NEA Big Read Author Visits Union

Scenic Regional Library and its partners—Washington Public Library, East Central College, and the East Central Literacy Council—concluded their NEA Big Read grant on November 5. The keynote program included a performance by Early Music Missouri, “Scenes and Songs from William Shakespeare's England”, and an interview with Station Eleven author Emily St. John Mandel. Mike Thomas, morning show host and program director for KFAV and program director for KWRE in Warrenton, conducted the interview. After the interview, the author answered questions from the audience and signed books. Approximately 140 people attended the program, which was held at East Central College’s John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center.

The goal of the NEA Big Read was to get as many people in the community reading and discussing the same book. Station Eleven, a post-apocalyptic science fiction novel, was selected as the library’s NEA Big Read selection. The library and its partners presented 64 programs related to the themes in the novel, such as Shakespeare and survival skills. The programs were attended by 1,495 people.

Fifteen programs, including the keynote, were held at the Washington Public Library and East Central College. Forty-nine programs of those programs, including book discussions, were held at Scenic Regional Library branches, which were attended by 901 people.

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.
Missouri Evergreen Collection Surpasses 3.3 Million Items; Largest in State

Scenic Regional Library patrons will soon be able to request books, music CDs, audiobooks on CD, and DVDs from a public library collection exceeding 3.3 million items. On December 2, Barry-Lawrence Regional Library will join Missouri Evergreen. The two-county library system is located in southwest Missouri and will be the consortium’s 45th member.

With the addition of Barry-Lawrence Public Library, Missouri Evergreen surpasses Mid-Continent Public Library (3,323,565 items in 2018) as having the largest public library collection in Missouri with 3,334,297 items. St. Louis County Library reported having 3,012,055 items in 2018. The Barry-Lawrence Regional Library will add 26,539 patrons and 198,651 items to the Missouri Evergreen consortium, which already serves 729,323 residents.

Missouri Evergreen is a statewide resource-sharing consortium launched by the Missouri State Library for public libraries in 2012. Scenic Regional Library has been a member since January 2014. In the 2018-2019 fiscal year alone, Scenic Regional borrowed and lent over 117,000 items with other Missouri Evergreen member-libraries. Five additional public libraries are scheduled to join Missouri Evergreen in 2020, including Montgomery City Public Library. Scenic Regional Library Director Steve Campbell currently serves on the Missouri Evergreen Board of Directors, and served as the organization’s president from 2016 to 2018.

Staff Development Day

The library’s branches were closed for its fifth annual staff development day on November 1. Unlike in the past, where the event consisted of multiple break-out sessions on a variety of topics, there was a single presenter this year. Ryan Dowd, an attorney, activist, and director of Illinois’ second largest homeless shelter, presented the “Homeless Training Institute.” The presenter’s fees were paid entirely by a grant through the Missouri State Library. Mr. Dowd presents to libraries all over the country on the topic.

Seventy-seven Scenic Regional staff members attended the event, along with guests from other public libraries, including Missouri River Regional Library, Trails Regional Library, University City Library, and Washington Public Library. Becky Wilson, Public Library Services Consultant with the Missouri State Library, also attended the session.
Union Friends Group Holds Fundraiser

On November 12, the Union branch Friends of the Library group held a naming rights auction event at the branch as a fundraiser. Union was the library’s eighth branch to hold an auction.

Individuals, businesses, and organizations were able to bid on the naming rights for thirteen areas in the new library for one year. The areas which were available for naming were the three outdoor patios; three meeting rooms; three study rooms; adult, teen, and children’s reading areas; and the service desk.

The winning bidder for each area will have a 22” x 28” full-color, framed sign placed in the area with the name of the individual, business, or organization, along with a photograph or logo. Bidders may also name an area in honor of a loved one, or in memory of someone. Bidding for each area began at $150.

The event raised $3,250. They also sold $1,200 in donor wall books and $140 of raffle tickets at the event. After expenses, the event raised $4,500. Funds from the event will go toward additional programming, equipment, and other items at the Union branch.

Wine and spirits were provided by Pinckney Bend Distillery and Blumenhof Winery. Music was provided by local musician Mike Rufkahr. David Sutton served as the auctioneer.

Winning Bidders for Union Branch Friends of the Library Naming Rights’ Auction:

Teen Area – Dolan Realty
Children’s Area – Schicker Ford
Children’s Patio – Schicker Ford
Adult Lounge – Jane Dill
Adult Café – Bruce Templar
Adult Patio – Schroeder Insurance
Service Desk – Dolan Realty
Study Rooms – Paula Sutton, Dolan Realty, Schroeder Insurance
Front Patio – Johnny’s Restaurant
Meeting Rooms – Dolan Realty, Steve & Ashley Campbell

Teens at the Union branch making Shrinky Dink jewelry.
Write on our JOY board the next time you visit us in the Hermann branch!
The new children’s programmer at the Warrenton branch reading to the kids at daycare for Community Helpers Week!
**Staff Picks**


“Runnin’ with the Devil” is the perfect summer read for any 80’s music fan! It takes you behind the scenes of their infamous tours and wild escapades to their coming of age and crazy behavior, which eventually lead to the undoing and breakup of the band. It’s a fun rock memoir to read, and reminds me of waiting in line with my friends to get tickets to all our favorite bands over the summer!

-Kerry, Adult Programmer, Warrenton Branch

**“These Honored Dead” by Jonathan F. Putnam**

Are you a fan of Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, and maybe even Abraham Lincoln? I came across a series I absolutely love that has the same dynamics of friendship, respect, mystery, and now history. The series is called The Lincoln and Speed Mysteries by Johnathan F. Putnam. The first book, “These Honored Dead,” is a book about Abraham Lincoln and his real-life best friend Joshua Speed set in the Historical Fiction Genre. After you read the book the author explains the research he compiled to write the book and how factual the books really are. I found that part fascinating.

The book begins with Lincoln and Speed meeting in Springfield, IL and becoming friends (before Lincoln ever thought of becoming President). We get an insight into what Lincoln was like as a young man with humble beginnings but a determination to go into Law. Speed is from a wealthy family and decides to move to Springfield, IL to find his own way as a shop keeper. Their lives are intertwined when someone close to Speed is murdered and he and Lincoln work together to solve the crime and bring the murderer to justice, even though this will be Lincoln’s first murder trial. The whole series has a Sherlock/Watson feel that I felt very intriguing. It will keep you on your toes and you will feel the friendship between these two, it is a great book and fantastic series.

-Melissa, Adult Programmer, Union Branch

*Volunteers have outdone themselves this year for the Fall Booksale. Friends of the Library ran the book sales at most branches to raise money for their groups. The money raised is used to support their Scenic Regional Library branch.*
**Staff Picks**

**“Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder,” by Kent Nerburn**

American history books begin in 1520 with the landing of Englishmen on the continent. The preface may include Italians and Spaniards in the 15th century and a nod to Icelanders in the 10th century. But the indigenous people of the North American continent are ignored except to describe how their existence impeded western expansion by Europeans.

A Lakota man living on a reservation in the western Dakotas asked Kent Nerburn to tell the story of his people in a way that would strip away stereotypes. Dan talked and Kent had to change his frame of reference to grasp a non-Western European world view. Kent’s truck broke down while on his second visit to the rez and Dan, Kent, and Dan’s friend Grover took to the road while the truck was being fixed. The land and the people they met along the way spoke for themselves as Kent began to understand what Dan was telling him.

I picked up a copy of this book in an independent bookstore in Flagstaff, Arizona, when I was on vacation. Northern Arizona is rich in Native American history and I wanted to learn more about it. Reading “Neither Wolf Nor Dog” in conjunction with visiting museums and Pueblo sites, listening to Native Americans speak about their lives, and traveling in land foreign to a Midwesterner opened my eyes to a culture I know little about. I recommend Nerburn’s book to anyone interested in understanding indigenous people who are very real and very much alive and active in America.

-Diane, Branch Manager, Union Branch

**“An Object of Beauty” by Steve Martin**

I read “An Object of Beauty” by Steve Martin, last November, and to this day I still pick it up and reread my favorite parts. The book is everything a person needs to change their view on life. The story is told from the perspective of the friend of Lacey Yeager. Lacey is an up and coming women of the art industry. You follow Lacey as she experiences all New York has to offer. Lacey charms men and women, old and young, rich and even richer with her magnetic charisma and liveliness. The book takes you through triumphs and tribulations as the new generation takes hold of a large industry. It is the type of book to make any one dream of Cities as well as the times of Italian renaissance. The book changes your view on people, and beauty. You learn to appreciate and cherish what you hold most dear, as Lacey begins to lose herself to this magnificent business. Her ascension to the highest tiers of the city parallel the soaring heights--and, at times, the dark lows--of the art world and the country from the late 1990s through today. Steve Martin perfectly captured the lows and highs of the American dream in the career of one woman.

-Grace, Shelver, Union Branch
Staff Spotlight: Nathan • Library Assistant, New Haven Branch

How long have you worked for Scenic? Six months.
Have you held any other positions at Scenic? No.
What made you want to work in a library? I retired from education a few years ago, and the opportunity to work at my local library was an offer that I just couldn't refuse.
What is your favorite part of the job? I'm happy to be a part of the system that provides community members access to so many resources and so much entertainment.

What do you wish more people knew about the library? In addition to the books, DVDs, and CDs that we have on our shelves, we have about 3 million more items that we can get for them by request within a week or so.

What upcoming program at your branch are you excited about and why? I'm looking forward to an upcoming program being planned on Black History in New Haven.
What are you currently reading or what are you reading next? I'm reading Any Other Name, the tenth book in the Longmire series.

What is your favorite book? Why? That's a really tough question for me because there are so many books on so many topics that are of interest to me. My favorite is probably an old collection of quotations and inspirations that my mother gave me years ago. When I think of it, I think about how my mother always inspired me to succeed.

Is there anything else you would like people to know about you, your job, or Scenic Regional Library? The library is a great place to spend some time, regularly. And there are people like me in every branch who are happy to help people find something enjoyable.
The Sullivan branch hosted an interesting lecture about Civil War General Harney, presented by Ben Brown. Harney was a notable person in our nation’s history and Sullivan played a significant role in his life.

St. Bridget of Kildare 3rd graders did Storytime at the Pacific branch. Our little friends had a great time!

Sweet Elizabeth’s Bakeshop came to the Pacific branch and gave a tutorial on cookie decorating.
PACIFIC BRANCH
Call: 636-257-2712

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mahjong & More
Every Monday at 10:00 am

Christmas Workshop
Thursday, December 5 at 6:00 pm
Christmas crafts and social. Limit 20.

Book Club
Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 pm
We will be discussing Catching Christmas by Terri Blackstock.

ST. CLAIR BRANCH
Call: 636-629-2546

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Bingo
Monday, December 9 at 11:00 am
Join us for a fun-filled morning of bingo. All winners will receive book prizes.

Book-to-Movie Club
Thursday, December 19 at 5:00 pm
We will be watching and discussing Skipping Christmas by John Grisham.

Adult Book Club
Thursday, December 26 at 2:00 pm
We will be discussing Merry and Bright by Debbie Macomber.

SULLIVAN BRANCH
Call: 573-468-4372

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS

As the Page Turns Book Club
Thursday, December 12 at 6 pm
Turkey Trot Murder by Leslie Meier.

Christmas Wrapping Party!
Monday, December 16 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Come wrap your presents at the branch. We will have hot cocoa and cookies!

KID & TEEN PROGRAMS
Storytime (Toddlers-Kindergarten)
Thursdays at 10:00 am

Kids Club (Grades 1-5)
1st & 3rd Monday at 4:00 pm
December 2: Cancelled
December 16: Winter Party

TEENS: Celebrate the Winter Solstice the Nordic Way
Friday, December 20 at 5:00 pm
Presented by Stephen Wait, amateur historian. Sample authentic Scandinavian cuisine. Please sign up for this interesting and fun event.

FAMILY PROGRAMS
17th Annual Ornament Making
Saturday, December 7 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Drop in and make some ornaments to take home. Hot chocolate, cookies and festive music.

KID & TEEN PROGRAMS
Read, Build, & Play
1st Saturday each month at 11:00 am
December 7: Strawbees

Homeschool
1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 11:00 am
December 4: Strawbees
December 18: Pine Cone Craft

Pre-School Storytime
Every Thursday at 11:00 am

17th Annual Ornament Making
Tuesday, December 10 from 11:00 am - 7:00 pm
Drop in and make some ornaments to take home.

FAMILY PROGRAMS
Holiday Open House
Tuesday, December 10 from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Celebrate the holidays with coloring, ornament making, holiday snacks and more at this free family program. Featuring a live performance by Melissa Potter.

Kids learned macrame’ knotting with Ann Schwartzkopf. They made owl key chains or owl wall hangings at the New haven branch.

Author Luella Gregory signed a copy of her book Farm Kitchen for this young fan in Warrenton.
december 2019 upcoming events

UNION BRANCH
Call: 636-583-3224

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Laughter is the Best Medicine
Thursday, December 5 at 6:00 pm
A fun program about the top 25 comedians of all time.

Old Timey Christmas Bicentennial Family Program
Thursday, December 12 from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Meet with Santa and other festive activities for all ages.

Hooked on Books
Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 pm
Tourist Season by Carl Hiaasen.

Book BINGO
Thursday, December 26 at 11:00 am

Please register for computer programs.

COMPUTER PROGRAMS
Getting to Know Windows 10
Wednesday, December 18 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Limit 6 patrons 18+ years old.

Basic Computer Operation
Friday, December 20 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Limit 6 patrons 18+ years old.

KID & TEEN PROGRAMS
Preschool Storytime
Wednesday and Saturday at 10:00 am

Dungeons and Dragons
First and Third Tuesday at 5:00 pm
All ages and experience levels welcome!

17th Annual Ornament Making
Saturday, December 7 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Drop by the branch to create an ornament to take home!

Reading to Rover
Thursday, December 26 from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Come by to read to our visiting therapy dog!

WARRENTON BRANCH
Call: 636-456-3321

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Chicks with Sticks (Crochet/Knitting)
Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

Mat Pilates
Wednesday, December 11 & 18 at 5:00 pm

Hot Chocolate Happy Hour & Movie
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Holiday Movie Night & Snacks
Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30 pm

Warrenton Choirs A Cappella Style
Thursday, December 5 at 6:00 pm

Flannel & Frost Craft Night
Tuesday, December 10 at 5:00 pm
Craft with buffalo plaid! Limit 60.

Christmas Movie Trivia Night
Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm
Offsite at Blue Anchor Bistro. Doors open 5:00 pm. Limit of 50.

Christmas Centerpieces (Limit 30)
Thursday, December 19 at 4:30 pm

A Novel Bunch Book Club
Water For Elephants by Sara Gruen.

WRIGHT CITY BRANCH
Call: 636-384-1136

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Adult Book Bingo
Thursday, December 5 at 1:00 pm

Swap Your Stuff - Craft Style!
Thursday, December 5 at 5:00 pm
Come “shop” our free craft swap while enjoying light refreshments.

Book Club
Monday, December 9 at 6:00 pm
Book club discussion.

Rev. Glenn Davis Book Signing
Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 pm
Meet local author Rev. Glenn Davis for a book signing and discussion of Wright City’s development and it’s fire history.

KID & TEEN PROGRAMS
Storytime (Preschool-Kindergarten)
Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Nutcracker Party
Friday, December 13 at 6:30 pm
Games, drafts, movie, and dancers.

17th Annual Ornament Making
Saturday, December 21 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Drop in and make some ornaments to take home.

International Games Week was celebrated with games and activities at all the branches.

The Zither Ensemble performing at the Union branch.
Purchase a “Book” for the Donor Wall in Your Community’s New Library

The Scenic Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups are selling donor wall “books”, which will be placed in the entrance hallway of each new library building.

You can have your name, your family’s name, or your business’s name become a permanent part of the new library in your community. Donor wall “books” can also serve as a beautiful and long-lasting memorial for a loved one.

The cost of a donor wall “book” is based on the size of the book:
- 8” x 1½” book – $100
- 10” x 2” book – $200
- 9” x 3” book – $300

Visit [www.scenicregionalfoundation.org](http://www.scenicregionalfoundation.org) or complete this form to place your order. The Foundation accepts debit and credit cards (online), checks, and cash (only for forms brought to the library) for donor wall “book” purchases.

Proceeds from the sale of the donor wall books are designated for the local Friends of the Library group and used to assist with the purchase of furnishings and equipment in their new building.

Purchases are tax deductible.

Donor wall “books” can be purchased throughout the construction project and will be unveiled at the grand opening of each new branch library.

### Scenic Regional Library Foundation Donor Wall “Book” Order Form

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<td>NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR ON BOOK</td>
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Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:

Friends of the Library
304 Hawthorne Drive
Union, MO 63084
SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020 Membership Year

All information submitted is considered confidential and will never be given or sold to any other individual, company, or organization.

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<td>Friends of the Hermann Branch</td>
<td>Bronze – $10</td>
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<td>Friends of the Owensville Branch</td>
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<td>Friends of the Pacific Branch</td>
<td>Gold – $100</td>
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<td>Friends of the St. Clair Branch</td>
<td>Platinum – $250</td>
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<td>Friends of the Sullivan Branch</td>
<td>Diamond* – $500</td>
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<th>WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)</th>
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Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to: Friends of the Library, 251 Union Plaza Dr., Union, MO 63084

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.