

Yuletide Events

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Food Programs

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Collectible Books

Bring in your old books to see what they're worth / Page 7

Winter Colors

Brighten up the cold weather by reading for prizes

Winter's palette is one of whites, grays and blues inspired by snow, clouds and crystal blue skies. But the 2018 Adult Winter Reading Program plans to warm you up with a theme of "Color Your Winter READ."

The reading program runs Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 and features five-book bingo. The reading categories have color themes, such as "red hot romance," "blue-ribbon reading" for award-winning books and "black-and-white striped" for true crime and/or mystery. Other topics include biographies of an artist, authors of color and Missouri authors. The bingo free space is re-reading your favorite book.

Participants can pick up a reading log any time during January and February. Upon scoring a literary bingo, they will receive an invitation to the program party and a library mug (for the first 200 finishers), will be entered in a prize drawing and will receive a gift card for a free book at the Friends bookstore, Books Revisited.

Prizes in the drawing will be awarded at each branch (Belt, Savannah and Bookmobile) and include grand prizes of \$50 gift cards, second-place prizes of an adult coloring book and gel pen set and third-place prizes of \$10 gift certificates to Books Revisited.



Snuggling In

It's time to curl up with a book – and wait for any surprises

“Winter is coming” is a now-famous line (actually a family motto and a major part of the plot) from a series of books by George R.R. Martin that has exploded onto television as “Game of Thrones,” which recently completed its seventh season. It’s also the tag line for a variety of funny internet “memes,” which are still images with text that emphasize irony or sarcasm.

There is no doubt, winter is coming whether we want it to or not.

For us die-hard fans, the series by Martin is called “A Song of Fire and Ice” and the first book in the series is “A Game of Thrones.” What this series first became famous for is killing off so many main characters unexpectedly. As in, you would be reading along and somewhere in the middle of a book you would scream “Nooooooooo” and then sit there stunned at what had just happened.

Some people like only one kind of book and stick to that same format. Others like to sample books like an all-you-can-eat buffet, trying out new subjects and new authors. Some people like gentle reads, and some people like roller-coaster rides. There are the standard genres of mystery, romance, and horror, and then there are time-travel-historical-fiction romances (yes, this is a real thing).

One of the best resources we have at the library for finding a good book is called Nove-List. You can find the link on our Web site under the heading Online Learning & Research, but there are also links inside of our catalog that take you to similar authors and similar titles. All you do is look up a book you have enjoyed to find suggestions of what to read next. And if you aren’t inclined to look it up yourself, library staff are happy to make suggestions, too.

Winter is the only time of year that is ready-made for reading as a primary leisure activity. There are no sporting events, gardens, lawn mowing, or other outdoor tasks to pull you away from a good book. Kids even get time off from school that can be spent reading – once they get bored with their Christmas toys.

There is nothing quite like snuggling with a good book, a hot beverage, a blanket on your lap, and maybe a cat or dog at your feet.

Michelle Mears, *Rolling Hills Library Director*
mmears@rhcl.org

Other ways to reach and follow us

Text the library at **816-287-9828** using these keywords, and we’ll help with your account:

Status for account information

Renew all to renew everything on your account

Renew due to renew overdue items

Help for a list of available commands

or text anything else to start a conversation with a librarian.



Browse

a quarterly publication from Rolling Hills Library that is sponsored by the Friends of Rolling Hills Library

Rolling Hills Library

www.rhcl.org

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt., St. Joseph
816-232-5479
HOURS: 9-9 Mon-Thu
9-6 Fri-Sat/1-5 Sun

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah
816-324-4569
HOURS: 9-6 Mon, Wed, Fri
9-8 Tue, Thu/9-5 Sat/1-5 Sun

Business Office

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-236-2106

Bookmobile & Outreach

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-205-7100

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Library Director

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The board generally meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Friends of the Library

The Friends support the library through volunteer and fund-raising efforts. Friends board meetings are held monthly.

Rolling Hills Library Foundation

The Foundation strives to provide financial support for large endeavors and future growth of the library by seeking substantial gifts from patrons and supportive foundations.



Shop St. Joseph Holiday Program

Books Revisited is taking part in the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce annual effort to promote local Christmas shopping. The Friends store is giving out tickets to customers who purchase items through Dec. 18. The \$10,000 prize drawing will be Dec. 20 and announced through local media.



Families are welcome to take pictures of their kids with You-Know-Who at Breakfast with Santa.

Santa & Songs for the Holidays

Breakfast with Santa

Youths and their families can drop in to enjoy crafts, face painting, Christmas stories by Mrs. Claus, a breakfast of doughnuts, yogurt, fruit, milk and juice AND visiting with Santa himself! They'll also receive a coupon for a free book at Books Revisited. **9-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, Belt Branch Community Room.**

Storytimes with Santa

Preschool-aged children will hear Christmas stories, sing songs, do crafts AND visit with Santa while their parents snap pictures. Savannah sessions are co-sponsored by Andrew County Parents as Teachers and the library. **6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, and 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, Savannah Branch. 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, Belt Branch.**

Scandi Christmas Decorations and Gifts

Make some simple decorations and quick gifts with a Scandinavian accent, including wooden bobbin tomtes, clove-scented Christmas trees, apple tea lights and glit-

ter-paper trees and angels. If you can, please bring old books or sheet music for use in the crafts. All other supplies provided. For ages 10 and older, including adults. Sign up at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>. **6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, Savannah Branch.**

Christmas Sing-Alongs

Get into the holiday mood by joining others to sing Christmas carols with piano accompaniment by library staff member Sarah Sieg at the Belt Branch and Paula Reed at the Savannah Branch. All ages are welcome. **4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, Belt Branch, and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, Savannah Branch.**

Snow Globe Crafts

Let it snow ... in your snow globe! Children ages 8 and older can make these fun holiday decorations. Younger children are welcome to attend but will need adult supervision. The Dec. 14 program is geared toward home-school students. No sign-up is needed. **1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, and 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, Belt Branch.**



Herald the Dragon's final days

The Amazing Castle™ children's exhibit from the Minnesota Children's Museum runs through Jan. 5 in the Belt Branch Upper Story. If you haven't brought your children or grandchildren to this fun, playful exhibit, you should!

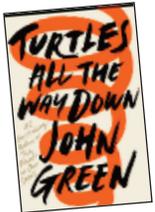
Hours: 10-5 Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays; 10-8 Thursdays; 1-5 Sundays

Book Review

Green rebounds from illness to write a compelling 'Turtles'

While reading author John Green's new novel *Turtles All the Way Down*, I heard his radio interview on NPR and learned a few tidbits about him. This book was

autobiographical in many ways, as Green suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder like his protagonist, Aza.



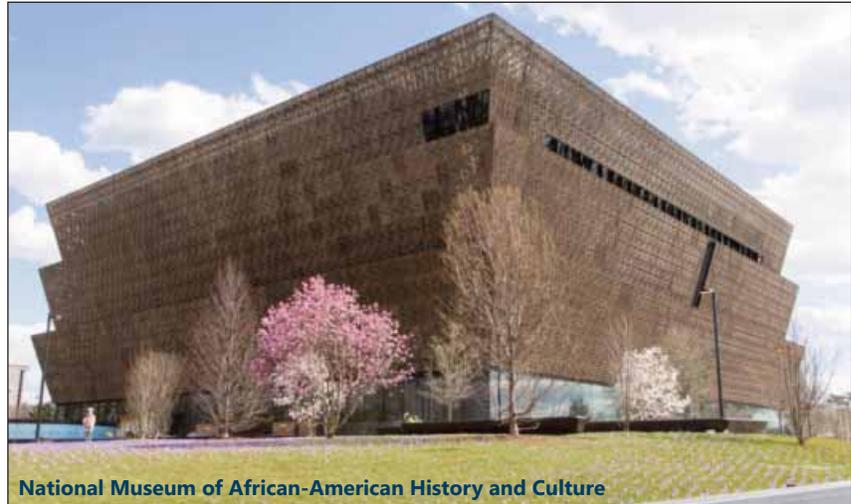
After the success of the movie version

of his previous novel "The Fault in Our Stars," Green became very sick from his OCD. He felt he needed to write his next book about the struggles that go with OCD.

I cared about Aza and her difficulties of suffering from invasive thought spirals. Her struggles are the central story in this new book. The secondary story is about Aza's involvement in the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett's disappearance, which Aza and her best friend Daisy pursue because of the monetary reward. As part of their hunt, Aza reconnects with her childhood friend Davis, who is the missing billionaire's son.

There is mystery, a slight romance and a great deal of teen angst with the added burden of OCD in "Turtles." Green's books are all very readable, and he captures teen emotions candidly and has a way of producing emotional responses in his readers. I enjoyed the book, but it is definitely not my favorite Green novel. That status belongs to *Looking for Alaska*.

– Jennifer George, Rolling Hills Library technical services manager



National Museum of African-American History and Culture

History & Crafts

It's not too cold for seniors to learn, plant and make crafts

Gardening, crafts and African-American history are the topics of upcoming Classy Senior programs at the Belt Branch. All are open to the public, but one does require advanced registration to secure a seat.

Cold-weather gardening: It may be the dead of winter, but that doesn't mean you can't get your hands dirty gardening. Master gardener Barbara Bramblett will discuss winter sowing and how to prepare pots for seeds.

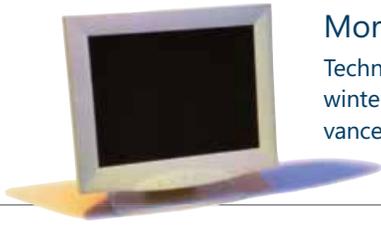
The beauty of winter sowing is that it gives seeds a head start, but "Mother Nature does the heavy lifting," Bramblett says. Seeds are planted in small containers that are kept outside. As long as the soil is moist, the seeds will grow when they're supposed to and be ready for spring planting. **2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11.**

Washington's newest museum: The National Museum of African-American History, which opened in September 2016, is a hard ticket to get. Drew Brown tried for several months to obtain tickets through the museum's website before he was able to secure two. The wait was worth it, he says, and he'll show pictures from the museum and describe his visit.

Using an upward path from the building's lowest level to its upper floors, the museum traces the history of African-Americans from the earliest days of slavery to the modern era and presents their contributions to American culture, arts, science and sports. **2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15.**

Get creative: Sign-up is open now for the craft program to make cute snowmen for your holiday decorations. You'll use Styrofoam balls of different sizes and various embellishments provided by the library. Sign up at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>. **2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7.**

January is International Creativity Month, and why should kids have all the fun? Make colorful objects using 3D Doodlers, a combination of a hot glue gun and a pen, and fuse beads, those plastic pieces that are melted together using a hot iron to create cute snowflakes, animals and other objects. **2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18.**



More tech classes

Technology services librarian Bridgid Reeves is planning a varied line-up of computer classes this winter, including ones on the basics of using e-mail, Facebook and digital cameras, more advanced classes for using Microsoft Word and Excel programs, and a class about on-line resources for filing tax returns. Class info can be found at <http://rhcl.libcal.com/calendar/events>.

Book Review

Family overcomes their jealousies when forced to spend a week alone

I like to read books that I can relate back to my life, so I thoroughly enjoyed this new novel.

Seven Days of Us by

Francesca Hornak is about a family of four that rarely spends extended time with each other.

The oldest daughter, Olivia, is a doctor and is coming home for Christmas. But there's just one catch – she has been

treating an epidemic abroad and must be quarantined for seven days. Her mom, Emma, and dad, Andrew, and younger sister, Phoebe, decide to spend it with her at the family's country estate.

We soon learn each member of the family has a secret they are hiding. In their seven days together, there will be pain and jealousy, but, most of all, they learn to understand each other in ways they would never have been able to do if not for this opportunity. They pull together at the end but are shocked by what they learn from their mother.

Could you spend seven days with your family? Never leaving the house and living with limited wi-fi and phone service? I laugh to think I could. I would be spending the week with a husband, two grown daughters and their spouses, an autistic son who also has Down's syndrome, four grandchildren and four dogs. I would be going nuts!

But it does give you something to think about.

– *Cindy Kieber, Rolling Hills Library outreach assistant*



Edible Events

Chocolate & easy-to-fix meals are on Savannah's menu

When the weather turns cold, thoughts often turn to food. If that's the case for you, the Savannah Branch may be the place to be for you in the next few months. Consider:

Crock-Pot Cookery: Slow cookers are convenient for work-

ing people or folks who just want to fix-it-and-forget-it for a few hours. Come sample some delicious recipes whipped up by the Savannah staff in their kitchen on wheels and enjoy a short booktalk on slow-cooking cookbooks available at the library. We'll also show you how to assemble a recipe in a slow cooker. Bring your favorite recipe or one you'd like to try and we'll use them to create a small cookbook for you to pick up later in the month. **6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18**

Gluten-Free Group: When the diagnosis is gluten-free, it's comforting to find a group of local friends to call for support, advice, recipes, information and funny stories about cooking, cleaning, and eating on the molecular level. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday mornings, with special programs on the third. **10 a.m. first and third Tuesdays.**

Chocolate Olympics: Teens can celebrate February being National Chocolate Month by competing in various games that involve chocolate, including M&M sorting, Oreo stacking and chocolate shuffleboard. Bring your favorite chocolate goodies and be prepared to indulge in the yumminess. **6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8.**

Easy & Elegant Chocolate Desserts: Former pastry chef Sarah Bales Strom will show us how to make desserts such as chocolate crème brûlée and flourless chocolate cake to share with that special someone. **6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6.**



A few more highlights ...

It's difficult to squeeze all of our programs into a quarterly newsletter, but here are a few highlights for this winter season.

Groundhogs, Hearts & Mardi Gras: February is full of fun holidays, and we're celebrating them all at once with crafts, snacks, valentines, pop-up puppets, music and more! Best enjoyed by children in kindergarten and older. **3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, Savannah Branch.**

T-Shirt Scarves: Children ages 8 and older can turn ordinary T-shirts into stylish scarves! Younger children are welcome but will need adult supervision. All supplies provided. **4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, Belt Branch.**

Music and Musings Open Mic Night: Older teens and adults are invited to share their musical and literary talents with others. Bring your own instruments and step up to be heard. **7-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Dec. 11, Jan. 22 & Feb. 12, Belt Branch.**



ShyLo, the Reading Dog

Children can practice reading with ShyLo, a trained therapy dog who loves to have someone read to him, no matter their reading levels. Reading to a pet helps young readers because animals don't judge. 4 p.m. most Thursdays through February @ Belt Branch.

Life (Lessons) of Pie

Award-winning baker dishes up warm advice on pies and life in colorful cookbook

"Pie is generous and adaptable ... pie is an ambassador of love."

With an engaging style and accessibility, award-winning and self-taught baker Kate McDermott invites readers to enjoy not just the delicious

readers to enjoy not just the delicious

results but also the journey of pie making in her book *Art of the Pie: A Practical Guide to Homemade Crusts, Fillings, and Life*. The book can be read both as a cookbook and as an account of this iconic American food's power to nourish, connect and teach.

The author chronicles her own connections to pie making, from the legacy of her no-nonsense, pie-making grandmother to her mother's signature grasshopper pie to her relationship with her son. She also lets the reader in on her experiences of baking with some famous personalities.

McDermott describes her own baking foibles with humility and humor, proving how pie failures can teach us as much as pie successes. She also outlines "Kate's Rules of Pie Making and Life." Rule No. 1: Keep everything



Kate McDermott's recipe for poached-pear, sour-cream caramel pie with a crumb topping (above) is a new favorite for Anali Mathies.

chilled, especially yourself. Rule No. 2: Keep your boundaries. Rule No. 3: Vent. Wise words, indeed.

Before getting to the actual recipes, the book offers how-to suggestions and in-depth explanations on dough ingredients and the elements of fillings. McDermott also addresses the tools of pie making, crimping styles, apple varieties and recommends sources for ingredients.

In trying out some of the recipes, the butter-and-shortening pie crust turned out each of the three times I made it, while my single attempt at the all-butter crust did not fare as well; however, spurred on by McDermott, I am determined to try again. The strawberry rhubarb pie and her "quintessential apple pie" were delicious (I'm tempted to try the cheddar cheese variation of the latter), while the rhubarb custard was a little low

on fruit. I've made the poached-pear, sour-cream caramel pie with a crumb topping twice, and it is a new favorite that's sure to be repeated.

– Anali Mathies, Belt Branch public services assistant

- Jaime Oliver's Christmas Cookbook
- The Beach Home Cookbook by Mary Kay Andrews
- Best of the Best Presents Quick and

Easy Low-Carb Cookbook by George Stella

- The Fabulous Fiber

New Cookbooks @ the Library

Cookbook by Sandra Woodruff

- The Super Fun Times Vegan Holiday Cookbook by Isa Chandra Moskowitz
- Taste of Home Annual Recipes 2017

- Plant-Powered Protein Cookbook by Vegetarian Times
- 12 Healthy Habits for Life by Carol Hand
- The Easy, Low-Sodium Diet Plan and Cookbook by Christopher Lower
- Impatient Foodie: 100 Delicious Recipes for a Hectic, Time-Starved World by Elettra Wiedemann
- Candy is Magic: Real Ingredients, Modern Recipes by Jami Curl
- A New Way to Bake by Martha Stewart Kitchens

- One-Pan Wonders by America's Test Kitchen
- Celebrate Every Season with Six Sisters Stuff by Six Sisters
- Cooking With Zac by Zac Posen
- Will It Skillet? by Daniel Shumski
- Red, White & 'Que by Karen Adler
- Brave Tart: Iconic American Desserts by Stella Parks
- Fearless Foods: Allergy-Free Recipes for Kids by Katrina Jorgensen
- Favorite Recipes of the Lady and Her Friends by Paula Deen



Coming clean about cleaning

Savannah Branch custodian Kelly Osborn will dispense tips on how to clean every room in your house, and based on how clean she keeps the library, we know she knows what she's talking about. Learn stain removal tips, what products work best and much more. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, Savannah Branch.

What's in Your Bookcase?

Not every book is worth collecting, and now's your chance to learn what you have

People collect things. Hummels, ukuleles, baseball cards. The list is endless, but at the impressionable age of 16, I chose books. Particu-



larly, works by Ernest Hemingway and Hermann Hesse. I had no idea that the desire to own a few pivotal volumes would blossom into a career nearing 30 years.

In my teens I had plenty to learn. What made something a “first edi-

tion”? Were those paper wrappers important? An amazing English teacher, the late Barry Reynolds, tried to answer what questions he could. He taught me that the “A” on the copyright page of a Scribner's edition of *For Whom the Bell Tolls* connoted “first edition.” He also taught me the dust jacket added value to the book and that a price needed to appear on the front flap (if the price doesn't appear, it connotes a book club edition). There were other things he called points of issue that, I would later learn, could be a quagmire to wade through, and Barry had no intention of joining me.

Enter one Ardis Glenn. In 1985, Ardis owned the most reputable bookstore in Kansas City, Glenn Books. A true reader's paradise. Ardis sold me my first collectible book, and she taught me that not all books were, indeed, collectible. Every book has a buyer, she might say, but not every book is worth buying. Some books were printed in enormous numbers that made their value paltry. Limited run books, often numbered and signed, could fetch thousands if they were in demand.

Since that time, I've clerked in

several bookshops, have owned one and managed three, have consumed bibliography, labored in public, private and university libraries and traipsed from one auction house to the next. I've learned minor things like how the number lines on modern copyright pages can reveal how many times a book has been printed. I've observed that collectible fiction values rise and fall due to whim and that good history books hold their value due to scholarly need.

But how might this effect you? At 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, I'll present the program “Antique and Rare Book Appraisal” in the Belt Branch Community Room. I'll discuss the finer points of book collecting, share anecdotes, give suggestions for archival care and, most importantly, offer book appraisals.

If you're a fan of *Antiques Roadshow*, this may be a program for you. If you think you have a letter or land deed signed by a past president, bring it by. If you found a book by Dickens in Uncle Charlie's attic, let me have a gander. If it's worth something, I'll tell you how much.

Who knows, you may decide the bookman's trail is for you.

— Hans Bremer,
Books Revisited manager

Books Revisited
The Friends of the Library Bookstore

Offering used books, music and more! 1908 N. Belt 205-7125
Hours: 9-6 Monday-Friday, 9-5 Saturday & 1-4 Sunday

Beaut of a Bundt

This carrot cake will be a highlight of the holidays, or any day

When The Cake Lady told The Editor she'd make him a cake for his birthday, he asked for a Bundt cake with a gooey filling and nuts. After scouring through her recipe files, she found this one. A happy birthday it was.

Carrot Bundt Cake with Cream-Cheese Filling

For the cake:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 1 cup chopped pecans

For the filling:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 large egg

For the frosting:

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 12-cup Bundt pan generously with cooking spray. (I used a cooking spray with flour in it, such as Bakers Joy).

In a large bowl, combine cake ingredients, mixing until well-combined. Batter will be very thick.

For the filling, beat cream cheese with sugar, vanilla and egg until

creamy.

To assemble, fill bottom of Bundt pan with about 3/4 of the batter. Spoon the filling into the pan, being careful not to let it touch the sides of the pan. Spoon the remaining batter over the filling. It's okay if the filling is not covered completely.

Bake for 60-65 minutes. Cake will be browned and will pull away from the pan when done. Cool 10-15 minutes before inverting onto a wire rack. Cool completely before frosting.

For the frosting, beat cream cheese, milk and powdered sugar together until smooth and creamy. Pour frosting over top of cake and top with pecans.



Information about all library programs can be found at www.rhcl.org.

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