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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 18 no. 7 — March 2023



## KIDS' EVENTS

### Cooking with Caitlin

Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

We will be mixing up and making pancakes using the Library's portable kitchen unit. Suggested for children ages 8 and up. Parents are welcome to stay, especially with younger children.

### Saturday Story Time with Miss Margaret

Saturday, March 11, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Recommended for ages 2 and up.

### Infant Story Time with Miss Margaret

Tuesday, March 14, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Recommended for infants to age 2.

### LIFE—Library Information Family Education

Thursday, March 16, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

A group for parents and caregivers of children to learn more about library and community services and child development and to share experiences. Special guest: SPOT (Supporting Positive Opportunities for Teens).

### Story Time with Miss Margaret

Tuesday, March 21, 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Recommended for ages 2 and up.

### Legos at the Library

Saturday, March 25, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for some LEGO free play, unstructured creativity!

## 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.

## WISHING FOR MORE GOOD NEWS

Regular visitors to the Library may be familiar with our weekly geography quiz—there's a map of the world in the atrium, and there we post a question based on a news item from that week, asking if you can find the country where it occurred. Though I write 'we,' I should probably write 'I,' since it has been my own project since the beginning.

Once a few years ago, the question concerned where a mass shooting had occurred. One of my staff members was bothered by that. She felt it was glib and uncaring to use so tragic an event just to post a trivia question about it. Of course she was right, and I changed that week's quiz for something else.

Since then, I have tried to concentrate on positive news stories in the weekly quiz, something that won't distress people to read. It's not that easy. Some Monday mornings I spend a long time scrolling through Yahoo! News looking for something less than depressing and demoralizing to post a question about. Some weeks, neutral is the best I can

arrive at, and downright positive is just about out of the question.

Was there ever a time when we could expect some good news to come our way in a given week? Having lived through much of the Cold War, the War in Vietnam, the troubled Nixon Administration, Desert Storm, 9/11 and more, I am among the skeptics who say that any nostalgia for some past golden age, 'the good old days,' is largely imaginary.

The best we can do is make our daily lives more meaningful, by continuing to read and learn, and try, whenever possible, to be part of the solution. In my experience, well-read people are rarely the problem, more often part of the solution. I am happy to have spent a career providing the venue for this to thousands of people in Webster Groves and throughout the greater St. Louis Metro Area.

*Ave atque vale!*

*tcooper@wgpl.org*

## IRISH SALON A BIG SUCCESS

On Friday evening, February 24, we hosted the first Irish Salon in several years. Organized by Eamonn Wall under the aegis of UMSL Global, the salon was a celebration of Irish music, poetry, and culture.

There were several poetry and prose readings, including poets Drucilla Wall, Katy Gordon, and Eamonn Wall, and musicians such as Ash-

ton Nyte, Eimear Arkins, and Andrew O'Brien. Patrick Murphy read from his book *The Irish in St. Louis: from Shanty to Lace Curtain*.

They played to a standing-room only crowd. The Friends of the Library provided refreshments and hospitality.



## TOP REQUESTS

1. *Lessons in Chemistry*,  
by Bonnie Garmus
2. *Spare*,  
by Prince Harry
3. *Demon Copperhead*,  
by Barbara Kingsolver
4. *Remarkably Bright Creatures*,  
by Shelby van Pelt
5. *Mad Honey*,  
by Jodi Picoult
6. *Storm Watch*,  
by C. J. Box
7. *The House in the Pines*,  
by Ana Reyes
8. *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*,  
by Gabrielle Zevin
9. *Unnatural History*,  
by Jonathan Kellerman
10. *Exiles*,  
by Jane Harper
11. *Our Missing Hearts*,  
by Celeste Ng
12. *I Have Some Questions for You*,  
by Rebecca Makkai

## SMALL WORKS EXHIBIT

The March exhibit in our gallery is *Small Works XVII*, presented by Webster Arts. We have featured *Small Works* exhibits twice a year since 2015, and they are always a treat. Many artists are featured, and many media, such as oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, and photography.

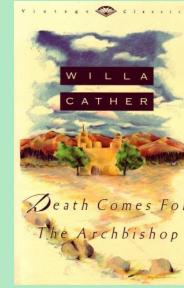
Webster Arts is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to promote the arts in Webster Groves and the wider region. Their offices and gallery are at 2 Summit Avenue.

There will be an opening reception for the exhibit Friday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to this free event.



## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, March 28 at 6 p.m.



*Death Comes for the Archbishop*,  
by Willa Cather

Saturday, April 1 at 2 p.m.



*Miracle Play*,  
by Susan Richards  
Shreve

## PUZZLE OBSESSION



A few years ago, someone donated quite a few puzzles to us and it just seemed like a good idea to make them available to people to check out. Since then, we have had other donations—almost too many, as the puzzles are rapidly building up on a tier of shelves in our back room. We have even had donations from the nearby Puzzle Warehouse! In fact, we have never bought a puzzle.

As part of our encouraging people to check out our puzzles, for a long time now we have set a table in our entry foyer with a puzzle for people to work on when they visit the Library. Depending on how many pieces there are and how complicated the design is, a puzzle can take as little as a day or two to complete or as long as two weeks. Check it out next time you're in the Library!

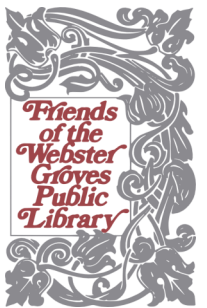
## FRIENDS NEWS

The Irish-American Salon is always fun and the Friends are always happy to provide hospitality for this special event, which was held on February 24. We hope many members and Library patrons will come to the Library on Saturday, March 4 between 2 & 4 p.m. as we honor our retiring Library Director, Tom Cooper. The Friends and the Library Board of Trustees are co-hosting, and there will be refreshments and special presentations!

Thank you to all renewing or new members—we are happy that many have used our new PayPal account to join or renew!

Look for a special Friends member event in early fall, the Book Sale in September and the Friends Annual Meeting in November. The next Friends Board meeting is on Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m.

Friends members are always welcome at Board meetings.



WEBSTER GROVES  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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