

# Friends

of the St. Louis County Library Foundation



St. Louis County Library  
**Foundation**

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Spring 2020 / Volume 19, No. 3



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crobb@slcl.org

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Courtney Wood  
cwood@slcl.org

## Manager of Development

Jackie Hamilton  
jhamilton@slcl.org

## Development Assistant

Amanda Murphy  
armurphy@slcl.org

## Friends Newsletter

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Julie Cruise, *Editor*, jcruise@slcl.org  
Kim Fischer, *Senior Graphic Designer*  
Kara Hayes Smith, *Photographer*

St. Louis County Library Foundation  
1640 South Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314-994-3300  
foundation.slcl.org



St. Louis County Library  
Foundation

# ACT prep class success

by Julie Cruise, Publications Coordinator



*Addie Martin improved her ACT score enough to get an automatic scholarship worth \$3,000 annually from the University of Missouri–Columbia.*

The Weber Road Branch of St. Louis County Library has good news to share about the success of their ACT Prep class. The class received support from the St. Louis County Library Foundation, which funds pilot projects and other special programs throughout the library.

The news is that one of the class' first participants, Addie Martin, improved her ACT score enough to get an automatic scholarship from the University of Missouri—Columbia. Martin will get \$3,000 per year on the strength of her ACT score, and the scholarship is renewable for four years.

Since she is going to be paying for the bulk of her education, Addie is thrilled with the scholarship. The youngest of three, Addie will graduate from Mehlville High School in May. Her goal is to major in French and Spanish, and work in foreign service or international business.

The class was created at Weber Road after Branch Manager Anna Maria Gonzalez was unable to find anyone willing to help teens getting ready to take the ACT. The test is one of the tools colleges and universities use to evaluate the academic preparedness of those wishing to enroll. Although it may be possible to take the ACT through one's high school, statistics show that taking it more than once improves one's score. Some schools, Mizzou included, base admission and scholarships on the applicant's highest overall score.

There are tutors in St. Louis willing to help teens prepare for the ACT. They charge from \$54 to \$250 per hour. Not all students can afford their services or to take the test multiple times.

Assistant Branch Manager Lisa Haddox, a mother of two teens herself, investigated using other resources. She found that the library's Gale eCourses subscription has ACT/SAT prep classes. She adapted the classes, creating a seven-week course with help in four academic skill areas: English, math, reading, and science reasoning in addition to test-taking skills and relaxation techniques. She applied for the Alison Grant in June 2019, offering the first class that fall.

The grant asked the Foundation to pay for a copy of "The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2019-2020," a voucher for a free ACT test for each student and the assistance of a math tutor at two sessions. The book is a requirement in the Gale eCourse and the voucher would make it easier for teens to take or re-take the test without having to pay the \$50 fee.

All of the students said that the class was beneficial and that they would recommend it to a friend.

Even better news is that the library will be able to offer the ACT Prep Class at two additional branches this spring thanks to a grant from Citi. The Florissant Valley and Prairie Commons branches will use the model that Weber Road created, hoping for even more success among the students who participate.

Deputy Director Eric Button says, "This program really levels the playing field for many students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to prepare themselves for the exam and taking it a second time. The potential impact for students in the program can be life-changing."

Addie, who worked hard in the class, is also grateful. "This class is worth it. It really is beneficial," she said, adding thanks to the library and the Foundation.

# Fundraising helps the Foundation make a difference

by Jackie Hamilton, Manager of Development

As the Library Foundation begins its 21st year, fundraising remains a top priority.

The Foundation and the library staff work together to maximize funds to enhance the many free programs offered by the library. I am excited to share a few of the programs that the Foundation supports in collaboration with great local organizations.

Thanks to a generous donation from Emerson, the library created a **Wi-Fi Hotspot** pilot program at Ritenour High School that allows students to borrow Wi-Fi hotspots for the 2019–20 school year.

The library partnered with the **St. Louis Diaper Bank** to address diaper needs and early literacy education in our region. The library started an emergency diaper program for children 3 and under at the Florissant Valley and Lewis & Clark branches. Families can pick up a



one-time supply of 50 diapers and/or training pants and a referral to a local agency for additional assistance.

Diaper recipients also receive information on how to incorporate early literacy activities into diaper changing time.

The library's partnership with **Eye Thrive**, a mobile eye clinic, provides free eye exams and prescription eyeglasses to kids in need. Six hundred eye exams

and 300 pairs of eyeglasses will be provided at eight library branches this year.



A partnership with **Oasis Tutoring Program** utilizes intergenerational tutors to assist students in Kindergarten-third grade with reading skills. Previously this program was available at only two branches, but it will expand to nine branches in 2020.

There are so many exciting things happening in your library branches. These programs are possible because of your generous support of the Foundation.

Contact me for additional details or to make a contribution. Your support allows the Foundation and the library to continue making a difference in our region.

Please Save the Date for the **Foundation's 11th Annual Gala, August 29**. Proceeds from the Gala will fund the Library Foundation's community programs that target literacy, reading and lifelong learning.

Jackie Hamilton: [jhamilton@slcl.org](mailto:jhamilton@slcl.org) or 314-994-3300 ext 2156.



## Give STL Day is coming!

**The annual Give STL Day is Thursday, May 7.** Get ready to make your donation to the St. Louis County Library Foundation on that date as part of a 24-hour, community-wide online giving campaign. Give STL Day is sponsored by the St. Louis Community Foundation. Is that date inconvenient? Give early! Gifts are accepted beginning April 6. Here's the link: [www.givestlday.org](http://www.givestlday.org)

# Overdue fines eliminated

St. Louis County Library and St. Louis Public Library held a joint news conference on Tuesday, January 7 to announce that both library systems had eliminated overdue fines. County Executive Dr. Sam Page and Mayor Lyda Crewson attended the event, lauding the decision which makes more people eligible to use their library.

St. Louis County Library and St. Louis Public Library are independent organizations with separate boards, rules and policies, and unique taxing authority. The two library districts have worked together on many projects over the decades. Each district made the decision to eliminate overdue fines, but made the announcement together.



Waller McGuire, CEO St. Louis Public Library, Lyda Krewson, St. Louis Mayor, Kristen Sorth, St. Louis County Library Director and Dr. Sam Page, St. Louis County Executive.

“Our libraries are among our greatest assets in St. Louis County and City,” St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page said. “I commend the two districts for coming together and opening the door to learning even wider by eliminating overdue fines.”

“Reading has the unique ability to inform, illuminate and inspire,” St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson stated. “It’s important that we make our great libraries as accessible as possible to the community. I am grateful to our two incredible library systems for collaborating together to do just that and go fine-free.”

Revenue from fines has been decreasing in recent years. With the adoption of automatic renewals by St. Louis County Library (SLCL) in 2018, fewer items become overdue. (Items on hold are not automatically renewed.)

Removing barriers to library service has been one of SLCL’s goals for years as several recent projects illustrate. Among the projects to expand library eligibility are the following:

- **No overdue fines on children’s material**—In 2016, SLCL eliminated overdue fines on items classified for children because many of its school bookmobile patrons were unable to avail themselves of the service.
- **Sweet Reads**—The Sweet Reads bookmobile brings books and other library materials directly to neighborhoods in and around Spanish Lake. The program works on the honor system and uses mostly donated or discarded library books.
- **Recycled Reads**—The library places reading material in several locations throughout the County where people wait, like mechanic shops or laundromats, so that they can pass the time reading. The program uses donated or discarded books.
- **Reciprocal Lending**—Residents of St. Louis County, St. Louis City, and St. Charles County may obtain library cards from libraries in each of those areas, regardless of which library gets their taxes. Administrative fees per transaction were eliminated in 2018.

## A gathering of Friends



*Friends gathered in the Headquarters’ mezzanine Friday, January 31 to meet psychological thriller writer, Lisa Gardner. Gardner, who currently lives in the mountains of New Hampshire, entertained guests with a true crime story from her hometown in Oregon. A story of an abducted girl, who was later released by her captor, could have been ripped right from the pages of one of Gardner’s bestselling novels.*

*Gardner also expressed the importance the library played in her life. She credited her grandmother with taking her to the library to read books in exchange for scratch-and-sniff stickers. “That’s just what you did,” said Gardner. “The library brings the world to our fingertips.”*



# From the Stacks

## Grammar and style is a hit

by Jennifer Alexander, Adult Collection Development Specialist

Perhaps the most delightful piece of news from the publishing world in 2019 was that a grammar and style guide became a surprise hit. “Dreyer’s English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style” by Benjamin Dreyer reached a wide enthusiastic audience, spending several months on the New York Times Bestseller list.

One might wonder whether this title is the kind of book that offers instruction on the proper use of parentheses, the difference between an em dash and an en dash, and a list of frequently misspelled words. It most certainly is. But the author presents it all with such humor and numerous engaging examples, that it reads more like a literary memoir by a sharply observant storyteller who also happens to have a lot of useful information.

Benjamin Dreyer opens his book with the declaration “I am a copy editor.” (xii) He continues by helpfully explaining what a copy editor does. After a manuscript has been written, rewritten, revised by the editor and declared complete, the copy editor takes over to make that piece of writing better. The goal is to make the work clearer, stronger, and better without compromising the style or voice of the author.

Dreyer recalls when he was working as a proofreader, he became fascinated with the conversation between the copy editor and author displayed in the margins of manuscripts. The copy editor may jot “AU: AWK?” in the margin to identify a clunky phrase. The author may respond with the note “STET” meaning “let it stand.” Dreyer discovered his own talent for copy editing, which “requires a good ear for how language sounds and a good eye for how it manifests itself on the page; it demands an ability to listen to what writers are attempting to do and, hopefully and helpfully, the means to augment it.” (xvi)

Rather than compiling a book of rules on “how to write well,” Dreyer collects examples of the issues he encounters most often. He offers a section on grammar rules that need not be followed, a chapter on punctuation, a list of frequently misspelled words, and an assortment of amusing language curiosities and advice that he finds useful.

Most style guides are written to sit on a shelf with post-it notes marking the pages with the rule about capitalizing the names of the

seasons, whether to hyphenate compound adjectives before a noun, and the who, which, that guidelines. But “Dreyer’s English” warrants a cover-to-cover reading. Packed with sarcastic asides, footnotes, and cultural references ranging from Oscar Wilde to Middle-earth to the musical “Guys and Dolls,” Dreyer provides context for his advice that makes the whole book personal.

Dreyer’s first bit of advice to writers is to go for a week without writing the following words: very, rather, really, quite, in fact, just, so, pretty, of course, and actually. His contention is that these words are used more as Throat Clearers than actual intensifiers. He goes on to add clarifications to this advice, setting the tone for the book.

A chapter titled “The Confusables” containing 42 pages of words that are easily misused might inspire a reader to skim the list only reading entries that attract attention. After all, each of these can be found in any dictionary. But dictionary definitions do not have the elegant clarity of Dreyer’s explanations. For example:

### ***Ambiguous/Ambivalent***

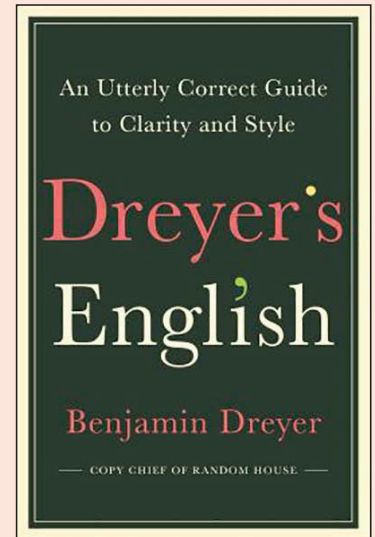
*To be ambiguous is to lack clarity, to be murkily open to misinterpretation.*

### ***To be ambivalent is to have mixed feelings.***

*One’s meaning may be ambiguous, but one’s attitude is ambivalent. (p. 170)*

Dreyer shares a few of the language mistakes that most irritate him in a chapter called “Peeves and Crotchets.” He admits that people generally assume that their own language preferences are based on a fine appreciation of the language, while the peculiar choices of others must reflect mental defect. “Well, I concede with a shrug, if the English language itself is notoriously irregular and irrational, why shouldn’t its practitioners be too?” (p. 147)

Benjamin Dreyer’s enthusiasm for language is infectious. This is the most entertaining grammar book you will read this year.



# In Memory:

**Harry Morley** died January 24, 2019. Mr. Morley served as a member of the Library Foundation's Board of Directors from 2006–2015. His career included President and CEO of Taylor-Morley Homes; President of the St. Louis RCGA 1973-1978; Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C., 1970–1973; former board member of Mercy Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital; and former Chairman of the MO Highway and Transportation Commission. Mr. Morley is credited with founding the Leadership St. Louis development program and helping form the St. Louis Sports Commission.

**Arthur T. Morey** died December 27, 2019 at the age of 84. Mr. Morey served as a member of the Library Foundation's Board of Directors from 2008–2015. Mr. Morey was one of the founders of Lion's Choice, a restaurant chain headquartered in St. Louis. He served on numerous boards and committees in addition to St. Louis County Library Foundation, including Earthjustice and The Principia.

Both Mr. Morley and Mr. Morey served the Library Foundation during a formative period, helping to create and fund several of its major initiatives including the Starcatchers' Society (planned giving fund), Born to Read, and Gift of Reading. Their contributions to the success of the Library Foundation and the cause of literacy in St. Louis are inestimable.

**Edith Cunnane** died January 3, 2020. Mrs. Cunnane served on St. Louis County Library's Board of Trustees from 2007–2019. Mrs. Cunnane's accomplishments include founding the St. Patrick Center in downtown St. Louis. She raised funds for the organization and served as its executive director for 10 years during which many programs were created, some of which have been replicated throughout the U.S. Mrs. Cunnane served on the Library Board during the campaign to raise taxes for a capital improvement campaign; a campaign which, when finished, will have remodeled or built all new library buildings. Mrs. Cunnane received many awards for her work with the disadvantaged including the "Thousand Points of Light" award from President George H. W. Bush in 1991.



## Gifts and Tributes

The Library Foundation offers a special opportunity to honor and remember a loved one, friend or colleague. A donation at the Foundation recognizes and expresses your love and respect for a beloved individual while enhancing the Foundation's early childhood literacy programs. Please consider the Foundation for a tribute or memorial gift.

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The following is a list of people who joined the Friends of the St. Louis County Library Foundation or who renewed their membership between the dates October 15, 2019 and January 11, 2020.

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Ms. Deborah Mitchell  
Mr. Charles & Mrs. Susan Moellering  
Mr. William & Mrs. Pamela Moench  
Mr. Gary & Mrs. Charlotte Moser  
Mrs. Sherry Muehlfarth  
Ms. Betty J. Mueller  
Mr. W. Thomas Mueller & Ms. Leslie Bloom  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Mundschenk  
Dr. Michael & Mrs. Susan Murphy  
Amy & M. Keith Murphy  
Ms. Laura Murra  
Mrs. Nicole Muschinske  
Ms. Sarah Herstand Myers  
Mrs. Karen Nash  
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Niederman  
Ms. Nancy C. Nietz  
Ms. Kim Noda  
Ms. Linda Nottestad  
Mr. David Obedin & Mrs. Clare Davis  
Ms. Christine Obermeier  
Mr. John & Mrs. Barbara O'Brien  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward J. O'Brien, Jr.  
Ms. Kathleen O'Brien  
Ms. Rhonda O'Brien & Mr. Steve Rosen  
Mr. Samuel A. Ockner  
Ms. Nancy M. Oldenburg  
Ms. Wendy Olk  
Mr. & Mrs. Oly Olson  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Olson  
Mr. Henry & Mrs. Ilene Ordower

Mr. & Mrs. John V. O'Reilly  
Mr. Terrence J. & Mrs. Sheila O'Toole  
Mr. Gary Otten  
Ozark Regional Library  
Ms. Judith Packer  
Ms. Abigail Pankau  
Ms. Farnell Parsons  
Dr. Larry & Mrs. Ellen Paskar  
Mr. James Paunovich  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Pautler  
Mr. Doug Peden  
Dr. Jay Pepose & Ms. Susan Feigenbaum  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward J. Perantoni  
Ms. Eleesa B. Perez  
Mrs. Pat Peterein  
Ms. Susan G. Peters  
Ms. Mary A. Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Pickard  
Ms. Pat R. Pickett  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Picus  
Mr. Giancarlo & Mrs. Melissa Pillot  
Mr. Tom & Mrs. Sally Piper  
Mr. Lee & Mrs. Debbie Platke  
Mrs. Julie L. Plax  
Mrs. Donna Plein  
Ms. Patti Pokorney  
Ms. Leatrice Polityka  
Mrs. Heather Pratt  
Mr. Chris & Mrs. Kathryn Preston  
Ms. Lesley Preston  
Mrs. Vida G. Prince  
Ms. Helena Prophete  
Mr. Gary Protte  
Mrs. Jane A. Protte  
Ms. Mary L. Quick  
Mr. Roy & Mrs. Edith Quick  
Ms. Beth Quick-Andrews  
Ms. Karen J. Rader  
Mrs. Vidya G. Rao  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry R. Rassieur  
Mr. James & Mrs. Linda Reed  
Ms. Karen L. Reeves  
Mr. & Mrs. O. Lee Reid, Jr.  
Mrs. Nancy Reyecraft  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby G. Rhine  
Mr. Ricky Rhine  
Mr. Steven & Mrs. Susan Rhoades  
Mrs. Paula J. Richter  
Mr. Robert E. Ricklefs  
& Ms. Susanne Renner

# New and Renewing Friends

The following is a list of people who joined the Friends of the St. Louis County Library Foundation or who renewed their membership between the dates October 15, 2019 and January 11, 2020.

Mr. Jonathan Ries  
Mrs. Radline Robbins  
Mr. Gerald Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Roberts  
Ms. M. G. Roewe  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter E. Rogers  
Mr. Albert Rose  
Ms. Rebecca Roth  
Ms. Jacqueline Rouff  
Mr. Michael Rubin  
Ms. Shannon V Ruckhaber  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce D. Ryder  
Ms. Beverlee N. Sagel  
Ms. Joyce Sailh & Mr. Marvin Pund  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Sanditz  
Mr. Joseph Martinich & Ms. Vicki Sauter  
Ms. Mary Sawyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen D. Scanlan  
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Schepers  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas C. Schlattmann  
Mr. Harvey & Mrs. Leanne Schneider  
Mr. John & Mrs. Teresa Schnellmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Schoor  
Mr. Jerry & Mrs. Barbara Schroy  
Ms. Cindy Schulte  
Mr. Cliff & Mrs. Cindy Schulte  
Mr. Andy & Mrs. Debbie Schwartz  
Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Schwartz  
Mrs. Kathy Schweich  
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Schweizer, III  
Ms. Susan Scribner  
Ms. Meg Selig  
Mr. Marc & Mrs. Madeyln Semanoff  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Seslen  
Mr. & Mrs. Amos Shamir  
Ms. Judith Shaw  
Mrs. Mamatha Shetty  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Shook  
Mr. Norman & Mrs. Linda Shore  
Dr. & Mrs. Gregorio Sicard  
Drs. Sherman & Joan Silber  
Mrs. Chris Simpkin  
Ms. Elizabeth Sima  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Slaby  
Mr. Thomas & Mrs. Shelley Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. George Wayne Smith  
Dr. & Mrs. Morton E. Smith  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard S. Sohn  
Mr. Barry & Mrs. Vickie Sokolik  
Mrs. Kristen & Mr. Mike Sorth

Mrs. Stella Spalt  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Spewak  
Mr. Mike & Mrs. Caryn St. Clair  
Ms. Patricia Stamp  
Ms. Victoria A. Stanford  
Ms. Pamela S. Statler  
Mr. William F. Stebelski  
Ms. Deanna Stevenson  
Ms. Roberta Stolz  
Mr. Bob Streett  
Mr. Mark Strothmann  
Mrs. Amanda Strupp  
Mr. Paul Stuart  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Suelthaus  
Mrs. Nancy G Sullivan  
Mrs. Nancy Tank  
Ms. Sandy Taryle  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Tate  
Mrs. Jane Taylor  
Ms. Cynthia Tebo  
Mr. Tom & Mrs. Janet Tenhula  
Ms. Cassandra Tessereau  
Ms. Barb Thach  
Ms. Jane Thal  
Ms. Eleanor M. Thomas  
Mr. James & Mrs. Louis Thompson  
Ms. Patricia L. Thompson  
Mrs. Kristin Thompson Poelker  
Mrs. Marykay Thrower  
Ms. Joan Tiemann  
Ms. Gretchen F. Tinkle  
Mr. Tom & Mrs. Betty Tobben  
Mrs. Gail Todd  
Ms. Mary Tompkins  
Ms. Barbara Ann Topp  
Mrs. Jane Tracy  
Mr. Alan & Mrs. Jo Anne Travis  
Ms. Patricia Treacy  
Ms. Lauren Tucker & Mr. Steve Ehrlich  
Ms. Katherine Tullmann  
Mrs. Barbara Turkington  
Drs. Peter & Susan Tuteur  
Ms. Carol T. Underiner  
Dr. Francis Underwood  
Mr. George Van Dyke  
Mr. Brian Vandenberg & Ms. Sharon Biegen  
Mrs. Mary E. Vanderlinden  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul M. Vandivort, Jr.  
Mrs. Susan Vasquez

Ms. Mary Jane Vaziz  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Verdon  
Ms. Maria Viehman  
Mr. Warren Vincent  
Ms. Kristen VonGruben  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wagenaar  
Mrs. Patsy C. Walker  
Ms. Mary C. Walters  
Mrs. Rita Warren  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wattenberg  
Mr. Ron & Mrs. Virginia Weil  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Weintraub  
Mrs. Alice Weis  
Ms. Bette Weisman  
Ms. Barbara J. Wexler  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wheatley  
Ms. Linda Whitten  
Mr. Rad M. Widmer  
Mrs. Judy Wiegars  
Ms. Carol Wilbois

Mrs. Lou Ann Wilcox Mr. & Mrs. Milton Wilkins  
Mrs. Nancy Willard Mrs. Nancy Willimon  
Mary & Edward Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Wilson  
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan C. Witte  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Wolfe  
Mr. Jim J. Wood, CFP  
Ms. Courtney M. Wood  
Mr. Rodger & Mrs. Joni Wood  
Mr. John & Mrs. Sandra Wootten  
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Nell Wulff  
Ms. Roslyn D. Wylie  
Ms. Linda Yatkeman  
Ms. Judith D. Yokum  
Dr. Kenneth & Mrs. Mary Zehnder  
Ms. Stephanie Zimmerman  
Mr. Myron & Mrs. Bonnie Zwibelman

## Volunteers Needed

The 71st Greater St. Louis Book Fair needs volunteers to help at its four-day fair in the Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, **April 16–19**. Help is needed each of the four days doing work such as bagging, counting, restocking, greeting, setting up and cleaning up, working at the information booth and helping keep the carts in order. To volunteer, send an email message to [volunteers@stlouisbookfair.org](mailto:volunteers@stlouisbookfair.org). More information is available online at [www.stlouisbookfair.org](http://www.stlouisbookfair.org).

The Book Fair helps organizations throughout St. Louis by supporting literacy programs including the Library Foundation's Gift of Reading program.



# Sensory Saturdays attract families to the Discovery Zones

On the second Saturday each month three branches host Sensory Saturday. Daniel Boone, Florissant Valley and Meramec Valley each open at 8:00 a.m., one hour earlier than normal, so that children on the autism spectrum can use the Discovery Zone before activity becomes boisterous. Other adaptations include dimmed lights, noise-blocking headphones, fidget toys and other manipulatable devices.



# Upcoming author visits

Seating is limited; early arrival is recommended. Friends, please make reservations in advance. All programs presented at Library Headquarters unless otherwise noted. **Please visit [www.slcl.org/authors](http://www.slcl.org/authors) for the latest author event updates.**



**Julia Phillips**  
Thursday, April 16



**Don Winslow**  
Monday, April 20



**Wes Moore**  
Thursday, April 30



**Ruth Reichl**  
Saturday, May 2



**Laura Lippman**  
Friday, May 8



**Laila Lalami**  
Wednesday, May 13



**Brad Meltzer**  
Friday, May 15



**Jeff Shaara**  
Wednesday, May 27

## April

**Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Ariel Lawhon, “Code Name Hélène”**

Bestselling author of “I Was Anastasia,” Ariel Lawhon’s new novel is based on the real-life story of socialite and spy Nancy Wake, one of the most decorated women of WWII. Told in interweaving timelines organized around the four code names Nancy used during the war, “Code Name Hélène” is a spellbinding story of enduring love, remarkable sacrifice and unflinching resolve.

**Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Eduardo Porter, “American Poison: How Racial Hostility Destroyed Our Promise”**

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

New York Times veteran reporter Eduardo Porter shows how racial animus has stunted the development of nearly every institution crucial for a healthy society, including organized labor, public education, and the social safety net. A sweeping examination of how American racism has broken the country’s social compact, “American Poison” also illuminates how the nation’s increasing diversity may lead to a new understanding of racial identity.

**Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Edward J. Larson, “Franklin & Washington: The Founding Partnership”**

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J. Larson delivers a masterful dual biography of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Vastly different men, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were the indispensable authors of American independence, and yet their teamwork has been little remarked upon in the centuries since. With striking new detail and energy, Larson shows that theirs was truly an intimate working friendship.

**Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Ed Wheatley, “Baseball in St. Louis: Little Leagues to Major Leagues”**

This is the story of the unique role baseball has played in St. Louis, but it is not just a story of the Major League’s Browns and Cardinals or the great teams of the Negro Leagues. It’s the story of how baseball is intertwined within the city’s culture. The St. Louis Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, the CYC, and many other community athletic associations have opened up their archives to provide the full story of baseball in St. Louis.

**Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Julia Phillips, “Disappearing Earth”**

A finalist for the 2019 National Book Award in Fiction, “Disappearing Earth” announces the debut of a profoundly gifted writer. On the shoreline of the Kamchatka peninsula at the northeastern edge of Russia, two young sisters go missing. Taking us through a year in Kamchatka, “Disappearing Earth” enters the worlds of a cast of characters, all connected by the crime: a witness, a neighbor, a detective, a mother.

**Saturday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Steve Murphy and Javier F. Peña, “Manhunters: How We Took Down Pablo Escobar”**

Presented in partnership with DEA – St. Louis Division

Retired DEA Special Agents Steve Murphy and Javier Peña were at the center of the largest, multi-national, high profile investigation of its time. Working with an elite Colombian Task Force, Murphy and Peña were responsible for the downfall and capture of the world’s first narco-terrorist, the infamous drug cartel leader, Pablo Escobar. Their real-life story inspired the hit Netflix series “Narcos.”

**INDIVIDUAL TICKET—\$30.** Admits ONE and includes one copy of “Manhunters”  
**PACKAGE TICKET—\$35.** Admits TWO and includes one copy of “Manhunters”

A book signing will follow the presentation.

**Tickets can be purchased through [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) or at Library Headquarters.**

**TICKETED  
EVENT**

**Monday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.**

**Don Winslow, “Broken: Six Short Novels”**

In six intense short novels connected by the themes of corruption and redemption, #1 bestselling crime fiction writer Don Winslow is at his nerve-shattering best. With his trademark blend of insight, humanity, action and the highest level of literary craftsmanship, Winslow delivers a collection of tales that will become classics of crime fiction.

**Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.**

**Tom Clavin, “Tombstone: The Earp Brothers, Doc Holliday, and the Vendetta Ride From Hell”**

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

On the afternoon of October 26, 1881, nine men clashed in what would be known as the most famous shootout in American frontier history: the Battle of the O.K. Corral. Historian and bestselling author Tom Clavin peers behind decades of legend surrounding Tombstone to reveal the true story of the drama and violence that made it famous.

**Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.**

**Book Lover Appreciation Night with Grant Snider and Anne Bogel**

Presented in partnership with The Novel Neighbor

Celebrate all things literary at this special night with writer/illustrator Grant Snider and “Modern Mrs. Darcy” book reviewer Anne Bogel.

**Grant Snider’s** literary themed comics and illustrations are featured in the New York Times and the New Yorker. His new book, “I Will Judge You By Your Bookshelf,” is a lighthearted exploration of bookishness in all its forms.

**Anne Bogel** is the creator of the sensationally popular book review website Modern Mrs. Darcy and host of the “What Should I Read Next?” podcast. Her latest book is “Don’t Overthink It: Make Easier Decisions, Stop Second-Guessing, and Bring More Joy to Your Life.”

**Thursday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.**

**Wes Moore, “Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City”**

When Freddie Gray was arrested for possessing an “illegal knife” in April 2015, he was, by eyewitness accounts, treated “roughly” by Baltimore police. By the end of his trip in the police van, Gray was in a coma he would never recover from. Bestselling author, Wes Moore tells the story of the Baltimore uprising that followed the killing. Each shifting point of view contributes to an engrossing, cacophonous account of one of the most consequential moments in our recent history.

# May

**Saturday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.**

**Ruth Reichl, “Save Me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir”**

An Onstage Conversation with Allyson Mace, Sauce Magazine Publisher

Trailblazing food writer and beloved restaurant critic Ruth Reichl took the job (and the risk) of a lifetime when she entered the high-stakes world of magazine publishing. Now, for the first time, she chronicles her groundbreaking tenure as editor-in-chief of Gourmet.

**INDIVIDUAL TICKET—\$22.** Admits ONE and includes one paperback copy of “Save Me the Plums”

**PACKAGE TICKET—\$28.** Admits TWO and includes one paperback copy of “Save Me the Plums”

A book signing will follow the presentation.

**Tickets can be purchased through [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) or at Library Headquarters.**

**TICKETED  
EVENT**

**Friday, May 8, 7:00 p.m.**

**Laura Lippman, “My Life as a Villainess: Essays”**

Since Laura Lippman’s debut novel in 1997, she has been recognized as a distinctive voice in mystery fiction and named one of the “essential” crime writers of the last 100 years. In this collection of nonfiction essays, Lippman shares her school years, newspaper career, and experiences as a novelist, mother and reader—an unusual life that has as many twists as her award-winning crime fiction.

**Monday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.**

**Susan Berfield, “The Hour of Fate: Theodore Roosevelt, J.P. Morgan, and the Battle to Transform American Capitalism”**

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

Award-winning investigative reporter Susan Berfield presents a riveting narrative of Wall Street buccaneering, political intrigue, and two of American history’s most colossal characters. It seemed like no force in the world could slow financier J. P. Morgan’s drive to power until a new president bounded into office. Theodore Roosevelt was convinced that the government had to check the influence of the wealthiest. The outcome of their conflict would change the course of our history.

**Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.**

**Laila Lalami, “Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America”**

What does it mean to be American? In this impassioned book, Pulitzer Prize Finalist Laila Lalami recounts her unlikely journey from Moroccan immigrant to U.S. citizen, using it as a starting point for her exploration of the rights, liberties, and protections that are traditionally associated with American citizenship. Tapping into history, politics, and literature, she elucidates how national origin, race, or gender determine the boundaries of Americanness.

**Friday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.**

**Brad Meltzer, “The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Plot to Kill America’s 16th President—And Why it Failed”**

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

#1 bestselling suspense author and host of the History Channel’s “Brad Meltzer’s Lost History,” Brad Meltzer presents the little-known story about a failed assassination attempt on President Lincoln. Everyone knows the story of Abraham Lincoln’s assassination in 1865, but few are aware of the original conspiracy to kill him four years earlier during his inauguration. The conspirators were part of a pro-Southern secret society opposed to an antislavery President in the White House.

**Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 p.m.**

**Jeff Shaara, “To Wake the Giant: A Novel of Pearl Harbor”**

Presented by the Westfall Politics & History Series

The New York Times bestselling master of military historical fiction tells the story of Pearl Harbor as only he can in the first novel of a gripping new series set in World War II’s Pacific theater. Told through the eyes of widely diverse characters, this story looks at all sides of the drama and puts the reader squarely in the middle. In this story of innocence, heroism, sacrifice, and unfathomable blindness, Shaara’s gift for storytelling shines a light on the personal, the tragic, and the thrilling—and on a crucial part of history we must never forget.

# Construction projects 2020

## The new Eureka Hills Branch

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Eureka Hills Branch will take place this summer, though a specific date hadn't been set at the time of publication. Although it is not part of the library's \$20+ million Your Library Renewed project, the new Eureka Hills Branch will be most welcome in a growing community in far West St. Louis County.

In 2000, the population of Eureka was 7,676. It jumped to 10,189 in 2010, an increase of 32% in one decade. Recent estimates for Eureka show a population of 10,759.\*



The branch will be near a new housing development just east of Six Flags. The Arbors of Rockwood is a planned community by McBride with houses that range from \$100-600,000. The homes are within easy walking distance of the new branch. The new Eureka Elementary School just opened at 5350 Rockwood Arbor Drive.

The new Eureka Hills Branch (EH) will be the third building used by St. Louis County Library (SLCL) in Eureka, although the library has sent bookmobiles to the area for many decades. The first rented space, a converted shoe store, opened in 1989. The branch moved



in 2011 to a larger, freestanding building, a former video store. A group of citizens, business owners and government officials supported the move, donating \$5,000 to enhance the enlarged branch. Colorful artwork evoked both the proximity of Six Flags and also the rolling hills characteristic of the area.

The new EH will have plenty of amenities including an interactive children's area; family restroom; quiet reading room; community meeting room; three private study rooms; vending area; business center with fax, copy and scanning machines; new shelving, furniture and comfortable seating.

The new branch will be the first building owned by SLCL in Eureka. At 17,000 square feet, the new EH will be a full-sized branch. When the new facility opens, it will be the first time that SLCL owns all its branches.

*\*<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/eurekacitymissouri,stlouiscounty-missouri/PST045219>  
[eurekacitymissouri,stlouiscountymissouri/PST045219](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/eurekacitymissouri,stlouiscountymissouri/PST045219)*

## Musick Road Project

The entrance from Musick Road directly onto the Grant's View Branch's parking lot is now open.

## A new Foundation website is coming!

The new Foundation website is set to launch in spring/summer 2020. The new site will make it easier for donors to contribute to the causes they care about the most. Interested in supporting technology programs at the library? Is your company looking for corporate sponsorship opportunities? Passionate about supporting early literacy programs? Quick links to these areas along with Friends information will be easily accessible on the new Foundation website. Colorful graphics and photos will illustrate the Foundation's important work in our community, along with infographics showing the impact of our work.

# 2019 year in review

**St. Louis County Library's total circulation for 2019 broke an all-time record at 16.3 million items!**

**Visits to the library in 2019 totaled 5,158,881.** This is 3% higher than in 2018. There were a total of 1,880,903 holds placed, and 1,472,547 holds filled.



*Laptime at Headquarters.*



*The Discovery Zone at Daniel Boone.*

**Program attendance** at all branches of SLCL during 2019 was 565,479 an increase of 13%.

**A total of 43,417 new cardholders** were added in 2019, including 569 via the Born To Read program.



*Valerie Jarrett, Black History Month keynote address at Headquarters.*



*Baby Art Crawl at Grant's View.*



*Mother Goose Ballet at Prairie Commons.*



*Rev Run and Justine Simmons interview moderated by Tammie Holland.*

**419,861 items were added** to the collection in 2019, an increase of 5% than the number added in 2018.

**Patrons and staff donated 9,469 pounds of food** during the Holiday Food drive. Operation Food Search distributed the donations throughout the area.

In 2019, **SLCL hosted 105 authors**, with attendance at 20,370.

**Three new branches opened in 2019:** Thornhill, Meramec Valley and Mid-County.



*Cooking Club at Mid-County.*



*Crafting at Samuel C. Sachs.*



*Painting with a Snappy New Day at Meramec Valley.*



# St. Louis County Library Foundation

St. Louis County Library Foundation  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
[foundation.slcl.org](http://foundation.slcl.org)

## Westfall Politics & History Series:

*Thursday, April 2  
7:00 p.m.*

### Eduardo Porter

"American Poison: How Racial  
Hostility Destroyed Our Promise"



*Monday, April 27  
7:00 p.m.*

### Tom Clavin

"Tombstone: The Earp Brothers,  
Doc Holliday, and the Vendetta  
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"The Hour of Fate: Theodore  
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"The Lincoln Conspiracy: The  
Plot to Kill America's 16th  
President—And Why it Failed"



See pages 12–13 for more information about these and other author visits.