

Friends

of the St. Louis County Library Foundation



St. Louis County Library
Foundation

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Summer 2021 / Volume 20, No. 1



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New and renewing Friends



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Upcoming virtual author visits

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Friends Newsletter

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St. Louis County Library
Foundation

Give STL Day Raises Over \$18,000

by Courtney Wood, Friends Coordinator

The Foundation raised more than \$18,000 on Give STL Day to support literacy, tutoring and technology needs. Thank you to all those who donated and shared our campaign.

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Give STL Day donations help fund tutoring.

Grants Received

The Foundation was awarded several grants in late 2020 and early 2021 for a variety of programming. Below is a list of funds received from October 2020 through April 2021. Thank you to all our sponsors.

October 2020

- **Delta Dental of Missouri**, \$10,000 for Born to Read and toothbrushes to add to Born to Read bags.

December 2020

- **Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust**, \$19,000 for COVID Response – Chromebook/hotspot bundles for circulation.

March 2021

- **Norman J. Stupp Foundation**, \$18,056 for COVID Response – Chromebook/hotspot bundles for circulation

April 2021

- **Boeing Employee Community Fund**, \$5,150 for Oasis Intergenerational Tutoring.

The library was awarded several grants during the same period.

December 2020

- **Technology Mini Grant**, \$5,700 from the Missouri State Library for portable projectors to circulate at the branches.

January 2021

- **Summer Reading Program Grant**, \$7,114 from the Missouri State Library to support a pilot Summer Reading Club by Mail project for students of Jennings and Hancock Place school districts.



Foundation to Support Community Resource Initiative

St. Louis County Library, in partnership with the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund, will be launching the Community Resource Initiative, which will bring social workers to five library branches to address the barriers of accessing social services, providing trust referrals to other community partners and equipping library employees to handle crisis situations.

"The Foundation is proud to financially support this initiative," said St. Louis County Library Foundation President Brian Davies. "Having professional social workers on site can only bring added value to the Library's already abundant list of services. Proving once again that the Library is ever-evolving to meet the needs of the community and the Foundation is here to support those efforts any way we can."

Starting in the fall, SLCL will strategically connect high-need patrons with experienced generalist practitioners at the following branches: Florissant Valley, Lewis & Clark, Natural Bridge, Rock Road and Weber Road.



Kristen Sorth, St. Louis County Library Director & CEO said, "Having social workers at the Library will be a perfect complement to our amazing employees. Many people come to the library looking for answers, information and compassion. Adding social workers, strengthens and expands our ability to support individuals and connect them with community resources."

The initiative will also allow the social worker to create programs suited to each branch's specific needs, such as a youth-oriented program for a branch with a high number of unaccompanied youth. More details about the program will be announced over the next few months.



2021 Fund the Need Week August 23–27

by Courtney Wood, Friends Coordinator

In lieu of a gala this year, we will be hosting an online Fund the Need Week: Monday, August 23 through Friday, August 27.

The week will conclude with a casual, outdoor Food Truck Celebration, Friday, August 27. Join us in supporting the St. Louis County Library and their continued efforts to provide resources and services to the region. With support from Community Partners and donors like you,

the library is able to offer fresh fruits and vegetables to food deserts, provide computers and internet access to those without and hire social workers to care for high-need patrons.

Help us reach our goal of \$150,000 to continue these efforts.



Join the outdoor
FOOD TRUCK CELEBRATION
Friday, August 27 from 6:00–9:00 p.m.
at Library Headquarters.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

You'll enjoy plenty of food, drinks and live entertainment as we watch the final numbers. **For more information or to donate visit foundation@slcl.org.**



Eureka Hills Branch Now Open

On Wednesday, June 2 the new \$6.5 million full-service Eureka Hills Branch opened to the public. The new branch is located at 500 Workman Road in Eureka, Missouri. The new branch replaces the former Eureka Hills Branch, located at 156 Eureka Towne Center. Learn more about the new branch by visiting: slcl.org/content/building-projects-eureka-hills-branch



Plenty of seating areas.



McBride & Son Homes children's area.



Library Board Trustees, County Executive, Library Director & CEO, Library staff and local officials.



From the Stacks

Good Neighbors?

by Jennifer Alexander, Adult Collection Development Specialist

To feel safe and secure at home, many people install video doorbells, communicate on neighborhood message boards, and even organize street-by-street patrols to identify suspicious behavior. The goal is to thwart potential problems and calm fears. The question is, does it work?

Megan Miranda explores this in her latest thriller “Such a Quiet Place.” Miranda has written many books for teens and adults, most featuring plot twists, menacing atmospheres, and unreliable narrators. Many of her titles have been bestsellers, including “All the Missing Girls” and “The Girl from Widow Hills.” Her 2019 novel “The Last House Guest,” was selected as a book club pick by Reese Witherspoon, one of book world’s newest tastemakers. The moody psychological suspense that has won her many fans is at the center of “Such a Quiet Place.”

Hollow’s Edge is a tight-knit community in a college town. Most residents have lived there for years. They know each other, spend summer days at the neighborhood pool, have block parties, trade house keys for dog-walking help, and generally keep an eye out for one another.

This idyllic peace evaporates when a couple is found dead in their home. The investigators, using video footage and eyewitness testimony, accuse resident Ruby Fletcher, who is tried and sent to prison for murder.

The novel opens 14 months later, when Ruby’s trial is deemed unlawful, and her conviction is overturned. A taxi drops Ruby at the house where she had been living before the trial with her friend Harper Mills. Ruby seems ready to resume her previous life as if most of her neighbors had not suspected her and testified against her.

The neighborhood is instantly thrown into a nervous frenzy. Most believe that Ruby is indeed guilty and that she was freed on a technicality. Ruby’s former roommate Harper is unsure about Ruby – unsure about her guilt or innocence, and especially unsure about her motives for returning.

Readers rely on Harper to narrate the unfolding tale of Ruby’s return and what it reveals about the crime. But Harper has spent the last year or so questioning everything she thought she knew about

herself, her friend, and her neighbors. As she tries to figure out Ruby’s intentions while at the same time maintaining relationships with the increasingly fearful neighbors, Harper investigates her own feelings of insecurity and suspicion.

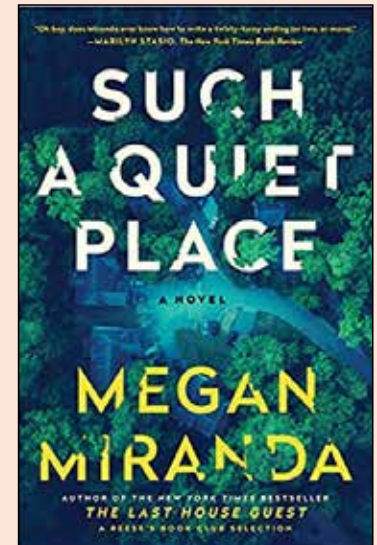
Ruby’s return forces the residents of Hollow’s Edge to consider what they said during the investigation, what they did not say, and how they testified during the trial. Harper decides that the existence of video surveillance and the watchful eyes of the neighborhood do not always add up to clear answers.

While you are tracking the movements of one neighbor, others are watching you. Instead of feeling protected and secure, the residents end up feeling defensive and suspicious. How things appear become as important as how things are.

Robert Frost’s 1914 poem “Mending Wall” concludes with the line “Good fences make good neighbors.” Many interpret that line and the poem to be an affirmation of boundaries. But a closer look yields a more nuanced meaning.

The poem depicts two men meeting once a year to repair a stone wall between their properties. The narrator questions whether the wall is needed at all. He begins “Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.” His neighbor simply repeats the aphorism about fences and neighbors. One might conclude that it is not the barrier that makes these two good neighbors, but the ritual of working together despite their differences.

Similarly, the residents of the fictional neighborhood of Hollow’s Edge find that cameras, patrols, and message boards without relationships and trust will not keep you safe.



Sip & Swap

BONUS PICKS

Did you miss this year's **Sip & Swap Book (Ideas) Exchange?** Many of our attendees shared their own book recommendations. Below are their suggestions. Want to be invited next year? Make sure to renew at the Book of the Month Friends level or higher, and provide your email address to join us.

"A Thousand Ships"
by Natalie Haynes

"All the Ways We Said Goodbye"
by Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, and Karen White

"The Cuckoo's Calling"
by Robert Galbraith

"The Great Trouble"
by Deborah Hopkinson

"The Guest List"
by Lucy Foley

"Hamnet"
by Maggie O'Farrell

"The House in the Cerulean Sea"
by TJ Klune

"The Hunting Party"
by Lucy Foley

"Last Boat out of Shanghai"
by Helen Zia

"Leave the World Behind"
by Rumaan Alam

"Light a Penny Candle"
by Maeve Binchy

"Little Cruelties"
by Liz Nugent

"The Midnight Library"
by Matt Haig

"Mike Nichols: A Life"
by Mark Harris

"Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore"
by Robin Sloan

"Only the Stones Survive"
by Morgan Llywelyn

"Radium Girls"
by Kate Moore

"Scattered Lights"
by Steve Wiegenstein

"The Secret History of the Pink Carnation"
by Lauren Willig

"Short Stories of Langston Hughes"
by Langston Hughes

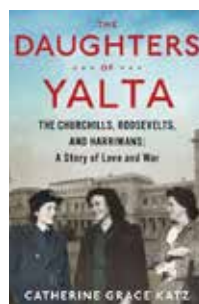
"Winter Counts"
by David Heska Wanbli Weiden

Readers' Advisory Reads for Summer



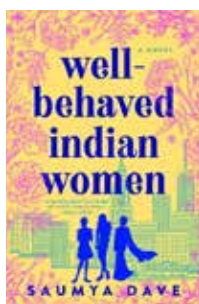
"Girls with Bright Futures"
by Tracy Dobmeier & Wendy Katzman

On the heels of the Varsity Blues scandal, a thriller that asks how far will mothers go to get their daughters into a top school?



"The Daughters of Yalta"
by Catherine Grace Katz

A nonfiction account of the Harriman, Churchill and Roosevelt daughters who attended a critical WW2 conference and held family secrets.



"Well Behaved Indian Women"
by Saumya Dave

Mothers, daughters, secrets, and conflicts stymie three generations of Indian women.



"The Last Exiles"
by Ann Shin

Inspired by a true story, a Romeo and Juliet tale of two North Korean lovers who endure severe hardship and separation to be together.

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 October 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.

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Upcoming virtual author events

Due to COVID-19, 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/>.



We would like to thank our presenting sponsor, Webster University, for supporting the St. Louis County Library Author Series.



Laura McHugh
Thursday, July 1



Dr. Michele Harper
Wednesday, July 7



Kristin Harmel
Thursday, July 8



Annie England Noblin
Monday, July 12



Debbie Macomber
Thursday, July 15



Alan Maimon
Monday, July 19



Nicola Harrison
Wednesday, August 11



Martha Ackmann
Wednesday, August 18

July

Thursday, July 1, 7:00 p.m.

Laura McHugh, "What's Done in Darkness"

In conversation with mystery writer Jill Orr

Wednesday, July 7, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Michele Harper, "The Beauty in Breaking"

In conversation with Dr. Kendra Holmes
Medical Arts Series event

Thursday, July 8, 7:00 p.m.

Kristin Harmel, "The Forest of Vanishing Stars"

In conversation with novelist Fiona Davis

Monday, July 12, 7:00 p.m.

Annie England Noblin, "Maps for the Getaway"

Thursday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.

Debbie Macomber, "It's Better This Way"

Monday, July 19, 7:00 p.m.

Alan Maimon, "Twilight in Hazard: An Appalachian Reckoning"

Thursday, July 22, 7:00 p.m.

Karin Tanabe, "A Woman of Intelligence"

In conversation with Ashley Hasty, creator of the book review website HastyBooklist.com

Wednesday, July 28, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Leana Wen, "Lifelines: A Doctor's Journey in the Fight for Public Health"

Medical Arts Series event

August

Tuesday, August 3, 7:00 p.m.

Eddie Glaude Jr., "Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own"

In conversation with Gerald Early

Thursday, August 5, 7:00 p.m.

Megan Abbott, "The Turnout"

In conversation with bestselling suspense author Paula Hawkins

Wednesday, August 11, 7:00 p.m.

Nicola Harrison, "The Show Girl"

In conversation with Ashley Hasty, creator of the book review website HastyBooklist.com

Wednesday, August 18, 7:00 p.m.

Martha Ackmann, "These Fevered Dreams: The Pivotal Moments in the Making of Emily Dickinson"

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.

Virtual Friends Reception with Karin Tanabe



Photo by Tim Coburn

Monday, July 19, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a private Friends Zoom reception with historical novelist, Karin Tanabe, author of “A Woman of Intelligence,” **Monday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m.** **Check your email for your personal invitation.* From “a master of historical fiction” (NPR), Karin Tanabe’s “A Woman of Intelligence” is a fast-paced classic spy thriller that shimmers with intrigue and desire. A Fifth Avenue address, parties at the Plaza, and the ideal husband: what looks like a perfect life for Katharina Edgeworth is anything but. It’s 1954 and the post-war American dream has become a nightmare. So when Katharina is approached by the FBI and asked to join their ranks as an informant, Katharina seizes the opportunity. A man from her past has become a high-level Soviet spy, but no one has been able to infiltrate his circle. Enter Katharina, the perfect woman for the job.

Registration required.

**Friends at the Book of the Month level or higher receive invitations to Friends receptions.*

An Evening with Leonard Slatkin



Photo by Nico Rodamel

Monday, September 13, 7:00 p.m.

The St. Louis County Library Foundation, the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis and Co-Chairs Gerry and Judy Jehling invite you to join us for a one-of-a-kind fundraising event with renowned conductor, composer and author Leonard Slatkin on **Monday, September 13, 7:00 p.m.** at St. Louis County Library Headquarters.

The Grammy Award-winning, Conductor Laureate and former Music Director for St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, will discuss the release of his third book, “Classical Crossroads: The Path Forward for Music in the 21st Century” with CEO and General Manager at Classic 107.3, John Clare. Guests will enjoy a live performance by Leonard Slatkin of Anderson–The Typewriter (arr. C. Woehr), a pre-recorded performance of Ives “Variations on America” (arr. McCall) and a live performance by Chamber Music

Society of St. Louis string quartet members. **Each ticket buyer will also receive an early release, autographed copy of Slatkin’s latest book.**

For an additional donation, guests can mingle in-person with Maestro Slatkin at an exclusive pre-event cocktail reception from 5:30–6:30 p.m. held at Library Headquarters hosted by Jim and Mary Forsyth. Tickets are limited. The Foundation and Chamber are mindful of all CDC guidelines and social distancing requirements. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis County Library

Foundation and the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis. **For more information or to purchase tickets visit foundation.slcl.org.**



Ticket Prices

INDIVIDUAL TICKET—\$45. Admits ONE and includes one copy of “Classical Crossroads”
OR

PACKAGE TICKET—\$75. Admits TWO and includes one copy of “Classical Crossroads.”

VIP TICKETS—\$150. Admits ONE and includes cocktail reception and one copy of “Classical Crossroads.”

Tickets go on sale Monday, August 2 and can be purchased through www.slcl.org. Friends pre-sale begins Friday, July 30.

Focus on Friends



Full Name: Sarah Bowman

Place of Employment and Job Title:

PNC Bank, Vice President, Client and Community Relations Assistant Director

Foundation Board Member Since:

2021

Friend of the Foundation Since: 2021

Your library branch: I surf from one branch to the next, but you're most likely to see me at Headquarters, Grant's View or Mid-County.

Favorite Author or Genre of Books? Lately it's been nonfiction, specifically autobiographies or political exploration.

Traditional book or eBook? Traditional.

Best part about the library? Getting lost in the aisles or watching my young daughters develop their own love of libraries.

What is the one classic novel you always meant to, but never got around to reading? I'm almost embarrassed to admit it... Pride and Prejudice.

If you could have dinner with one author dead or alive, who would it be and why? Nicholas Kristof. I find his ability to simplify complex issues mesmerizing. His words help me formulate my own opinion and that draws me in time and time again.

What is one book you wish they would turn into a movie or one book that was better than the movie? "Just Mercy," I really enjoyed the book but felt the movie overlooked some key points that speak to the dynamics of civil rights legal aid.

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 I haven't read the book right out of the gate.

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

Know Your Library Quiz

1. How many authors did the St. Louis Teen Book Festival feature?
2. eMedia made up 15%, 20% or 25% of all checkouts in 2020 compared to 13% in 2019?
3. How many self-check computers does SLCL have in total?
4. Which branch averages the most curbside transactions?
5. How many community gardens does SLCL have in total?
 - a. Bonus: Can you name which branches?

Answers: 1. 39; 2. 25%; 3. 80; 4. Daniel Boone; 5. 4; 5a. Bonus: Prairie Commons, Grant's View, Cliff Cave, Meramec Valley





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.

The following is a list of people who gave gifts or tributes between the dates of October 16, 2020 and May 20, 2021.

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St. Louis County Library Foundation

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

Upcoming virtual author events

Thursday, July 22
7:00 p.m.

Karin Tanabe

“A Woman of Intelligence”

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HastyBooklist.com



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In conversation with Gerald Early



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7:00 p.m.

Megan Abbott

“The Turnout”

In conversation with bestselling
suspense author Paula Hawkins



Go to foundation.slcl.org/events for more information about these and other author visits.