



[Home](#)

[Catalog](#)

[Portal Español](#)

[Help](#)

- [Electronic Resources](#)
- [Hours/Locations](#)
- [Patron Record Login](#)
- [Library Calendar](#)
- [Services/Policies](#)
- [Interlibrary Loan](#)
- [BookNews](#)
- [Get a Library Card](#)



Selections

The newsletter of the Sarasota County Library System

February 15, 2006
Issue 5

Volume 1,

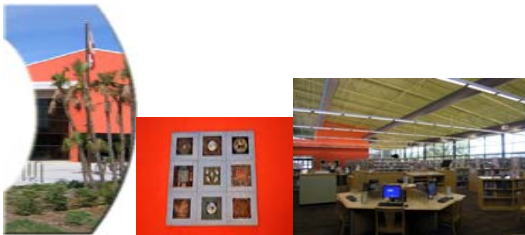
Welcome to **Selections**, the monthly electronic newsletter of the [Sarasota County Library System](#). Each month, you will find stories related to:



- [National Library News](#)
- [Local Library News](#)
- [Featured Stories](#)
- [Community Connection](#)
- [Featured Database](#)
- [Featured Internet Sites](#)
- [Book Review](#)
- [Library Events Calendar](#)
- [Reference Question](#)



Read **Selections** online, or [sign up here](#) to have it delivered to you by email.



This month brought to you by the staff at the

[North Sarasota Public Library](#)

[National Library News:](#)

ALA's 2006 Top Picks



ALA's Notable Books Council announces 2006 top picks
 (SAN ANTONIO) The Notable Books Council of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has compiled its 2006 list of outstanding books for the general reader. These titles have been selected for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge and for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers.

Since 1944, the goal of the Notable Books Council has been to make available to the nation's readers a list of approximately 25 very good, very readable, and at times very important fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books for the adult reader. The Council consists of members selected from the membership of RUSA /CODES (Collection Development and Evaluation Section).

This is "[The List for America's Readers.](#)"

[back to top](#)

Local Library News:

TAKE CHARGE Health and Wellness Expo



North Sarasota Public Library is teaming up with Parks & Recreation to host the first **Take Charge Health and Wellness Expo**. The main event is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Participants include the Newtown Wellness Program, Sarasota County Health Dept, UF Cooperative Extension, Wellness Center, Senior Friendship Center, Healthy Start, and the Alzheimer's Association Memory Mobile, among many others. There will also be a variety of health and wellness vendors with tons of freebies to give away. In addition to information, there will be free screenings, free pedometers to the first hundred people, and a free raffle. Raffle prizes include home medical guides, a healthy basket of goodies from Whole Foods, a Sound Spa, and two iPod Shuffles!

In addition to the main event, there will be a free Question & Answer/Information session on the new Medicare/Medicaid situation by SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, from 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. On March 2, 2006, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Cooperative Extension will host a Nutrition Program to educate the community on portion sizes. All attendees will receive a free dinner! Both of these programs will be held in the North Sarasota Public Library large meeting room. Registration is required for both of the evening programs as space is limited. Please call 861-1361 to sign up.

Finally, NSL will also offer Consumer Health Information Tutorials. The first class is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 from 12 noon-2 p.m. and is intended as a sort of 'open lab' in which people can get help finding resources for their own specific needs. The second class, scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m., will be more formal, with a PowerPoint presentation featuring library health and wellness resources as well as low-to-no literacy online tutorials. This class size will be limited and registration is required. Please call 861-1361 to sign up.

We are hoping for a big turnout. Please come and show your support.

[back to top](#)

Featured Stories:

NEWS BRIEFS Art, African American Collection, Black History Month, NSL Gold, Teen News, Kids

NORTH SARASOTA GETS 'GOLD' LEED

Sarasota County's North Sarasota Public Library has earned "Gold" level designation from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). It becomes only the 4th building in Florida, and the 2nd library in the country to earn the prestigious rating, which recognizes buildings based on their energy conservation and environmental operations, and one of only 278 LEED certified buildings in the U.S. Located at 2801 Newtown Blvd., the North Sarasota Public Library is the first building in Sarasota County to earn LEED certification. Begun in July 2003 and completed in August 2004 at a cost of \$3.6 million, the 25,000-square-foot library was designed as a multicultural center for the community.

ART SCENE

The North Sarasota Public Library was designed to provide space to display art. We have one permanent exhibit already in place, *Kaleidoscope* by Evelyn Rosenberg. *Kaleidoscope* was commissioned as part of Sarasota County's Art In Public Places mandate. A percentage of the cost of new construction is designated for artwork for the building. Rosenberg visited Sarasota, spoke with residents and interested patrons and designed art to fit the space and speak to the people who visit the library.

TEEN NEWS

Young Adults ages 11-17 are pouring into North Sarasota Library's Teen Internet Café. The café is held in the

AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION

The newly opened North Sarasota Public Library is building an African American fiction collection. This stand-alone collection was culled from the fiction collection to predominantly reflect African American authors and African American themes. The collection has been identified and labeled for convenience and is displayed in a separate area. Any of these titles can be placed on hold and delivered to any of the Sarasota County Libraries for patrons there.

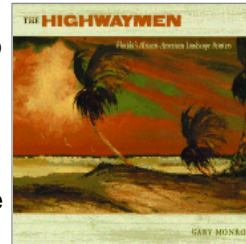
KIDS ZONE

Here in the Kids Zone of North Sarasota Public Library we are having our usual grand fun celebrating Black History Month. All of our weekly programs for Toddlers, Preschoolers and Elementary aged children will have bits of history slipped in among the books, songs, and games.

In the center of our Black History Books section is a two volume set of books entitled *African American Voices*. This is a collection of speeches made by African

THE HIGHWAYMEN

A great way to celebrate Black History Month in Florida is to read about the Highwaymen, a unique group of African-American painters from our own state.



But who are the Highwaymen? Forget that image of masked men on horseback that may have popped into your mind. These outsider painters from the Fort Pierce area were dubbed the Highwaymen because they sold their work out of the trunks of their cars along the highways of the east coast of Florida. Now famous, these artists are considered the forerunners of Florida's contemporary art tradition, and are members of the Florida Artists' Hall of Fame.

The work of the Highwaymen portrays the picture-postcard view of Florida's natural beauty--colorful sunsets, windswept palms, dazzling royal poincianas. A writer in the [The New York Times](#) commented that "these colorful landscapes...shaped the state's popular image as much as oranges and alligators". Sometimes their work is referred to as 'motel art' and it's true that many old motels did purchase paintings by the Highwaymen to create a Florida

library's state of the art computer lab and allows teens to surf the Web, enjoy a snack, and visit with friends all at the same time. What could be better than hanging at the library with good friends! Space is limited for dates and times of the Internet café, please contact the North Sarasota Youth Department at 861-1362.

To find out more about teen library programs and great info related to young adult issues, visit Planet Teen at:

<http://sclibs.net/Teens/PlanetTeen.aspx>

[back to top](#)

Americans. The children have heard of the most famous speeches, but are amazed at some less famous speeches that still have a lot to say.

At 12 noon, on Feb. 18, children will have a chance to go online to "follow the drinking gourd" during an online program called "Taking the Internet to the Underground Railroad". After the program, they can come to the Kids Zone to make construction paper quilts, and escape routes or decode spirituals to find out how and when to make an escape.

Throughout the month we will be encouraging children to read books such as *Trapped Between the Lash and the Gun*, by Arvella Whitmore. This is a story of an urban African American young man who feels he is being forced to join a gang. In his turmoil of fear and doubt he stumbles back into time and becomes a slave. This is a truly good read about how the many difficulties of life can lead a young person into very bad situations.

ambience in tourist rooms. Most of them were done on wallboard rather than canvas, since that was what was available to these self-taught artists.

Should you happen across a painting by one of the Highwayman at a yard sale or thrift shop, be sure to buy it. Their work is collectible now and increasing in value.

In the meantime, check out one of these resources from the Sarasota County Library System:

The Highwaymen: Florida's African-American landscape painters/Gary Monroe. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, c2001.

The Highwaymen: Florida's outsider artists/Everglades Media, Inc.; produced and written by Jack Hambrick. Harrington Park, N.J.: Janson Media, c2003. (DVD)

Community Connection:

Literacy Summit call 861-5000 for additional information



Is Your Library Literacy-Ready?

How literacy-ready are Sarasota County Libraries? The American Library Association and Verizon have partnered to build a “website designed to help libraries improve and expand literacy services and programs.” This website features a Literacy Readiness Inventory (LRI) for libraries and literacy organizations to determine their literacy readiness. After answering the LRI’s 20 questions through a simple feedback form, libraries are provided with a “tool kit” of resources and examples of successful literacy-related practices in libraries across the United States.

The tool kit will help libraries identify gaps, provide creative suggestions for enhancing literacy in the community, and offer information on funding literacy-related projects, go to builddliteracy.org.

Nancy Pike’s Call to Action

You may have heard that the library system is working on an event related to literacy. In fact, we are. And you are invited!

We have partnered with a number of other community organizations to bring people together who are interested in literacy-related issues in the Sarasota County area. Debra Jacobs, Executive Director of the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, and Tim Dutton, Executive Director of SCOPE (Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence), have agreed to facilitate this community conversation.

Location: The Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Conference Center
4780 Cattlemen Road | Sarasota, FL | 921-5358

Dates: Tuesday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & Tuesday, April 11, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Contact Information: Call 861-2533 or email aazuri@scgov.net to RSVP

I hope you can come! For those who cannot attend but are interested in what takes place, we will provide a report.

Nancy M. Pike, General Manager



Sarasota County Library System

Looking at Adult Literacy in the 21st Century

[“A First Look at the Literacy of America’s Adults in the 21st Century,”](#) a report published in December 2005 by the National Center for Education, reviews the state of literacy in 2003

The American Library Association reports that 94% of public libraries which serve more than 5,000 people offer literacy services, and 75% of public

and concludes that, "Over 41 million Americans function at a 'below basic' literacy level, including 11 million who are non-literate in English."

According to the report and comparing it to the previously conducted study of 1992, the majority of Americans' literacy levels have either improved or stayed the same. However, the functional literacy level of Hispanics has declined significantly—18 points for prose literacy, which includes activities such as reading the newspaper.

Furthermore, the study shows a decrease of 14 points for document literacy, which includes activities like reading and understanding prescription drug labels.

libraries align themselves with outside organizations to provide adult literacy services to those in their communities.

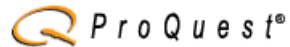
"Investing in literacy is an investment in our nation's future, and investing in libraries supports lifelong learning ~ for all."

Leslie Burger,
ALA President-Elect

[back to top](#)

Featured Database:

Your Ticket to Local Newspaper Archives and More!



Proquest is an online database available through the Sarasota County Libraries website. It provides periodicals and news sources of a wide variety. Of particular interest to local residents may be back issues of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* newspaper. You may perform free, full-text searches for any date ranging from 1996 to yesterday. The current day's newspaper is available the following day. To access Proquest, simply go to the Library website at <http://sclibs.net>, click on "Electronic Information Resources", and then click on Proquest. A search of "Publications" allows you to narrow your source to the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*.

Proquest also offers full-text scholarly journals (peer reviewed) and national newspapers. Check it out on the web!

[back to top](#)

-

Featured Internet Sites:

Underground Railroad Sites



<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/>

An interactive journey. Each step tells you something about the people and the lives of that section. Each choice leads to more information.

<http://www.americangirl.com/agcn/addy/escape/index.html>

Follows the popular children's book *Meet Addy*

<http://www.beavton.k12.or.us/greenway/leahy/ugrr/>

Links shown as squares in a quilt. Each link gives information about the Underground Railroad.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground/states.htm>

A tour of some of the buildings which were used as stations on the Underground Railroad that can still be seen today.

<http://www.africanhertour.org/>

Includes an escape map, two songs, some definitions of words used and quilt patterns.

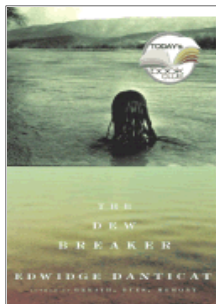
<http://www.pocanticohills.org/tubman/tubman.html>

Developed by the second grade class at Pocantico Hills School in Sleepy Hollow, NY. It has a timeline, puzzles, quizzes, a story of Harriet Tubman, and several character sketches.

[back to top](#)

Book Review:

The Dew Breaker, Edwidge Danticat



The Dew Breaker by Edwidge Danticat

Edwidge Danticat is a much-honored Haitian-American who writes brilliantly and nostalgically of her homeland and of the Haitian diaspora. In *The Dew Breaker* (2004) she portrays a family who have fled their dangerous and scandalous pasts in Haiti to settle in New York, where the daughter gradually uncovers the dark secrets her parents have hidden from her. Her beloved father, a gentle man whom she portrays in her sculpture as childlike, was a cruel and greatly-feared torturer under a vicious regime, and her mother – well, let's not ruin the surprise and mystery of *her* story. *The Dew Breaker* is a fictional tale of violence and forgiveness, transformation and redemption,

that also portrays the turbulence and the horrors of Haiti's recent political history.

Sara Barnett, Reference Librarian

Also, check out a variety of topics and items from [BookNews](#). You can even sign up to get *free* newsletters in your email as they are updated monthly!

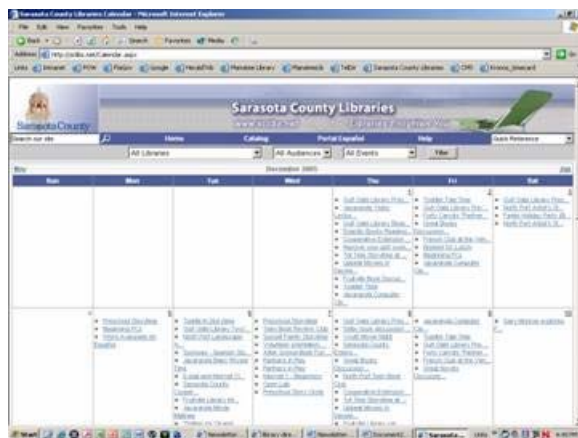
BookNews



[back to top](#)

Library Events Calendar:

[Click on the Library Calendar link from the Library's Home page](#)



You can limit what shows on the calendar by individual library, by audience and by type of event. Just click on the dropdown boxes.

[back to top](#)

Reference Question of the Month:

Who invented traffic lights?

An African-American inventor named Garrett Morgan invented traffic lights. After witnessing a carriage accident at an intersection, Morgan decided to build a warning and regulatory signal system, and created a three-way traffic signal. He received a patent for this signal in 1923. Among his many other inventions was a breathing device like a gas mask. He used this breathing device to save a number of men trapped in an underground tunnel during an explosion, and was awarded the Carnegie Medal and a Medal of Bravery for his heroism. Firefighters today use a version of this mask to help save lives. (Source: Notable Black American Scientists)

[back to top](#)

Sarasota County Library System. Part of the Sarasota County Community Services Business Center. 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34241
[Site disclaimer and policy](#)

Hosted by [DearReader.com](#)