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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 15 no. 3 — November 2019



## KIDS' EVENTS

### Story Time with Katie RAH!

Tuesday, November 5 at 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, November 7 at 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, November 21 at 9:30 a.m.

### Webster University Student Musicians

Saturday, November 9 at 2 p.m.

### Video Game Night (ages 8 and up)

Tuesday, November 12, 6 – 8 p.m.

### Baby Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Thursday, November 14 at 9:30 a.m.

### Milk & Cookies Time

Wednesday, November 20, 3:45 – 4:15 p.m.  
All ages welcome!

### Pajama Story Time

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.

### Webster U. Music Students Story Time

Saturday, November 23, 10:30 a.m.

### Legomania!

Saturday, November 23, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

### Leftover Make 'n' Take Crafts

Wednesday, November 27, 2 – 4 p.m.

## TEEN EVENTS

### Teen Advisory Group (TAG)

Wednesday, November 6, 7 – 8 p.m.

### YA Book Club: *Children of Blood & Bone*

Saturday, November 16, 2 – 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 Monday, Nov. 11 for Veterans' Day, and Thursday, Nov. 28 & Friday, Nov. 29 for Thanksgiving.

## TRACKING BESTSELLERS

A long-time feature of this newsletter is the list of each month's most requested books. We list the top 12 books that people are waiting to read. Several readers of this newsletter have told me that it's the first thing they look at when a new edition comes out.

While I was typing up the November edition, I was surprised (really, almost shocked) to see that for the first time in I don't know how long, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens was not on the list. I just checked, there are still 28 requests on the book, but that's not enough to propel it to the top.

The current number one book, *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett, has 116 requests on it. And that's just for the regular print edition. There are many more requests on the eBook, the large print book, and the recorded book.

I have worked in libraries since 1986, and over those years it has been fun to track bestsellers, which most of us track through the *New York Times* Bestseller List. I think the first one I really noticed was *The Bridges of*

*Madison County*, by Robert Waller, which topped the list for 164 weeks between 1992 and 1995.

That was followed by the self-published phenomenon of James Redfield's *Celestine Prophecy*, which was published in 1996 and spent 165 weeks on the list, and then by the *Harry Potter* juggernaut.

But these are nothing compared to M. Scott Peck's book *The Road Less Traveled* was on the list for 544 weeks—12 years—starting from its publication in 1978.

There are controversies about the *New York Times* bestseller list. William Peter Blatty, who wrote *The Exorcist*, sued the *New York Times* in 1983 for not featuring his book *Legion*. Their defense? The list is editorial content and not based on actual numerical sales figures. The court sided with the *Times*.

Rest assured, our list of the top 12 most requested books is exactly that. We just count requests and report it that way, no editorializing at all!

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## A LIBRARY MURDER MYSTERY



The crime scene

Our first murder mystery event was held on October 23. An avid group of young detectives worked to figure out who had killed Mr. Potato Head.

The main suspects were Farmer Elmer who runs the Elephant Taxi Service, Doug who owns Doug's Spaghetti and Fish Pub, Fisherman Crawford who supplies the fish to Doug, and crazy and wild mountain man, Zeb.

Captain Mystery of the police force asked our young detectives to help solve the

crime. After some serious deliberation, the verdict was Doug! Mr. Potato Head died because he was going to open his own pub, and Doug didn't want the competition.

Everyone had a good time, and we hope to do it again soon!



Clues were everywhere!

## TOP REQUESTS

1. *The Dutch House*,  
by Ann Patchett
2. *The Guardians*,  
by John Grisham
3. *Olive, Again*,  
by Elizabeth Strout
4. *The Night Fire*,  
by Michael Connelly
5. *Blue Moon*,  
by Lee Child
6. *The Water Dancer*,  
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
7. *The Giver of Stars*,  
by Jojo Moyes
8. *The Testaments*,  
by Margaret Atwood
9. *A Better Man*,  
by Louise Penny
10. *Bloody Genius*,  
by John Sandford
11. *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*,  
by Bill Bryson
12. *The Secrets We Kept*,  
by Lara Prescott

## TOM SAWYER ART CONTEST WINNERS

In winding up our One City/One Book reading event, we got to judge the wonderful entries in our *Tom Sawyer* Art Contest. Aspiring artists were challenged to create a scene from the book in whatever medium they chose. We had great entries in the children's and the adult categories.



The winners in the children's age group were Martha & Audrey Poppen, who drew a picture of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher.

The winner in the adult age group was Emma Schulte, with her painting of the boys fishing in the Mississippi.



## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, December 7, at 2 p.m.



*Small Great Things*,  
by Jodi Picoult

### New Book Discussion Group!

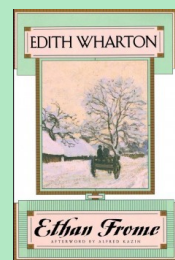
Beginning in November, we will have a new group, which will be discussing classic works of fiction, and meet at 7 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month. The first four books and dates are:

**November 19:** *Stoner*, by John Williams

**December 17:** *Ethan Frome*, by Edith Wharton

**January 21:** *Ceremony*,  
by Leslie Silko

**February 18:** *The Makioka Sisters*, by Junichiro Tanizaki

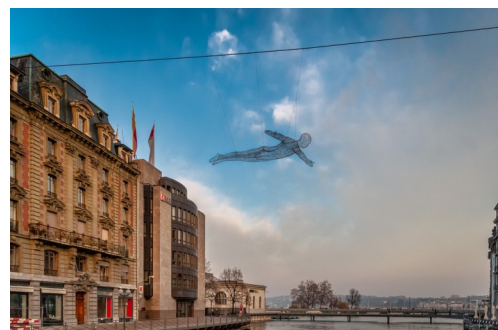


## PHOTOGRAPHER GEORGE SIEDE IN OUR GALLERY IN NOVEMBER

The Library gallery in November features photographs by George Siede, a local Webster Groves artist who moved to the area 20 years ago with his family. Previously, George and his wife operated a commercial photography studio in Chicago. His collection of photographs uses the interaction of light, color, and depth to capture the impact of physical spaces on our lives. His work is part personal travelogue, part visual record of the environments we share. "It's my way of celebrating the quirks of the world," George explains.

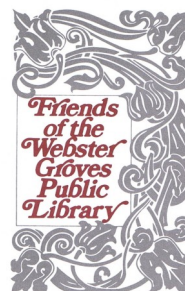
We are still soliciting applications for interested artists to exhibit in the gallery in 2019. Visit the Library for an application.

*Flying Man—Geneva Switzerland*, by George Siede



## FRIENDS NEWS

Almost time for membership renewal! Dorothy Heltibrand is hard at work updating the Friends membership brochure, which will be mailed out to current Library patrons around the end of December. We are winding down activities for the calendar year and are planning the next Book Sale for the spring. The Finance Committee is developing the 2020 budget and the Board is finishing descriptions of committees and positions to be filled as we plan for the future. We welcome new members Ann Hannon and Sue Gold to the Board. Ann's expertise is in finance and Sue brings lots of library experience to the Friends Board. Happy Thanksgiving to all—we are thankful for our wonderful library!



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