

For Immediate Release: 1/21/2009

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County to Kick-off Sixth Annual Library Lovers Month; Event to feature award-winning storyteller Ellouise Shoettler

Local public libraries will host special programs and activities throughout February to celebrate the sixth annual Library Lovers Month, designed to raise awareness -- to residents and elected officials -- of the wide-ranging role that public libraries play in the life of the community.

The month-long celebration of public libraries, sponsored by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, will kick off with an appearance by storyteller Ellouise Shoettler on January 31 at 11 a.m. at the Gaithersburg Library, 18330 Montgomery Village Ave.

The free program is suitable for families with children at least five years old. Shoettler will weave southern-style tales with elements of myths, legend and folklore. Her lively, heart-warming stories use environmental themes that are timely and educational.

Also in celebration of Library Lovers Month, February 26 will be "Dine In Day" at the Original Pancake House at 7700 Wisconsin Ave. in Bethesda and at 12224 Rockville Pike. Fifteen percent of the day's gross sales will benefit Friends of the Library, Montgomery County.

Celebratory programs at MCPL branches throughout the month include:

Sat., January 31 – Chinese New Year Celebration featuring the traditional "Lion Dance" performed by the Madison Chinese Dance Academy and the Washington School of Chinese Language and Culture. Chinese Yo-Yo and other activities. Suitable for all ages. 1 p.m. Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Call 240-777-0922; TTY 301-897-2203.

February – Steal a kiss (a chocolate one) at the library service desks. Suitable for chocolate lovers. While supplies last. Damascus Library, 9701 Main Street.

Tuesday, February 3 – Adult book discussion. "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. 7:30 p.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

Saturday, February 7 – Story time. Suitable for children ages three to five. 9:30 a.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

Saturday, February 7 – Born to Read Story time. Suitable for ages birth to 24 months. 10:30 a.m. Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Rd. Call 240-773-9420; TTY 301-565-7505.

Saturday, February 7 – Black History Month Program. “Soul in Motion” African Dance and Drum Troupe. All ages welcome. 3 p.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

Tuesday, February 10 – Stories, songs, rhymes and alphabet activities. Suitable for children ages three to five. 10:30 a.m. Damascus Library, 9701 Main St. Call 240-773-9444; TTY 301-253-0148.

Wednesday, February 11 – Stories, songs, rhymes, and activities. Suitable for children ages three to five. 1:30 p.m. Damascus Library, 9701 Main St. Call 240-773-9444; TTY 301-253-0148.

Friday, February 13 – Lap-sit, Rhyme Time. Suitable for birth to 11 months (no siblings). 10:15 a.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

Saturday, February 14 – Bake sale and used book sale. Egyptian story teller Bob Kidd and Middle Eastern craft projects, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Arab Folkloric Belly Dancing by Cissie Williams at 11:30 a.m., followed by lessons at 1 p.m. All ages. Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Rd. Call 240-773-9420; TTY 301-565-7505.

Saturday, February 14 – Music, juggling and comedy featured by the NicoloWhimsey Show. 9:30 to 11 a.m. Followed by an ice cream party. Little Falls Library, 5501 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda. Call 240-773-9520; TTY 301-320-8813.

Saturday, February 14 – Puppet show featuring “Kaydee Puppets.” 2 p.m. Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Avenue. Call 240-777-0140; TTY 240-777-0902.

Thursday., February 19 – Stories, songs, rhymes, activities, crafts. Suitable for children under three years, with an adult. 10:30 a.m. Damascus Library, 9701 Main St. Pre-register at 240-773-9444. TTY 301-253-0148.

Friday, February 20 – Toddler Time. Suitable for 12 - 23 months (no siblings). 10:15 a.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

Saturday, February 21 – Jazz Music. All ages. Julie Mack performs jazz. 1 p.m. Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd. Call 240-777-0970; TTY 301-657-0840.

Sunday, February 22 – African American Book Club. “Ms. Etta’s Fast House” by Victori McGlothlin. 3 p.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

Monday, February 23 – Adult Book Discussion. “Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman’s Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia” by Elizabeth Gilbert. 7 p.m. Poolesville Library, 19633 Fisher Ave. Call 240-773-9550; TTY 301-972-7825.

Friday, February 27 – Story time for Twos. Suitable for ages 24 – 35 months (no siblings). 10:15 a.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

Saturday, February 28 – Preschool Story time. Suitable for ages two to six. 10:30 a.m. Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Rd. Call 240-773-9420; TTY 301-565-7505.

Saturday February 28 – Musical performances. B-CC High School musical groups perform barbershop and beautyshop quartets and chamber music. All ages. 1 p.m. Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd. Call 240-777-0970; TTY 301-657-0840.

Saturday, February 28 – Black History Month Program. Holy Harmony Gospel Quartet performs traditional gospel selections. Families welcome. 3 p.m. Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd. Call 240-777-0110.

To request ADA program accommodations, contact the library hosting the program five work days in advance.

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, with 15 local chapters, is a 25-year-old non-profit membership organization dedicated to enhancing and promoting public libraries through fundraising and advocacy efforts. FOL operates two used book stores, and supports various literary projects that promote the work of local authors, encourage reading among children and enhance adult life-long learning.

For more information about Library Lovers Month and Friends of the Library, call 240-777-0020 or visit www.folmc.org or www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library

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