Thursday Film Series

This Month: Give Our Regards to Broadway

8/2 - 42nd Street
8/9 - Noises Off
8/16 - Stage Door
8/23 - Presenting Lily Mars
8/30 - Les Miserables: The Dream Cast in Concert

Family Movie Mondays

Enjoy family movies each Monday throughout the summer. Films will be at 11 a.m. at the Williamsburg Library and at 6:30 p.m. at the James City County Library (bring your own beach chairs, blankets, and snacks -- JCC Library only).

8/6 - Trolls
8/13 - The Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature
8/20 - Beauty and the Beast (2017)
8/27 - Rock Dog

Looking for a good book at a great price? Stop by one of the Friends of WRL Foundation Book Nooks. Staffed by volunteers, the Book Nooks are a prime place to find a new author or catch up with older titles that you might have missed. In addition to books, you will find music CDs and LPs, DVDs, and magazines all at very reasonable prices. Funds from the the Book Nook sales support WRL's collections and programs.

Find out more about joining the Friends of WRL Foundation or volunteering in the Book Nooks at www.wrl.org/give.

The Williamsburg Library -- Where We Are Now

As you may have heard, Williamsburg Regional Library is currently considering future plans for the Williamsburg Library. This is the second article in a three-part series that looks at where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. Check back next month for the final piece of our story.

Gathering Information on the Williamsburg Library

In the spring of 2018, Greg Lukmire of RRMM Lukmire Architects completed an architectural assessment of the Williamsburg Library. This assessment evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the building, the core of which is over 50 years old, and to inform a possible renovation or new building project. Read on for some of the key findings:

- The Williamsburg Library serves residents of Williamsburg (18%), James City County (69%), and York County (13%). With less than 30,000 square feet of usable library space (excluding the Theatre), the library is far below the state and national standard of 1 square foot per capita for excellent library service.
- The building has many access, mobility, and visibility issues, including less than 50% of recommended parking and narrow first floor aisles with fixed book stacks that cannot be moved because the steel bookcases provide the structural support for the second floor.
- Users with limited mobility can only access the second floor by stairs or by taking a staff-operated elevator. Staff must be summoned by going to a desk or calling from the second floor.
- Two subsequent additions to the original building have added space but created a confusing layout which makes it difficult to find information and services. The layout also lacks line of sight for staff to monitor building activities and communicate between desks.
- The facility lacks adequate electrical infrastructure to serve customers, a dedicated teen room, a large children's area, small study rooms, and space to expand collections and seating, and new services.
- Overall, the library has less flexibility, space, seating, natural light, and fewer amenities than comparable libraries in the region and throughout the country.

A Note from the Director

The results of the architectural assessment told us a lot of what we already knew—that in so many ways our community has outgrown this beloved building. The assessment also made clear that a renovation of the existing structure would still not achieve many of our goals for providing outstanding library service.

We often hear from users who are frustrated at the lack of parking, or the lack of available meeting rooms, or the difficulty of navigating the building. We know how the library is evolving and that we need new spaces to continue to offer the regional community excellent library services.

The 21st century library is the hub of the community, offering exciting ways for people to connect, study, and learn, to explore new collections, programs, and technologies, and to enjoy spaces for collaborative or individual work as well as leisure activities. Despite the phenomenal job our staff does to overcome the building’s many shortcomings, our library will inevitably fall behind without sufficient and updated facilities. Therefore, we are working with the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and our users to explore ways to create new library spaces to serve this very active, engaged, and dedicated community of library users.

- Betsy Fowler, WRL Director
Featured Events for Kids

Storybook Tales
8/1, 11 a.m. at Williamsburg Library, 2 p.m. at JCC Library
The professional actors of Bright Star Theatre will have kids laughing in the aisles with audience participation, character education lessons, and plenty of puns as they bring the literary classics Pinocchio and Robin Hood to life in an unforgettable fashion.

Pet Training Tips
8/13, 2 p.m. James City County Library
Pet training expert Dorenda Johnson will offer essential tips for training your canine friend.

Fun with Gizmos
8/4, 1 p.m., James City County Library
Learn to solder and use code to control some interesting home robotics in this class for adults.

Traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony
8/14, 2 p.m., Stryker Center
Yunhan Zhang from Valley Brook Tea Company teaches you the subtle differences between different types of tea.

Evening Talks: Sam Phillips: Music Man from Memphis
8/15, 6:30 p.m., James City County Library
Adult services librarian Jesse Kelley talks about the rock and roll life of Sam Phillips.

Getaway Cafe
8/17, 2 p.m., James City County Library
Share conversation, experiences, and memories in WRL’s program for adults with early memory loss and their care partners. This month’s theme is “I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream!”

Panglossian Productions Presents: Necessary Targets
8/17, 18, 24, and 25 at 7:30 p.m., 8/19 and 26 at 2 p.m. Williamsburg Library
A Park Avenue psychiatrist and an ambitious young writer travel to Bosnia to help women refugees confront their memories of war. Though the two have little in common beyond the methods they use to distance themselves from their subjects, they emerge deeply changed as they confront their own fears in the face of violence and war.

Will Rogers’ USA
8/25, 2 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Actor Rob Cork from Kaleidoscope Theatre Company visits WRL to portray humorist Will Rogers in this one man show.

All events are free and open to the public. Registration required at 757.259.4050; ages 9-18.

Check out all this month’s great kids events and more at www.wrl.org/kids.

Featured Events for Teens

Drawing in the Anime/Manga Style
8/18, 12 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Art instructor and animation specialist Ahn Do will lead a workshop on the fundamentals of drawing in the anime/manga style. For ages 11-18; register at 757.259.4050.

Teen Sphero Challenge
8/10 at Williamsburg Library, 8/19 at JCC Library, 2 p.m.
Learn to code and compete with robots! Space limited is limited. Register at 757.259.4050.

Teen Dungeons & Dragons
8/16, 6 p.m., Williamsburg Library
Learn the basics of character creation and game play, and play a short campaign! This program is for beginners, but patient and helpful players with experience also welcome. Register at 757.259.4050.

Find all of this month’s library programs & classes at www.wrl.org/events.

Featured Events for Adults

Wandfasted
8/22, 6:30 p.m., Williamsburg Library
The Iron Flower is the most powerful magical artifact. Serena, who has spent her life surrounded by diversity and our acceptance of those who are different. Her early work, which includes the novels Wandfasted and Light Mage, tackles fascist regimes, resistance, and the idea of confronting destructive and rigid belief systems. And for you fantasy lovers out there, her stance is that there can never be too many dragons or too much romance.

The author can usually be found in the backwoods of Vermont, enjoying a strong cup of tea by her wood stove and dreaming about fantasy tales. As evidenced by The Black Witch and its upcoming sequel, The Iron Flower, she likes to explore issues surrounding diversity and our acceptance of those who are different. Her early work, which includes the novels Wandfasted and Light Mage, tackles fascist regimes, resistance, and the idea of confronting destructive and rigid belief systems. And for you fantasy lovers out there, her stance is that there can never be too many dragons or too much romance.

Laurie Forest’s first novel, The Black Witch, is a captivating fantasy tale that appeals to teens and adults alike. The reader meets the protagonist, a mage who has no access to her powers, as she navigates a magical world dominated by a prejudiced mentality. Coming from one of the world’s most powerful magical families, she’s raised to believe her people are superior to other magical creatures. However, her experiences and new set of friends at Verpax University upend everything she thought she knew about the world and her family legacy. The book challenges its readers to grapple with questions of privilege and prejudice as it explores how systems of power can become abusive to the most vulnerable.

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A book discussion and Skype session with Forest will be held on 8/23 from 6-8 p.m. at the Williamsburg Library. This program is for ages 13 and up, adults welcome.

World Book’s "Early World of Learning" Comes to WRL

Early World of Learning, World Book Online’s early childhood digital resource, is a child’s first encyclopedia, ebook, and introduction to core early concepts. With read-aloud across all functions, the 60 stories in “World of Reading” and “Trek’s Travels” tie learning together through videos, games, and printable activities. Twelve stories are available in both Spanish and English, and the worksheets also offer written instructions in Spanish. Classic songs, nursery rhymes, and fairy tales complete the program, and are often included in the lesson plan for each story.

“We are pleased to offer Early World of Learning to our users,” said youth services division director Sandy Towers. “The activities found in Early World of Learning help us achieve our goal of supporting early literacy development and help our young users acquire and improve skills that they need to be successful in school. I’m certain that children will enjoy the engaging stories, rhymes, songs, games, and educational content found in the database. In addition to the interactive activities for children, Early World of Learning also offers tools to help educators utilize the database in the classroom.”

Author Spotlight: Laurie Forest

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