



Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library

Chapter & Verse

January/February 2010



FROM TRAUMA ROOM NURSING TO *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST SELLERS LIST . . . EILEEN DREYER'S JOURNEY

Please join us on January 20, at 1:00 pm at the Kirkwood United Methodist Church in Epworth Hall. Our first program of the year features another well-known and talented St. Louis author, Ms. Eileen Dreyer. She is an award-winning and bestselling author who grew up in a large Irish Catholic family and spent her young years in the Brentwood Library. She states she has been writing since the age of ten when she ran out of Nancy Drew books.

Since 1986 she has published 26 books for Silhouette and Grand Central Publishing and is known as Kathleen Korbel to her readers. Under her own name she has produced eight suspense novels and ten short stories. She entered the publishing field from her 16-plus years working as a trauma nurse in two of St. Louis' busiest ER centers. Additionally she has trained as a medic on a SWAT team and has trained as a medical death investigator.



Ms. Dreyer has won numerous writing awards beginning in 1987 when she was named the best new Contemporary Romance Author. Ms. Dreyer is a frequent speaker at writers' conferences and universities all across the country. She has over 3 million books in print worldwide and has made the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best sellers lists. She lives in St. Louis with her husband, family and pets.

To learn more about Ms. Dreyer and her publications, visit her web site at eileendreyer.com.

Reservations. Friends' programs are free and open to the public. Bring friends and neighbors to introduce them to the Friends. Refreshments will be served following the program. Please do let us know you're coming though, so we'll know how many guests to expect. You can register by calling (314) 821-5770, Friends' Extension 1023 and leaving your name and phone number, or you can sign up at the Circulation Desk at the library.

CONTEST TO NAME THE NEW SHOP

The Shop Committee will be sponsoring a contest to name the new Shop in our renovated library.

Put on your thinking cap.

Details and rules will be announced in early February.



FRIENDS' SHOP NEWS

Please Consider Becoming Part of the Friends Family of Volunteers

When our newly renovated library opens in the summer of 2010, the Friends of KPL will be opening a new used book shop. It will be in a prominent location, with all new fixtures and will feature gently used, donated books for sale, along with related merchandise and craft group items. The Shop will also have a new name, to be decided upon by a naming contest (see page 1).

Sandy Baker and Pat Simpson have agreed to be buyers for the new Shop. Their responsibilities will be merchandising and decorating the space. Dan Cain has agreed to continue as the Shop Treasurer, but Dolores Schaumburg, after four years of dedicated service, has decided it is time for her to retire as Shop Manager.

What do we need? Dolores will be replaced by two people. (Does it surprise anyone that it will take two people to replace her? – We think not.) The two positions open are for a Shop Manager and a Volunteer Coordinator.

The Shop Manager position includes being a member of the Friends Board. The Shop Manager manages the overall operation of the Shop; schedules meetings of the Shop Committee and chairs the group; and arranges for publicity and promotions.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Since I became President of the Board of Trustees I have been writing this column. During this time the biggest happening at the Library has been the new building. Being an architect I found it very easy to write about that. Unfortunately, for too long, I ignored what the Kirkwood Public Library really is.

The Kirkwood Public Library is not the building undergoing renovation on East Jefferson nor the temporary space on Kirkwood Road. The Kirkwood Public Library is a great library but the bricks and mortar, no matter how old or new, are not what it is. It is the people who work there, volunteer there, visit there as well as the people in the community in general who support it. We are blessed with wonderful, talented and dedicated staff. They are helpful, friendly and committed to all things that make our library what it is. The volunteers (specifically the Friends) are a fantastic group of people who put in an inordinate amount of hours working on projects to promote and provide for the Library. Where these individuals find the time and energy to support this

(cont'd on page 3)

The Volunteer Coordinator will manage the Shop volunteer schedules; facilitate the volunteer training; and will keep volunteers apprised of new upcoming activities.

Both the Shop Manager and the Volunteer Coordinator will share responsibility for updating the Shop manual. The Shop Manager will assist the Volunteer Coordinator in the training of the volunteers and both will be available to support and back each other up as needed.

This is a wonderful opportunity to become one of the Friends volunteers and we guarantee you will not only have fun, but will also make new FRIENDS, and you will be proud to be a part of the Friends support team for the Kirkwood Public Library.

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please call the Friends office (314) 821-5770, Ext. 1023, leave a message, along with your name and phone number and someone will call you back.

Volunteer Shifts Available: If you would like to be a Shop Volunteer, would you please call also and leave information for us to call you back – but don't hesitate too long as there are only a few of the two hour shifts left.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Thank you so much for inviting me to speak at the December Members Only Coffee. The company, conversation and treats were so enjoyable. I hope you enjoyed the quick look into the past, present and future of the library, and please know that I welcome feedback and comments. Don't hesitate to stop by for a chat.

Our time in our temporary home is flying by and while we've heard many compliments on this location, we're excited to move back into our renovated home this summer. We look forward to offering more space for reading and enjoying library materials in the library.

Along with planning for the great move back, we are busy organizing winter and spring programs. Please find details about some of those on page 4 as well as on the library's web site: kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org.

We're especially excited about a visit with Julie Compton (see page 4, also). Although she currently lives in Orlando, Julie was born and raised in St. Louis and her first book, *Tell No Lies*, is a legal mystery set in St. Louis. If you haven't picked it up, be sure to check

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TRIBUTES

We thank the following people for paying tribute by donating to the Friends:

In Memory of John M. Boyer
Jane Boal

Christmas 2010 Reminders

If you or someone you know missed ordering a Letter from Santa a few weeks ago, and you want to make sure you are reminded about it prior to Christmas, 2010, please send your name and address to KPLFriends@kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org. You'll be put on a list and a request form will be mailed to you in early November, 2010.

You can read more about the program and our experience with it for Christmas 2009 by going to www.suburbanjournals.stltoday.com/articles/2009/12/23/west/special_feature/1223wc-letters0.txt.

*January, 2010
North Pole*

Dear Friends of KPL,

The Friends helped me even more this year than last, if you can believe that! Last year your elves took care of 208 letters for me, seeing to it that little boys and girls (and sometimes not-so-little boys and girls) heard from me.

This year you did almost twice that many letters — 392 letters went out. Good job! Not only does that help me, it also helps the library, raising almost \$1,700 this year!

It's nice to know we can rest a bit now, but I sure hope you'll help me out again in 2010. It makes my Christmas time a lot less hectic.

I'll think of you regularly throughout the year, every time I get an update about one of the children. Please be kind to each other and keep that Christmas spirit the whole year through.

*Ho, ho, ho,
Santa Claus*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Friends and thank them for supporting KPL:

Publisher Level
Debra Hacke Cotten

Editor Level
Laurence & Silvia Madeo

Author Level
Helena DeWulf
Karen Frome
Brian & Charla Lord-Howe
Carol Ferring Shepley
Heather Shotwell
Barbara Tubbesing
Sharyle Wilhelm



Trustee Report (cont'd from page 2)

institution is beyond me but that again is what makes our Library great. Our patrons, the people who use our facility, is what this entire process is all about. We are all here to serve you the patrons and you return that service with your support and ongoing patronage.

The last full year at the old building we had a count of over 353,000 visits. That tells us that you like what we are doing and coming back over and over and that makes it all worthwhile. There are other folks out there in the community that don't support the Library by doing any of the above activities but they do support us financially. They support us with their taxes whether or not they voted for the bond issue.

I would also be negligent if I didn't mention the other eight members of the Board of Trustees. They have put in many hours to help promote and guide our Library and their dedication and direction again helps make our KPL what it is today. So this article, at least this one time, is not about bricks and mortar but it is about the things that have built the Kirkwood Public Library into what it is today . . . the people. And to all of them I would like to direct my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Randy Miltenberger, President
Kirkwood Public Library Board of Trustees

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Storytimes and Book Clubs

Ongoing Programs for Children.

Winter storytimes resume on January 12:

Tuesdays, 10 am, stories for 2 and 3 year olds

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, family storytime

Wednesdays, 10 am, preschoolers and pre-K

Saturdays, 10 am, family storytime

Thursdays, 9:30 am, Books for Babies (6-24 months and caregivers).

After School Teen Book Group. Tuesdays, January 26 and February 23, 3:30 to 4:15pm. Join us for a discussion of recommended reads. Bring titles you would like to discuss. We'll have some of our favorites as well.

Mother Daughter Book Club. Third Tuesday of each month. January 19, 7:30pm - 8:15pm. *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree* by Lauren Tarshis. February 16: *The View from Saturday* by L. Konigsburg.

Adult Events

Computer Classes begin January 13. Wednesdays, 10:00 am - noon and Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:00 pm. See library for topics.

Julie Compton will discuss her new book *Rescuing Olivia* at the Kirkwood Train Station on February 7 at 2:00 pm.

Big Read Book Discussion. *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* at Rose Hill House Apartments on February 18 at 7:00 pm.

Special Events for Youth

M & M Mancala. Learn how to play this ancient strategy game. Make your own board. Ages 12 and up. Thursday, January 14, 3:30 - 4:30 pm.

Bobby Norfolk, Emmy Award Winning storyteller, presents "Scott Joplin, the Ragtime King." Storytelling, live music, and audience participation at the Kirkwood Community Center. For all ages. Saturday, January 23, 2:00 to 2:45 pm.

Brain Challenge, Test your "inner architect" and see what you can create using marshmallows and toothpicks. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Wednesday, January 27, 3:30 - 4:30 pm.

Ridley Pearson, author of *Peter and the Starcatcher* series will discuss his latest book, *Peter and the Sword of Mercy*. Books available for sale and author signing. Location: Kirkwood Train Station. Saturday, January 30, 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

Middle School Runescape Play. Grades 6 to 8 are invited to play Runescape. Pizza and soda provided. Due to limited space, sign-ups are required. Friday, February 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Chinese New Year Celebration. Crafts and customs and a performance by the ShaoLin LoHan Pai Lion Dance Troupe at Kirkwood Community Center on February 20 at 2:00 pm.

Build a Bot. Kids, join us and build robots using clay and wind up walkers. Recommended for grades 3 - 5. Wednesday, February 24, 3:30 - 4:30 pm.

READERS' CIRCLE DISCUSSES AGNES GREY

The next meeting of the Readers' Circle will be held March 4 at 7:00 pm in Room 108 of the Kirkwood United Methodist Church. Our discussion of *Agnes Gray* by Anne Bronte will be led by Francis Baumli, Ph.D. This will round out our reading of the Bronte sisters. Six copies will be available through the Friends. Call (314) 821-5770, Extension 1023 if you need one of those copies.

Francis says, "I think of this novel as having a Jane Austen plot and a George Eliot style. It involves the travails and achievements of a governess. Of course, it thereby is heavily autobiographical."

Agnes, daughter of a poor rector, must seek employment outside her safe home environment to help with family finances. In spite of her travails with selfish children and an unkind family, the personality of the heroine is such that if she suffers, she suffers only a little, because when she strives it is impressive and with her quiet will

and religious temperament she triumphs against all odds.

At the end she achieves romantic union with Edward Weston, the local vicar, and enters upon a life that promises to be both happy and sensible.

Discussion topics could include: How would we have handled the difficulties Agnes Grey confronted, especially with the children? To what extent can we extrapolate the personality of Anne Bronte from Agnes Grey as a governess? Is the romanticism at the end realistic or overly idealized? Is it fair to say that Anne Bronte, of the three Bronte sisters, is the least talented? Or does a less "cluttered" artistic achievement have as much aesthetic value as books with tortuous plots, more emotional ricochet, and beauty that, for the reader, is only achieved with difficulty?

Next Readers' Circle: *Going Over East: Reflections of a Woman Rancher* by Linda Hasselstrom on Thursday, May 6.

LIBRARY LIBATIONS A GREAT SUCCESS IN EVERY WAY

On December 2 the Friends sponsored Library Libations, a wine-tasting fund raiser at Grapevine Wines. Fifty-nine people attended and the consensus was that it was a great success. One attendee, who originally had not planned on coming because she says she is “not a wine drinker,” commented that, “I sure am glad I came. This is a lot of fun.” Learning about the wines was enjoyable, and we also enjoyed delicious hors d’oeuvres and the pleasant company of Friends and neighbors.

The Friends raised \$1,905.75 that evening, which represents the total of three sources: receipts for attendance, raffle tickets sold, and 10% of sales made by Grapevine Wines.

One of the great successes was the baskets raffled off. Teri Weber, Special Events Chair, coordinated the efforts of several others in soliciting and filling gift baskets. The winners of the gift basket raffle were: Judy Arnold won the “Dining Around Town” basket; Shirley Browne won the “Wine Lovers” basket; Ginny Kramer won the “Rams Fans” basket; Alicia Maddock won

Record Attendance at Carol Shepley Program

On Wednesday evening, November 4, Carol Ferring Shepley regaled 115 people who attended her program in the Music Room at Kirkwood United Methodist Church. Not only is Ms. Shepley an engaging speaker, she tailors her presentations to the audience. So, even if you had heard her speak before about selected “residents” of Bellefontaine Cemetery, you wouldn’t have heard the same program she presented to our audience, because we learned about residents with a background in libraries and literary endeavors.

Director Report (cont’d from page 2)

out one of our copies. I know I enjoyed both the mystery and the setting and couldn’t put it down. I’m looking forward to her new book, *Rescuing Olivia*, out February 2. An advanced reader’s copy (thanks to my mother-in-law, owner of Main Street Books in St. Charles) has found its way into my home and is on the top of my to-read list this winter holiday. After reading the description on Julie’s web site, I know this will be another book that keeps me up way past my usual bedtime.

Thanks for all that you do for the library!

Sarah Erwin, Acting Director
Kirkwood Public Library

the “It’s All About Me” basket; and Mary Pat Sullivan (who was heard to mutter “I never win anything!”) won the “Date Night” basket. Joe Toenjes was the proud winner of our coffee can snowman/bird feeder as the attendance prize.

We thank Vi Butler for putting together the beautiful baskets. We thank the following donors for contributing to their contents:

Restaurants: Amigos, Down Under, Eleven Mile House, First Watch in Kirkwood, Jefferson Grill/PJ’s Tavern, Sunset 44, and Weber’s Front Row.

Individuals: Judy Arnold, Lois Bliss, Jane Bond, Sarah Erwin, Linda Fenton, Randy Miltenberger, Dolores Schaumburg, and Teri and Paul Weber.

Others: Madison Avenue Salon, Massage Envy in Sunset Hills, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and Salon Ladue.

Stay tuned for details of 2010’s event!

“Members-Only” Event Kicks off Holiday Season

On Saturday morning, December 12, the Friends sponsored it’s first-ever event for members only. The 10:00 am coffee held at Kirkwood United Methodist Church offered a lot for the 50 people in attendance.

Randy Miltenberger gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining details of the physical renovation. Sarah Erwin brought us up-to-date on library programs and plans for the new building. We also learned about the new Friends’ Shop from Jane Bond, Dolores Schaumburg, and Lois Bliss.

To make the event as convenient as possible for those in attendance, Christmas shopping opportunities were offered by the Craft Group, and almost \$200 of sales were transacted.

Last but certainly not least, the Hotze household Christmas decorations were added to when Bob Hotze won the poinsettia door prize.

Save the Date for the English Tea

Wednesday, April 7

Program by Dr. Nora Beiswenger
of the Jane Austin Society

Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library
140 East Jefferson
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Wednesday, January 20
Eileen Dreyer Program
From Trauma Room Nursing to
New York Times Best Sellers List
(see page 1)

Contact us!

Virginia Kramer — President
Dan Cain — Vice-President
Judy Arnold — Secretary
Carol Sipes — Treasurer

Telephone 314.821.5770, Ext. 1023
KPLFriends@kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org
http://kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org/friends_home.asp

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Lisa Balbes, Editor

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January

- 18 Library closed for Martin Luther King Day
- 20 Friends Winter Program 1:00 pm, at KUM Church
- 20 Trustee meeting at City Hall at 5:30

February

- 8 Friends Board meeting 1:00 pm, Commerce Bank
- 15 Library closed for President's Day
- 17 Trustee meeting at City Hall at 5:30

March

- 4 Readers' Circle Book Discussion (see page 4)
- 17 Trustee meeting at City Hall at 5:30

April

- 4 Library closed for Easter
- 7 English Tea (see page 5)
- 19 Friends Board Meeting 1:00 pm, Commerce Bank
- 21 Trustee meeting at City Hall at 5:30