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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 18 no. 6 — February 2023



KIDS' EVENTS

Saturday Story Time with Miss Margaret
(ages 2 and up)
Saturday, February 11, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

LIFE–Library Information Family Education

Monday, February 13, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
A community based group for parents and caregivers of children to learn more about library and community services, child development and share experiences. With special guest Dr. Jeanne Kloeckner, YogaKids instructor.

Infant Story Time with Miss Margaret
(infants to age 2)
Tuesday, February 14, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Legos at the Library
Saturday, February 18, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Story Time with Miss Margaret
(ages 2 and up)
Tuesday, February 21, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

“Cooking with Miss Margaret”
Saturday, February 25, 10 – 11 a.m.

We will be mixing up and making Sun Butter Bites using the Library’s Charlie Cart, a portable kitchen unit. Recommended ages 8 and under. A parent or caregiver must remain with the young chefs.

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 Monday, February 20, for Presidents’ Day.

CREATING FERTILE SOIL

I am retiring soon, after 37 years working in libraries—17 years as director at Webster Groves Public Library. Preparing for this, I moved a while ago to Millstadt, Illinois, where I bought a house with a three-acre lot. I have tilled up a few large garden areas, planted several fruit trees, and set up a beehive; I will staff it with a queen and her minions come spring. I have always enjoyed gardening, and now I will have plenty of time to spend on it.

Reflecting on this, I am remembering something I heard years ago on NPR. They were interviewing a man who was an expert on soil, such as one uses for gardening. ‘When you’re a farmer,’ he said, ‘you’re in the soil business.’ I couldn’t agree more. I have been working with soil, and mulch, and ground covers to create the perfect beds for various vegetables and fruits to grow.

Why do I bring this up here? Because it also reminds me of a conversation I had years

ago, before I was a library director, with my manager at the time. She was a little uncertain about her own performance, and since we were pretty close, as professional colleagues go, she asked me if I thought she was doing a good job.

I told her yes, she was (I am nothing if not diplomatic), but I also elaborated on my thought that the job of a library director is not to run every program and every service in the library: it is to create the environment in which professional people can do their best work. Make sure they have good staff, make sure they can afford solid library collections, make sure the library’s finances are in order and the building they work in is sound and comfortable and inviting for patrons.

So, you see, it’s like gardening in that respect; creating the best soil for things to grow. I hope that over the past 17 years I have come close to accomplishing that goal.

tcooper@wgpl.org

WELCOMING OUR NEW DIRECTOR



With the upcoming retirement of long-time director Tom Cooper, the Library Board has been hard at work seeking a new director. Their efforts have paid off

in the hiring of Madison Morris, who has most recently been a branch manager in the St. Charles City/County Library system.

Madison received her Masters in Library Science from the University of Missouri–Columbia. She started her career at Scenic Regional Library, which serves Franklin,

Warren, and Gasconade counties, before going to St. Charles, where she managed their Corporate Parkway Branch.

Her first day of work was February 6. Tom Cooper officially retires on March 10, giving them a month to work together.

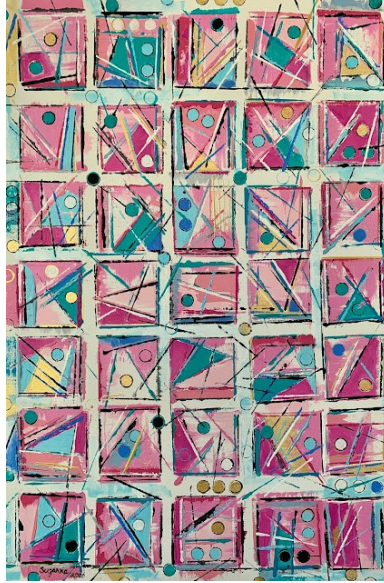
Madison says, ‘I am absolutely thrilled to be taking on the Director position at Webster Groves Public Library. I am looking forward to getting to know Library staff, customers, and the wider community. WGPL has so many amazing things to offer and I am excited to have the opportunity to work in such a wonderful community. I can’t wait to get started!’

TOP REQUESTS

1. *Lessons in Chemistry*,
by Bonnie Garmus
2. *Demon Copperhead*,
by Barbara Kingsolver
3. *Spare*,
by Prince Harry
4. *A World of Curiosities*,
by Louise Penny
5. *Remarkably Bright Creatures*,
Shelby van Pelt
6. *Our Missing Hearts*,
by Celeste Ng
7. *The Light We Carry*,
by Michelle Obama
8. *Mad Honey*,
by Jodi Picoult
9. *The Boys from Biloxi*,
by John Grisham
10. *Desert Star*,
by Michael Connelly
11. *A Dangerous Business*,
by Jane Smiley
12. *Checkout 19*,
by Claire-Louise Bennett

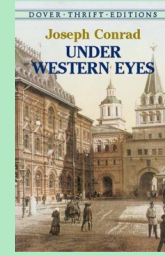
SUZANNE GALLI KOENEN IN THE GALLERY

The February exhibit in our gallery is *Expressions in Color*, by artist Suzanne Galli Koenen. Suzanne describes herself as having 'a boundless passion and love of color.' This is reflected in her works for this exhibit, which are largely expressions of linear geometry and color in acrylic. The exhibit will run from February 1 to 28.



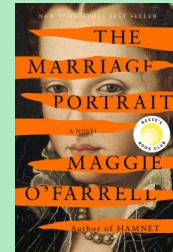
BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, February 28 at 6 p.m.



Under Western Eyes,
by Joseph Conrad

Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m.



The Marriage Portrait,
by Maggie O'Farrell

IRISH SALON



A poet reads from her work at an Irish Salon

Prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns, one of our most popular events in any given year was our Irish Salon, which often drew standing room only crowds. The Irish Salons are the brainchild of Eamonn Wall and Drucilla Wall, who are both poets. They arrange the events and host them as well. The salons feature readings of poetry and prose, as well as live Irish music. The Friends of the Library provide hospitality, including appetizers and drinks.

The good news is they are returning! The next Irish Salon will be held Friday, February 24 at 7 p.m. No reservations are required, but it's recommended to come early to get a good seat.



Bagpipe and fiddle music at a previous Irish Salon

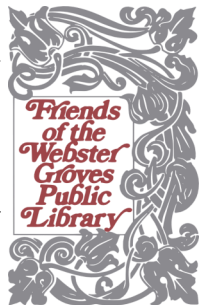
FRIENDS NEWS

Membership brochures for 2023 have been mailed and we hope that you will renew your membership in the Friends—or consider joining!

We've been around for many years to support ongoing library programs, including children's activities, large print books and book club kits. In 2022, we added a bike repair station in front of the Library and replaced the carpet in the meeting room.

Join us on Friday, February 24 at 7 p.m. for an evening with the Irish-American Musicians and Writers at the library!

As always, we are thankful for your generous support of the Library.



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