Library Lovers Month
So many reasons to love your library!

Welcome to February! Love is in the air everywhere, even at your public library! February is Library Lovers’ Month, and it is a great time to share why you love your public library. There are so many reasons to love your public library including:

- Plan a vacation from Australia to Zimbabwe and everywhere in between.
- Find federal statistics on everything from cell phones to Internet use across the U.S. and around the world.
- Find out how to replace a lost birth certificate.
- Enroll in free computer classes to sharpen your technology skills.
- Purchase used books and help support the library.
- Check out large print books.
- Escape from the weather! (Too hot, too cold, too wet!)
- Have your child play games such as "Who Wants to be a Millionaire: Kids Edition" on computers just for children.
- View lovely displays on a variety of topics, including dolls, teddy bears, and more.
- Help your blind or physically handicapped family member sign up for talking books through the Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services.
- Learn how to write a great essay.
- Download eBooks and audiobooks for 24/7 access to intriguing reads.
- Find biographies of the good, the bad, and the ugly.
Valentine’s Day Celebrations!
Celebrate Valentine’s Day at your library!

Celebrate Valentine’s Day on February 14 with celebrations at the Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library and the Seminole County Public Library!

The Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library will host a Valentine’s Day party on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 3:45 p.m. where there will be Valentine’s Day themed stories, games, crafts, and snacks. This program is designed for ages 5—8 and registration is required. Please call the Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library at 229.758.3131 to register your child.

The Seminole County Public Library will also be celebrating Valentine’s Day by holding its annual Valentine’s Tea Party. The celebration will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 4 p.m. at the Seminole County Public Library. Children ages 7—10 are invited for tea, music, crafts, and refreshments. Space is limited for the Tea Party. Please call the Seminole County Public Library at 229.524.2665 to register your child today!

Seminole County Public Library will also be celebrating Valentine’s Day by holding its annual Valentine’s Tea Party. The celebration will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 4 p.m. at the Seminole County Public Library. Children ages 7—10 are invited for tea, music, crafts, and refreshments. Space is limited for the Tea Party. Please call the Seminole County Public Library at 229.524.2665 to register your child today!

Learn Microsoft Excel 2010
Monday, February 11, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Have you ever been confused by all of those little boxes in Microsoft Excel? What exactly do they mean, anyway? Learn how to use Microsoft Excel 2010 at the Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library on Monday, February 11, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. This class will cover important topics in Microsoft Excel 2010 including working with formulas, formatting spreadsheets, and creating charts and graphs.

Attendees will learn how to create a workbook, insert text and formulas, and how to delete and insert columns and rows. Participants must know how to use Microsoft Word before enrolling in this class.

Space is limited; please call the Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library at 229.248.2665 to reserve your spot today!
**Bookmobile Schedule**

Visit the Bookmobile at a stop near you!

The Bookmobile contains books, DVDs, and more that travel to a stop near you during December and January! Visit Mr. Max or Mr. Terry to get your hands on these materials at a stop near you:

- **Monday, February 4:**
  Attapulgus Community Center, 10—11 a.m.

- **Tuesday, February 5:**
  Spring Creek Grocery, 10—11:30 a.m.

- **Wednesday, February 6:**
  Wingate’s Lodge, 10—11:30 a.m.

- **Wednesday, February 6:**
  Recovery Community Center, 12—1:30 p.m.

- **Tuesday, February 12:**
  Iron City Convenience Store, 10—11 a.m.

- **Wednesday, February 13:**
  Parker Park in Climax, 10:30—11:30 a.m.

- **Monday, February 18:**
  Selman Place Apartments, 10—11 a.m.

- **Tuesday, February 19:**
  Brogdon’s Grocery, 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

- **Wednesday, February 27:**
  Spring Creek Park Resort, 9:15—10:15 a.m.

- **Wednesday, February 27:**
  Parkside Mini Mart, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

- **Tuesday, February 19:**
  Gibbs Bainbridge Village Apartments, 9—10 a.m.

- **Tuesday, February 19:**
  Seminole County Public Library, 9—10 a.m.

- **Wednesday, February 27:**
  Seminole County Public Library, 9—10 a.m.

- **Tuesday, February 19:**
  Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter by Tom Franklin will be discussed.

- **Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 10 a.m.**
  at the Seminole County Public Library where they will discuss The Lotus Eaters by Tatjana Soli.

- **Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 10 a.m.**
  at the Seminole County Public Library where they will discuss The Lotus Eaters by Tatjana Soli.

Don’t miss a moment of these exciting discussions!
Master Recipes with Assistance
From the Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services

If you watched season three of Fox TV’s reality cooking show “MasterChef,” you re-member the big smile that lit up Christine Ha’s face every time she impressed the judges with her bold flavors -- and especially when her three-course meal of Vietnamese comfort food won Ha the “MasterChef” title. What casual viewers may not have realized right away is that the amateur cook from Houston, Texas is blind. In 2003 Ha was diagnosed with neuromyelitis optica (NMO), a rare neurological condition that deteriorates the optic nerves and spinal cord. By 2007, Ha had lost most of her vision. But she had regained her love of reading, with help from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). “[NLS] reignited my love for literature. It was what kept me sane when I went through my first bouts of NMO,” says Ha, who also authors the blog theblindcook.com. “When I went through some of my worst health issues in 2003 -- complete paralysis from my neck down due to spinal inflammation, and complete blindness -- all I could do was lie in bed and listen to NLS audiobooks.” NLS, part of the Library of Congress, oversees a free reading program for U.S. residents and citizens living abroad who are blind, have low vision, or cannot hold a book because of a physical disability. NLS patrons may choose from tens of thousands of books and dozens of magazines in audio, including dozens of cookbooks, such as “O, the Oprah Magazine Cookbook” and titles by Julia Child, James Beard, and other famous foodies. NLS also loans the portable playback equipment needed to read the audiobooks. Computer savvy patrons may access books online through the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. Ha, who is pursuing a master of fine arts degree at the University of Houston, always has a book checked out from NLS. Recently she was reading Gail Caldwell’s “Let’s Take the Long Way Home”. And she currently is working on her “MasterChef” cookbook, which is set for a spring 2013 release. The Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services, in partnership with your public library and NLS, provides free materials in audio format for patrons who are blind and/or physically handicapped. Curious cooks who are blind and/or physically handicapped can sharpen their skills in the kitchen by listening to books including The Art of Simple Food by Alice Waters or The Family Style Soul Food Diabetes Cookbook by Roniece Weaver. Please call the Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services at 229.248.2680 or 1.800.795.2680 for more information on how the Southwest Georgia Library for Accessible Services can help blind cooks become master chefs.

Learn to Use a Computer
February 19-21, 2013 at 10 a.m.

Do you need to learn how to use a computer? Learn how to use a computer with assistance from the library and join us for Introductory Computer Classes this month! Classes will be offered at the Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library on Tuesday, February 19 through Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 10 a.m. Space is limited; please call 229.248.2665 to reserve your spot today!

Introductory Computer Classes is a three-day course; attendance is required on all three days of the course. The topics that will be covered include How to Use the Mouse and Keyboard, navigating the Windows environment, Introduction to Microsoft Word 2010, and Introduction to the Internet and E-Mail. Don’t miss out on your chance to master the computer with the help of the Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library!
Storytime Schedules
Fun for your little ones!

Bring your toddler every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for Toddler Storytime at the Seminole County Public Library! Join us as storyteller Ms. Ralna presents stories, games, and fun for all during Toddler Storytime! Please call the Seminole County Public Library at 229.524.2665 for more information.

Toddler Time continues at the Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library on the third Thursday of each month, which will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. Join storyteller Ms. Donna for stories, games, fun, and much more! Please call the Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library at 229.758.3131 for more information on Toddler Time.

And, join us at the Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. for Toddler Tales! Storyteller Ms. Debbie will introduce your child to a love of reading and the library with books, songs, crafts, and more! Please call the Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library at 229.248.2665 ext. 121 for more information.

These programs are designed for children ages 18 months—4 years old. Help your little ones discover the library with these fantastic programs!

Enjoy storytime for your little ones at the library this month!

Advanced Microsoft Word 2010
Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

Do you need to enhance your Microsoft Word skills? Do you know the basics of Microsoft Word but want to learn more about this versatile program? The library can help!

Join us on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library for Advanced Microsoft Word 2010. Learn advanced topics in Microsoft Word including inserting word art and clipart, working with tables, and much more.

A basic knowledge of Microsoft Word is required before enrolling in this class. Space is limited; please call the Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library at 229.758.3131 to reserve your spot today!
New Materials at Your Library!

- The Price of Freedom
- Carl Weber’s The Man in 3B
- Lisa Gardner’s Touch & Go
- The Retirement Savings Time Bomb...and How to Defuse It
- Tom Angleberger’s The Strange Case of Origami Yoda
- Danielle Steel’s Until the End of Time
- Brian Hade and Vanessa Woods’s The Genius of Dogs

THE SWGRL SPOTLIGHT
Schedule of Events

- February 5: First Tuesday Book Club, 10 a.m. (M)
- February 5: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 6: First Wednesday Book Club, 10 a.m. (S)
- February 7: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 7: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (S)
- February 11: Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2010, 5:30 p.m. (D)
- February 12: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 12: Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library Foundation Board of Trustees meeting, 5 p.m. (D)
- February 14: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 14: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m. (S)
- February 14: Valentine’s Day Party, 3:45 p.m. (M)
- February 14: Valentine’s Tea Party, 4 p.m. (S)
- February 19: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 19—21: Introductory Computer Classes, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 21: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 21: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (S)
- February 21: Toddler Time, 3:30 p.m. (M)
- February 26: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 26: Advanced Microsoft Word 2010, 10:30 a.m. (M)
- February 28: Toddler Tales, 10 a.m. (D)
- February 28: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (S)

Color code: Purple (D)=Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library  Red (M)=Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library
Green (S)=Seminole County Public Library
More in March!

Stay tuned to the March issue of The SWGRL Spotlight which will be jam-packed with news, programs, and events, including St. Patrick’s Day celebrations!

Visit us online! www.swgrl.org

Southwest Georgia Regional Library System
Serving Decatur, Miller, and Seminole Counties

Receive this newsletter directly in your e-mail inbox by e-mailing librarian@swgrl.org or by visiting any library location to subscribe.

We’re on Facebook! www.facebook.com/SouthwestGaLibrary

Library Locations

Decatur County—Gilbert H. Gragg Library
301 S. Monroe Street
Bainbridge, Georgia 39819
229.248.2665

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Miller County—James W. Merritt, Jr. Memorial Library
259 E. Main Street
Colquitt, Georgia 39837
229.758.3131

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Seminole County Public Library
103 West Fourth Street
Donalsonville, Georgia 39845
229.524.2665

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NEW HOURS!