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Libraries celebrate 'The Great Gatsby'

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"The Great Gatsby" is coming to Volusia County – in a big way! The Volusia County Public Library system will celebrate the American classic during a series of NEA Big Read programs that run from Jan. 14 through Feb. 21.

The NEA Big Read, which encourages community reading through programs designed around a single book, is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. The Volusia County Public Library system received a \$15,000 NEA Big Read grant and

selected F. Scott Fitzgerald's Pulitzer Prize winning novel as its title.

The library system's 13 branches will host more than 90 author talks, presentations, films, documentaries and book discussions of the novel, which was published in 1925.

"The Great Gatsby' may be the most popular classic in modern American fiction," said Karen Poulsen, NEA Big Read coordinator for Volusia County Public Library. "It defined and explored the culture and values of the 1920s in the United States, and many of its themes remain relevant today – specifically, capitalism, consumerism, cynicism, romanticism, and the meaning of the American Dream. Additionally, the book's themes of resistance to change, decadence, social upheaval, idealism and excess create a portrait of the Roaring Twenties and the Jazz Age that has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American Dream. Although 'The Great Gatsby' is fewer than 200 pages long, there is no bigger read in American literature."

During the week of Jan. 7, each library branch will hand out free copies of the novel and calendars of events. Visitors may enter a drawing to win a prize basket that includes a copy of the book, the film and other gifts from community merchants. Each branch will select its winner on Feb. 20. Other activities at branches will include 1920s crafts, photo booths with props, and scavenger hunts.

The kickoff event will be a presentation by Jackson R. Bryer, one of the nation's foremost authorities on Fitzgerald's works, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in the Stetson Room at Stetson University, 421 N. Woodland Blvd., DeLand. Bryer, co-founder and president of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, will discuss "What Makes Gatsby Great?"

Relive the speakeasy from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, at the Cinematique Theater, 242 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach. Wear a Gatsby-inspired costume, pick up a book, take a picture with an antique car, and take part in prize drawings and a trivia contest. Pianist Rose Shlyam Grace and tenor Curtis Rayam will perform jazz tunes from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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Jazz singer Sybil Gage will perform from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Port Orange Regional Library, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Gage has enjoyed a three-year residency at Heidi's Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach. She's also a regular performer at the New Smyrna Beach Jazz Festival and the Noble Thin Man Watts Jazz Festival in DeLand.

Ten Florida visual artists will display their rendered reflections of "The Great Gatsby" or the 1920s from Jan. 2 to 31 in the rotunda of the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand. Local artist Margaret Schnebly Hodge is the curator for the exhibit, which is titled ARTiculating Gatsby.

Actress and writer Debra Conner will portray Fitzgerald's wife, Zelda, at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at the Port Orange Regional Library; and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, in the Stetson Room at Stetson University, 421 N. Woodland Blvd., DeLand. She will tell the story of Zelda's glory as one of the first American flappers and her disintegration into mental illness.

Kirk Curnutt, a professor and chair of English at Troy University in Alabama, will explain how "The Great Gatsby" captures the idealistic nature of the American psyche and continues to appeal to readers of all ages at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Ormond Beach Regional Library, 30 S. Beach St., Ormond Beach.

The Big Read also will feature six performances of "On the Radiola," an original play written by Karen Poulsen. Local actors Jeanna Carley, Wes Jones, Jennifer Kinsey and Spencer Meehl star in the comedy, which pays tribute to the golden age of radio. Performances will be:

- 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18: Port Orange Regional Library, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange
- 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 and 22: DeBary Hall Historic Site, 198 Sunrise Blvd., DeBary
- 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27; and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 28 and 29: Museum of Arts & Sciences, 352 S. Nova Road, Daytona Beach

Other presentations featuring speakers will include:

- Grand Hotels of Florida: 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26. Zach Zacharias, senior curator of education at the Museum of Arts & Sciences, will share information about hotels of the early 20th century during this program at the New Smyrna Beach Regional Library, 1001 S. Dixie Freeway, New Smyrna Beach
- Taste for Extravagance: 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, at the DeBary Public Library, 200 N. Charles R. Beall Blvd., DeBary. Katya Kudryavtseva, Ph.D., an assistant professor of art history at Stetson University, will address the extravagance and stylish excess of art deco fashion.
- Presidents and Their First Ladies: 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Port Orange Regional Library, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Actors William and Sue Wills will portray William Harding and Calvin Coolidge and their wives.

Library staff and guest moderators will lead book discussions at these times:

- 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18: Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Ave., Deltona
- 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21: Sweet Marlays' Coffee, 214 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach
- 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21: 95 and Vine Wine Shop, 1655 Dunlawton Ave., Suite 5, Port Orange
- 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24: New Smyrna Beach Regional Library, 1001 S. Dixie Freeway, New Smyrna Beach. This discussion will be preceded by a viewing of the 2013 film starring Leonardo DiCaprio.
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25: Willie Miller Instructional Center (Building 331), Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 600 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Daytona Beach
- 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28: Boston Coffeehouse, 109 E. New York Ave., DeLand
- 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28: Panera Bread, 1310 W. Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach
- 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31: DeBary Public Library, 200 N. Charles R. Beall Blvd., DeBary

- 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1: DeLand Regional Library. Local playwright Ann Magaha will lead this discussion.
- 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1: Lake Helen Public Library, 221 N. Euclid Ave., Lake Helen
- 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1: City Council Chambers, 3048 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach Shores
- 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7: Ormond Beach Regional Library, 30 S. Beach St., Ormond Beach
- 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8: Bahamian Club, 4150 S. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach
- 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9; and 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14: Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island
- 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15: Port Orange Regional Library, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange
- 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21: Schnebly Recreation Center, 1101 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach

Films related to "The Great Gatsby" and the Roaring Twenties include:

- "The Great Gatsby" (1974): 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island; 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at the Port Orange Regional Library; 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Ormond Beach Regional Library; and 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Robert Redford and Mia Farrow star in this Hollywood film adaptation.
- "The Jazz Singer" (1927): 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library. The son of a Jewish cantor must defy the traditions of his religious father to become a jazz singer.
- "The Great Gatsby" (2013): 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Port Orange Regional Library, 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the DeLand Regional Library, and 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Leonardo DiCaprio stars in this Australian-American epic film.
- "Bugsy Malone" (1976): 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. The classic gangster story is told with an all-child cast.
- "City Lights" (1931): 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. A dewy-eyed tramp (Charlie Chaplin) falls in love with a sightless flower girl.
- "De Lovely" (2004): 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Inspecting a magical biographical stage musical, composer Cole Porter reviews his life and career with his wife. Linda.
- Double feature: 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Ormond Beach Regional Library. Enjoy the slapstick humor of Charlie Chaplin in "The Kid" (1921) and the Marx Brothers in "The Cocoanuts" (1929).
- "It" (1927): 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Port Orange Regional Library. Clara Bow stars as a salesgirl who pursues a handsome playboy.
- "Midnight in Paris" (2011): 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Woody Allen directed this movie about a screenwriter (Owen Wilson) who goes back to the 1920s every day at midnight.
- "Some Like it Hot" (1959): 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. When two musicians witness a mob hit, they flee the state in an all-female band disguised as women.
- "Singin' in the Rain" (1952): 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at the Port Orange Regional Library. Silent movies are giving way to talking pictures, and a hoofer-turned-matinee idol (Gene Kelly) is caught in that bumpy transition.

Documentaries include:

- Double feature: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Lake Helen Public Library. Watch the documentaries "F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Concise Biography" and "The Roaring Twenties."
- "Flappers": 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at the DeBary Public Library. Using vibrant archival film clips and interviews with women who came of age during the Roaring '20s in Britain, this documentary chronicles the emergence of the modern woman after World War I.
- "Cosmopolis (1919-1931)": 9:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at the Lake Helen Public Library; and 1 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4, at the DeBary Public Library. Filmmaker Ric Burns explores how the post-World War I economic boom, the rise of consumer culture, and the birth of mass media fueled the convergence of an incredible array of human and cultural energies, ending with the stock market crash of 1929 and the construction of the Empire State Building.

- "100 Years, 100 Events: 1920s": 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. This American Experience documentary shares the far-reaching and consequential events of the Roaring Twenties.
- "One Woman, One Vote": 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. This American Experience documentary explores the women's suffrage movement and the 19th Amendment.
- "Sacco and Vanzetti": 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the Ormond Beach Regional Library. This documentary looks at the Italian immigrant anarchists who were accused of murder in 1920 and executed in 1927 after a notoriously prejudiced trial.
- "Flappers: The Birth of the 20th Century Woman": 11:45 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Lake Helen Public Library. Flappers broke through the barricades of gender prejudice and social inequality. Higher education for women, the entry of women into politics and the professions, women's suffrage, new attitudes toward sexuality, and other topics are addressed in this documentary.
- "Prohibition": 2:30 p.m. Feb. 2, 8 and 9 at the Lake Helen Public Library. In this three-part series, Ken Burns explores what happened when the country went dry in 1920 and millions of law-abiding Americans became lawbreakers.
- "The Roaring 20s": 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Three men attempt to make a living in Prohibitionist America after returning home from fighting together in World War I.
- "100 Years that Shook the World: 1900 1932": 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Look back on the first three decades of the 20th century during this American Experience documentary.
- "Gangster Chronicles: The Roaring 20s": 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. This American Experience documentary looks at infamous gangsters including Al Capone, Lucky Luciano and Bugsy Siegel.

Arts and crafts programs for adults include:

- Art deco creative coloring for adults: 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the DeBary Public Library (call 386-668-3835 for reservations); and 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Deltona Regional Library (reservations are not required)
- 1920s jewelry craft: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the DeLand Regional Library. Make two 1920s accessories using rhinestones, beads, feathers and other items. Call 386-822-6430, ext. 20762, for reservations.
- Gatsby craft corner: 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Deltona Regional Library. Create and decorate 1920s-style headbands.
- Gatsby art transfer: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, and 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Lake Helen Public Library. Make your own piece of Gatsby-inspired art. Reservations are required; call 386-228-1152.
- Gatsby fashion accessories: 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the DeBary Public Library. Craft a bauble, barrette and/or headband. Reservations are required; call 386-668-3865.
- Get squared: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at the Hub on Canal, 132 Canal St., New Smyrna Beach; Debra Conner will present a workshop on cubism, a radically new and influential art movement that arose in the 1920s. Participants will learn about cubism, then create their own mini-masterpieces. Reservations are required; call Betty Turco at 386-957-3924.

Cultural programs include:

- 1920s Jeopardy: 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at the New Smyrna Beach Regional Library. Brush up on the Roaring '20s for this competition. Teams will be formed on the day of the program.
- What's cooking at the library? 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at the Deltona Regional Library.
 Librarians will make finger foods and hors d'oeuvres 1920s style. Reservations are required; call 386-789-7207, option 4.
- Poetry slam 1920s redux: 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the DeBary Public Library. Listen to readings from Harlem Renaissance and Jazz Age poets in addition to participants' own Gatsby-era creations. Pizza will be served.
- Dancing with the librarians: 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Deltona Regional Library. Try
 out some dances with a Jazz Age flavor.
- Coloring and chocolate-dipped spoons: 11:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6, at the Ormond Beach Regional Library. Join the staff for coloring and hot chocolate, made even sweeter with chocolate-dipped spoons. Bring an antique spoon.
- The Great Gatsby cakewalk: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the DeLand Regional Library. Listen to music from the 1920s, play games and eat some cake.
- Charleston dance program: 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at the Port Orange Regional Library. Learn the lively steps to this fun dance, which was popular in the 1920s.

Children and teens can take part in these programs:

- Jazzmatazz storytime: 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the DeBary Public Library. Toddlers and preschoolers can listen to stories and make some jazzy music.
- Art deco stained glass: 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the DeBary Public Library. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited.
- Circus skills: 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Port Orange Regional Library. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade can learn 1920s circus skills, including plate spinning and juggling, from the Orlando Circus School. Reservations are required; call 386-322-5152, option 5.
- Get squared: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at the DeLand Regional Library, 30 E. Howry Ave., DeLand. Debra Conner will present this children's workshop on cubism, an art movement that became popular in the 1920s. Children will learn about cubism, then create their own minimasterpieces. Registration is required; call 386-822-6430.
- Party like it's 1920: 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Deltona Regional Library. Teens can join the staff for trivia, games and crafts inspired by the Jazz Age.
- Themed storytimes at each library branch. Visit <u>www.volusialibrary.org</u> and click on "Calendar" for schedules.

All Big Read programs are free and open to the public. For a complete list of book discussions, films, documentaries and other programs, visit www.volusia.org/bigread or www.volusialibrary.org/NEABigRead. For more information, call 386-248-1745.