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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 18 no. 1 — September 2022



KIDS' EVENTS

Oceans of Possibilities Tiny Art Show

Open House Saturday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

Story Time with Miss Margaret

Ages 2 and up:

Tuesday, Sept. 6 and 20, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8 and 22, at 10 a.m.

Infant to Age 2:

Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m.

Video Game Day

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2 – 4 p.m.

Gaming on the Nintendo Switch (ages 8 & up)

Harry Potter Program: A Day at Hogwarts

Saturday, Sept. 24, 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Make wands, play Quidditch, visit Honeydukes Sweetshop and more!

Harry Potter

Villain Book & Activity Kit has a New Craft!

Check out the book and make a poison apple! (Adult supervision recommended—kit includes glitter!)

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 Sunday, September 4, and Monday, September 5, for Labor Day.

BANNED BOOKSWEEK

Banned Books Week runs from September 18 to 24. Libraries across the nation will feature displays and do other things to observe the idea that a wide array of books are always being challenged by self-appointed censors. Usually, the week passes with little notice or fanfare, because serious book challenges typically fizzle and die. Americans mostly believe in the freedom to read, and anyone challenging that freedom is seen, either early or late, as something of a pariah.

Not so this year. There are ongoing efforts to censor and ban books in school libraries across the country, and a new law in Missouri making it illegal to offer children books containing anything sexually explicit. Whose opinions define 'sexually explicit?' That, of course, is vague. There are exceptions for works of artistic merit—again, a vague distinction, and one that gets lost in practice. Recently, the Wentzville School District banned

The Bluest Eye, perhaps the most important novel from Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison. It should surprise no one that Ms. Morrison was Black. A focus of the book banners has been opposition to what they call Critical Race Theory, which they can rarely define but are certain they oppose, disliking young people learning about America's troubled history concerning race.

Another focus of the book banners is removing works with LGBTQ content. References to educators as child groomers for offering this 'perverted' content are common among some legislators.

We'll have a display of banned books at the Library the week of September 18 to 24. And, in recognition of some of the most banned books of the 21st century—the *Harry Potter* series—our Children's Room will hold a Day at Hogwarts event on September 24.

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SUMMER READING A GREAT SUCCESS

Summer 2022 saw a huge increase in kids and teens reading, with 507,062 minutes read in the 'Oceans of Possibilities' reading club (compared to 177,602 minutes last summer). Children's Librarian Michelle Haffer believes the end of COVID restrictions had a lot to do with the increase. 'It was my best summer ever,' she said, 'in 29 years at Webster Groves Public Library!'



On the adult side, an impressive 76 out of the 102 who entered

completed the goal of reading 5 books. Sixty of those entered the prize drawings.



Also popular this year were the prize wheels, which readers who completed their goals spun to win prizes. We will certainly bring those back next years.

We celebrated the end of summer reading with a Bubble Bus and Snow Cone Party on August 21st that was attended by over 125 people of all ages.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *Verity*,
by Colleen Hoover
2. *Lessons in Chemistry*,
by Bonnie Garmus
3. *The It Girl*,
by Ruth Ware
4. *It Ends with Us*,
by Colleen Hoover
5. *Reminders of Him*,
by Colleen Hoover
6. *The Hotel Nantucket*,
by Elin Hilderbrand
7. *The 6:20 Man*,
by David Baldacci
8. *Horse*,
by Geraldine Brooks
9. *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*,
by Gabrielle Zevin
10. *Book Lovers*,
by Emily Henry
11. *Portrait of an Unknown Woman*,
by Daniel Silva
12. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*,
by Taylor Jenkins Reid

KATHY LARUE ART EXHIBIT

The September exhibit in our gallery is art by Kathy LaRue.

Kathy is a native St. Louisan but has lived in several states with her husband Jim. They moved back 'home' in 2012 and reside in Chesterfield.

With a lifelong interest in art & design, Kathy has designed and made Hypertufa (faux concrete) planters, and had a custom embroidery business for many years. She discovered Acrylic Fluid Art during the COVID pandemic and found her niche and passion for this art. She has recently started working in resin art as well.

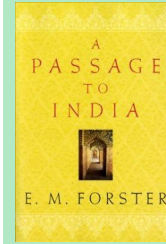
Kathy has had her art exhibited in local art galleries, Webster Arts, and Missouri Athletic Club.



This exhibit will be up through September.

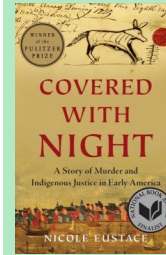
BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, September 27 at 6 p.m.



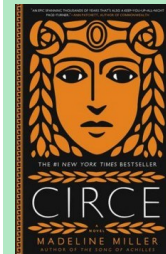
A Passage to India,
by E. M. Forster

Wednesday, September 28 at 6 p.m.



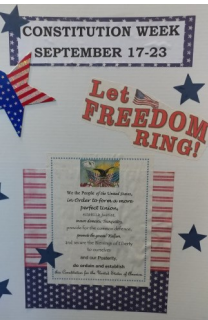
Covered with Night,
by Nicole Eustace

Saturday, October 1 at 2 p.m.



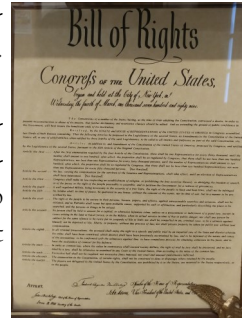
Circe,
by Madeline Miller

OBSERVING CONSTITUTION WEEK



September 17-23 is Constitution Week. This week was officially adopted as a time to honor our Constitution by the U.S. Congress and signed into public law on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

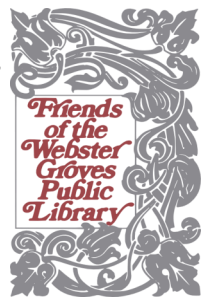
Through our partnership with the Webster Groves Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), we have long featured a display in our front foyer highlighting dates and events important in the development of our most important founding document. This display will be up throughout the month of September, and we hope you'll take a few minutes on your next Library visit to see it.



FRIENDS NEWS

The Friends are back from a summer break and ready to work on the book fair that is coming up in mid-October. As always, there will be great books at bargain prices. Look for more details soon!

Thanks to the Friends and our generous members, the Library's meeting room will get a new look in October. The Friends are funding the replacement of the room's carpeting, which has become worn and stained after 10 years of hard use.



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