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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 16 no. 6 — February 2021



KIDS' EVENTS

Chinese New Year Take-and-Make Craft—In collaboration with Webster University Chinese Institute. Pick them up curbside beginning in February, while supplies last!

Black History Awareness Take-and-Make Craft—Each kit includes two books, a *Let's Learn About Black History* activity booklet and a related craft or activity. Books, mesh bag and content card are to be returned to the Library. Activity booklet and craft/activity items are for you to keep. Reserve one by searching the library catalog for title: Book and Activity Kit. Recommended for ages 5 and up. Kits include:

- I Am Jackie Robinson*
- I Am Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- I Am Rosa Parks*
- I Am Harriet Tubman*

These kits will remain in the collection after Black History Month 2021!

Get out and EXPLORE February Challenge

EX	PL	O	R	E
Chinese NY Lantern	Golden Retriever	Snow Covered Field	Outdoor Tiles	Eat Soup
Read a Fairy Tale Book	Red Winter Coat	Dance to the Radio	Violet	Listen to Stringed Instruments
Anything Chocolate!	Play it Forward	Someone receiving a favorite book	Recognize Black History Month	Umbrellas
Find a penny	Science Center	Purple car	Read a story about hedgehogs	Park Bench
Visit a Library	Reggae Music	Send a Card in the Mail	Hogwarts Scarf	Leave a small treat for your mailperson

February EXPLORE Bingo—Can you find all the items on the EXPLORE bingo card this month?

All ages are welcome to play but to

enter the drawing, you must be 18 or younger.

Email us at kids@wgpl.org between the 15th and the end of the month.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Library will be closed Monday, February 15, for Presidents' Day.

HOOPLA PROBLEMS?

In January we had an update of the computer system for the entire Municipal Library Consortium. We have these updates every few years, and usually they happen without library users noticing any difference. The updates just improve how things work internally. But this time was different.

For some reason, the update discombobulated (a scientific word) how our system works with Hoopla, the e-book and audiobook download service that many of you regularly use. For several days after the update we had many calls from Hoopla users who found that they suddenly could not download anything. In a nutshell, here is how to make it work again.

If you try to access your account but get an error message, you may need to update your library information in Hoopla. To do this, go to your settings (look for the gear-shaped icon) and find the library settings. There, it will have your library card number and a section for your Library PIN. If you know your PIN (same as your password for the online catalog), enter it and hit Save. If you

do not know your PIN, please call the Library at 314.961.3784 and we will reset it for you.

OTHER RECENT CHANGES:

Many library users read our selection of online magazines that have been available through RBDigital. That service has been purchased by OverDrive, the electronic resource service that includes e-books and audiobooks. They are now available through OverDrive or from the Libby app.

For several years the library has had an app to help you browse our catalog, request items, and keep track of your account. Some library patrons use it, but not that many, because frankly, the app was not that good.

Recently, after a lengthy search and trials of available products, the MLC contracted with a company called Capira to create a new app for us. The Capira app should be ready to begin using early this month, though it will take a while for all of its best functions to become available. Watch for announcements of when you can begin using Capira!

tcooper@wgpl.org

NOW MORE THAN EVER—WE NEED FRIENDS!

When I look at the incoming mail at the Library every day, I notice those envelopes pouring in addressed to the Friends of the Library. They are in the middle of their annual membership drive, and many of you have responded.

This past year has shown us more than ever how important it is for a library to have a well-supported, hard-working Friends group.

While the Library has been confined to limited service, or just curbside service, our Children's Room has made the best of things by offering Take-and-Make Crafts, Kitchen Kits, and more. Money from the Friends has

funded much of this. The Friends also paid for the popular Santa's Express event in December.

The Reference Room has stayed busy archiving a nearly-full run of the *Webster-Kirkwood Times*, and the Friends paid for the acid-free boxes and other materials that made the project possible.

If you are a member of the Friends, thank you for your support. If you are not, and would like to learn more, check the Friends of the Library page on our Website [here](#).



TOP REQUESTS

1. *A Promised Land*,
by Barack Obama
2. *The Vanishing Half*,
by Brit Bennett
3. *A Time for Mercy*,
by John Grisham
4. *The Guest List*,
by Lucy Foley
5. *Anxious People*,
by Fredrik Backman
6. *The Midnight Library*,
by Matt Haig
7. *Daylight*,
by David Baldacci
8. *The Law of Innocence*,
by Michael Connelly
9. *Leave the World Behind*,
by Rumaan Alam
10. *Keep Sharp*,
by Sanjay Gupta
11. *Fortune and Glory*,
by Janet Evanovich
12. *Hamnet*,
by Maggie O'Farrell

TAX FORMS



As usual this year, the Library has acquired from the IRS an assortment of tax forms to distribute to our patrons. But these are not usual times, and so you cannot come in and get your forms.

We have been distributing tax forms through curbside pickup. If you need forms, please call our Reference Department at 314.961.7277 and let us know which forms you need. We will get them together and you can come by to retrieve them. We have some forms here, and others should be arriving soon. We can find and print most of the forms we do not have.

We do not receive forms from the State, but, just like the federal forms, we can find them online and print them for you.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, March 6 at 2 p.m.

This meeting will be held via Zoom. For more information, or to get the Zoom link, contact Debbie Ladd at dladd@wgpl.org.



Ask Again, Yes,
by Mary Beth Keane



BOOK CLUB KITS—

Remember that while we can't hold book discussions at the Library, we do have book club kits available for your home group. Kits include 10 copies of the book and a discussion guide, and can be checked out for 6 weeks.

Look them up in our catalog under the title BOOK CLUB KIT.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If you've come by the Library in the past week or so, you may have noticed that our foyer is be-decked with Chinese lanterns. They are hung in celebration of Chinese New Year, which comes this year on Friday, February 12. It is the Year of the Ox.

Interesting fact: what we in the West call Chinese New Year is actually known in China and other nations that celebrate it as the Spring Festival, a reminder that in most cultures for most of human history, the year was seen as beginning in spring.

Thank you to our good friend and library patron Lin Gao, who loaned us the authentic Chinese lanterns. And to everyone else — 春节快乐!

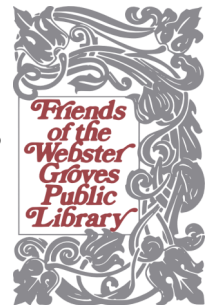


FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends Board has been meeting online and planning for the time when we can meet again in person. The annual membership brochures have been mailed—a big thank you to all those who have generously supported the Friends with a check! Your Friends membership supports ongoing programs, including large print books, the Summer Reading Program, book club kits and children's activities like Santa's Express. A shout-out to Membership Chair Ann Hannan, who coordinated the mailing!

The Friends Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 13.

We hope to have a local author there for another "Beyond the Page" interview. We are also working on a community activity, hopefully to be held in mid-May.



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