

Friends

of the St. Louis County Library Foundation



St. Louis County Library
Foundation

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Winter 2022 / Volume 20, No. 3



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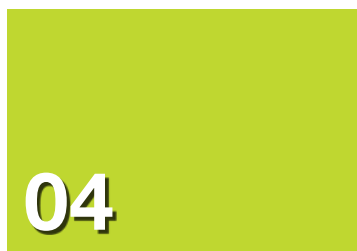
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Friends Newsletter

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St. Louis County Library
Foundation

St. Louis County Library Celebrates 75th Anniversary

by Jennifer McBride, Communications Manager

St. Louis County Library is celebrating 75 years of service in 2022. We'll be marking this important milestone throughout the year with special programs and events. Over the years, SLCL has become a vital community resource, supporting literacy and partnering with other organizations to support and enrich our region. When the district was formed in 1946, the library consisted of the Library Director, a secretary and a loaned office on the third floor of the old Normandy High School. Today, the library operates



20 state-of-the-art library branches, with 600 employees, providing service to 860,000 County residents, with a collection of over 1.8 million items.

The past two years have been a time of adjusting, adapting and transforming Library service to the community. We are incredibly proud of our work supporting the region during the pandemic, and we look forward to the return of more traditional library services in 2022. Some of the projects planned for this year include:

- Adding social workers to assist individuals and families
- Hosting the St. Louis Storytelling Festival
- Adding more items to our “library of things”
- Upgrading our bookmobile fleet



1960s Story Time.

Perhaps the most impactful project next year, will be the establishment of a **shared catalog with St. Louis Public Library**. The shared catalog will allow patrons from both library systems to access nearly 5 million items, making library materials more convenient and accessible for both St. Louis County and City residents to check out.

Finally, in 2022, the Your Library Renewed campaign will near completion with the opening of the **Lynn Beckwith Jr., Administrative Building** and the replacement of the Headquarters building in Ladue.



The Lynn Beckwith Jr., Administrative Building.



Career Online High School first graduating Class of 2019.

St. Louis County Library is supported primarily by the property taxes of District residents. However, the Library Foundation helps fund projects that are not covered by tax dollars, such as the author series, Born to Read, and scholarships for **Career Online High School**. Your support has helped make St. Louis County Library a cornerstone of our community for 75 years.

Raise a Reader Program

St. Louis County Library in partnership with the St. Louis County Juvenile Office will be providing all children and teens a bag full of items at their final adoption hearings. Bags are divided into five different age categories (0–2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–12, 13–17) in order to provide appropriate materials. Bags include books, library informational pieces, finger puppets, journals, etc. depending on age. Since the courts have not opened back up for in person hearings, the St. Louis County Juvenile Office is exploring ways to get the bags into the hands of the kids/teens. Raise a Reader is funded by Delta Dental and the Library Foundation.



ILS Regional Collaboration

St. Louis County Library and St. Louis Public Library will begin sharing an integrated library system (ILS) in 2022. The new ILS will allow patrons from both library systems to access nearly 5 million items, making library materials more convenient and accessible for both St. Louis County and City residents to check out. The new shared catalog is expected to be complete in spring 2022. The new ILS will allow patrons across the region to seamlessly view, request, and check out material from either system.

SLCL and SLPL will begin using the Polaris ILS in 2022, a product of Innovative Interfaces Inc. Using Polaris, patrons can discover materials from either library system through a single search and have them delivered to their library of choice. Patrons will be able to use their current library card to access items from both systems.

“Increasing access to these valuable resources will be a tremendous benefit to users of both library systems,” said County Executive Dr. Sam Page. “Libraries unleash imaginations by linking us with a sea of information. And, working together, our libraries are providing more opportunities for our children and for the young at heart.”

“Our public libraries are a critical regional resource, and this exciting integration will make them even more accessible for everyone,” said Mayor Tishaura O. Jones. “I look forward to collaborating with St. Louis County to continue improving services across our area.”

Kristen Sorth, Director & CEO of St. Louis County Library said, “The continued regional collaboration between two fantastic library districts is getting stronger through a shared collection of library materials. Working closely together to address and remove barriers to library resources is important for the region.”

“Our systems are very fortunate to have such a wonderful working relationship and to see the importance of collaboration and how it benefits our customers,” said Waller McGuire, Chief Executive Officer for St. Louis Public Library. “This latest partnership will allow customers unlimited access to the breadth and depth of each collection, providing a greater scope of materials for each cardholder to use.”

This is a historic decision for the two library systems, which have regularly collaborated on projects to increase access to library programs and services. Including:

- Eliminating overdue fines in 2020, removing a significant barrier for many patrons
- Providing scholarships for adult learners to complete their high school diploma and earn a career certificate through the launch of the Career Online High School program in 2017.
- Introducing Wi-fi Hotspots for patron check out to help address the region’s digital divide
- Offering a reciprocal lending agreement for City and County residents for 28 years.

St. Louis area residents have long enjoyed the benefits of two outstanding library systems. This most recent collaboration opens up even greater opportunities for the two library systems to work together in the future.

To learn more about SLCL visit www.slcl.org. To learn more about SLPL visit www.slpl.org.

SLCL Selected as NASA @ My Library

St. Louis County Library offered a series of STEAM programs in November as part of NASA @ My Library. SLCL is one of 60 libraries nation-wide to have been selected to participate in the program. Selected libraries received resources, training and support to increase and enhance STEAM learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation, including geographic areas and populations currently underserved in STEAM education.

NASA @ My Library was made possible through the support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate as part of its Science Activation program.



NASA @ My Library Take Home Bags.

SLCL's NASA @ My Library programming included special story times, a virtual program about the James Webb Telescope, and take home bags that included a STEAM-based activity, a free book and a reading challenge. Additional programming will take place around major events including: James Webb Space Telescope First Image (May 2022) and the Collaborative Summer Library Program with an Oceanography theme (Summer 2022).



Story Time in the Stars with Andrea Walter of Youth Services.

A LOOK BACK | History & Genealogy

Sub-Zero Temperatures in St. Louis Cause Delays at Union Station

by Ellen Mays, *History & Genealogy*

On January 2, 1940, trains at Union Station in St. Louis, Missouri were running half an hour late due to sub-zero temperatures. At 6:00 a.m., the temperature reading was zero and by 7:00 a.m. had dropped to one below zero. By 8:00 a.m., the temperature at the Municipal Airport was three below. A cold north-western wind reached 17 miles an hour and cleared the city of smoke. Therefore, despite the sub-zero temperature, the sun was shining brightly. In addition to the trains running behind schedule, some motorists also experienced trouble with frozen radiators and engines that were

slow to start. However, no flights were canceled and there was minimal highway traffic. While the weather was extremely cold, with sub-zero temperatures, it was still not the coldest day in St. Louis history. January 4, 1884, still holds the record for the coldest day in St. Louis, when temperatures reached 26 degrees below zero.



St. Louis, MO Union Station 1942.



From the Stacks

"Yonder"—a story of hope

by Jennifer Alexander, Adult Collection Development Specialist

Most St. Louisans can readily list famous authors who got their start here. Tennessee Williams, T. S. Eliot, Maya Angelou, and Jonathan Franzen are a few of the often-cited St. Louis literary exports.

Jabari Asim, also from St. Louis, adds to his impressive body of work with his latest novel "Yonder." Asim currently directs the MFA program in creative writing at Emerson College in Boston and previously served as the book editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He is a prolific author, poet, playwright, and cultural critic. His books include fiction, nonfiction, and titles for children.

Asim was raised in St. Louis in the 1960s. The influence of both the place and the tumultuous era is evident in his work. Much of Asim's writing explores issues of social justice. His nonfiction books include "The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn't, and Why" and "We Can't Breathe: On Black Lives, White Lies, And the Art of Survival." His collection of poetry published in 2020 is titled "Stop and Frisk."

Asim's eight board books with rhymes for babies and toddlers include "Whose Knees are These?" and "My Baby Loves Halloween." He has also written books about history for slightly older children: "Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington" and "Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis."

"Yonder" is Asim's third work of fiction for adults. In 2010 he published a collection of linked stories called "A Taste of Honey." Asim set this collection and his 2015 novel "Only the Strong" in a fictionalized St. Louis called Gateway City. The cover of "Only the Strong" features a stylized, but unmistakable image of the Arch.

But for this novel, Asim leaves Gateway City and takes readers further back in history. "Yonder" tells the story of a group of people enslaved on two plantations. He writes of their friendships, romance, fears, and suffering. The focus of his story is their hope. Asim explores what gives his characters hope, how the absence of hope affects their lives, and how the steadfast longing for a better future influences their fates for good or for ill.

Language is a central theme in this novel about slavery and freedom. The characters have been given seven words at birth that

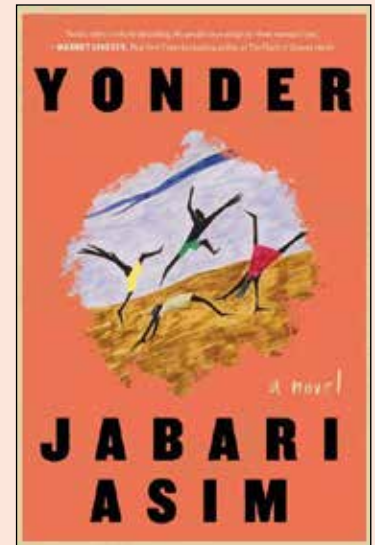
they are taught to repeat every morning. The repetition of the words given by their elders is intended to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

Throughout the novel, enslaved people refer to themselves and each other as Stolen. They call the landowners, along with wives and children, Thieves. Characters are not introduced as white or black, slave or free; they are either Stolen or Thieves. By using this specific language, and encapsulating the injustice right in the word, Asim illustrates how using different words influences thought and feeling.

The main tension in the novel is the choice between either abandoning hope and accepting a life of suffering or risking everything for a possible better future. Readers are introduced to many different reactions to this choice. One character muses "Part of you has been stolen, yes. But part of you is free as long as you can dream of something else. When you give that up, you're theirs, for true."

While much of the story is grim, and there are moments of intense drama, the suspense is secondary to the relationships between the characters.

Jabari Asim succeeds in the novelist's trick of telling a new story with familiar facts. Proud St. Louisans who wish to boast of our literary heritage can add his name to the list.

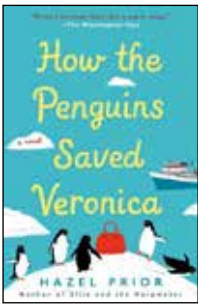


Personalized Reading

Let the library help you find your next book! Tell them about your reading preferences by filling out the **Personalized Reading form**. Readers' Advisory will suggest similar books that they think you may like based on what you say you're in the mood to read and what you've liked in the past. Your answers are strictly confidential. A list of 3–5 titles will be emailed to you in approximately one week.

Learn more at slcl.org/personalized-reading.

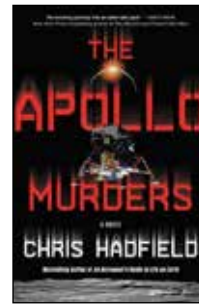
Readers' Advisory Reads for Winter



“How the Penguins Saved Veronica”

by Hazel Prior

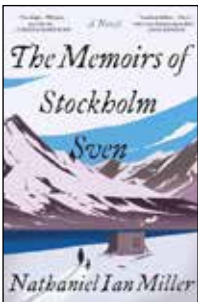
Will a trip to Antarctica to help penguins rescue a cranky octogenarian?



“The Apollo Murders”

by Chris Hadfield

In frozen outer space, someone is trying to kill our astronauts.



“The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven”

by Nathaniel Ian Miller

At the Arctic Circle, love can overcome tragedy.



“Girly Drinks”

by Mallory O'Meara

All drinks are girly drinks, according to this new history.

Foundation Funds Professional Development and Engagement

by Tarza Tawfiq, Employee Relations Coordinator

Applications for the Library Staff Development Cohort (SDC) are now open. The SDC is a 10-month intensive professional development program offered to library employees. The program is designed to increase knowledge about the inner workings of the organization and to develop additional skills. Each year, employees apply and are selected through a competitive application process. The SDC aims to foster an environment of learning and to increase awareness of library service including the introduction of the variety of career paths within the organization.

Employees who are full time, employed for at least one year and that do not possess a Masters in Library Science degree are eligible.

The Employee Engagement Committee (EEC) is a group of select employees who develop initiatives for all employees. They act as representatives of their branches, departments and specialized roles. These members are given the opportunity to survey and discuss ideas

with hundreds of employees to ensure the best possible forms of engagement in the workplace.

Financial support for the SDC and the EEC are provided by the Library Foundation.



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 of September 1, 2021 and November 15, 2021.

Mrs. Ellen Abramson
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Ms. Sandra Anderson
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Mr. Harry Charles
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Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Crowley
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Linh & Bob Dye
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Ms. Carol Flannery
Ms. Susan A. Fluegel

Miss Rishon Fontinel
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Weisberg-Frank
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Ms. Margaret Ganyard
Chen Gao
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Garfield
Mrs. Nancy Gelb
Bob & Nancy Gellman
Mr. Jim & Mrs. Jinny Gender
Daryl E. Giblin
Ms. Jane Gillespie
Mr. Jamil J. Glasby
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Mr. & Mrs. Ben Goldstein
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Mr. James Griffith
& Ms. Elizabeth Early
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Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Hackman
Mrs. Carolyn Hackworth
Ms. Gayla Hannon
Mr. Paul F. Hanpeter
Will & Judy Hansen
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Peggy & Larry Harris
Mary Ellen & Donald Hawf
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Alesha Henley
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Ms. Kathleen Hensler
Ms. Sue Herrmann
Ms. Jan Herweg
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Jeanne
Hevesy
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Lynn Hill
Ms. Audrey Holdsworth
Ms. Nancy Hope

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Mr. Richard & Mrs. Susan
Lederich

The St. Louis County Library Foundation is committed to enhance and enrich the library's educational and cultural mission by securing financial support beyond public funding, sponsoring programs and special projects, and serving as a library ambassador.

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Ms. Faith V. Logsdon
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Mr. & Mrs. Tony Louvier
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Mrs. Janet Mulholland

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Norman Wolff & Marcia B. King
Ms. Courtney M. Wood
John & Sandy Wootten
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Nell Wulff
Ms. Kim Zachritz
Mrs. Jacqueline Zeller
Eric & Stephanie Zimmerman
Mrs. Jennifer Zink

2022 Annual eMedia Blitz Programming

Every year, the St. Louis County Library offers programs where you can learn how to download free eMedia with your library card. You can enjoy eMedia on a device such as a computer, smartphone or tablet without having a physical copy. You can access eBooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows, music, magazines and comics through various library eMedia services.

Benefits of using eMedia:

There are benefits to using eMedia. The materials can be accessed any time—even when the library is closed. You can also customize certain aspects of the materials. For example, in eBooks, you have the ability to customize the size of the text and the font style to make it easier to read, and some audiobooks have the option of changing the speed, so you can speed up or slow down the narration.

Virtual Tech Talk: OverDrive with Libby—eBooks and Audiobooks

Tuesday, January 11, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Presented by Library Staff

Learn to find free eBooks and audiobooks using **Libby or OverDrive eMedia** on your mobile device, eReader or laptop. Your library card number and other account information may be needed. Adults. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. **To register visit slcl.org/events.**



Virtual Tech Talk: Hoopla—Movies, Music and More

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Presented by Library Staff

Learn to find free eBooks, audiobooks, comics, TV shows, movies and music using **Hoopla eMedia** on your mobile device or laptop. Your library card number and other account information may be needed. Adults. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information immediately after registering. **To register visit slcl.org/events.**



Virtual Tech Talk: Kanopy—Movies and Documentaries

Tuesday, January 25 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Presented by Library Staff

Learn to find free movies using **Kanopy eMedia** on your mobile device or laptop. Kanopy includes documentaries, indie and classic films, world cinema and more. Your library card number and other account information may be needed. Adults. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. **To register visit slcl.org/events.**



Virtual Tech Talk: eMagazine—Flipster and Libby

Tuesday, February 1, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Presented by Library Staff

Learn to find free electronic magazines using **Flipster and Libby eMedia** services through St. Louis County Library. Your library card number and other account information may be needed. Adults. Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. **To register visit slcl.org/events.**



Honors and Grants Received

The Library was awarded two grants totalling \$136,000 in fall of 2021. The Library was honored as the 2021 Community Partner of the Year at Eye Thrive's Spectacle Gala on October 1. It was also honored as the 2021 Champion of Change at the St. Louis Diaper Bank's virtual gala on October 22. The East-West Gateway Council of Governments presented the Outstanding Local Government Achievement Award to the Library in November.



October

The Library Automation Grant, \$60,000, to assist SLCL with upgrading the Library's integrated library system (ILS) and merging the SLCL catalog with that of St. Louis Public Library. The ILS is the backbone of a library's operation used in the creation of patron accounts, ordering materials, and adding and managing records for library materials. The ILS also tracks circulation transactions and provides a catalog for patrons to search for and access library materials.



Know Your Library Quiz

1. How many branches are part of the St. Louis County Library System?
2. Which is the Library's top circulated item: Adult books or Juvenile books?
3. How many Chromebooks does the library offer for patron use: A. 80
B. 135
C. 285
4. Does the library offer notary services?
5. How many patrons participate in the 2021 Fall into Fitness Challenge? A. 500
B. 1,300
C. 2,500

Answers: 1. 20; 2. Juvenile books; 3. C 4. Yes, beginning early 2022; 5. B



November

The Strengthen Missourian's Grant, \$76,000, to purchase a one-year license to Brainfuse.com. Brainfuse is an online resource provider for homework help and tutoring, career services, and veteran's support.. Brainfuse offers innovative services designed to meet patron needs. Users decide how they want to acquire a skill or grasp a concept, and Brainfuse gives them the tools to master it. This resource would be beneficial to a broad range of ages as it supports students, those looking for employment or advancement in their career, and veterans looking for VA benefits.

Upcoming author events

Due to COVID-19, many author events are being held virtually with our media partner, HEC-TV. The events will be broadcast simultaneously on **Facebook.com/STLCoLibrary** and on the **Higher Education Channel at Spectrum 989 and AT&T U-verse 99.** A Facebook account is not required to watch these events. Past events are available to view at <https://hecmedia.org/category/literature/virtual-events/>.

In-Person Events: Mask Required for Admission—A properly worn mask covering your mouth and nose is required at all times during in-person events.



Anna Malaika Tubbs
Monday, January 17
Virtual



Alafair Burke
Tuesday, January 18
Virtual



Laura Coates
Friday, February 4
In-person



Robert Child
Tuesday, February 2
Virtual



Mashama Bailey
Thursday, February 17
In-person



Joel Schwartz
Saturday, February 26
In-person



C.J. Box
Wednesday, March 9
In-person



Brad Meltzer
Friday, March 18
In-person

In-person author events

Thursday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.

James Rollins, “The Starless Crown”

Internationally bestselling author of the Sigma Force adventure-thriller series, James Rollins now returns to his origins in speculative fiction. “The Starless Crown” launches a new epic fantasy series about the clash of might and magic and an unlikely fellowship of heroes. The story follows Nyx, a gifted student who foretells an apocalypse. Because of this, she’s condemned to death, forced to flee into the wild and ally herself with a team of outcasts, each with their own dark pasts and secret motives. On the run, hunted by enemies old and new, they must learn to trust each other in order to survive in a world evolved in strange, beautiful, and deadly ways. **In-person event.**

Friday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.

Laura Coates, “Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor’s Fight for Fairness”

Keynote event for St. Louis County Library’s 2022 Black History Celebration
CNN’s Senior Legal Analyst Laura Coates started her career as a prosecutor, serving as the Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and a Trial Attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. She wanted to advocate for the most vulnerable among us, but quickly realized that even with the best intentions, “the pursuit of justice creates injustice.” On the front lines of our legal system, Coates saw how Black communities are policed differently; Black cases are prosecuted differently; Black defendants are judged differently. Through revelatory and captivating scenes from the courtroom, Laura Coates explores the tension between the idealism of the law and the reality of working within the parameters of our flawed legal system. **In-person event.**

Thursday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.

Mashama Bailey and John O. Morisano, “Black, White, and The Grey: The Story of an Unexpected Friendship and a Beloved Restaurant”

Presented by the St. Louis County Library 2022 Black History Celebration

In partnership with Sauce Magazine

Chef Mashama Bailey and restaurateur John O. Morisano share how they went from tentative business partners to dear friends while turning a dilapidated formerly segregated Greyhound bus station into The Grey, now one of the most celebrated restaurants in the country. Recounting the trying process of building their restaurant business, they examine their most painful and joyous times, revealing how they came to understand their differences, recognize their biases, and continuously challenge themselves and each other to be better. Through it all, Bailey and Morisano display how two citizens commit to playing their own small part in advancing equality against a backdrop of racism. **In-person event.**

Saturday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

Joel J. Schwartz and Charles Bosworth, Jr., “Bone Deep: Untangling the Betsy Faria Murder Case”

In conversation with St. Louis Post Dispatch reporter Robert Patrick
Two days after Christmas, 2011, Russel Faria returned to his Troy, Missouri home to find his wife, Betsy, murdered. The brutal crime set off a chain of events leading to one man’s wrongful conviction and imprisonment, another man’s death, the revelation of a diabolical scheme, and an astounding miscarriage of justice left unresolved for another 10 years. Joel Schwartz, the defense attorney who fought for justice on behalf of Russel Faria, and New York Times bestselling author Charles Bosworth, Jr. present the explosive, first-ever insider’s account of the case that’s captivated millions. **In-person event.**

* Please check the library’s website. Dates and other details may change.

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

C.J. Box, “Shadows Reel”

C.J. Box returns with a new thriller in his #1 internationally bestselling series starring Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett. A day before Joe’s three daughters come home for Thanksgiving, Joe is called out for a moose poaching incident that turns out to be something much more sinister. At the same time, his wife Marybeth opens an unmarked package at the library where she works and finds a photo album that belonged to an infamous Nazi official. As Joe and Marybeth work to unravel the mysteries behind these seemingly unrelated incidents, they find their family drawn into the crosshairs of a pair of dangerous killers.

In-person event.

Friday, March 18, 7:00 p.m.

Brad Meltzer, “The Lightning Rod: A Zig and Nola Novel”

#1 bestselling author Brad Meltzer presents the highly anticipated follow-up to his thriller “The Escape Artist,” featuring Nola and Zig, the most charismatic new crime-solving duo we’ve seen in decades. When mortician “Zig” Zigarowski is working on a body, he uncovers clues about a top-secret military base and a connection to military artist and Sergeant First Class Nola Brown. Two years ago, Nola saved Zig’s life—so he knows better than most that she’s as dangerous as a bolt of lightning. As Zig tries to track Nola down, his investigation leads to one of the U.S. government’s most intensely guarded secrets. **In-person event.**

Virtual author events

Thursday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.

Sophie Burrows, “Crushing”

Reading Garden Series for Young Audiences

British author and illustrator Sophie Burrows presents her debut graphic novel for young adult readers—that will appeal to readers of all ages! “Crushing” is a story told in silence, but bursting with meaning; a story about loneliness and love. Though it follows two individuals as their lives slowly converge, “Crushing” is about so much more than romantic love. It is about all those small moments of human connection—a shared glance, a nod, a gesture of kindness—that cut through one’s solitude. Achingly beautiful and full of subtle wit and wisdom, “Crushing” is a unique meditation on the human condition in the 21st century, and a timely examination of young adult life in an age of isolation.

Virtual event.

Monday, January 17, 7:00 p.m.

Anna Malaika Tubbs, “The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation”

Kick-off event for the 2022 Black History Celebration

Berdis Baldwin, Alberta King, and Louise Little were all born at the beginning of the 20th century and forced to contend with the prejudices of Jim Crow as Black women. These three extraordinary women passed their knowledge to their children with the hope of helping them to survive in a society that would deny their humanity from the very beginning—from Louise teaching her children about their activist roots, to Berdis encouraging James to express himself through writing, to Alberta basing all of her lessons in faith and social justice. These three mothers taught resistance and a fundamental belief in the worth of Black people to their sons, even when these beliefs flew in the face of America’s racist practices and led to ramifications for all three families’ safety. These women, their similarities and differences, as individuals and as mothers, represent a piece of history left untold and a celebration of Black motherhood long overdue. **Virtual event.**



Congressman Adam Schiff discussed his book “Midnight in Washington” with Jason Kander, October 29 at St. Louis County Library Headquarters.

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.

Alafair Burke, “Find Me”

Conversation hosted by Alafair’s friends and fellow bestselling suspense authors Michael Connelly and Michael Koryta!

New York Times bestselling mystery author Alafair Burke presents a dark, twisty thriller about memory, friendship and secrets. She calls herself Hope Miller, but she has no idea who she actually is. Fifteen years ago, she was thrown from an overturned vehicle and left with no clue to her identity. Hope eventually started a new life in a new town that welcomed her, yet always wondered what she may have left behind—or been running from. Now, she’s vanished again—the only lead a drop of blood found where she was last seen. Even more ominously, the blood matches a DNA sample with a connection to a notorious murderer.

Virtual event.

Monday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

Lisa Lutz, “The Accomplice”

In conversation with internationally bestselling suspense author Megan Abbott

From the author of the bestselling Spellman Files series, “The Accomplice” is an edge-of-your-seat thriller where every answer raises a chilling new question. Opposites in nearly every way, Owen and Luna have been best friends since college. Everyone wonders what binds them together—and why they have never been a couple. When Owen’s wife is brutally murdered, the police investigation sheds some light on long-buried secrets, but it can’t penetrate the mystery that surrounds Owen and Luna’s friendship. “The Accomplice” brilliantly examines the bonds of shared history, what it costs to break them, and what happens when you start wondering how well you know the one person who truly knows you. **Virtual event.**

Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Robert Child, “Immortal Valor: The Black Medal of Honor Winners of World War II”

Presented by St. Louis County Library’s 2022 Black History Celebration Historian and film director Robert Child presents the remarkable story of the seven African American soldiers ultimately awarded the World War II Medal of Honor, and the 50-year campaign to deny them their recognition. In 1945, Congress recommended awarding the Medal of Honor to 432 World War II veterans. Despite the fact that more than one million African-Americans served, not a single black soldier received the Medal of Honor. Ultimately, in 1993 a U.S. Army commission determined that seven men had been denied the Army’s highest award simply due to racial discrimination. Fifty years after the war, President Clinton finally awarded the Medal of Honor to the seven heroes. Robert Child’s “Immortal Valor” shares these soldiers’ acts of courage and sacrifice. **Virtual event.**

Focus on Friends



Full Name: Sam Bertolet

Place of Employment and Job Title (Former if retired): Retired Assistant U.S. Attorney

Friend of the Foundation Since: 2014

Your library branch: Mid-County (Clayton)

Favorite Author or Genre of Books? Agatha Christie, Tolstoy and Jane Austen. Detective Fiction.

Traditional book or eBook? Kindle

Best part about the library? Reading nooks

What is the one classic novel you always meant to, but never got around to reading? Les Miserables

If you could have dinner with one author dead or alive, who would it be and why? Graham Greene: He writes in so many genres, mystery, religion, histories. He is also grounded in movies as a critic and screenwriter.

What is one book you wish they would turn into a movie or one book that was better than the movie? The best movie of Anna Karenina has yet to be made.

Best vacation you have ever taken and why?

Long Vacation: Musical cruise of the Danube from Budapest to Prague.

Short Vacation : NYC Daniil Trifinov & New York Philharmonic, Hamilton & Frank Stella retrospective.

Why did you become a Friend of the Foundation? The Speaker series, especially the Westfall series. I used to work for “Buzz” (Westfall.)

You lend one of your favorite books to a friend. They return the book with a cracked spine and dog-eared pages. Do you address the issue? Please select one answer.

A. Who cares! It's a Friends after all.

B. No, I wouldn't say anything, but it would annoy me all day.

C. Yes, I would be upfront with my disappointment.

D. Irrelevant, I would never lend a book.

Not only did you forget that book club is at your house, you didn't even read the book. What do you do? Please select one answer.

A. Don't admit anything. Maybe no one will notice

B. Peruse the book club discussion questions to piece together a plotline.

C. Admit it you haven't read the book right out of the gate (and listen to discussion.)

D. Confess you haven't read the book, but out another member of not reading the book as well.

Foundation Board Members Stepping Down

The Library Foundation thanks its retiring Board members for their years of service.

Neil Jaffe

14 years

Steve Rhoades

10 years

Gerry Jehling

7 years

Kristin Thompson Poelker

5 years



Executive Director, Foundation and Development Manager, Jackie Hamilton, Neil Jaffe, Steve Rhoades and Board Vice President Linda Legg.

Gifts Received

The following are donations received by the Foundation May 2021 through November 2021. We appreciate all those who have donated to the Foundation in support of Library programs and services.

May

PNC Foundation, \$20,000, in support of the Born to Read program.

June

Rich and Stephany Kniep, \$54,997, for Ladue branch children's space.



August

Donald and Mary Wallace, \$5,000, in support of History & Genealogy.

September

Emerson, \$40,000, in support of the Storytelling Festival in 2022.

Lux Living, \$10,000, in support of the Born to Read Program.

October

Citi, \$30,000, for a partnership with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis to support literacy efforts at their Head Start facility in St. Louis County.

November

Anonymous, \$5,000, in support of Gift of Reading program.



Gifts and Tributes

The Library Foundation offers a special opportunity to honor and remember a loved one, friend or colleague. A donation to 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.

The following is a list of people who gave gifts or tributes between the dates of September 15, 2021 to November 23, 2021.

In Memory of:

Ms. Katy Burr
Mr. and Mrs. Vince Misuraca

Ms. Katie Doran
Ms. Erin M Lally

Ms. Ramona Dunn
Mrs. Sheila Cohen
Mrs. Janet Morey

Ms. Dolores M. Litteken
Anonymous

Mrs. Georgia Morton
Mrs. Martha Jane Oberman
Mrs. Lori Wear

Mrs. Anna Belle Pace
Anonymous

In Honor of:

Tracy & Marshall Lehman & Silvermintz
Ms. Miranda M Todd

Mr. Kurt K. Reynolds
Mrs. Eloise Reynolds

St. Louis Metropolitan Sugar Art Guild
Mrs. Debra Reichert
St. Louis Metropolitan Sugar Art Guild

Ms. Deborah Patterson
Ms. Tony Schneider

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert."

—Andrew Carnegie



St. Louis County Library Foundation

St. Louis County Library Foundation
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131
foundation.slcl.org

Return to in-person author events

MASKS REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES

Friday, February 4
7:00 p.m.

Laura Coates

"Just Pursuit: A Black
Prosecutor's Fight for Fairness"
Keynote event for the
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Go to foundation.slcl.org/events for more information about these and other author visits.