

Playing Games and Playing Politics: Collecting Toys and More at the Center for the Humanities

Feeling stressed by the pressures of campus life? Why not slip down to the Center for the Humanities for some creative playtime: cuddle a soft Snoopy toy, dress up Barbie as Wonder Woman or JFK as GI Joe, play a round of Ghettopoly or Kosherland, or listen to an Abe Lincoln action figure in full Victorian costume deliver the Gettysburg address. In the Center's new 'museum' of historical, controversial and political toys, you can at least look at these objects and others like them, even if you can't actually play with them.

Incongruous as these things might appear in a Humanities Center in the distinguished academic setting of Washington University, they are in fact central to our mission. For the past two years, one of our aims has been to serve as a resource for the study of children's culture in all its forms. To this end, the Center has amassed a library of children's literature and books on the practice of writing for children. Our comic book collection, numbering over 3,000 items, is becoming increasingly widely known, and includes extensive children's as well as adult and non-age specific comics. Our director, Gerald Early, teaches and publishes on children's literature and culture, and from fall 2004, we will coordinate an interdisciplinary Children's Studies Minor, involving the departments of English, African and Afro-American Studies, Education, History and Psychology. Our writers' series features a children's writer annually, and we are exploring the possibility of a children's film festival next year. This issue of *Figure in the Carpet* includes a Young Readers' calendar of literary events for the first time.

Collecting toys is a logical extension of this commitment. Toys are the material culture of childhood; their history reveals much about the complex social forces that have shaped our perceptions of children, our changing ideas of what childhood is and should be, and the shifting relationship between children and adults. They also mirror the progress of technology, mass communication and consumerism in the modern world, the changing role of the

family in society, and attitudes to race, gender expectations and sexuality.

Even more than many objects that find their way into museums as mute witnesses of culture and aesthetics, toys tell a story – and it is never a neutral one. Each toy or game is loaded with meaning, steeped in the values and attitudes that produced, marketed, purchased and used it. Further, as relics of a lost period of (perhaps) innocent play (our own or our children's), toys can become, for adults, objects of nostalgia, repositories of memory, or powerful emotional emblems. The Center collects toys to record not their design or manufacture but their cultural associations and meaning. This is a fascinating and unpredictable project, as each new toy that enters the collection alters our understanding of the cultural history of childhood and enriches the possible narratives we can display.

We have a particular interest in toys that fall outside the mainstream – that are unusual in some way – and especially those that have raised controversy, or that draw attention to topical or contentious issues. We also look for toys with literary and comic book associations, and those with a political theme.

Probably our most controversial object is the board game Ghettopoly, really an adult toy, in which the familiar topography of the Monopoly board is redrawn as a crime-ridden big city ghetto, with black or Latino pimps and pushers vying for stolen property among the crack houses, pawn shops and massage parlors. Meant as a joke, its release in 2003 provoked mixed hilarity and outrage, and it was quickly withdrawn from Urban Outfitters, its distributor. It is now only available on line. But bad taste is not always so deliberate. We also own two Barbie dolls, one white, one African-



American in appearance, both dressed and accessorized in an "Oreo" theme. Intended as a marketing tie-in with Oreo cookies, the Barbies inadvertently



touched a nerve by their reference to a slang term considered derogatory by many blacks. Mattel, their manufacturer, was forced to withdraw them. More topical (and potentially sensitive) items include Christian and Jewish-themed board games.

Barbie, a triumph of late 20th century girls' toy marketing, is an excellent indicator of social trends, and we would like to collect more examples. Our three comic book character Barbies – Wonder Woman, Supergirl and Batgirl – reflect our interest in comics as a literary/art form. A beautifully made British board game based on Kenneth Grahame's classic novel *The Wind in the Willows* translates more traditional children's literature into play. The huge popularity of the *Peanuts* cartoon strip since 1950 is illustrated by a group of toys and games, including a Snoopy jack-in-the-box and an original Viewmaster with several sets of photo reels.

The coming election gives us the opportunity to display some of our political toys and ephemera. Chief among these are several presidential figures: as well as Lincoln we have talking Theodore Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan action dolls, and a John F. Kennedy whose dual identity as GI Joe celebrates his wartime heroism. A rare early 1950s set of miniatures of presidents Washington through Jackson uses the genre of boys' real-life hero toys in an attempt to teach American history. Our General Colin Powell doll serves up a lesson in current affairs for the 1990s. A board game "Hail to the Chief" provides a complicated lesson on the electoral process, while trying to persuade children that the presidential race is just friendly fun. On the lighter side, the board game "Lie, Cheat and Steal: the Game of Political Power", and *Mad* magazine covers

visually satirizing presidents (Nixon/Agnew as Newman/Redford in *The Sting*) inject a note of humorous cynicism. Small disposable items anchor these playthings in the real world: campaign buttons from 1956-2004, election pamphlets from the 1960s Kennedy, Wallace and Goldwater campaigns, bumper stickers, slogan t-shirts and more.

This group of objects is on display until after the November election in our mini-exhibit "Playing Politics" in the Center's library. It may move to more spacious quarters at Olin library during that time. The exhibit, like our library, is free and open to the public and we

welcome all visitors during office hours, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.

Meanwhile, we continue to collect toys in the hope of one day being able to display them in a larger and more accessible place. Offers of toy donations are very welcome. We are particularly interested in earlier toys, but any plaything with an interesting or unusual story to tell will find an appreciative home at the Center for the Humanities.

Amanda Beresford is Program Coordinator at the Center for the Humanities. She previously spent 18 years as a museum curator.

INTERGENERATIONAL POETRY AND GARDENS WORKSHOP

Elders-Probe-the-Arts and St. Louis Poetry Center present a free Poetry and Gardens Workshop for seniors over 55, led by Sylvia Duncan, at Tower Grove Senior Manor, 2710 S. Grand, on Tuesday mornings, October 5 and 12. The purpose is to enhance cross cultural, intergenerational creativity by partnering with youth in St. Louis City, and to focus on the environment to inspire writing. Seniors write with students in outdoor gardens on Wednesdays, beginning October 13 at 1 pm at Mitchell School, 955 Arcade near Belt, and on October 20 at 10 am at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Seniors and youth will correspond, responding to each other's poems, before meeting at Mitchell School on November 16 at 1 pm where elders join youth to read their poems to each other. The program seeks volunteers to assist with publicity and evaluation and to provide donated plants, bulbs or seeds. For details contact poet@Elders-Probe-the-Arts.org or 314.991.1529. The program is provided with support of the Regional Arts Commission and O'Connell's Pub.

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the figure in the carpet

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Big Brother and Comics

Those apprehensive about whether the fight against terrorism would lead to the creation of government databases monitoring books we buy or borrow from the library could take little comfort in the recent report from the National Endowment for the Arts noting the steep decline in reading. The report finds that over the past twenty years there has been a steady drop in the percentage of Americans who read books of any sort. The report suggests that should these trends continue, “literary reading as a leisure activity will virtually disappear in half a century.” Perhaps, as Neil Postman noted in his book *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (1985), liberal democracy is not so much threatened by an Orwellian Big Brother watching over our reading habits as by a slide into something like Huxley’s *Brave New World*, where there would be no reason to monitor reading because no one would want to read anyway. It is possible, however, that what we are witnessing is due in part to new literary forms and technologies.

Postman’s focus is our transformation into a culture whose information and ideas are given form and shape by the images and sound bytes of television rather than the printed word. For Postman, television is least dangerous when presenting such junk entertainment as ‘reality

television,’ and most dangerous when it co-opts serious modes of discourse by using expert political analysts to provide packaged ideological views in slick news programming. Yet, this commercialization of public discourse can have unexpected outcomes. The more powerful the grip of economic forces on an institution such as the media, the more people mistrust it and the more clever they are in creating alternatives. The use of the Internet for specialized news sites, list-servers, and ‘blogs’ is an example of people developing alternative venues for reading about news or ideas, and for engaging in public dialogue. The Internet presents other alternatives as well. I no longer have to rely on the choice of news in the local newspaper thrown nowhere near my front porch each morning, because I can read information and perspectives from newspapers around the world on my home computer. If I were technologically proficient, I could even do this via a wireless connection while sitting comfortably on that porch the delivery people can never seem to find.

The same shift in perspective might be true regarding the decline of literary reading. As Charles McGrath noted (*New York Times*, July 11, 2004), just as it is impossible to identify when people more or less stopped reading poetry and began reading novels

(the latter were previously considered suitable entertainment for “idle ladies of uncertain morals”), it is difficult to know when the novel as we know it will go into decline. The question is no longer when the novel will join poetry on the periphery of public consciousness; it is what the next new literary form will look like. It is best to keep an open mind about this. Although it failed miserably as an economic venture the first time around, I would not discount the possibility that novels may find an electronic distribution format opening the doors to new writers and readers via a more immediate and affordable form. There are, however, other options. One option that is currently enjoying a renaissance and a new found respectability is the ‘graphic novel’ - the comic book.

Although the static visual narrative that we find in comic books is first seen in Upper Paleolithic cave paintings, comic books are only as old as another alternative form of visual communication that was supposed to threaten reading: movies (and now we have movies about comic book super heroes). The term ‘comics’ is derived from the early 20th century comic strips (as in newspapers), originally used to present humor. Comic books developed as collections of previously published comic strips. Despite the name and their



Dr. Jian Leng

editor's notes

previous reputation of being suitable entertainment for 'idle adolescent males of uncertain motivations,' the new comic book is a serious alternative to the novel. Graphic novels are what literary novels used to be, an accessible, vernacular form of communication with unexpected mass appeal. The comic book as graphic novel goes beyond anything offered in the adventures of Tintin and Snowy, or Asterix and Obelix, or in Manga (Japanese comic books featuring wide-eyed teenage girls), or anthologies of "Peanuts," or "Garfield," or even of the serial installments of the various superheroes still produced by Marvel and D.C. comic factories. Although these serial forms of comic books are still surprisingly enjoyable and have significant research value, the new graphic novel comic books are more substantial single volumes (running up to 582 pages), often in hard cover, with titles that would suit literary novels of the past: "Persepolis," "Blankets," "The Boulevard of Broken Dreams." This is not the first time serious comics have tried to break into the market. During the mid 1980s, comic books such as "Maus" by Art Spiegelman (which presented a mouse's eye view of the Holocaust), and "Love and Rockets" by Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez brought the medium to the attention of adults. The difference between the 1980s and now is the number of artists interested in the potential of the genre, and a new generation of readers who have either grown tired of the novel or have grown up with television or computer-generated cartoons or games and find them effective methods of communication. Here too the Internet has opened new alternatives with comic sites like Modern Tales, WirePop, and PV Comics.

I admit that other than listening to my husband and daughter discuss European history when they read a copy of "Maus" while she was in high school, I have not given much thought to the potential of comic books. This changed when I returned from China this past summer; the first thing I



Schulz, Charles M. *The Complete Peanuts: Dailies & Sundays 1950-1952*. Seattle: Fantagraphics Books, 2004.

noticed in my office was piles and piles of comic books. Comic books were also piled on the tables, shelves, and even the floor of our small library. We have collected over 3,400 volumes, and this number increases every day. The growing collection includes comics by DC, Marvel, Archie, Harvey, Black Thorne Publishing, Caliber, and Eclipse and runs from 1919 to the present. Our collections can be divided into 13 genres: Action/adventure, adult, children's, crime, fantasy, feminist, literary, history, horror, humor, science fiction, super hero, and war. Some will question the potential of the graphic novel form as well as our efforts in collecting examples of its history, seeing it as yet another proof of our dumbed-down culture and collective short attention span. I believe, however, that we should be sensitive to the potentials of whatever form or technological method people use for communication. If the comic book or graphic novel reaches those segments of our culture who no longer care to read novels, then understanding why is important. In the end, people will create venues for ideas and public discourse in the most unexpected forms and technologies. Moreover, they will do this even when Big Brother is monitoring their book. Perhaps even one day Big Brother will monitor their comic book when Big Brother realizes that comic books, too, can convey subversive ideas.

Jian Leng
Assistant Director
The Center for the Humanities

All events are free unless otherwise indicated. Book events are followed by signings. Phone numbers are area code 314 unless otherwise indicated.

Friday 3rd

Laureates of the Heart meets, 1pm, Rock Road Branch Library, 10267 St. Charles Rock, St. Ann. 429-4845.

Tuesday 7th

Machacek Book Discussion Group meets, 10am, SLPL Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan Ave. 781-2948.

Wednesday 8th

WU's Assembly Series presents **Bethany McLean**, *Fortune Magazine* journalist, 11am, Graham Chapel, WU. 935-5285.

St. Louis Publishers Association meets, 6:30-9pm, Richmond Hts Community Center, 80012 Dale. \$5 non-members. 205-2679.

Sisters in Crime, Greater St. Louis Chapter, presents Writers Workshop Session I: **Shirley Kennett** on *Show, Don't Tell* and **Vicki Erwin** on *Point of View*, 6:45-9pm, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh. 469-6356.

Thursday 9th

SLPL Central Branch presents author **Juli Niemann**, 12-1pm, 1301 Olive St. 241-2288.

LBB presents **Mary Kay Andrews** discussing her new book *Hissy Fit*, 7pm, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid. 367-4120.

Carpenter Book Discussion Group features **Barry Holstun Lopez's** *Resistance*, 7:30pm, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand Ave. 772-6586.

U. City Great Books Discussion Group discusses *King Leopold's Ghost* by **Adam Hochschild**, 8-10pm, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 680 Washington. 994-7914.

Saturday 11th

Mystery Lover's Book Club meets, 10-11:30am, SLPL Carondelet Branch, 6800 Michigan Ave. 752-9224 (ask for Jennifer).

Tue

Graphic novelist discusses *Persepolis*, 7pm, LBB. 6731.

Carol Porter discusses *Meeting Louis* at Schlafly Branch Library. 367-4120.

Foreign Literature discuss-*ses Maqro*, 7:30pm, WU West. 727-6118.

Poet **Jay Wright** English Department Reading Series, Formal Lounge, W.

Wedn

WU's Assembly Series presents **Seymour Hersh**, investigative journalist, Chapel, WU. 935-5285.

Pat Schaumann, St. 241-2288.

Richmond Heights discusses *The Atlantic*, 7pm, Richmond Heights Community Center, 8001

Thur

LBB presents **Ser** discussing her memoir *Fire Go Out!*, 1:30pm, Euclid Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid. 367-4120.

Carolyn Neal discusses *Flawless*, 7pm, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid. 367-4120.

T. Thorn Coyle discusses *Witchcraft*, 7pm, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid. 367-4120.

Jay Wright discusses poetry, 8:00pm, V. Department's Writing Series, Women's Lounge, WU. 935-5285.

Satu

Cathy Maxwell discusses *The Business of Draft to Bestseller*, 11am-3pm, Watson. \$5 non-member. @www.morwa.org

the Romance Writers meeting, 11am-3pm, Watson. \$5 non-member. @www.morwa.org

rary Calendar

Monday 14th
Marjane Satrapi
Persepolis II: The Story of a
Branch, 399 N. Euclid. 367-

discusses her book
The Fair, 7pm,
Library, 225 N. Euclid.

Book Group
Roll, by **Alvaro Mutis**,
East Campus Building.

reads, 8:00pm, WU
ent's Writing Program
Women's Building
WU. 935-7130.

Wednesday 15th
Series presents
Pulitzer Prize
narrator, 11am, Graham
5-5285.

Branch presents author
12-1pm, 1301 Olive

Books Group
Atlantic Sound by **Caryl**
Richmond Hts Commu-
-Dale. 655-3561.

Thursday 16th
nator Jean Carnahan
memoir *Don't Let the*
7pm, Schlafly Branch
Euclid. 367-4120.

discusses her book
Schlafly Branch Library,
7-4120.

discusses *Evolutionary*
LBB, 399 N. Euclid.

discusses the craft of
WU English
Writing Program Reading
Building Formal
7-7130.

Friday 18th
discusses "You, Inc:
Publishing Your First
Freedom", **MO Chapter of**
writers of America

7pm, B&N, 9618
members. Order lunch
g.

Adult Readers Discussion Group
meets 12:30-3:30pm, SLPL Julia Davis
Branch, 4415 Natural Bridge Ave. 383-
3021.

Parry "Ebony Satin" Brown discusses
her book *Fannin' the Flames*, 2pm,
SLPL Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid.
367-4120.

Karl Kindt discusses his book *The*
Good, the Bad, and the Ugly:
Photographs and News Clippings from
the World's Fair, 2pm, SLPL Cabanne
Branch, 1106 Union Blvd. 367-0717.

Taylor Pensoneau discusses his books
Brothers Notorious: The Sheltons and
The Summer of '50, 2pm, SLPL
Kingshighway Branch, 2260 S.
Vandeventer Ave. 771-5450.

Sunday 19th
The BookClub discusses *The Da Vinci*
Code by **Dan Brown**. For time and
venue call 451-3232.

Monday 20th
River Styx opens its 20th anniversary
sea-son with poets **William Trowbridge**
and **Peter Leach** reading from their
work, 7:30 pm, Duff's, 392 N. Euclid.
\$5/4. 533-4541.

Tuesday 21st
Machacek Book Discussion Group
meets, 10am, SLPL Machacek Branch,
6424 Scanlan Ave. 781-2948.

Kingshighway Book Discussion
Group discusses *Three Junes* by **Julia**
Glass, 6:45pm, SLPL Kingshighway
Branch, 2260 S. Vandeventer. 771-
5450.

Paul Jaskunas discusses his debut
novel *Hidden*, 7pm, SLPL Schlafly
Branch, 225 N. Euclid. 367-4120.

SIUE Arts & Issues Series presents
Garrison Keillor, with remembrances
of Lake Wobegon, 7:30pm, Meridian
Ballroom, Morris University Center,
SIUE. \$16/\$8 conc. 618-650-2626.

Wednesday 22nd
SLPL Central Branch presents author
Dr. Robert Lefton, 12-1pm, 1301 Olive
St. 241-2288.

Central Book Discussion Group
meets, 4:30pm, Meeting Room 1, 1301
Olive St. 539-0396.

W. Bruce Cameron discusses his book
How to Remodel a Man, 7pm, SLCL
Headquarters Branch, 1640 S.
Lindbergh. 994-9411.

Thursday 23rd
Poets **Mary Jo Bang**, **Carl Phillips** and
Arielle Greenberg read from their work
featured in *Best American Poetry 2004*,
7pm, LBB, 399 N. Euclid. 367-6731.

Schlafly Book Group discusses *Life of*
Pi by **Yann Martel**, 7pm, SLPL Schlafly
Branch, 225 N. Euclid. 367-4120.

Alliance Francaise Cercle de Lecture
discusses *L'obsession Antiamericaine* by
Jean-Francois Revel, 7:30pm, en
Francais, 8585 Delmar, Ste. G. 423-0734.

Scholar **Harold Love** leads a
colloquium, 8:00pm, WU English
Department's Writing Program Reading
Series, Women's Building Formal
Lounge, WU. 935-7130.

U. City Great Books Discussion
Group discusses *The Rise of Napoleon*
Bonaparte by **Robert Asprey** (selected
chapters), 8-10pm, Trinity Presbyterian
Church, 680 Washington. 994-7914.

Friday 24th
River King Poetry Supplement pre-
sents *Autumn Leaves Poetry Reading*,
featuring at least 12 regional poets,
7pm, Broadway Center of Arts, 124 E.
Main, Belleville, IL. 618-234-5082.

Underwood Reading Series and
Fence Books present poets **Tina**
Brown, **Celona** and **Joyelle**
McSweeney reading their work, Gallery
Urbis Orbis, 419 N. 10th. 725-6927.

Saturday 25th
SLPL Carondelet Branch presents
Bilingual Storytime in celebration of
Hispanic Heritage Month, 10-11am, all
ages, 6800 Michigan Ave. 752-9224.
Richard Burgin speaks at **Saturday**
Writers meeting, 11am-1pm, Cultural
Arts Center, 400 Civic Park, O'Fallon,
\$3 visitors. 636-379-9362.

LBB presents TV producer/author
Linda Bloodworth Thomason
discussing her novel *Liberating Paris*,
7pm, SLCL Headquarters.

Tuesday 28th
Mary Troy, **Richard Newman**, **Ricardo**

and **Rodney Cruz** and **Becky**
Bradway read from their work in the
anthology *In the Middle of the Middle*
West: Literary Non-Fiction from the
Heartland, 7pm, LBB, 399 N. Euclid.
367-6731.

St. Louis Gateway Storytellers hold
their meeting and story swap, 6-9pm,
Salad Bowl Cafeteria, Lindell. 997-3474.

Wednesday 29th
Journalist **Greg Stohr** discusses *A*
Black & White Case: How Affirmative
Action Survived its Greatest Legal
Challenge, 7pm, LBB, 399 N. Euclid.
367-6731.

Thursday 30th
Just the Books! discussion group
meets, 6-7pm, SLPL Barr Branch, 1701
S. Jefferson Ave., 771-7040.

Science Fiction writer **M.M. Buckner**
discusses *Neurolink*, 7pm, LBB, 399 N.
Euclid. 367-6731.

Poet **Heather McHugh** reads, 8:00pm,
WU English Department's Writing
Program Reading Series, Women's
Building Formal Lounge, WU. 935-
7130.

NOTICES
Buder Branch Book Discussion
Group meets select Saturdays, 4401
Hampton Ave. Call 352-2900 for details.

St. Louis Writers' Workshop presents
their fall sessions:

"Beginning Fiction and First-Timer's
Workshop" with Denise Bogard, 7-
9:30pm, Mon. Sept. 27- Nov. 15, Neve
Shalom/Rainbow Village, 1240 Dautel.
\$250 course. 692-2629.

"Elements of the Mystery Novel" with
Shirley Kennett, 7-9:30pm, Mon. Sept.
27-Nov. 15, Neve Shalom/Rainbow
Village, 1240 Dautel. \$250 course. 692-
2629.

"Publishing and Workshopping Your
Prose" with Ryan Stone, 7-9pm, Tues.
Sept. 22-Dec. 1, B&N, 9618 Watson.
\$285 course. 692-2629.

Check the online calendar at
www.cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu for more
events. To advertise, send event details
to lital@artsci.wustl.edu.

Young T

All events are free unless otherwise
indicated. Registration is required for m
Library events – call branch first. Phon
numbers are area code 314 unless
otherwise indicated.

Thursday 2nd
SLCL Grand Glaize Branch presents
Writers' Workshop: discuss your own
others' writing, ages 16 and older, 1010
Meramec Station Rd. 636-225-6454.

Friday 3rd
St. Louis Shakespeare presents a
student matinee of *Richard III*, 10-12:3
pm, Grandel Theatre, 3610 Grandel St.
\$7-8. Reservations required. 361-5664.

Monday 6th
The Magic House St. Louis Children's
Museum presents **Good Grief Charlie**
Brown!, a *Peanuts* exhibit, daily through
6, all ages, 12-5:30pm. \$6.50 over age
516 S. Kirkwood Rd. 822-8900.

Tuesday 7th
SLPL presents **Club Read: Banned**
Books Bash, celebrating the freedom
to read, for teens, 4-5pm, Central Branch,
1301 Olive Street, 241-2288; and Car
ter Branch, 3309 S. Grand Ave, 772-65

Wednesday 8th
SLPL Carondelet Branch presents **Clu**
Read: Banned Books Bash celebrati
the freedom to read, ages 10-16, 4-5pm,
6800 Michigan Ave. 752-9224.

SLCL Rock Road Branch presents
ReadMORE: Mark Twain Stories,
including *Tom Sawyer*, all ages, 7pm,
10267 St. Charles Rock Rd. 429-5116

Thursday 9th
SLPL Schlafly Branch presents a **Ban**
Books Bash, for teens, 10-10:30am; a
Family Reading Day, all ages, 7-8pm,
N. Euclid. 367-4120.

SLCL Samuel C. Sachs Branch prese
Fast Facts! Database Searching at t
Library, ages 10-12, limit 12 students,
8:30pm, 16400 Burkhardt. 636-728-00

Saturday 11th
SLCL Weber Road Branch presents *L*
Lyle The Crocodile Storytime, ages 3-

Readers' Literary Calendar

10am, 4444 Weber Road. 638-2210; and 2pm, Rock Road Branch, 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd. 429-5116.

Sunday 12th

The Magic House St. Louis Children's Museum presents **Richard Scarry's Busytown**, an exhibit based on Scarry's books, 9:30-5:30 Mon-Sat, 11-5:30 Sun, through 9/12, JFK Community Center, Koch Park, 315 Howdershell Rd, Florissant. \$3 non-members. 822-8900.

Monday 13th

SLPL Walnut Park Branch presents **Diary of a Worm** featuring stories and crafts, school age, 4-5pm, 5760 West Florissant Ave. 383-1210.

SLCL Prairie Commons Branch and ReadMOre present **Big City to Small Town: Stories of People and Change** with storyteller Howie Hirshfield, ages 3 and up, 7pm, 915 Utz Ln. 895-1023.

Wednesday 15th

SLCL presents **Lyle, Lyle The Crocodile Storytime**, ages 3-6, 2pm, Florissant Valley Branch, 195 New Florissant Rd. 921-7200; and 7pm, Lewis & Clark Branch, 9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd. 868-0331.

SLCL Tesson Ferry Branch presents **Tall Tales** from our American heritage, ages 7-11, 4pm, 9920 Lin-Ferry Dr. 843-0560.

SLPL Kingshighway Branch presents a **Club Read: Banned Books Bash**, celebrating the freedom to read, teens, 4-5pm, 2260 S. Vandeventer Ave. 771-5450. SLCL Rock Road Branch presents **Stories Tonight: Shoe Crazy**, 7pm, 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd. 429-5116.

Thursday 16th

SLCL presents **Lyle, Lyle The Crocodile Storytime**, ages 3-6, 11am, Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry Dr. 843-0560; 1:30pm, Oak Bend Branch, 842 S. Holmes Ave. 822-0051; and 6:30pm, Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson Rd. 636-227-9630.

SLPL Carpenter Branch presents **Club Read: Carpenter Teen Book Group**, discussing **Richard Perez's Losers Club**, grades 6-9, 4-5pm, 3309 S. Grand Ave. 772-6586.

SLPL Julia Davis Branch presents a **Club Read: Banned Books Bash**, celebrating

the freedom to read, teens, 4-5pm, 4415 Natural Bridge Ave. 383-3021.

Saturday 18th

SLCL presents **Lyle, Lyle The Crocodile Storytime**, ages 3-6, 10:30am, Samuel C. Sachs Branch, 16400 Burkhardt Place. 636-728-0001; and 2pm, Cliff Cave Branch, 5430 Telegraph Rd. 487-6003.

Monday 20th

SLPL Schlafly Branch presents **Storytime**, ages 4-8, 10:00-11am, 225 N. Euclid. 367-4120.

Chris Raschka shares his books, *Yo! Yes!*, *Charlie Parker Played Bebop*, etc., plus drama, puppetry, music and more, ages preschool-4th grade, 10am, SLCL Samuel C. Sachs Library Branch, 16400 Burkhardt, 636-728-0001. Also 6:30pm, SLCL Daniel Boone Library Branch, 300 Clarkson, 636-227-9630, and 6:30pm, SLCL Florissant Valley Library Branch, 195 New Florissant, 921-7200.

Tuesday 21st

Chris Raschka shares his books, *Yo! Yes!*, *Charlie Parker Played Bebop*, etc., plus drama, puppetry, music and more, ages preschool-4th grade, 10:30am, SLCL Thornhill Library Branch, 12863 Willowyc, 878-7730. Also 4pm, SLCL Grand Glaize Library Branch, 1010 Meramec Station Rd, 225-6454.

SLCL Bridgeton Trails Branch presents **Young Adult Booktalk**: discuss books, write reviews, ages 12-15, 4pm, 3455 McKelvey. 291-7570.

Wednesday 22nd

SLPL Cabanne Branch presents **Club Read: Banned Books Bash** celebrating the freedom to read, teens, 4-5pm, 1106 Union Blvd. 367-0717.

Chris Raschka shares his books, *Yo! Yes!*, *Charlie Parker Played Bebop*, etc., plus drama, puppetry, music and more, ages preschool-4th grade, 4:30pm, SLCL Cliff Cave Branch Library, 5430 Telegraph, 487-6003.

Thursday 23rd

Chris Raschka shares his books, *Yo! Yes!*, *Charlie Parker Played Bebop*, etc., plus drama, puppetry, music and more, ages

preschool-4th grade, 10am, SLCL Weber Road Library Branch, 4444 Weber, 638-2210. Also 4pm, SLCL Lewis & Clark Branch, 9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd. 868-0331, and 7pm, SLCL Rock Road Branch, 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd. 429-5116.

SLPL Baden Branch presents a **Banned Books Bash** celebrating the freedom to read, teens, 4-5pm, 8448 Church Rd. 388-2400.

SLCL Bridgeton Trails Branch presents **ReadMOre: Mississippi River Stories**, with storyteller Gale Portman, all ages, 7pm, 3455 McKelvey. 291-7570.

Saturday 25th

SLCL Jamestown Bluffs Branch holds a **children's book sale** to benefit the library, 9am-5pm, 4153 N. Hwy. 67. 741-6800.

SLPL Carondelet Branch presents **Bilingual Storytime** in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, all ages, 10-11am, 6800 Michigan Ave. 752-9224.

Chris Raschka shares his books, *Yo! Yes!*, *Charlie Parker Played Bebop*, etc., plus drama, puppetry, music and more, ages preschool-4th grade, 2pm, SLCL Jamestown Bluffs Branch, 4153 N. Hwy. 67. 741-6800.

Sunday 26th

SLPL Carondelet Branch hosts **Club Read: Name that Banned Book**, ages 10-16, prizes, 10am-1pm, 6800 Michigan Ave. 752-9224.

Monday 27th

SLCL Grand Glaize Branch presents **DW Gets A Library Card**, library games based on the *Arthur* books, ages 3-6, 2pm, 1010 Meramec Station Rd. 636-225-6454.

Wednesday 29th

SLPL Barr Branch presents a **Club Read: Banned Books Bash**, celebrating the freedom to read, teens, 4-5pm, 1701 S. Jefferson Ave. 771-7040.

Thursday 30th

Baden Teen Book Club meets, ages 13-18, 4-5pm, SLPL Baden Branch, 8448 Church Rd. 388-2400.

SLPL Divoll Branch presents a **Club Read: Banned Books Bash** celebrating the freedom to read, teens, 4-5pm, 4234 N. Grand Blvd. 534-0313.

NOTICES

Barnes & Noble presents **Weekly Storytime: Toddler Time with Tricia**, ages 2-5, 10am Tuesdays and Fridays, B&N, 8871 Ladue Road. 862-6280.

SLCL branches host several regular **Weekly Storytimes** for ages 6 months-6 years. An adult must stay with the child. For details, call local branch, Headquarters Branch at 994-3300, or visit www.slcl.lib.mo.us/kids/storytime.html.

SLPL branches host several regular **Weekly Storytimes** for ages 2-6. An adult must stay with the child. For details, call local branch or visit www.spl.lib.mo.us/kidzone/together/kjunjulaug04.htm.

Tween Readers/Homeschool Book Club meets from 12-1:30pm the 4th Tuesday of every month, ages 10-15 yrs. B&N Ladue, 8871 Ladue Rd. 862-6280.

Young Readers Book Group meets at select times, B&N Ladue, 8871 Ladue Rd. 862-6280.

Mother/Daughter Book Group meets at 10am the third Sunday of each month, Borders, 11745 Olive Blvd. 432-3575.

Borders Presents Storytime Fun and Adventure!

Ballwin: 11am Tuesdays, 15355A Manchester, 636-230-2992.

Brentwood: 10am Tuesdays & Fridays, 11am 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 1519 S. Brentwood, 918-8189.

Creve Coeur: Wednesdays 11am, Saturdays 1pm, 11745 Olive, 423-3575.

Fairview Heights: Wednesdays 10am, 6611 N. Illinois, 618-397-6097.

St. Peters: Saturdays 11am, 1320 Mid Rivers Mall Dr, 636-278-5000.

South County: Tuesdays 10am, Saturdays 2pm, 25 S. County Centerway, 892-1700.

Sunset Hills: Wednesdays 10am, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza, 909-0300.