



THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 141 | february 2025

A monthly publication from your local library!

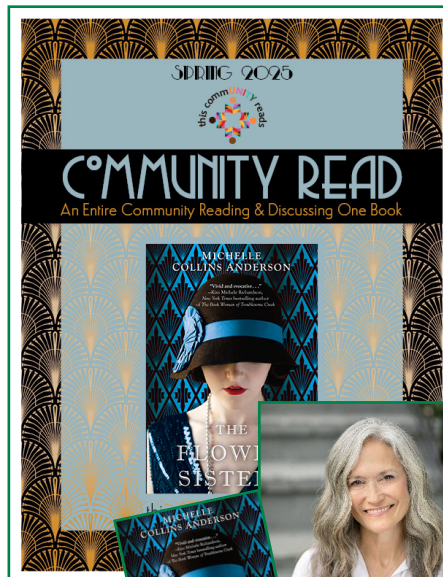
2025 Community Read Kickoff on March 24

Scenic Regional Library, Washington Public Library, and East Central College will launch their fifth annual community read on Monday, March 24, by distributing free copies of this year's featured book, "The Flower Sisters," by Michelle Collins Anderson.

The historical fiction novel was inspired by the true story of the Bond Dance Hall explosion in West Plains, Missouri, on April 13, 1928.

The library and its partners will host a variety of programs throughout April centered around the themes of the book, including book discussions at every branch.

Michelle Collins Anderson, who was raised on a farm outside of West Plains and currently lives in St. Louis, will also be visiting three branches in April to discuss the book as part of the community read programming:



Michelle Collins Anderson

New Union Branch Manager: Denise Chappell



Denise Chappell started her role as the new Union branch manager on December 8. She has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and master's degree in Library and Information Science.

Ms. Chappell has extensive library experience, including serving as the Adult Services Coordinator at St. Louis County Library (SLCL). In the role, she worked to strengthen partnerships with nonprofits, significantly boosting program attendance and community engagement. During the COVID-19 shutdown, she helped implement virtual programming for SLCL. Ms. Chappell also led the Green Team Committee, where she played a key role in designing, building, and maintaining two community gardens with over 50 beds. Later, she was promoted to an assistant branch manager.

Outside of work, Ms. Chappell enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, skiing, kayaking, and horseback riding. She also has a love for travel and once worked as a Safari Guide in South Africa. Ms. Chappell was recently cast in the Theatre Guild of Webster Groves production of "A Thousand Clowns" and can be seen around the St. Louis area performing as part of a duo called "Kevin & Denise".

WARRENTON BRANCH:
Monday, April 28, 6:00 pm

HERMANN BRANCH:
Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 pm

UNION BRANCH:
Wednesday, April 30, 6:00 pm





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Owensville Branch Installs AED Unit

The Owensville Ambulance District gave the Owensville branch staff a demonstration on using their new AED (automated external defibrillator) device on January 13. An AED device is a medical device that analyzes the heart's rhythm and delivers an electric shock to help restore a normal rhythm. The \$1,600 device was donated by the Owensville Lions Club and installed in December. It was installed in the branch entrance corridor so that groups using the meeting room after hours could access the device in the event of a medical emergency.



Currently, only the Hermann and Owensville branches have AED devices. The St. Clair Lions Club has approved the donation of an AED device for the St. Clair branch, but it hasn't been received and installed yet. The library is working toward identifying a service organization in each community willing to donate an AED device for their local library branch.



Improve Your Health: Read 30 Minutes a Day

Most people read for enjoyment, while others read to learn. These are certainly excellent reasons to pick up a book, but they might not be the most significant. Did you know that reading can actually improve your health and help you live longer?

The health benefits of reading have been well-documented.

A 2009 study by the University of Sussex found that six minutes of reading can reduce stress levels by 68%—more than taking a walk or listening to music. Stress reduction has an enormous benefit for people suffering from mental health problems such as anxiety and depression. The same study showed that reading 30 minutes can lower blood pressure and heart rate.

While screen time before bed has been shown to result in poor sleep quality, reading has proven to have the opposite effect. A 2021 study published by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that reading in bed before falling sleep improved overall sleep quality and helped people stay asleep.

Unsurprisingly, reading also keeps someone's brain active and prevents cognitive decline. A 2014 study published in *Neurology*, the American Academy of Neurology's medical journal, suggested that reading helped prevent or delay the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease by helping to keep a person's memory and thinking skills intact.

Better health also leads to longevity. A 2016 study by researchers at the Yale University School of Public Health showed that people who read at least 30 minutes a day lived 20% longer than those who didn't. Another study, published in the journal *Social Science and Medicine*, found that people who read up to 3-1/2 hours a week were 17% less likely to die over a 12-year period.

One or two studies can be an outlier, but when there are dozens and dozens of studies drawing the same conclusion, it's more than a coincidence. There's clearly an enormous link between reading and improved health and longevity.

It doesn't matter whether you read graphic novels, westerns, romances, biographies, or books about World War II. It also doesn't matter if you download them, check them out from the library, buy them, or borrow them. What matters is that you read. It's one of the most enjoyable ways to improve your health.

Please, share this article with a friend or family member who doesn't read!





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Check Out a Raised Bed in the St. Clair Branch Community Garden

The Community Garden at the St. Clair branch will officially open for the 2025 season on Monday, March 3. The garden, located behind the branch, features fourteen 4' by 8' raised beds for vegetables and eight smaller beds for flowers and herbs. Garden beds can be “checked out” for the entire growing season by individuals, as well as organizations such as Scouts and 4-H groups, school classes, food pantries, and church groups.

To “check out” a garden bed, a copy of the library’s Community Garden User Agreement must be signed and returned to the branch. It outlines the rules for people utilizing the garden. The agreement can be found online at <https://scenicregional.org/gardenagreement/>. There are no costs or fees for “checking out” a garden bed. The library offers some gardening tools for use in the community garden for individuals who do not have them.

For additional information, please contact St. Clair Branch Manager Alesia Cullen at 636-629-2546 or acullen@scenicregional.org.

In the spring of 2016, the St. Clair Farmer’s Market expressed interest in the creation of a community garden. The library was in search of ideas for creating unique public spaces at their new facilities and thought that the community garden was a great fit for the branch.

In the summer of 2016, the First Baptist Church and United Methodist Church in St. Clair each donated a small tract of land (one-tenth of an acre) to the library for the purpose of constructing a community garden. The new St. Clair branch, which was renovated and expanded, opened in August 2018.

In 2019, the St. Clair branch Friends of the Library agreed to take on the project. Paula Dace, a member of the St. Clair branch Friends of the Library’s governing committee and a Master Gardener, directed construction of the garden and provided many hours of volunteer labor. Local landscaper Cozy Bailey, who owns Cozy by Nature, and her mother, Master Gardener Carolyn Cikovic, also volunteered their time to help create the garden. Bill Snow, the library’s Facilities Manager, constructed the beds, installed the fencing, and is in the process of building a pergola and bench in the garden. In addition to paying for the lumber, the Friends group covered the cost of the mulch, liners, topsoil, and a motion-activated spotlight.

The Community Garden was opened in 2021 after a delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Many young patrons enjoyed the Community Garden during the 2024 growing season.

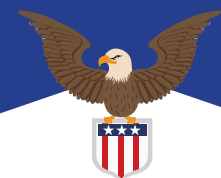


Young patrons at Hermann had fun creating a little oasis for their Teddy Bear Tins.



The Hermann branch hosted the Dining with Diabetes program, where they made healthy food for patrons to sample.

Scenic Regional Library will be closed Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents’ Day!



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SCENIC SAYS!

What is your favorite winter activity?

What has been your favorite winter read so far?

What hobby would you like to learn more about through our new digital "Craft & Hobby" service?

Sydney
Branch
Manager,
Sullivan



"My favorite winter activity is any cozy indoor hobby, such as junk journaling or scrapbooking."

"My favorite winter read so far has been "All I Want Is You," by Falon Ballard."

"I'm interested in learning more about cake decorating from the new "Craft & Hobby" service."

Brandy
Children's
Programmer,
Owensville



"Winter Baking, nothing is better than making and decorating cookies with my siblings."

"I recently reread "Jujutsu Kaisen 0" (by Gege Akutami). It's a Christmas story in the same way "Die Hard" is, but it still brings me joy."

"I just got back into crochet but I've only made scarves and baby blankets. It would be cool to learn how to make things that are not just squares."

Amanda
Library
Assistant,
Wright City



"Since I'm indoors more, I use these months to work on craft projects I am behind on. Curling up under my heated blanket reading a good book is my favorite though!"

"All the Colors of the Dark," by Chris Whitaker. I had been waiting to read that one for months!"

"The fitness section features a Ballet Barre series I want to check out and some of the cooking videos look good too."

Genevieve
Adult
Programmer,
Sullivan



"Baking! I've learned how to make bread this winter during all these days of being snowed in!"

"Probably "Wreck My Plans" by Jillian Meadows. It was a sweet Christmas romance; I finished it in about a day too!"

"I've always wanted to learn how to crochet, so I'm sure that'll be my next hobby to tackle."



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February Anniversaries

Thank you for being such an *important* piece of our puzzle!



Laura, Library Assistant,
Technical Services
Department



Alesia, Branch Manager,
St. Clair



Amanda, Graphic Designer,
Administration



Eli, Adult Programmer,
Hermann and New Haven

Dennis Hall Appointed to Library Foundation Board



On January 21, the Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees appointed Dennis Hall to serve on the Scenic Regional Library Foundation Board of

Directors. He replaces JoEllen Steineker, who resigned in July 2024. Mr. Hall will represent Gasconade County.

Mr. Hall is retired from the State of Missouri Division of Workforce Development, where he served for 11 years as a Public Information Coordinator/Graphic Designer. Prior to that, he worked as a graphic designer in the private sector and taught graphic design classes at East Central College. He is also retired from the U.S. Coast Guard, where he was a photojournalist. He has a degree in Fine Arts from American Intercontinental University in Chicago.

Mr. Hall has lived in Rosebud for the past twenty years and is a member of American Legion Post.

The Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 2013. They oversee the library's nine Friends of the Library groups and the Scenic Regional Library Arts Council, which operates the Gallery at the Library at the Hermann branch.



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Ms. Elizabeth visited the Sullivan Primary Preschool and read to the students.



Patrons from the Union branch went off-site to learn about making maple syrup with Walter Conner. Each participant went home with a small jar of fresh syrup to enjoy.



Patrons made some sweet framed art in Wright City just in time for Valentine's Day.

Used All-in-One Printers for Sale

The library is selling six (6) Canon imageCLASS MF525dw Wireless Black-and-White All-in-One Printers. They copy, scan, fax with a 50-sheet document feeder. They also have a 550-sheet paper tray, 100-sheet bypass, and a 150-sheet output tray. The printers are 19.5" wide, 18.3" deep, and 17.8" high. They print up to 45 ppm and have wireless and mobile printing capability.

The printers were purchased in 2018 and are in good condition, ideal for a small business or organization. They are \$100 each. For more information, contact Denise Edwards at dedwards@scenicregional.org.



Project Linus Collecting Blankets in Franklin County

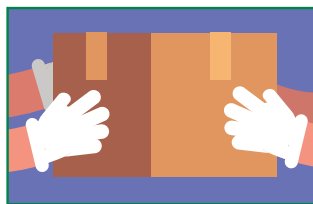
Project ♥ Linus



The library is hosting a collection drive for Project Linus at its Franklin County branches throughout March. Project Linus is a nationwide nonprofit organization that makes and collects new handmade blankets for children from birth to 18 years old that are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. The Franklin County Chapter was created in April 2024 and has already distributed over 250 blankets. The national organization has a 97% four-star rating on Charity Navigator. Donors can

drop off their handmade blankets at the Pacific, Sullivan, New Haven, St. Clair, and Union branches. For more information about Project Linus, visit www.projectlinus.org.

Library Seeks Donations



Scenic Regional Library is always accepting donations of gently-used books, DVDs, music CDs, and books on CD! Most donations will be sold at our semi-annual book sale. Have a lot? Call ahead of time, and we will help you carry them in! Contact your local branch for more details.

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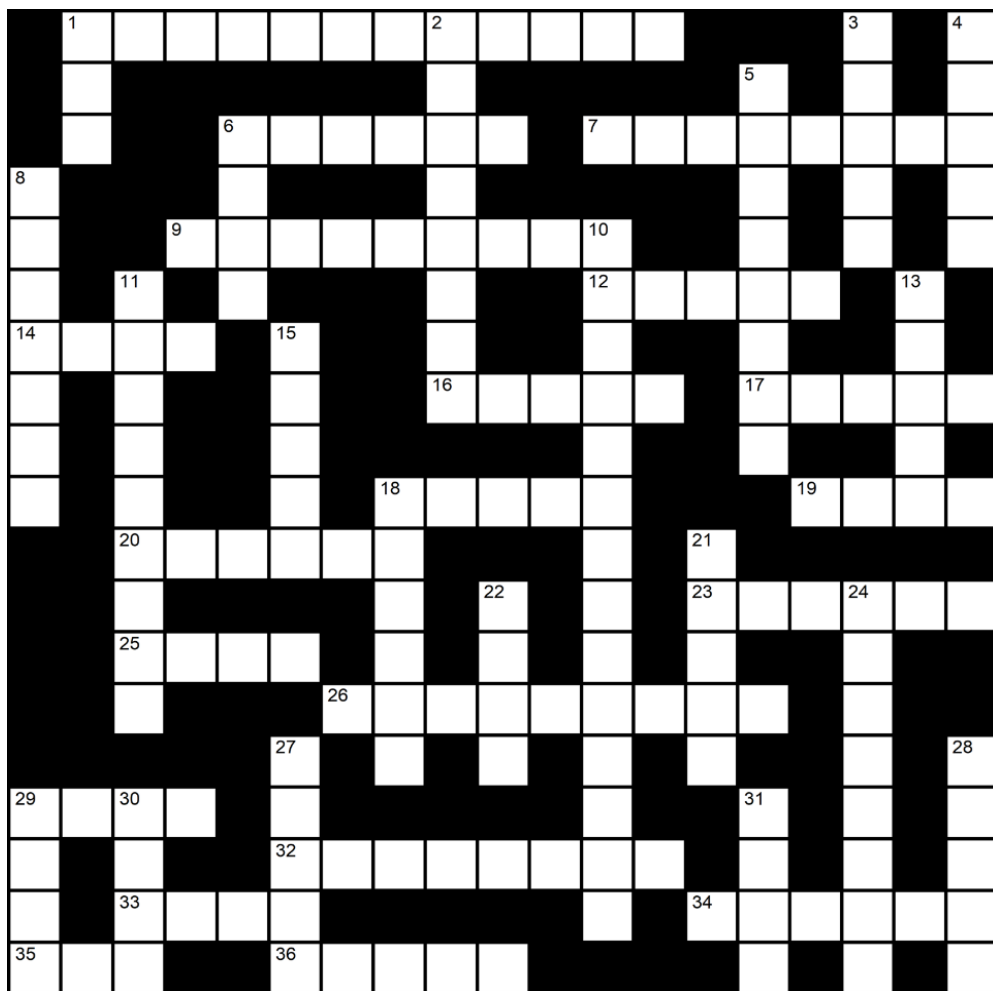
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February-Themed Crossword Puzzle



Across

1 Sarah Boone designed this laundry aid - 6 14th US president who signed Kansas-Nebraska Act - 7 25th US president, assassinated in Buffalo - 9 Civil rights pioneer who refused to give up her seat - 12 44th US president, first African American in role - 14 Playing piece from a 52-item deck - 16 37th US president who resigned from office - 17 Red, pink or white garden blooms - 18 10th US president, first to succeed after death of predecessor - 19 Romantic evening outing - 20 39th US president, former peanut farmer - 23 40th US president, former Hollywood actor - 25 27th US president and later Supreme Court Chief Justice - 26 February holiday celebrating romance - 29 Below comfortable temperature - 32 Fair and identical treatment - 33 Cast a ballot in an election - 34 12th US president, Mexican War general - 35 invented by Dr. George Franklin Grant - 36 45th US president, former real estate developer.

Down

1 Frozen water - 2 15th US president before Civil War - 3 Alabama city known for civil rights march - 4 19th US president after disputed 1876 election - 5 13th US president who succeeded Taylor - 6 Clear snow from roads - 8 16th US president during Civil War - 10 Abolitionist and women's rights activist - 11 Enslaved man who sued for freedom - 13 Choose by voting - 15 Person officially recognized for holiness - 18 33rd US president who succeeded FDR - 21 18th US president, Civil War general - 22 Winter vehicle for sliding downhill - 24 20th US president, assassinated in 1881 - 27 Frozen rain mixed with snow - 28 Neck-warming winter accessory - 29 Outer garment for cold weather - 30 Strong affection or attachment - 31 Comprehend written words.



Stop by and check out the wonderful art on display from Pacific's Jr. Art Show!



St. Clair hosted a movie-themed Par-Tee at the branch. Staff & volunteers had a lot of fun dressing the part for putt putt golf!

Find the answers at www.scenicregional.org/crossword.

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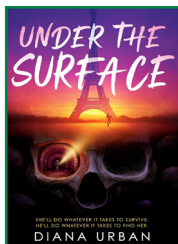
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Staff Picks



"Under the Surface" by Diana Urban

What could possibly go wrong on a senior trip? Diana Urban answers this question with a vicious twist: absolutely everything. She weaves a ghastly story that will have you in complete shock. While on their senior trip to Paris, France, a group of teens gets invited to an (illegal) exclusive party. One that is being held underground, after dark, in the catacombs that run below Paris. Unfortunately for them, they never make it there, but rather end up getting lost in the tunnels. Instead of making their way back to the surface, they end up going deeper and deeper into the unknown. As they delve deeper, they discover that not everything is quite as it seems. Someone (or something) is chasing them and they're out for blood, attempting to pick off the teens one by one. Who's going to make it to the surface alive? I devoured this book trying to answer that very question; I finished it in a day because I couldn't put this book down. If you're a fan of YA thrillers, with a hint of horror and romance, then this is the book for you. 10/10, you won't be able to set this book down until you've made it to the very end.

-Review by Genevieve, Sullivan

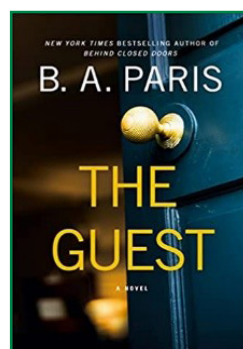
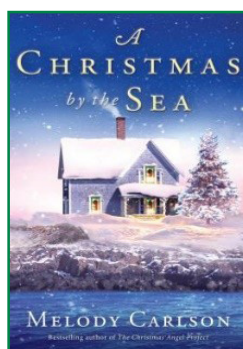
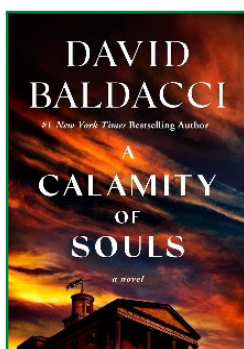
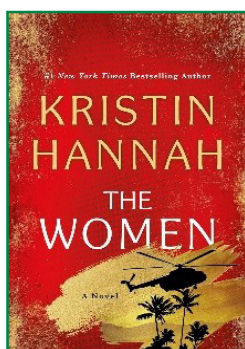
Last Month's Most Popular Titles

1st – “The Women,” by Kristin Hannah - “The Women” is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm’s way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, “The Women” is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. **Genres: Historical Fiction, Vietnam War, Romance, Feminism**

2nd – “A Calamity of Souls,” by David Baldacci - Set in the tumultuous year of 1968 in southern Virginia, a racially charged murder case sets a duo of White and Black lawyers against a deeply unfair system as they work to defend their wrongfully accused Black defendants in this courtroom drama. **Genres: Historical Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Crime, Legal Thriller**

3rd (tied) – “A Christmas by the Sea,” by Melody Carlson - “A Christmas by the Sea” follows Sarah, a woman grieving the loss of her husband, who retreats to a coastal town in Maine for the holidays. There, she forms new connections, especially with a widowed innkeeper and her daughter, and begins to heal. Through the beauty of the sea and the kindness of others, Sarah rediscovers hope and the magic of Christmas. **Genres: Christmas, Romance, Christian Fiction, Contemporary Romance**

3rd (tied) – “The Guest,” by B.A. Paris - “The Guest” is the story of Tara, a woman whose life is turned upside down when a mysterious stranger, named Jack, arrives at her home. Tara and her husband, Finn, reluctantly offer Jack hospitality, but as his presence lingers, unsettling events unfold. Tensions rise as secrets are revealed, and Tara begins to question Jack’s true intentions, as well as her own perceptions of those around her. **Genres: Psychological Thriller, Mystery, Suspense, Crime**



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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 1 1/2" book – \$150
- 10" x 2" book – \$250
- 9" x 3" book – \$350

Visit www.scenicregional.org/foundation/ 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.



Scenic Regional Library Foundation Donor Wall "Book" Order Form

FIRST NAME		DATE	
MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME		
STREET ADDRESS			
CITY		ZIP CODE	
STATE		PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL ADDRESS			
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR ON BOOK			
BRANCH (Please select one)		SIZE OF BOOK	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Wright City Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 8" X 1-1/2" - \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$350	
OFFICE USE ONLY		Date received: _____	
Amount received: _____		Check # _____	
Cash			

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 Drive
Union, MO 63084





SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 Membership Year

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

If this membership is for you, please provide your information; if this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide their information:			
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL		
LAST NAME			
STREET ADDRESS	CITY		
STATE	ZIP CODE		
PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS		
If this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide your information:			
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	
STREET ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	
BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Wright City Branch <input type="checkbox"/> 	LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Gold - \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond* - \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> *Lifetime Membership Up to \$10 in book sale volunteer vouchers can be applied toward any level of membership dues. 	MEMBERSHIP GIFTS <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; text-align: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Gold:</i> 21oz. metal water bottle</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Platinum:</i> 20-can cooler backpack</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Diamond:</i> \$150 donor wall book</p> </div> </div>	
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at other events <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at my local branch <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the local Friends of the Library's Governing and Planning Committee <input type="checkbox"/> 	OFFICE USE ONLY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> New Application <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Date Received: <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Amount Received: 		

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.