



Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library

Chapter & Verse

September/October 2009



FRIENDS SPONSOR FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S EVENT Jim Gill's "Family Room Tour"

On Saturday, October 3 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Station Plaza, just across Kirkwood Road from Kirkwood City Hall, Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library, in conjunction with the library's Children's Room, will sponsor a gala family and children's event. The featured entertainer will be Jim Gill, but additional entertainment will include Sparky the Fire Dog, a balloon maker, and other children's activities.

Jim Gill offers more than a show to watch. It's an opportunity for family play! In concert, Jim bangs out energetic rhythms on his banjo while everyone claps, jumps, dances and even sneezes along. The concert is filled, of course, with songs from Jim's award-winning recordings and features a read-along and sing-along of Jim's musical books for young children.

Jim Gill is known as a musician and author, but he is also, by training, a child development specialist with a graduate degree from the Erikson Institute of Chicago. Because of his educational studies, his goal has always been to promote active play between adults and children with



his music. Anyone who has ever seen one of Jim's family concerts knows that rather than performing **for** the children and parents, Jim leads them to sing and play **together**.

Jim has released five recordings of his music play for children. His most recent, *Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes for Modern Times*, was described as "A 14-song soundtrack for children and their parents at play" by the Los Angeles Daily News. Jim is the author of two picture books, *A Soup Opera* and *May There Always Be Sunshine*. All of Jim's work can be sampled at jimgill.com.

Please join us for fun and entertainment with a host of activities. The event is free and open to the public. Our schedule includes Sparky the Fire dog at 10:00 a.m. (unless an emergency call is received). Then Jim Gill's performance will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Throughout the event additional children's activities will be taking place. In case of rain, we'll all meet at the Nipher Middle School Gymnasium, 700 South Kirkwood Road.

FRIENDS AT GREENTREE FESTIVAL

The Friends will again sponsor a booth at the Greentree Festival on Saturday, September 19 from 9 am until 7 pm and on Sunday, September 20 from 9 am until 6 pm. Our booth is in the same location as previous years, #34.

This year we will have many handmade items for sale, including beautifully handmade jewelry made by the loving hands of our talented Craft Ladies, who have

been diligently working all year. In addition you will find a wonderful selection of children's books, along with free balloons for the kiddies. Please stop by, say hello to our dedicated volunteers, and at the same time take advantage of the opportunity to purchase some holiday gifts for those special people in your lives. All proceeds benefit the Kirkwood Public Library, because that's why the Friends exist!

DAY AND EVENING PROGRAMS THIS FALL

Charlie Brennan of KMOX

Please join us for our regular fall program on Wednesday, October 7, at 1:00 p.m. in Epworth Hall at Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 West Adams. Our speaker is KMOX's top rated host and well known radio personality of the weekday morning show as well as an accomplished author and respected St. Louis volunteer.

His books *Here's Where: A Guide to Illustrious St.*



Louis and *Walking Historic Downtown St. Louis* demonstrate a commitment to our area and his passion for history. In *Here's Where*, Mr. Brennan uses anecdotes and interesting facts to explore the connection of many famous people, past and present, and their ties to St. Louis. It provides local individuals and visi-

tors an opportunity to view and capture the 250 year history of downtown St. Louis while following photos and an easy to read map.

He is the founder of Rediscover St. Louis, was named one of St. Louis' Most Valuable Volunteers, awarded the 2002 Civic Stewardship Award, and he has been called St. Louis' "best non-native booster" by the *Riverfront Times*. Mr. Brennan is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and a graduate of Boston College. He is married to Beth Stohr and they have a son and a daughter.



HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE: "GIRLS JUST WANNA' HAVE FUN"

The Friends of KPL will be participating in the "Girls Just Wanna' Have Fun" holiday boutique, on Sunday, October 11, from 1 - 4 p.m., in the gymnasium at Nerinx Hall High School, in Webster Groves. There will be a huge selection of items from many vendors, including handmade items from our Friends Craft Group. This will be an opportunity for you to get a head-start on your Christmas and Holiday gifts. We hope we will see many of you there, and remember all the monies we make from this event will benefit the Kirkwood Public Library.

Carol Ferring Shepley

On Wednesday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. in Epworth Hall at Kirkwood United Methodist Church, there will be a history discussion of the Bellefontaine Cemetery. Our speaker, Carol Ferring Shepley, is the author of *Movers and Shakers, Scalawags and Suffragettes: Tales from the Bellefontaine Cemetery*, published by the Missouri History Museum in 2008.

Ms. Shepley's work is told through interesting stories of some of the 87,000 people who are buried there. Her book began as biographies of "residents" of the cemetery. However she quickly realized this book and its informative look at the individuals buried there was also a history of St. Louis. She shared with the reader how each of these amazing individuals moved the city, region, and country forward. Her book is organized into sections such as artists, fur traders, and Civil War generals, for example. Contributions and controversies that make up St. Louis history are revealed, and the architecture and landscape of the local cemetery are celebrated as significant to our region. Her book includes black and white photographs as well as color inserts showing the most beautiful mausoleums and grave markers.



Ms. Shepley is an adjunct professor of art history at Maryville University. In addition she has been an art critic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and has written for *Money Magazine*, *Time* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

Program Reservations. Both Friends' programs are free and open to the public. Bring friends and neighbors to introduce them to the Friends. 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, Extension 1023 and leaving your name and phone number, or you can sign up at the Circulation Desk at the library. If you are unable to drive to the evening program, please let us know that fact when you make your reservation and let us know your address. Transportation will be arranged.

MEMBER NEWS

Please welcome our wonderful NEW Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library! Thank you for your support!

EDITOR LEVEL:

Sue Maurer Jennifer Millikan Teri Weber

AUTHOR LEVEL:

Linda Austin Judy Moeller Betty Moriarity
Joe & Anissa Toenjes Jack Walsdorf

The Friends of Kirkwood Public Library also wish to extend a very special thank you to Friends who have rejoined us. Their recent generous membership contributions totaled more than \$800.

FRIENDS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Beth Beattie	Helen Bequette
Robert Blaske	Lee Bourgeois
Steve & Janice Chamness	Jean Clodfelter
Ken & Judy Dude	Will & Judy Hansen
Steven & Julie Healey	Charlene Henke
John & Christie Hogg	Julie Kiehl
Nancy C. Koning	James E. Mc Kee Jr.*
Mary Kay Menees	Jamie M. Monafó
Dory Poholsky	Beth & David Purcell
Ted Randolph	Don & Diane Richardson
Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert	Virginia Sapp
Marily Schulze	June Shaw
Nancy Speigel	

* Winner of our incentive prize – A \$50.00 Shop Downtown Kirkwood coupon!

READERS' CIRCLE SCHEDULE

Readers' Circle book discussions will be held at the Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 7 p.m. in room 108. Please sign up at the circulation desk so we know how many people to expect. The next discussion group will meet on November 5 to discuss *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. This 2009 Pulitzer Prize winning work of fiction is set on the Maine coast and is thirteen linked stories about a seventh grade math teacher.

The balance of the schedule follows:

January 7: *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin

March 4: *Agnes Gray* by Anne Bronte

May 6: *Going over East: Reflections of a Woman Rancher* by Linda Hasselstrom

SPECIAL LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Events for Adults

Soul of the People documentary film

September 30, 7-8:30 pm

Kirkwood Community Center

Author Talk: Jo A. Hiestand

Local author of Taylor & Graham mysteries

October 24, 10 am, Lions Pavilion, Kirkwood Park

Events for Teens

Teen Bingo - September 30, 4:30 pm - grades 6-12

R U A Survivor? - October 15, 6:30 pm - Grades 6-12.

You are marooned @ KPL. Test your survival skills!

Teen Read Week - October 18-24

Read a book, write a review, get a prize. Pick up your review form @ the library. For grades 6-12.

Events for Children

Anna Dewdney, children's picture book author, will visit KPL on Tuesday, October 6, 6:30 pm. She will be here reading, signing, and talking about her books. Copies of her books will be available for sale the evening of the event. Event sponsored by the Jill Raiser Memorial Author Fund.

Tile Painting @ KPL: immortalize your art. Submit a simple line drawing to become a part of the mosaic tile wall in the Youth Services department at the renovated library. Submission forms available at KPL. Last day to turn in art is 9/14/09.

Special Grandparents Storytime: Saturday September 12, 10 am. Bring your grandparents for a special storytime all about families and grandparents.

Mother/Daughter Book Club

September, 7:30-8:15 pm *Nory Ryan's Song* by Patricia Reilly Giff.

October 20, 7:30-8:15 pm *Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke.

For grades 4-7, books available at the library.

Where the Wild Things Are Party, Sat., October 24, 10 am. Celebrate this classic book with games, a craft, and some wild fun.

Ongoing Programs for Children

Storytimes start the week of 9/8:

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

Books for Babies (6-24 months and caregivers) starts the week of 9/17 - 9:30 am at KPL

THANKS GALORE

Virginia Kramer, President

Occasionally when one does a good deed, one wonders if it is appreciated or not. I think that's just part of human nature. Well, if you, as a member of the Friends, have ever wondered if our assistance to the library is appreciated, let me tell you the answer is an unequivocal "Yes!" I'll cite a few recent examples:

Sarah Erwin, Acting Library Director, tells us that when she talks to people from other libraries around the country about KPL's Friends group, their reaction is amazing – especially their envy over our financial assistance which exceeds \$300,000 in the last five years.

Jennifer Millikan, Director of Library Services, wrote a note to in June thanking us for our generosity. She has been able to attend American Library Association Conferences because of our support.

Laura Radcliff, president of the KPL Foundation mailed a note to me thanking us for our support of Foundation efforts to build an endowment. We have given the foundation \$30,000 in the last five years.

Pat Rohan, Assistant Director of Library Services, recently earned an honorarium, but had the donor write a check payable to the Friends instead of to her.

Julia McDonald, Library Associate II, sent a note thanking the Friends for providing funds to purchase the "eye catching" red polo shirts you see staff members wearing. These were given to staff members for their yeomen's effort in relocating to the temporary quarters.

Lynn Bosso, Assistant Director Programs and Youth Services, sent an email in early August thanking the Friends for funding the Preschool Learning Kits. She explained that KPL had wanted to provide this service for several years, but funds were always an issue until we provided them.

I could go on and on about small, spur-of-the-moment thanks that other Board members and I receive each time we're at the library. But I think you get the idea from the above comments.

The "tour" that Sarah gives in the column to the right demonstrates the expressions of gratitude. But, my real point is that the accolades really belong to everyone. It takes a lot of effort from a lot of people to produce the successes of the Friends. And, if you want to spend your time and membership dollars with an organization whose efforts are truly appreciated, then you're with the right group! Please stay on board and encourage others to join, also.

SHELF NOTES

Sarah Erwin, Acting Library Director

Each time my brother and I would visit my grandmother, she would meet us at the door of her condo and say, "Step into my parlor, said the spider to the fly." Because we loved our grandmother so much and visiting her was always at the top of our list of fun things to do, we adopted that line as a warm greeting to offer to anyone visiting. It wasn't until I was an adult that I ran across that entire poem and realized that someone who didn't know my grandmother or my connection to that line might question my greeting.

When I thought about writing this article for *Chapter & Verse*, I thought about taking you each on a written tour of our temporary home, showing you how much energy and fun your gifts bring to the library. My first thought was: "Step into my parlor, said the spider to the fly," because that is something I say to welcome friends. So Friends, step into my parlor, stay awhile, and let me thank you for all you do and have done.

Our first stop is near our busy circulation desk. Here we house our new DiscXpress machine full of Hot DVDs (they're not stolen!). With one of your gifts this year we were able to purchase 100 Hot DVDs, five copies each. These Hot DVDs work like the Hot Reads collection and are a huge success. In the month of July we circulated 3,443 Hot DVDs. Friday afternoons are a particularly busy time for this area of the library as patrons like to stock up on movies for the weekend.

We'll pass by the Hot Reads collection, to the right of the new mysteries. In 2005 your gift of \$9,000 helped to start this popular service. In July, patrons checked out 1,750 Hot Reads. It's so much fun to approach this shelf and spot a title you've been waiting and waiting for.

Behind the Hot Reads you'll see a sign for the new Preschool Kits. I'd show you an actual kit, but they are all checked out! Placed in Kirkwood red tote bags, these themed kits contain picture books, songs, games, toys and other educational items parents and teachers can check out. Each kit and each book inside contains a label that reads, "Purchased with a gift from the Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library."

Let's make a stop in the Youth Services area and look at the computers your gift funded in 2007. Used throughout the day, these computers offer games that help build early literacy skills in toddlers and preschoolers. Designed with youngsters in mind, they come with

(continued on page 5)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Randall Miltenberger, Trustee President

Everyone knows the old adage about building “from the ground up.” This is obviously factual in most things but in the case of our new Library it doesn’t really hold true. In this instance we had to build up just to get to the ground.

When you drove by our Taylor and Jefferson corner you probably wondered what was going on since we tore down the southeast corner of the existing building. Well, I can assure you we were not just sitting back and admiring the dust, dirt and sloppy mud we created during the demolition process. At the end of the day on Friday August 21 we completed drilling and pouring the last of the 31 piers that are below ground. These piers are drilled to an average depth of 26 feet and then socketed into bedrock to support the new structure. Each pier is 30” in diameter and gets a substantial amount of steel and is then poured full of concrete.

But, even now, at this point, the top of each of the 31 piers is two feet below the final Lower Level Floor elevation. Across the top of these piers are grade beams which tie all these piers together. Finally on top of these grade beams we will get our new Lower Level slab which will get us to “ground” and then allow us to begin to build “from the ground up.”

One of the many things I am enjoying about this construction is watching the Library’s Senior Staff staying involved. I will admit that their involvement at times is a result of my force feeding them but most of the time they are avid listeners and learners. (Ask Jennifer Millikan what a kip is and she will now be able to tell you what this critical item is in pier design.)

The world of architecture and construction has always been my passion. I have been a practicing architect for almost 40 years and observed construction in locations around the United States and Europe. I am sure that this construction project is not going to turn Sarah or any of her staff into architects but it is certainly enjoyable watching them learn, appreciate and get excited about the process.

The construction schedule calls for the Lower Level slab to be poured in early September and then the process will be much more visible and obvious. If you have any questions please feel free to ask Sarah or her staff. I am sure they will be glad to share some of their new found knowledge with you.

NAME-A-SHELF CAMPAIGN

At the Friends August meeting, the Board voted unanimously to use the net proceeds from any special events this year to participate in the “Name-a-Shelf” campaign. Those funds will be spent in that manner in addition to the funds that have already been budgeted as a gift to the library.

For each \$100 donated, anyone can name a single commemorative shelf. Sarah Erwin tells us that if we want to purchase a whole range of shelves or section of the library, a larger commemorative plaque could be put up honoring the Friends.

So, each time you attend a fund raising special event (like “Library Libations” mentioned below) you’ll be helping the Friends help the library to “re-shelve” the renovated facility.

Please consider purchasing a shelf, also. Name it for a friend, loved-one, or even yourself.

SAVE THE DATE

“Library Libations”

Wine tasting fundraiser at Grapevine Wines

Wednesday, December 2

6:30 p.m.

Details to follow

SHELF NOTES (continued from page 4)

a child-size keyboard and mouse. Caregivers and kids can enjoy them together since your gift also funded headphones.

I could go on and on, but we’ll make one final stop at the back wall of the building. You’ll see a crowd by the donated books, each looking for that hidden gem. Each day faithful Friend volunteers sort through donated books, organize them into categories and price them. In the month of July the library earned \$470 from the sale of these donated books. I confess that as I walk past this wall throughout the day, I find treasures I can’t live without.

I know you have to be on your way so I’ll stop here with the tour, but the library won’t stop thanking you for all you do and for your overall commitment to this library. Thanks galore, is right!

Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library
140 East Jefferson
Kirkwood MO 63122-4026

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**Saturday, October 3
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Station Plaza
Family and Children's Event
featuring
Jim Gill's "Family Room Tour"
(see page 1)**

Contact Us!

Virginia Kramer -- President
Dan Cain -- Vice-President
Judy Arnold -- Secretary
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http://kpl.lib.mo.us/friends_home.asp

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Lisa Balbes, Editor.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- 16 Trustee meeting at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 19-20 Friends' Booth at Greentree Festival

OCTOBER

- 3 Jim Gill's Family Room Tour
10 am to 1 pm at Station Plaza
- 7 Charlie Brenann speaking
1 pm at KUM Church
- 11 Craft Booth at Nerinx Hall, 1-4:30 pm
- 19 Friends Board Meeting, 1pm
- 21 Trustee Meeting at City Hall, 5:30 pm

NOVEMBER

- 4 Carol Shepley speaking
at 7 pm at KUM Church
- 5 Readers' Circle Book Discussion, 7 pm
- 11 Library Closed for Veterans' Day
- 14 Craft Booth at The Principia, 9 am to 3 pm
- 18 Trustee Meeting at City Hall, 5:30 pm
- 26 Library Closed for Thanksgiving