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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 18 no. 4 — December 2022



KIDS' EVENTS

Story Time with Miss Margaret

December 6, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

December 20, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Story & Activity Time, recommended for ages 2 and up. This event will be indoors in our Children's Department.

Legos at the Library

December 10, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Legos are back! Join us for some fun Lego free play. Ages 5 and up. Food will not be served.

Story Time with Miss Margaret

December 13, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Story & Activity Time, recommended for infants to age 2. This event is indoors in our Children's Department story time area.

Saturday Story Time with Miss Margaret

December 17, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Story & Activity Time for ages 2 and up! This event will be indoors in our Children's Department.

TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Pizza & Board Game Party

December 18, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Recruiting new Teen Advisory Board members! Members should be between the ages of 13 and 18, have a valid MLC Library card (or apply for one during the party!) and ready to plan, share, and have some fun!

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 Dec. 14 for staff training, Dec. 24, 25, & 26 for Christmas, and Dec. 31 and Jan 1 & 2 for New Year's.

THE LIBRARY AS POLLING PLACE

The week before an election, a huge cage of voting equipment is delivered to the Library. The next Tuesday, the meeting room is transformed into a polling place. It is abuzz with activity and lines of waiting voters may trail out the door, down the steps and along the sidewalk. Political signs crowd together at the edge of the lawn and often there are volunteers who eagerly greet the voters and Library patrons as they walk up. Parking places are at a minimum and the second shift staff may have to park way down the street. Inside the Library, it is different too. There is an air of excitement as staff members debate how many people will eventually vote here, will there still be a line at 7:00 when the polls close, and who will win. Staff members joke that there are patrons that we only see on election day and it does seem busier.

Long-time library users may remember that back before the renovation, when the meeting room was the children's room, the Library was a polling place. But instead of having a dedicated place for the election, voting

took place in the Library's reading area on the east side of the Library. It did cause some confusion. Furniture had to be rearranged and as these were the days before cell phones, poll workers took over the Library's telephone system as they called to check on a voter's registration. People wanting to check out books would have to maneuver their way through a line of voters that could extend all the way along the circulation desk and down the hall to the restrooms. It was understandably noisy and not much serious studying could be done that day.

Now that the county board of elections has given the approval to vote at any county polling place, it does seem like the meeting room is busier on election day. Perhaps voters are multitasking their errands. But we are happy to have it. Having the Library as a polling place may create some disruptions, but it is an honor and a privilege to be part of the political process.

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TEN YEARS ALREADY!

Can you believe that as of this month, we have been in the newly renovated and expanded Library building for ten years already? Our renovation and



expansion took place between 2010 and 2012. As many of you may recall, there were some serious setbacks along the way, and a project that was meant to take less than a year took all of two years to complete! That meant that the Library stayed in its temporary quarters in the old Seiler Instrument Building on Brentwood Blvd. for much long-

er than originally planned. But it all worked out in the end, and we have happily occupied the new space since December, 2012.

To commemorate this landmark, we will serve refreshments and present a concert of holiday music on Saturday, December 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. Music will be provided by the Buckhannon Brothers.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *A World of Curiosities*,
by Louise Penny
2. *The Boys from Biloxi*,
by John Grisham
3. *Demon Copperhead*,
by Barbara Kingsolver
4. *Our Missing Hearts*,
by Celeste Ng
5. *Desert Star*,
by Michael Connelly
6. *No Plan B*,
by Lee Child
7. *Lucy by the Sea*,
by Elizabeth Strout
8. *The Light We Carry*,
by Michelle Obama
9. *The Winners*,
by Fredrik Backman
10. *Lessons in Chemistry*,
by Bonnie Garmus
11. *It Starts with Us*,
by Colleen Hoover
12. *Long Shadows*,
by David Baldacci

VIRTUAL WATERCOLOR ARTISTS EXHIBIT

The December exhibit in our art gallery is work by a group called Virtual Watercolor Artists. Here is how the group describes itself: "When organizations cancelled in-person meetings in 2020, our art group stayed connected by meeting weekly on Zoom. Our virtual studio continues to provide connection and friendship to its members regardless of the distances we live from each other and our busy schedules. In our virtual meeting space, we paint while sharing tips, techniques, resources and advice for watercolor and water-based mediums. This exhibit celebrates our continued support for each other and our passion for art."

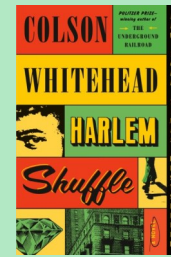
Artists featured in the exhibit Julie Bantle, Kathy Dowd, Carla Baron Giller, Madhura Joag, Fran Kempin, Gerry Klein, Suzanne Galli Koenen, Pat Long, Karen Papin, and Lee Wal-



ter. There will be an opening reception for the exhibit Friday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

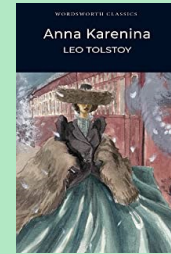
BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, January 7 at 2 p.m.



Harlem Shuffle,
by Colson Whitehead

BIG WINTER READ



Anna Karenina,
by Leo Tolstoy

This winter, our Classics Book Club is reading this masterpiece of Russian literature. Our initial discussion was on November 29, and we will have a follow on January 31 to conclude our discussion.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SANTAS ON THE LOOSE!

For several years now the Library has hosted the annual Santas on the Loose run, a fun event presented by the Webster Groves/Shrewsbury/Rock Hill Area Chamber of Commerce. This fun run/walk competition, featuring runners dressed as Santa Claus, begins in the Library's parking lot and winds its way through the streets of Webster Groves.

This year's Santas on the Loose will be held the morning of Saturday, December 3. The Library will open later that morning, to accommodate all the fun. Our hours that Saturday will be 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information about how to join the fun, visit the Chamber of Commerce website at webstershrewsburychamber.com.

FRIENDS NEWS

Just in time for the holidays! The Friends are again offering pavers for the Reading Garden! Pavers are 6x9 in. (\$75), 6x12 in. (\$150), or 12x12 in. (\$300). Look for an updated brochure at the Library with more information or visit the Friends Facebook page.

Patrick Murphy gave a marvelous talk about his just-published *The Irish in St. Louis: From Shanty to Lace Curtain* at the Friends Annual Meeting on November 20. In 2022, the Friends supported new book club kits, more large print books and the Library's Summer Reading Programs. The Friends also provided the new carpet in the Meeting Room. Friends membership currently stands at 285.



We welcome our officers and directors for 2023: President Dorothy Heltibrand, Vice President Laura Wehrenberg, Treasurer Ann Weidemann, Secretary Debbie Ladd and Board Members Sue Gold, Nancy Leahy, Terry Pirrong and Cricket Vandover.



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