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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 17 no. 12 — August 2022



KIDS' EVENTS

SUMMER READING CLUB ENDS SOON

Check-in for prizes and raffle tickets must be completed in person by 8:30 p.m. on August 10!

End of Summer Bubble and Snow Cone Party

Sunday, August 21, 2 - 3 p.m.

The party will be held in the Library parking lot with special guests The Bubble Bus and St. Louis Snow Cone!



Tuesday Story Time with Miss Phyllis

Tuesday, August 9 and Tuesday, August 16, at 9:30 a.m.

August Take It and Make It Craft

Make a CD Fish! Kits available to pick up at the Library.



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.

BOOK CENSORING

I was in the newspaper last month, having been asked my opinion on current trends in book censorship. Public librarians try not to be political, and speaking out against book censoring can be interpreted as a political stance.

It's not a political stance. It's a bedrock principle of our profession. Of course we have opinions about things, but we learn to check our opinions at the door. Our collections should include materials from the spectrum of political and cultural opinions. We have books by CNN anchors and by Fox News anchors. We subscribe to the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Republic* and the *Nation*.

To me, the idea of censoring our collections is a 'be careful what you wish for' scenario. Most librarians I have known lean liberal. That they try to balance their collections to include conservative voices and viewpoints is a matter of their professional training. If a movement to remove certain books from

libraries grows significantly, it will have the effect of telling librarians that it's okay to decide based on content. And you know what content most librarians will eschew.

Let's leave well enough alone. It's an imperfect system, but it is trying to represent all viewpoints.

Here's an idea I have long espoused. Try reading some of the materials you don't like. Once or twice a week I read articles in the newspapers or magazines that lean opposite of my own political views. I read books by authors I vehemently disagree with. But I can't just declare the author wrong because he says things I don't like; I have to decide why he's wrong based on facts and solid arguments. Sometimes, I lose those arguments and find that I was wrong about something.

And that, my friends, is the value of working in a library that tries to keep everything on the shelf.

tcooper@wgpl.org

WE ARE NOW FINE FREE!

At its July meeting, the Library Board voted to make the Library fine free. For several years, public libraries across the country have been making the same move. Most libraries in the St. Louis area have gone fine free. There is hope that by doing so, more people will have access to the Library and its resources, without the fear of falling into debt with daily library fines.

Libraries that have made the change report that it does not change much in patron behavior: most people, most of the time, still return their materials by the due date. There is even evidence that some people, who might have feared returning things once they got late, now don't have that to worry about.

This change was effective as of Monday, July 25. Old fines that you may have had on your card will also be erased. But we have to do that work manually—there is not a button we can push in the computer system to erase all those fines. If you find that there are still fines showing on your account, just mention it the next time you come to check out, and we'll take care of that.

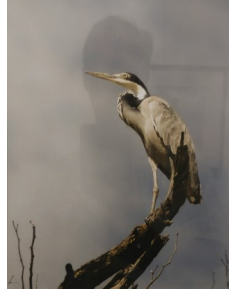
Remember also that *fin*es are different from *fee*s. If you lose or damage library items, you will still be held responsible for them, and those are fees. Again, if you have any questions about this, please call the Library at 314.961.3784.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *The It Girl*,
by Ruth Ware
2. *Sparring Partners*,
by John Grisham
3. *The Hotel Nantucket*,
by Elin Hilderbrand
4. *Lessons in Chemistry*,
by Bonnie Garmus
5. *Book Lovers*,
by Emily Henry
6. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*,
by Taylor Jenkins Reid
7. *It Ends with Us*,
by Colleen Hoover
8. *The 6:20 Man*,
by David Baldacci
9. *Portrait of an Unknown Woman*,
by Daniel Silva
10. *Reminders of Him*,
by Colleen Hoover
11. *The Paris Apartment*,
by Lucy Foley
12. *This Time Tomorrow*,
by Emma Straub

JIM RHODES PHOTO EXHIBIT

The August exhibit in our gallery is photography by Jim Rhodes. Jim is a passionate photographer who has been taking photos since he bought his first camera in an Army PX in 1971. He and his wife Stephanie Sigala live in Webster Groves.



Jim has been an aerospace engineer for McDonnell-Douglas and an environmental engineer for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

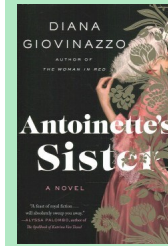


His photography interests include landscape, travel, portrait, architectural, floral, and macro photography.

He can be contacted at jamarhodes@gmail.com. This exhibit will be up through August.

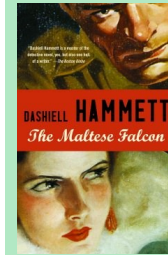
BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, September 3 at 2 p.m.



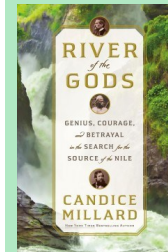
Antoinette's Sister,
by Diana Giovinazzo

Tuesday, August 30 at 6 p.m.



The Maltese Falcon,
by Dashiell Hammett

Wednesday, August 31 at 6 p.m.



River of the Gods,
by Candice Millard

VOTING AT THE LIBRARY



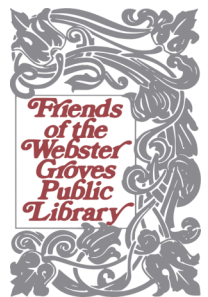
Today we are a polling place once again. We're aware that it's a little inconvenient for Library users when there is voting at the Library, because voters take up many parking places. But if the Board of Elections wants us to be a polling place, then we're a polling place.

But more than that, we are happy that this crucial element of American democracy takes place at the Library. For many years, we have helped register voters. With the important upcoming mid-term elections, it is a good time to make sure you're registered to vote. You can find information at the St. Louis County Board of Elections, or you can visit the Library during regular hours. We have registration applications to take home and fill out, and several of our employees are deputized voter registrars, if you'd like to take care of it when you visit us. For more information please call 314.961.3784.

FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends are planning a special members-only event at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 18. Join us to meet other members of the Friends and find out about the events we sponsor throughout the year. We'll have information about volunteer opportunities, too—everything from sorting books for the annual book sale to keeping us up to date on social media!

The annual book sale will be October 14 - 15 in the Library meeting room. We'll provide more details in the next two months!



WEBSTER GROVES
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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