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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 14 no. 6 — February 2019



## KIDS' EVENTS

### Story Time

Tuesday, February 12 at 9:30 a.m. (with Katie RAH!)  
Thursday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m. (with Katie RAH!)  
Friday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m. (with Miss E)  
Tuesday, February 26 at 9:30 a.m. (with Katie RAH!)  
Thursday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. (with Katie RAH!)

### Pajama Story Time

Monday, February 4, 7 p.m. (with Katie RAH!)  
Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m. (with Miss E)

### Baby Story Time

Thursday, February 7, 9:30 p.m. (with Miss Phyllis)  
Thursday, February 21, 9:30 p.m. (with Miss Phyllis)  
Wednesday, February 13 at 9:30 a.m. (with Miss E)

### LegoMania!

Saturday, February 9, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

### Pokemon Lure

Saturday, February 9, 2 p.m.  
Saturday, February 23, 2 p.m.

### STEM Lab

Monday, February 11, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Monday, February 23, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Games & kits available for STEM learning fun. (1st grade and up)

### Mosaic of Sound: by Webster U Student Musicians

Saturday, February 16 at 2:30 p.m.

### Milk & Cookie Time

Wednesday, February 20, 3:45 – 4:15 p.m.

### Nanny-Manny-Mommy-Daddy Café

Wednesday, February 27, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

### Junior Bulletin Board Club

Wednesday, February 27, 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. (3rd grade and up)

## 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 Monday, February 18, for Presidents' Day.

## BAD WEATHER

I am writing this on a frigid January day, with temperatures way below freezing, and frostier wind chill values. Many local school districts are closed, though most libraries are open. We don't have to worry about kids at the bus stop and things like that.

I am into what are charitably called my 'senior years,' as are some other staff members. We talk about how we have seen this much cold many times in our lives; that it didn't used to be such a big deal. You put on a coat, hat, and gloves and went about your business. We were made of sterner stuff. People these days . . . well, you know.

It has been an odd winter, with early snows in November, quick chills in December, and then one of the biggest snowstorms in years in January. But none of it has been that unusual, if one has a long memory.

The Library had its first snow day in three years in January. That is unusual. Usually there is at least one day per winter when weather conditions are bad enough to close

most area libraries. We always worry about it, the various library directors losing sleep and sending emails back and forth about what this or that library will do. Everyone is waiting for someone else to be the first to announce their closing. In the end, library users almost never complain about these closings: they know it is better, safer for everyone involved to stay closed, just as long as they have a good book to read or a few good movies to watch.

Then again, we are a haven for some people, who seek a warm place in winter and a cool place in summer. As has often been pointed out, the public library is one of the last places in our society where you are welcome—you are *encouraged*—to spend hours at a time sitting and reading, without the expectation of spending any money. I think it is a unique public service, and we take it very seriously.

[tcooper@wgpl.org](mailto:tcooper@wgpl.org)

## WEBSTER GROVES HIGH SCHOOL ART DISPLAY



This month the Library's art gallery features artwork by students from Webster Groves High School. The works are in a variety of styles, from landscape to portraiture to abstract, and many media, such as paint, pastels, and pencil drawing.

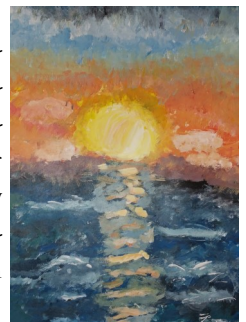
There will be a reception to meet the student artists on Friday, February 8 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

We are very happy to feature student work from local schools in our gallery. Not only is

the work often creative and unusually expressive, but we take seriously the mission to encourage young artists.

The Library's art gallery is open to interested artists to display their work one month at a time. An application is available at the Circulation Desk.

There is usually significant interest in exhibiting here: 2019 is already full, so if you or someone you know would like to be featured, be sure to plan ahead!

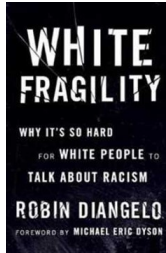


## TOP REQUESTS

1. *Becoming*,  
by Michelle Obama
2. *Where the Crawdads Sing*,  
by Delia Owens
3. *The Reckoning*,  
by John Grisham
4. *Educated*,  
by Tara Westover
5. *Nine Perfect Strangers*,  
by Liane Moriarty
6. *Unsheltered*,  
by Barbara Kingsolver
7. *Kingdom of the Blind*,  
by Louise Penny
8. *Connections in Death*,  
by J. D. Robb
9. *Long Road to Mercy*,  
by David Baldacci
10. *The Library Book*,  
by Susan Orlean
11. *The First Conspiracy*  
by Brad Meltzer
12. *There There*,  
by Tommy Orange

## START A CONVERSATION

In January we introduced the first in a series of book club kits that we hope will be popular with local book discussion groups. We are calling the series ‘Start a Conversation,’ because that’s what we hope each of the new kits will do—get people talking about topics of community concern.



The first book club kit is *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo. This kit was a suggestion from an interested library patron. We are hoping that people will have other interesting, provocative titles to recommend. If you know of a title we should consider, please contact Adult Services Librarian Debbie Ladd (dladd@wgpl.org).

We and several other Municipal Library Consortium partners have carried book club kits for years. Each kit includes ten copies of the book and a discussion guide, and may be checked out for up to six weeks. But those kits have tended to focus on popular reading. The idea to feature relevant social topics is new, and we hope it will catch on.

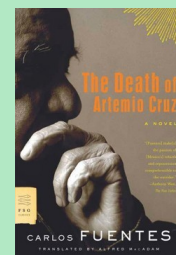
## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, March 2 at 2 p.m.



*The Thirteenth Tale*,  
by Diane Setterfield

Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m.



*The Death of Artemio Cruz*,  
by Carlos Fuentes

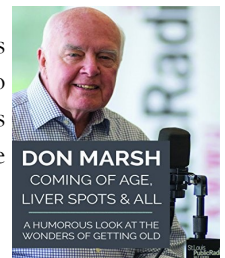
## DON MARSH TO VISIT THE LIBRARY

Local radio personality and long-time newscaster Don Marsh will visit the Library on Saturday, February 23, at 2 p.m. to talk about his new book *Coming of Age, Liver Spots & All: A Humorous Look at the Wonders of Getting Old*. We

are happy to have Don back for the second time—he last visited us in 2008 to discuss his memoir *Flash Frames: Journey of a Journeyman Journalist*.

We are also very happy to be working again with the newly reopened Webster

Groves Bookshop, who will sell copies of the book at the event. There is no need to make reservations for this event. For more information, please call the Library at 314.961.3784.



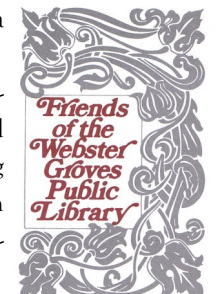
## FRIENDS NEWS



Thanks to all who joined us for *Beyond the Page* with Kenneth Jones (playwright) and Paul Mason Barnes (director) of *Alabama Story*. We had a capacity crowd for the event. It is wonderful to support a story that shows what superheroes librarians are. Our next *Beyond the Page* is planned

for our annual meeting in June, with a special guest to be announced.

Meanwhile, lots of things are happening at the Library in February and March which the Friends are looking forward to supporting. Keep an eye on the Library’s calendar and this newsletter for details.



WEBSTER GROVES  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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