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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 17 no. 4 — December 2021



KIDS' EVENTS

Tuesday Story Time

A new story time video is posted to our Facebook page every Tuesday.

December Take 'n' Make Craft

Craft Stick Penguins!
Find them in the Library's foyer (while supplies last)!



Teen Book Grab & Go

December 18th, 1 - 3 p.m.

Teens ONLY, 1 - 2 p.m. Free teen/children's donated and retired library books

Donuts with Santa:

A Holiday

drive-or walk-

up event

December 18th
from 10 - 11:30
a.m. with Santa
Claus! Your family
will have a chance
to briefly greet



Santa Claus while safely distanced. Everyone will receive a small package of donuts, **while supplies last**. Masks are required but may be removed briefly for a socially distanced photo opportunity.

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 December 24 - 26 for Christmas, and December 31 to January 2 for the New Year.

UNDERSTANDING WEEDING

The other day a staff member brought me a stack of books that was slated for weeding, and asked if I would like to 'save' any of them. They were all books by highly acclaimed authors, but none of them had been checked out in several years. I gave a few the thumbs up and a few the thumbs down. Of course this always pains me, but it is kind of the nature of my job.

Occasionally there is a news story about a library that has been 'caught' discarding hundreds of books. Concerned citizens have stepped in to 'rescue' these books. But I wonder then how the library found a place to shelve or store any new books they bought?

You see, weeding the collection, meaning getting rid of the least-used books in the collection, is an ongoing, standard operation at any library—and always has been. No library has limitless space to shelve books; not even the Library of Congress, despite its reputation in the popular imagination, has *every* book in its collection. That would be impos-

sible.

We run lists once in a while, when things start to get crowded on our shelves, of books that have not been checked out in a long time. The standard inactive period is five years. Those books are pulled, put on a cart, and brought to me for review. (Unless they are children's books, in which case the Children's Librarian sees them.) I decide if there is a reason to keep them. For instance, we are never going to get rid of our last copy of *Moby Dick* or *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, even if it hasn't been read in a while. It is easiest to get rid of older non-fiction, since so much of it—medical books, science books, travel books—gets outdated pretty quickly.

Everything that is withdrawn is offered for sale to the public at cheap prices, so we hope most of the books get a second life. We also hope that by judicious weeding and review, we maintain a balanced, thorough collection for our reading public.

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\$12,579 GRANT TO PAY FOR NEW COMPUTERS

This month we were notified that we will receive a grant of \$12,579 from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This money will be used to purchase 13 new public access computers—10 for the adult computer area and 3 for the Children's Room.

The IMLS is a federal program which is locally administered by the Missouri State Library. We applied to them several weeks ago and the grant awards were announced soon after. In past years, these grants have required a local match, meaning that IMLS would give us a percentage of the funds needed for new equipment, usually 75% to 80%, and we would

have to pay the additional 20% to



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

25%. But passage of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA—also known as the COVID-19 Stimulus Package) made more money available to institutions such as public libraries, and this round of technology improvements is 100% paid for.

Several of the libraries in the Municipal Library Consortium (MLC) also received these funds, which they will also use to update and improve their technology.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *The Lincoln Highway*,
by Amor Towles
2. *State of Terror*,
by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny
3. *Apples Never Fall*,
by Liane Moriarty
4. *Cloud Cuckoo Land*,
by Anthony Doerr
5. *The Judge's List*,
by John Grisham
6. *Oh William!*,
by Elizabeth Strout
7. *Crossroads*,
by Jonathan Franzen
8. *The Sentence*,
by Louise Erdrich
9. *Better Off Dead*,
by Lee Child
10. *The Dark Hours*,
by Michael Connelly
11. *Game On: Tempting Twenty-Eight*,
by Janet Evanovich
12. *Harlem Shuffle*,
by Colson Whitehead

KYLE SEAMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

The exhibit in our art gallery for December and January will be photography by Kyle Seaman, a self-taught landscape and nature photographer living in Webster Groves.

'Traveling and capturing moments is the ultimate souvenir to cherish forever,' says Kyle.

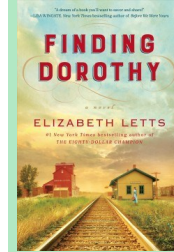
His photos will be up through January. There is an opening reception to meet the photographer on Saturday, December 11 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, January 8 at 2 p.m.

This meeting is scheduled to be held in the Library's Meeting Room. Masks required, and social distancing will be observed. For more information, contact Debbie Ladd at dladd@wgpl.org.



Finding Dorothy,
by Elizabeth Letts

BOOK CLUB KITS—

Remember that while book discussions at the Library aren't quite back to normal, 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 catalogue under the title BOOK CLUB KIT.

ELF ON THE BOOKSHELF

Families, join our 'Elf on the Bookshelf' as it sends you on a search in the Children's Library collection. New clues will be posted 3 times per week from December 6 - 21, 2021. Earn a raffle ticket for an Amazon gift card each time you find Elf! Visit the Children's Department for more information and the clues.

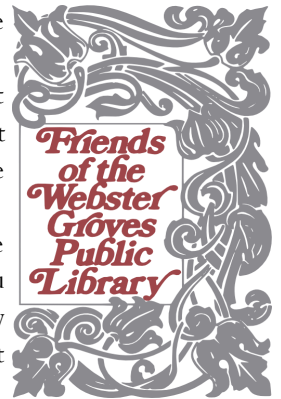


FRIENDS NEWS

A special thank you to Mary Garavaglia, who has served on the Friends Board and volunteered for many years at the Book Sale—her name was left off the list of volunteers who assisted at the October Book Sale.

Jaime Mowers gave a wonderful presentation at the Friends Annual Meeting and enlightened us all about the difficult decisions a newspaper editor faces. We gained a new appreciation for our local *Webster-Kirkwood Times*! Those present at the meeting approved the slate of officers for the coming year: Dorothy Heltibrand, President; Laura Wehrenberg, Vice President; Debbie Ladd, Secretary; Ann Hannan and Cricket Vandover, Co-treasurers.

The Friends will be funding a bike repair stand for the Library. Installation will be sometime in the early spring. We need several volunteers to maintain the Library on Ice cart at the Rec Center—e-mail lwehrenberg@sbcglobal.net if you are interested! Membership brochures will be mailed early in January and we hope that all of you will continue your support of the Friends. Happiest of holidays to all!



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