

Kirkwood Public Library

OUTLOOK



Lifelong Learning & The Pursuit of Happiness

If you've ever enjoyed fellow Missourian Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House series, you might find it interesting to learn she was in her sixties before she published the first of them. Leonardo da Vinci drew sketches in his sixties, Grandma Moses began painting in her seventies, Michelangelo sculpted in his eighties and Hildegard Ferrea is recognized as the oldest person to take her first skydive at the ripe young age of 99.

But let's not kid ourselves. They didn't wait until retirement to suddenly start living. These people actively engaged in lifelong learning, even if they never called it that.

The Kirkwood Public Library empowers patrons to practice lifelong learning. Even if you don't plan to skydive for your 99th birthday, learning can be rewarding and enjoyable by itself.

Most learning is essential, like the kind you do for work. Lifelong learning seeks something deeper, something more personal, something for which you might have a passion. It can be anything from knitting to photography, learning a foreign language to learning how to build a computer.

Now is a Great Time to Start

Since you can start lifelong learning anytime during your journey, consider Now to be a perfect time. The difficulty is carving out time in your schedule to fit the extra commitment. Or is it?

Think about lunch. Maybe you can wake up a half-hour earlier four days a week. Or, join a friend and encourage each other to commit time to learning something new. The point is, you can find time in your week if you make learning a priority.

Set Realistic Goals

Maybe lifelong learning for you simply means gaining knowledge through reading more of a certain subject. Say, for example, you want to become an expert on the White House and its occupants. Set a goal to read one book a month. If it turns out you read 24 books in a year – two per month – great! But don't get discouraged if you only read eight. That's still eight more books



than you would have read without the commitment.

Where Kirkwood Public Library Can Help

Forget your To-Do list and bring your To-Learn list into the library. Whether you want to learn some conversational Spanish or study wildflowers, the library is an exceptional place to start.

"We love to have people come in to talk to us," says Pat Rohan, Assistant Director of Library Services. "We have a lot to offer. That's why we're here."

You bring your passion, and someone on the library staff will be thrilled to help you chase it. "We start with print material and online sources," Rohan says, "and we use databases to find articles with the most updated information available. We enjoy helping patrons develop a learning program."

Two good examples. Want to start a vegetable garden and grow your own food? The library can download articles from the Missouri Botanical Garden to help discover what works best in your yard. Or maybe you're heading to Mexico and want to learn Spanish? Go to "Find It" on the KPL website and click "Information Search" to visit Mango and learn Spanish.

The Art of Implementation

Once you begin your trek through lifelong learning, keep a couple things in mind.

First, to master anything, nothing beats teaching. You learn what you teach. You don't have to begin teaching a non-credit class at Meramec (although that's certainly an option), but you can teach a child the thing you do best.

Second, apply your new knowledge when you get the opportunity. Reading about a vegetable garden is a far cry from planting one. Learning Chinese is much more rewarding when you visit the Great Wall. A Kirkwood native decided to learn magic in his fifties. Now in his sixties, he wows adults at parties with amazing tricks.

Lifelong learning is at once simple and fun. Decide to do something you don't know how to do, and visit your library to learn. You'll be smiling for a lifetime.

A Message from the Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library

This has to be one of the most exciting — and challenging — years in the history of Kirkwood Public Library. The same is true for the Friends of KPL. While the much-loved “old” building is transformed into a state-of-the-art library, the Friends will continue to help the library serve the community.



Background. For those who aren’t familiar with the Friends, we were formed in 1978. Part of our mission is to provide funding for programs and services not covered by KPL’s operating budget. Our contributions have grown from modest to significant. In the last five fiscal years we have provided a total of \$300,000 in gifts to KPL. Most recently the monies have provided new children’s computers, staff development activities, and the new Hot DVDs, as well as the ongoing Hot Reads. Additionally, we donate to the Kirkwood Public Library Foundation an amount equal to 10% of our gifts to the library; i.e., we have given the Foundation \$30,000 in the same period of time.

Book Fair Activities. Our volunteers are also a valuable asset to the library. It takes about 150 volunteers to staff our annual Book Fair, but every bit as importantly, it takes a team of people working year-round to accept, sort, price, and pack donated books. We cannot have a book fair in 2010, but some of those same volunteers are still helping the library staff with donations that continue to come in. Some of those books are offered for sale on the east wall of the temporary library. Stop by and do a little shopping.

Friends’ Shop. The volunteers you may be more familiar with are the folks who staff our Shop. Their smiling faces welcome patrons, active shoppers, and browsers alike. Our Shop doesn’t have a home while the library is in its temporary location, but it will once again become a vital part of the renovated library when it opens in new quarters back at 140 E. Jefferson. Friends members will once again receive their member discount and be offered special sales.

Programming. You may also know us from the daytime programs we offer several times a year. They are free and open to the public and present interesting speakers and topics. The exception to the “free” part of that description is the Annual English Tea. Friends members receive free admission. Non-members pay \$5 – just one of the benefits of membership. This year we’re adding an evening program that will be presented by author and historian Carol

Shelpley, who will talk about the “movers, shakers, scalawags, and suffragettes” who are in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Special Events. We are diligently working on activities that we think will benefit the community. On October 3 we have a festive children’s and family event planned for Station Plaza. Jim Gill, a child entertainer whose songs and dances are frequently used in the Children’s Room story times, is coming to St. Louis to be the featured entertainer for our event, which is free and open to the public. Other activities will be on the agenda as well, all aimed at children and families.

Then a fund-raiser in time for Christmas shopping, and after the first of the year a dinner with a *New York Times* best-selling author as the keynote speaker. And, we need to have a gala library re-opening party, right? Then perhaps a “Books Road Show” with a nationally known book collecting authority? Stay tuned . . . lots will be going on.

Please join. One of the best ways to support the library is to join the Friends. For as little as \$25 annually you can know you’re helping KPL and you’ll be staying in touch with Friends’ activities through our newsletter, *Chapter & Verse*. This year in particular, membership dues are more important than ever because we won’t have our other major funding sources. Please call 821-5770, Ext. 1023 and ask for a membership form, or go online to kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org/friends_join.asp to print out a form you can mail to us or drop off at our desk on the east wall of the temporary library.

Computer classes

While the library enjoys our temporary quarters at Station Plaza, computer classes will continue at the Kirkwood School District’s Hough Community Learning Center, 106 N. Sappington Road. Visit our website to see a map. There are many ways to sign up: call 821-5770 ext. 1; see an associate at the front desk; from our website, click on Services and then Computer Classes; or visit kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org/computer_classes.asp. All classes are free.

August			September			October		
8/13	1-3pm	Windows XP	9/3	1-3pm	Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 I	10/7	10-noon	Microsoft Excel 2007 I
8/19	10-noon	Microsoft Word 2007 I	9/9	10-noon	Windows XP	10/8	1-3pm	Windows XP
8/20	1-3pm	Microsoft Excel 2007 I	9/10	1-3pm	Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 II	10/14	10-noon	Microsoft Excel 2007 II
8/26	10-noon	Microsoft Word 2007 II	9/16	10-noon	Microsoft Publisher 2007 I	10/15	1-3pm	Microsoft Publisher 2007 I
8/27	1-3pm	Microsoft Excel 2007 II	9/17	1-3pm	Microsoft Word 2007 I	10/21	10-noon	Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 I
			9/23	10-noon	Microsoft Publisher 2007 II	10/22	1-3pm	Microsoft Publisher 2007 II
			9/24	1-3pm	Microsoft Word 2007 II	10/28	10-noon	Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 II

From the Stacks

Ready to open a good book?
See what some of the folks at
the library have recently read
and would like to recommend.



Pat Zavadil, Library Services

Killer Summer by Ridley Pearson

"Ridley Pearson writes action mysteries that are fun to read.

This one has a good story line, characterization and action combined in a well-developed mystery. His stories keep your interest. I sometimes read them in one sitting. If they make the movie, I think Johnny Depp would be perfect in the lead role."

Tom Viviano, Library Services

Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict Between Faith and Reason by Russell Shorto

"The book covers the more than 300-year debate between religion and science as revealed through the search for the remains of French philosopher Rene Descartes. This search intersects with some of the greatest events in history: the birth of science, the rise of democracy and the mind/body problem. Descartes was buried in Sweden but eventually brought back to France for burial. His skull becomes separated from the rest of the skeletal remains, a metaphor for Descartes' philosophy, which discusses the mind/body debate. The book is a good read for those interested in philosophy, history or anthropology."

Allison Prorise, Stack Maintenance

The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson

"This book is like a love story minus all the typicality of the romance genre. It's got edge, humor, and wonderful characters that really pulled me into the story. I'd see someone hardcore like Terrance Zdunich playing the lead in the movie. Or Jason Statham could also work, but only in a pinch."

Gayle McCormick, Library Services

The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell

"I've been told I like books a little on the dark side, and this book definitely fits that description. I also like books about people and relationships, especially books about families that span generations like this one. The story opens with a young woman, Iris, getting a call from a closing insane asylum asking her if she will take responsibility for her great aunt, Esme, who has been in the home for over sixty years. The real story is the relationship between Esme and her sister Kitty, now suffering from advanced Alzheimer's."

Kim Linenbroker, Stack Maintenance

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

"This is the debut novel from an author who writes from the viewpoint of three women set in 1960s Jackson, Mississippi. She has the ability to capture their voices so that I was able to feel like I was there. I could not put this book down! It is a book that stays with you for a long time, and I'm sad that I'm done reading it because I want more! She is my new favorite author and I cannot wait to see what else she writes."

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Book discussions listed below meet at Rose Hill House, 625 W. Rose Hill Ave. Come on in, they're open to adults of all ages. Plus, all books are available for check-out at the library. To sign up for free, call the library at 821-5770 ext. 1020 and ask for Joan.

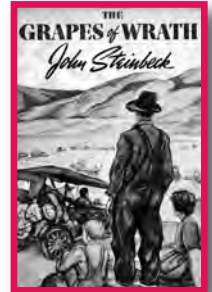
SATURDAY MORNING "PERKS"

Meets approximately every six weeks on Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

August 8.....*Ladies of Liberty*
by Cokie Roberts

September 19.....*The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society*
by Mary Ann Shaffer

October 31.....*The Grapes of Wrath*
by John Steinbeck

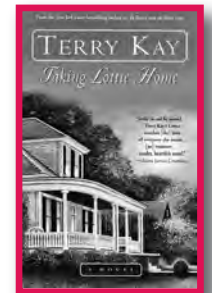


AFTERNOON DELIGHTS

Meets every 4 - 6 weeks on Friday afternoons at 3 p.m.

September 18.....*Taking Lottie Home*
by Terry Kay

October 30.....*My Antonia*
by Willa Cather



Melinda Gildehaus, Library & Technical Services

The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters

"The cover art drew me into the Gothic ghost story of Hundreds Hall, the once grand home of the now struggling-to-make-ends-meet Ayres family: a widow and her two adult children – Roderick, a former RAF airman and his sister Caroline, an eccentric spinster – in post-World War II Warwickshire, England. You'll be drawn into their world like the middle-aged, also-struggling narrator, Dr. Faraday. His mother had been a servant at Hundreds, and he has been summoned back to the house thirty years later. Faraday finds reasons to return often – one draw being a growing attachment for Caroline. Strange occurrences lurk in nearly every chapter, and Waters creates absolutely unforgettable characters – the best of which is Hundreds Hall itself."

Lynn Bosso, Youth Services

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

"I was immediately caught up in this book about Marcus Yallow, a techno-savvy teen who gets caught in a security sweep after a terrorist attack in San Francisco. Held and questioned in a secret prison, Marcus is released to find his city turned into an electronic police state. With Marcus at the helm, a group of smart teens decide to fight back. The story was a grippingly realistic portrait that asked important questions about fear, freedom and technology. Read it with your back to the wall where no one can look over your shoulder."

LIBRARY DISPLAYS - Check 'Em Out

We're maximizing all the space we can find at the Station Plaza location to create some fun and interesting displays. Here's a preview of what's to come:

AUGUST

Children: My Hero

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's ... a book display on Heroes! We've got Spiderman, Luke Skywalker and even Albert Einstein! A hero is someone you look up to, and the library is full of them.

Teen: Comic Relief

Hot? Need a little comic relief? Check out our display on Graphic Novels. Not all of them are funny, but they'll keep you enthralled in something other than the heat.

Family: Back To School

Featured displays include:

- How To Study
- Getting into College/College Survival
- Dog Days of Summer: Dog Mysteries
- Dog Guides
- Books About Dogs

SEPTEMBER

Children: Friends Forever

They're funny, kind, good listeners and great sharers. Yes, we're talking about

good friends. You could be having a bad day, but with a good friend things will always seem brighter. Read all about being friends.

Teen: Ready ... And ... Action!

Come to the Teen area and find books on sports, athletes and fictional dramas full of action. If you're "on the go," these books won't slow you down.

Family: Fall Into A Good Book

Featured displays include:

- Staff Favorites
- The Classics
- Cozy Mysteries
- Falling in Love: Romance and Chick Lit

Special: In Honor of Labor Day

Featured displays include:

- Be Your Own Boss
- Thrifty Living

OCTOBER

Children: Country Harvest

The leaves are cracklin', the Earth has a warm glow, and the air has a

wonderfully sweet smell. It ... is ... Fall. So snuggle into a cozy spot with your parent and savor the season's best books.

Teen: Dark Fantasy

They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky. They're altogether ooky. It's dark fantasy! Strange sounds at night and mysterious breezes in the bare trees won't ward off these fictional reads. So leave the light on and cozy in for the night because someone – or something – is out there ... or, at least between the covers of your book.

Family: Spooktacular Reads

Featured displays include:

- Halloween books
- Best-selling mysteries
- Halloween for grown-ups

Special: All About Autumn

Featured displays include:

- Hair-Raising Horror Films
- Fall cooking with soups, stews and chili
- Celebrating Columbus



Authors on Display



Mark your calendars for a couple exciting events sponsored by your library.



Saturday, August 15:

Presentation by Patricia Bubash, M.Ed., author of *Successful Second Marriages*. Join us at 10 a.m. at Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Rd., Room 210 a/b. Free, and no sign-up necessary.

Saturday, October 24:

Presentation and signing with authors of the Taylor & Graham cozy English mystery series. Meet authors Jo A. Hiestand and Detective Paul Hornung at 10 a.m. in Kirkwood Park, Lions Pavilion.

A Peek at the Past ... Before We Unveil the Future

The original library in Kirkwood, the first tax-supported public library in St. Louis County, was housed on the top floor of the City Hall Building. Described by Mrs. Maurene Guire, Library Director from 1953 to 1976, as a "lovely, sunny room," the immense space was shared with the city's engineering department, who seldom used it. The library's collection began with 2000 donated books.

Longtime library patron Cyril Clemens, a distant relative of Samuel Clemens, once recalled the library as a comfortable place, despite being located right above the jail. "One time when I walked to the library I heard a voice. It was my ex-gardener pleading for his release."

The library at the corner of Taylor and Jefferson was built in 1940. A working fireplace warmed the west end and a window seat resided on the east end.

The city passed a \$130,000 bond issue in 1955 for a new addition and equipment, plus an additional \$25,000 for an auditorium. This addition doubled the floor space but the library outgrew the space before the dust settled. A second addition was built in 1964.



Back of building, July 2009



*Kirkwood Public Library, 1949.
Courtesy Kirkwood Historical Society.*

In 1994, library supporters voted for a tax levy increase, from 13 cents to 24 cents. This meant the library would now open to the public on Sundays for the first time in its history, keeping one of the promises made before the election. In recent years, though the library's original building and its two additions (1954 and 1963) remained structurally sound, the electrical, plumbing, fire protection, security and heating and cooling systems were found to be inadequate and in need of replacement.

November 2007 saw Proposition L on the ballot, a twelve-cent tax levy to preserve the building exterior, upgrade the systems, renovate the interior space and restore library hours to pre-2005 status. It passed successfully and this past spring the library moved to its temporary quarters at Station Plaza so the old library could begin its transformation.

We feel fortunate that many more generations of patrons will enjoy this precious jewel and we look forward to the day it reopens ... a vibrant and vital core of our community.

Out In The Street

Q: As a lifelong learner, what have you learned from Kirkwood Public Library?



"I've learned too much at the library for just one sentence. Okay, one

thing. I was looking into a supplemental degree for fashion marketing. I borrowed eight books that had great stuff, and then I looked up fashion schools and checked out their courses online."

– Melissa Dorn, 24, 2003
Kirkwood High School grad



"My wife and I, before we travel, check out books about our destination.

From these books, we decide to buy one to bring with us. In August, we go to Yellowstone and Mount Rushmore and have learned much about the locations from the library. Now we'll enjoy our trip more."

– Sergei Syskin, Computer analyst and darn good basketball player



"I learned about Maya Angelou for a class project.

She wrote

books and speeches, and she is a famous Missourian. I picked her because she has such a cool name."

– Lindsay Huck, 10, Fifth-grade student at North Glendale and avid reader

The Outlook is a quarterly publication of Kirkwood Public Library to help keep residents of Kirkwood and library patrons updated on both the regular programs and activities, and also breaking news concerning the library renovation. In the intervening months, we will also send out e-Outlook via e-mail. If you would like to receive the e-newsletter, please visit this website to begin your free subscription:

kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org/newsletters.asp

KIRKWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 SOUTH KIRKWOOD ROAD

SUITE 150

314-821-5770

kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org

Library hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 9pm

Friday & Saturday: 9am - 5pm

Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

**We thank the following donors for their gifts to
Kirkwood Public Library
4/10/09 - 7/1/09**

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The Board of Trustees meets the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm in the lower level conference room at City Hall.