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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 15 no. 6 — February 2020



## KIDS' EVENTS

**German Story Time with Emerald**  
Saturday, February 1 at 10:30 a.m.

**Baby Story Time with Miss Phyllis**  
Thursday, February 6 at 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, February 20 at 9:30 a.m.

**Video Game Night**  
Thursday, February 6, 6 – 8 p.m.

**Lego Mania!**  
Saturday, February 8, 1:30 t–3:30 p.m.

**Story Time with Katie RAH!**  
Tuesday, February 11 at 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, February 13 at 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, February 25 at 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, February 27 at 9:30 a.m.

**Chinese New Year  
Celebration**  
Saturday, February 15, 1:30 –  
3:30 p.m.



**Milk & Cookies Time**  
Wednesday, February 19 at 3:45 p.m.

**Webster Groves High School a Cappella**  
Saturday, February 29 at 2 p.m.

## TEEN EVENTS

**Teen Advisory Group (TAG)**  
Wednesday, February 12, 6 – 7 p.m.

**YA Book Club**  
Saturday, February 22, 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, February 17,  
for Presidents' Day

## LONG BOOKS

I have a resolution in the New Year to read only long books. For years I led a book discussion group, and I was reluctant to assign books that were too long. I got used to reading books that were fewer than 300 or 400 pages. Not that they were bad books; some of the greatest classics of literature are shorter novels. But I found that I had lost the habit, had even lost the enjoyment, of reading long books.

I used to read such books. *War and Peace*, *The Brothers Karamazov*, *Don Quixote*, *Ulysses*, I read them all 'back in the day.' A few years ago I picked up Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*, and found that I couldn't finish it: same with Hugo's *Les Misérables*, which I tried to read last year. I had lost the ability to become absorbed in the author's world and spend a few weeks there. I needed to renew my reading chops.

I began with *Little Dorrit*, by Charles Dickens (929 pages), and followed that with *The Forsyte Saga*, by John Galsworthy (872 pages). Last night I began reading *Middlemarch*, by

George Eliot (852 pages). I can feel my ability to read long books growing. It helps that there is a BBC TV production of many of these books. While one often wants to argue about casting decisions—Gina McKee was completely wrong as Irene Forsyte—sometimes the casting brings the character to life: Damian Lewis, as Soames Forsyte, was a perfect study in building rage and frustration, and Claire Foy was born to play Little Dorrit. There are also questionable edits and scene choices by the screenwriters. The BBC *Forsyte Saga* ends on an optimistic note not justified by the book. None of this will stop me from continuing to watch the filmed productions while I read these books; there is a BBC production of *Middlemarch*, and I am waiting to see it.

What do you think? Are long novels still worth the time spent reading them? Are we too busy these days to build them into our lives?

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

## SPOTLIGHT ON HOMEBOUND SERVICES

For a long time, Webster Groves Public Library has offered homebound service to residents of Webster Groves. What this means is that anyone who is unable to come to the Library due to age, illness, or temporary infirmity may call and have library materials delivered right to their door, and then picked up when they've finished with them.

We have some patrons who have used this service for years, and some who used it for a short period while recovering from a broken leg or from major surgery. It makes no difference to us, our goal is to make sure that people who need our service are able to get it.

The problem is that people who can't get to

the Library may have no way to hear about services we offer. If you know anyone—a neighbor, an elderly relative, a friend who's had an accident—who could use the Library's homebound service, please let them know!

Our Adult Services Librarian, Debbie Ladd, is in charge of homebound service, and can answer any questions you may have. She can be reached at 314.961.3784, or [dladd@wgpl.org](mailto:dladd@wgpl.org).

While our homebound service is available only to residents of Webster Groves, most other libraries in the area provide similar service. Call the Library where you reside to learn more.

## TOP REQUESTS

1. *American Dirt*,  
by Jeanine Cummins
2. *Olive, Again*,  
by Elizabeth Strout
3. *Such a Fun Age*,  
by Kiley Reid
4. *A Very Stable Genius*,  
by Philip Rucker
5. *The Dutch House*,  
by Ann Patchett
6. *The Giver of Stars*,  
by Jojo Moyes
7. *A Minute to Midnight*,  
by David Baldacci
8. *Long Bright River*,  
by Liz Moore
9. *Nothing to See Here*,  
by Kevin Wilson
10. *Dear Edward*,  
by Ann Napolitano
11. *The Guardians*,  
by John Grisham
12. *The Starless Sea*,  
by Erin Morgenstern

## IRISH ARTS SALON

On Friday, February 28 at 7 p.m. we will have a Salon of Music and the Spoken Word from Ireland and Beyond. Sponsored by the Smurfit-Stone Corporation Professor in Irish Studies at UMSL, the focus is on Irish music and literature, there will be other nations and cultures represented.

We do not take reservations for the Salons, but they are often standing room only, so be sure to come early! For more information call 314.961.3784.



## COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

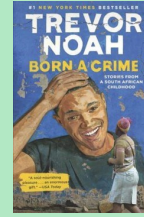
We are creating a Community Cookbook! We invite you to share favorite family recipes with us to be compiled into a printed cookbook, which will be available in December 2020 to purchase from the Friends.

Recipes should be submitted to the Library by June 30, 2020, either by email ([recipes@wgpl.org](mailto:recipes@wgpl.org)) or by dropping it off at the Library. Blank recipe instruction sheets are available at the circulation desk to take home and fill out as well.

Due to considerations of space, and repetition of some recipes, we will not be able to print every recipe submitted.

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m.



*Born a Crime*,  
by Trevor Noah

Classics Book Club

Tuesday, March 17, at 7 p.m.



*The Beginning of Spring*,  
by Penelope Fitzgerald

YA Book Club

Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m.



*Bloodleaf*,  
by Crystal Smith

## WEBSTER ARTS: SMALL WORKS XIII

Our gallery exhibit for February is *Small Works XIII*, a juried art exhibit sponsored by Webster Arts. There will be paintings, photographs, and mixed media works by many artists.

Webster Arts is a non-profit foundation with offices and a gallery on the campus of Eden Seminary. Their mission statement is 'We bring art to life by providing opportunities for people of all ages to engage in and enjoy the arts through programs, partnerships, and collaborations.'

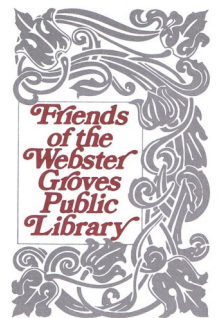
There will be an opening reception on Friday, February 7 at 6 p.m. It is a perfect chance to meet the artists and see their works.



## FRIENDS NEWS

Thanks to all of our new and renewing members! The brochures were sent early this month and we have already had a fantastic response! The next event the Friends will host is the Salon of Music and the Spoken Word from Ireland and Beyond on February 28—check this issue of *Page 61* for more details.

We are nearly finished with developing our new officer and committee guidelines. Each of the current Friends Board members will choose an area of responsibility and we will recruit some of our new and renewing members to help with social media and community outreach, the Library on Ice/Library on Deck, and the annual Book Sale, to name a few. This year's Book Sale is coming in late May.



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