bob Woodward
4. *Nine Perfect Strangers*,
by Liane Moriarty
5. *Unsheltered*,
by Barbara Kingsolver
6. *Past Tense*,
by Lee Child
7. *Where the Crawdads Sing*,
by Delia Owens
8. *Dark Sacred Night*,
by Michael Connelly
9. *A Spark of Light*,
by Jodi Picoult
10. *Educated*,
by Tara Westover
11. *Kingdom of the Blind*,
by Louise Penny
12. *The Witch Elm*,
by Tana French

HOLIDAY MUSIC WITH THE TREBLE MAKERS



As a special holiday treat, we are happy to once again have the musical group the Treble Makers come to present a program of holiday music.

Come listen to Jen, Jess, Cathy, and Katie, four highly talented clarinetists, as they perform Christmas music Saturday, December 22 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.



SAD LAMPS

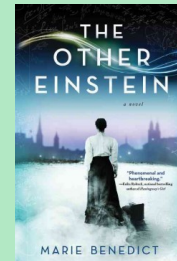
Do the short days and long nights of winter get you down? Do you feel gloomy when there is no sunshine for days on end?

Next time you visit the library, try reading beneath one of our SAD lamps. Especially designed to help people with seasonal affective disorder, even a short time spent reading under one of these lamps may help to brighten an otherwise gloomy day.

A big thanks to the Friends of the Library for purchasing our two SAD lamps!

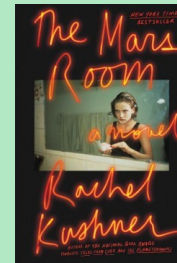
BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, January 5 at 2 p.m.



The Other Einstein,
by Marie Benedict

Tuesday, January 8 at 6 p.m.



The Mars Room,
by Rachel Kushner

FRIENDS NEWS: BEYOND THE PAGE FEATURES KENNETH JONES

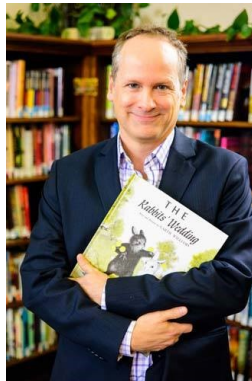
Save the date—Sunday, January 6, 2019—for the next in our *Beyond the Page* series when we offer an afternoon with playwright Kenneth Jones. Mr. Jones' play *Alabama Story* centers on the true story of Emily Wheelock Reed, a determined librarian

who faced off against a segregationist senator over an innocent children's book in 1959 Montgomery.

Alabama Story, directed by Paul Mason Barnes, will be the mainstage play at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis from January 2 to 27.

Join us for a conversation about books, libraries, and what attracted Kenneth Jones to Emily Wheelock Reed's story. The event will be in the Library Meeting Room at 3:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us. Until then, enjoy curling up with a good book in this blustery winter weather.



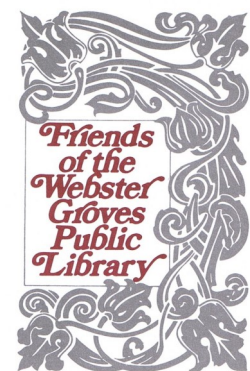
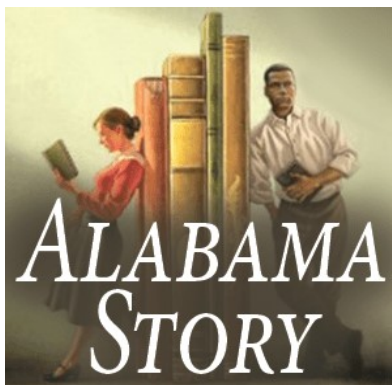
What: *Beyond the Page* with playwright Kenneth Jones

When: Sunday, January 6, 2019

Where: Webster Groves Public Library Meeting Room

Light refreshments will be served starting at 2:30.

To save your seat contact Debbie Ladd by January 3, 2019 at 314.961.3784 or dladd@wgpl.org



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