January at the Library

PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Library Events in January

Great Falls, Montana – The Great Falls Public Library is sponsoring the following events during January.
Holiday Closures

The Great Falls Public Library will be closed on Monday, January 21 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Art @ the Library

In January the Great Falls Public Library is hosting an art exhibit featuring the works of the Great Falls Spinners and Weavers. This includes hangings, blankets, clothing and both large and small pieces. For more information call 453-0349.

Foreign and Independent Film Series

The Great Falls Public Library's Foreign and Independent Film Series continues its seventh season on Wednesday, January 2 at 7:00 pm. and Saturday, January 5, at 2:00 pm. This series is free and open to the public.

January's selection is the Australian Little Sparrows. It tells the story of three sisters coping with the return of their mother's breast cancer. As they go through this process, each must confront personal change and growth. Nina is widowed with two young children. Anna is an unhappily married actress and Christine has yet to come to terms with her own sexuality. As they spend their last Christmas together as a family, their dying mother guides them by revealing a secret of her own. The film includes adult situations (AS), but no subtitles as it is in English.

The featured short is A Lost and Found Box of Human Sensation.

Films will be shown each month on the first Wednesday and the following Saturday. The series, which runs September through May, is free and open to the public. Be forewarned, some films may contain strong language

or adult situations. They are not rated by MPAA but in our brochures we have tried to indicate content. Brochures are available at the library.

Gadgets Galore @ the Library

The Great Falls Public Library is hosting free drop-in sessions Wednesdays in January from Noon to 1:00 pm, which will offer training and tech support for electronic gadgets. Devices include, but are not limited to, e-readers, Smart phones, iPads, iPods, mp3 players, and other comparable devices. If applicable, attendees are reminded to bring passwords and usernames. Reference librarian Sean Anderson will lead these sessions.

For more information on these ongoing trainings call the Information Services department at 453-0349.

Russian Journal

The Great Falls Public Library is hosting a free presentation, My Russian Journal, presented by Sandra Erickson and Lynn Baker, on Thursday, January 3, 7:00. Erickson and Baker, doctors of International Business and Law respectively, spent ten weeks in Russia last year as part of the Open World Leadership Program sponsored by the ACIR (Advisory Commission on International Relations). Great Falls supports a local chapter of this organization. While in Russia, the couple taught at two different universities in Siberia and Tartarstan as well as doing some personal traveling. Their presentation will include in a digital slide show with narrative.

Lunchtime Learning (SERIES CANCELLED)

The Great Falls Public Library is presenting a free, four-part Lunchtime Learning series on Tuesdays from Noon to 1:00 pm in January. These classes are geared towards helping folks advance computer skills. They will be taught by Information Services' staff. Pre-registration is required with class size capped at 15. To register stop by the Information Services desk on the 2nd floor of the library. Call 453-0349 for more information. The schedule follows:

January 8, Facebook Basics
January 15, Using Microsoft Word
January 22, Introduction to LinkedIn
January 29, Resume Writing

What I Learned About America

The Great Falls Public Library is hosting a free talk and digital slide show with Fulbright scholar David Thomas on Thursday, January 10, at 7:00 pm. *What I Learned about America while Living in South Africa* will cover Mr. Thomas and his wife, Cynthia's, recent experiences living in South Africa, teaching at the University of Pretoria for 11 months, and volunteering at the township schools near Pretoria with students from the slums who live in abject poverty. Mr. Thomas will also talk about the country and other experiences apart from the educational work. He and his family return to South Africa regularly, where he serves as a consultant to these educational programs.

Mr. Thomas is a retired Math professor who taught at MSU—Bozeman. The two years before his African adventure, he worked for the Great Falls School district to improve the quality of Math education throughout. His wife is currently a Math professor at the University of Great Falls.

OpenBooks Discussion

The **OpenBooks** Discussion Series, which runs October – May, continues on **Thursday, January 17, at 7:00 pm,** in the Montana Room of the library. These discussions, sponsored by Humanities Montana and the Great Falls Public Library Foundation, are free and open to the public. You may attend any and all of the discussions. Books are available at the library three weeks prior to each meeting. You will need a library card to check a book out whether you attend the discussion or just read the book. Discussions are facilitated by Penny Hughes-Briant, a teacher at UGF. For more information on this series call 453-0349.

January's selection is *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell. In 2019, humanity finally finds proof of extraterrestrial life when a listening post in Puerto Rico picks up exquisite singing from a planet which will come to be known as

Rakhat. While United Nations diplomats endlessly debate a possible first contact mission, the Society of Jesus quietly organizes an eight-person scientific expedition of its own. What the Jesuits find is a world so beyond comprehension that it will lead them to question the meaning of being "human." When the lone survivor of the expedition, Emilio Sandoz, returns to Earth in 2059, he will try to explain what went wrong... Words like "provocative" and "compelling" will come to mind as you read this shocking novel about first contact with a race that creates music akin to both poetry and prayer.

Mary Doria Russell has been called one of the most versatile writers in contemporary American literature. Her novels are critically acclaimed, commercial successes. They are also studied in literature, theology and history courses in colleges and universities across the United States. Mary's guest lectures have proved popular from New Zealand to Germany as well as in the U.S. and Canada.

Gearing up for Gardening

The Great Falls Public Library is hosting two programs presented by Gardens from Garbage. On Thursday, January 17, 7:00 pm, the group will show the film *Food, Inc.* The current method of raw food production is largely a response to the growth of the fast food industry since the 1950s. The production of food overall has more drastically changed since that time than the several thousand years prior. Controlled primarily by a handful of multinational corporations, the global food production business - with an emphasis on the business - has as its unwritten goals production of large quantities of food at low direct inputs (most often subsidized) resulting in enormous profits, which in turn results in greater control of the global supply of food sources within these few companies. Health and safety (of the food itself, of the animals produced themselves, of the workers on the assembly lines, and of the consumers actually eating the food) are often overlooked by the companies, and are often overlooked by government in an effort to provide cheap food regardless of these negative consequences. Many of the changes are based on advancements in science and technology, but often have negative side effects. The answer that the companies have come up with is to throw more science at the problems to bandage the issues but not the root causes. The global food supply may be in crisis with lack of biodiversity, but can be changed on the demand side of the equation.

On Thursday, January 24 7:00 pm, the group will present *Bucket Composting* This program will focus on learning correct composting techniques and preparing soil. Keep your garbage at home and make “good dirt”. Compost all winter without labor. Container labor-free composting instruction and demonstration.

Gardens From Garbage is a program of Sunburst Unlimited, Inc., a local non-profit dedicated to educating and guiding neighborhoods and communities in developing sustainable, local food sources through composting, gardening, and year-round greenhouses. They have been working and teaching in Cascade and Chouteau Counties since 1998.

BeeKeeping 101

The Great Falls Public Library is hosting Brian Rodger of the Wanna-Beekeeping Club presenting *BeeKeeping 101* on Thursday, January 24, 7:00 pm. This program is free and open to the public.

Keeping bees isn’t something you just jump into without doing your homework, but even the best books and websites can fall short of one-on-one advice from people who know the trade inside and out. The Wanna-Bee Beekeeping Club was founded by beekeeper Brian Rogers of Great Falls to make it easier for beekeepers to find

each other and collaborate.

People turn to beekeeping for different reasons, but the current economy and the recent development of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) are both driving people to consider keeping honey bees. Honey bees are critical to the nation's agricultural industry, which is partly why CCD has gotten so much media attention in recent years. But honey is also a valuable crop, and bees don't take up the amount of space needed to raise livestock or grow produce, so many recently-unemployed individuals turn to beekeeping as a means to make ends meet.

The Wanna-Bee Beekeeping Club will help new beekeepers connect with more experienced keepers, share resources, collaborate, and just enjoy a common interest in bees.

Supporting Documents

Press Release - January at the Library (262 KB) (PDF)

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