

HistoryMiami launches new series with Bay of Pigs invasion forum

Miami Herald, The (FL) - Thursday, July 25, 2013

Readability: >12 grade level (Lexile: 1370L)

Author: MIAMI HERALD STAFF

HistoryMiami and the Miami-Dade Public Library System are joining forces to launch a new Museum Forums project on Saturday — and the first topic is the Bay of Pigs Invasion .

"The Bay of Pigs Invasion and its aftermath had a tremendous impact in South Florida at all levels, including the economic, political and migratory changes that happened in 1961 and still affects us today," said forum panelist Enrique Encinosa.

That makes it a perfect topic to launch the Museum Forum series, according to HistoryMiami.

"We are excited about this new program because it fulfills the mission at HistoryMiami of connecting people by telling the stories of Miami's communities, individuals, places and historic events," said Ramiro A. Ortiz, president/CEO at HistoryMiami.

The first Bay of Pigs invasion forum begins at 11 a.m. at the Coral Gables Branch Library, 3443 Segovia St.

The Museum Forum include a touring series of lectures, panel discussions on historical topics relevant to the Miami-Dade community. Conceived as a tool for civic engagement, the forums are designed to provide an opportunity for sharing with the public the memorable events, people and places that have shaped our region.

Programs will be offered in English and Spanish

Panelists for the Bay of Pigs Invasion forum include:

Humberto J. Cortina is president and founder of HJC Consultants, former Florida State Representative and radio talk show host for WAQI Radio Mambi, Univision Radio. Cortina was born in Havana, Cuba, and fled to the U.S. in 1960. He is a veteran of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Amado Cantillo is President of the Cuban Pilots Association and active member of Brigade 2506. He was one of the first men to land on Giron Beach and has conducted more than 30 clandestine missions to Cuba..

Enrique Encinosa is an author, former journalist and on-air personality for 25 years with Univision Radio, the U.S. Information Agency and local radio stations in South Florida.

In addition to the Coral Gables Branch event, the Museum Forum will travel to the following library branches in the next two months:

Thursday, Aug. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

West Dade Regional Library

9445 Coral Way

Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Palm Springs North Library

17601 NW 78th Ave.

Hialeah

Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 5 p.m.

Hispanic Branch Library

1398 SW First St.

Miami

The Museum Forum: Bay of Pigs Invasion is made possible by MCM-Munilla Family Foundation with the support of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners.

Provided By: The McClatchy Company

Index Terms: Miami-Dade Public Library System; Museum Forum; Coral Gables Branch Library; The Museum Forum; HJC Consultants; Cuban Pilots Association; U.S. Information Agency; West Dade Regional Library; Palm Springs North Library; Hispanic Branch Library; MCM-Munilla Family Foundation; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs; Cultural Affairs Council; Board of County Commissioners

Location(s): 3443 Segovia St.; 9445 Coral Way; 17601 NW 78th Ave.; 1398 SW First St.

Personal Name(s): Enrique Encinosa; Ramiro A. Ortiz; Humberto J. Cortina; Amado Cantillo

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Reading goes to the dogs at West Kendall library

Miami Herald, The (FL) - Friday, May 10, 2013

Readability: 10-12 grade level (Lexile: 1180L)

Author: Jessica Roiz, South Florida News Service

During her recent visit to the library, first-grader Nancy Fajardo sat Indian-style on the colorful round rug at the center of the children's department. She read aloud a book titled Spot says Goodnight by Eric Hill.

And before turning each page, she showed the images to Flora, a former racing greyhound, who perked her ears as she listened.

It was Nancy's first time reading to a dog.

"It's cool because you get to touch it, read to it, and after, you get to feed it," she said.

Nancy, 7, and her twin sister Noelia joined the "Bark and Read" program on a recent afternoon, when about 10 other kids, still in their school uniforms, piled up the rug with all kinds of books and waited their turn to interact with the tan-coated greyhound.

The program, which offers an opportunity to introduce children to literacy, runs from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of every month at the children's department in the West Kendall Regional Library, 10201 Hammocks Blvd., Room 159.

There, Maria Gehr, a retired elementary school teacher, and Flora, a 5-year-old certified therapy dog, help school-aged children with their reading.

"The program is meant to make children aware of reading and getting them to like it," said Gehr, 66, about the Bark and Read program. She retired after 36 years of teaching. Since August, she has been a volunteer for the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

"I bring my dog so that children can read to her, count to her, recite the alphabet or pet her," said Gehr.

She said children feel very comfortable around Flora.

"The purpose of the program is to build self-esteem for the kids," said Tristan Miller, second in charge of children's department at the library, who said Flora is there to pay attention without judging, teasing or making comments.

"She listens to the children as they read, and it helps them build confidence," said Miller, 30. The idea is for children of any age to keep practicing their reading skills.

Renée Williams and her three children -- Asher, 4, Bryce, 6, and Katelyn, 8 -- recently attended the program.

"We walked in on the greyhound, and my sons and daughter were very excited to join," said the Kendall resident, whose 6-year-old son is in kindergarten and is just learning how to read.

"It's very encouraging to see him pick out new books from the shelves to read to the dog," said Williams, 44. "That's a little different than what he does at home."

Gehr encourages children to read as many books as they can by rewarding them with colorful paw-shaped stickers and letting them give treats to Flora.

"The child gets that positive reinforcement, and they'll keep doing it," said Victoria Galan, public affairs manager for Miami-Dade Public Library System.

The program is currently offered in four other library branches: Homestead, Miami Lakes, Pinecrest and Virrick Park. Each branch has a designated volunteer and trained dog. They all have different schedules and names but follow the same concept of boys and girls reading to a dog.

"I think it's a fantastic idea," said Galan. "Programs like Bark and Read can start to help people read while they are young, so they can become successful adults."

Provided By: *The McClatchy Company*

Index Terms: *West Kendall Regional Library; Miami-Dade Public Library System*

Location(s): *10201 Hammocks Blvd.; Room 159; Virrick Park*

Personal Name(s): *Nancy Fajardo; Eric Hill; Maria Gehr; Tristan Miller; Victoria Galan*

Record Number: *201305101622KNRIDDERFLMIAMIH_08dda4d92c1561f8c66b6c4ea6a37f10*

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Kids can dress like storybook characters for parade

Miami Herald, The (FL) - Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Readability: 11-12 grade level (Lexile: 1230L)

Author: Lourdes Dominguez, South Florida News Service

A few times a week, Sofia Beatriz Vizcarra, 8, visits the Miami-Dade County Public Library branch in Kendall to read fairy tales. But this Saturday, she will become a princess.

"My favorite books are princess stories," said Vizcarra, who will dress-up as a princess for the first Miami-Dade Public Library's Art of Storytelling Parade. She will be one of many children and parents marching from the main library in downtown Miami at 10 a.m. on Saturday to kick off the 13th Annual International Storytelling Family Festival.

"I'm going as Princess Ariel with a green tail," said Vizcarra.

Kids like Vizcarra can attend the all-day Storytelling Family Festival immediately following the parade, with author readings, a 6-foot-tall puppet performance and a "Teen Zone."

The specialized "Teen Zone" area for readers ages 12 to 19 will have rock performances, a "zombie attack" activity and a video game contest.

"The purpose of the festival is to show kids that before computers and texting, there existed an oral tradition of storytelling," said Victoria Galan, 46, a spokeswoman for the Miami-Dade County library system.

Every year, a variety of reading events take place throughout April across Miami-Dade county library branches, from Miami Lakes to Coral Gables.

Libby Kirsch, associate director at the Children's Creative Learning Center at Florida International University, said the community has to make reading meaningful to kids to get them excited about books.

"There needs to be a love of literature. Those skills build as you're looking at words on a page," said Kirsch. "I don't think electronics could ever take the place of a book."

Vinora Hamilton, outreach coordinator for the library system, agrees. She said storytelling is an important part of the community and the festival hopes to attract children throughout the day's events to get them excited about reading.

"Everyone in South Florida has a different story, and we have an incredible story," said Hamilton. "It's incredible to bring the community together."

Provided By: The McClatchy Company

Index Terms: Miami-Dade County Public Library; Creative Learning Center; Florida International University

Personal Name(s): Sofia Beatriz Vizcarra; Princess Ariel; Victoria Galan; Libby Kirsch; Vinora Hamilton

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Miami-Dade library now offers free music downloads - Library-card holders can download up to three free songs per week — legally.

Miami Herald, The (FL) - Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Author: *Barbara Corbellini Duarte, bduarte@MiamiHerald.com*

Adele, Usher and Beyoncé are among some 285,000 artists now part of the Miami-Dade Public Library System's collection — and members don't need to return the songs.

"Instead of going to a bookstore, instead of going to a music store, instead of going to Barnes & Noble, you come to us," said Sylvia Mora-Oña, assistant director of public services for the library system.

On Jan. 22, the library system launched Freegal Music, a service that allows library members to download up to three songs per week for free and keep the songs indefinitely.

The system allows users to listen to 30 seconds of any song before choosing which to download. The system resets every Monday.

"If you're downloading a book to your device, it expires, but this, you own it, so that makes it very special for the patron," said Victoria Galan, a spokeswoman for the library system.

The service is provided by Library Ideas, a company based in Fairfax, Va., that offers digital online services to libraries, universities, schools and military bases.

Miami-Dade Library pays an annual subscription of \$75,000 to access about 3 million songs from Sony Music and other labels.

The subscription fee is based on the population served by the library. The Miami-Dade library's taxing district has around 2.1 million people.

"We make arrangements with the music labels. The libraries pay us a subscription, and a large portion of that gets passed on to the labels and, of course, their musicians," said Brian Downing, founder and CEO of Library Ideas.

Alicia Keys, Justin Timberlake, Enrique Iglesias, Chris Brown, John Mayer, Louis Armstrong and Pitbull are some of the artists available for download.

Library-card holders can download the songs through the library website and through a Freegal Music app, available for iOS and Android phones and tablets.

One week after Freegal's launch, the library had more than 700 downloads.

"You may not be a reader because that's just not your interest, you may never come into the library for a program, but there's no one who doesn't like music," Galan said. "It's the one thing that gives us almost 100 percent possible participation from our cardholders."

Membership for the Miami-Dade library is free for county residents. The Broward County Library also offers Freegal.

Provided By: *The McClatchy Company*

Index Terms: *Miami-Dade Library; The Broward County Library*

Personal Name(s): *Victoria Galan; Brian Downing; Alicia Keys; Justin Timberlake; Enrique Iglesias; Chris Brown; John Mayer; Louis Armstrong*

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Free library workshops: For older adults it's never too late to learn - Free workshops offered at five Miami-Dade library branches seeks to teach older adults new creative skills.

Miami Herald, The (FL) - Tuesday, January 29, 2013

Author: Ana Veciana-Suarez, aveciana@MiamiHerald.com

Threaded needle in mid-stitch, Delorise Thompkins surveyed the colorful blocks that, in a few weeks, will become her first completed quilt. She looked pleased: So far, so good

"This is something I can pass on to my grandchildren and they can pass on to their children," said Thompkins, 69. "It's something you create to connect."

Thompkins was one of more than a dozen students in a quilt workshop run by Anita Jones, appropriately titled "Wisdom: Pass it On!" It's the first in a series of free classes offered for seniors at five Miami-Dade public library branches.

The series, called Lifetime Living through Art for Older Adults, features quilting, drawing, photography, painting and jewelry-making classes. Taught by local professional artists to the 55-and-over set, the workshops are supported by a national grant designed to engage seniors both in their community and in the arts.

Miami-Dade's library system is one of seven in four states— and the only one in Florida — to receive such a grant from the MetLife Foundation Creative Aging Libraries Project. Funders look for an aging demographic, a strong library system with a good educational track record and a vibrant arts community. They found all that in Miami — and something else, too.

As library director Raymond Santiago explained, "Our cultural mix was very attractive."

Indeed. Jones' class at the South Miami branch was a reflection of multicultural Miami, a hodge-podge of ethnicities and professions united by an interest in learning about a venerable folk tradition. While a couple of the students had tried quilting before, most in the class were new to the form.

"I've always wanted to learn but never had the time," said Carol Kaminsky, 56. "Now I have the time." Though she still works full-time as a dance teacher, her grown children now don't require so much of her attention.

Along the way, Kaminsky has discovered that the fine art of hand-stitching is both demanding and calming. "I like the feeling of sewing, of my fingers moving with the thread and cloth. It's very relaxing."

Irma Ulate, 68, a retired bank teller, wanted to get out of the house and learn something new. So she and her sister Ada Martins signed up for the 10-week workshop. Now she's not only learning to quilt, but "I'm meeting other people and doing something I've always wanted to do."

Jones, an urbanologist who specializes in southern folk art, incorporates the history and customs that accompany the tradition of quilting into her lessons. She tells her students, most of whom are older than she is, that quilting is more than a collection of fabric blocks sewn together.

"You're sewing your spirit into it," she said. "You can use it to teach the lessons you've learned."

The idea of offering arts workshops as a way of enhancing the lives of older adults began five years ago in the Westchester Public Library as a small initiative by the New York based non-profit Lifetime Arts. "People are living longer and they're looking for new ways to express themselves," said Lifetime Arts CEO Maura O'Malley.

Older adults who register for the arts workshops range in age from 50 to 100, and most have little, if any, experience in the fields. But they're eager to try their hand at something new.

"There's more and more interest in positive aging," O'Malley said. "The attitude is if not now, when?"

Santiago said that's an accurate reflection of those signing up for the Miami-Dade offerings. "I think it's the intellectual stimulation and the idea that it's never too late to do what you've always wanted to do."

Why offer the classes in a library instead of a studio? "The library is a community anchor," O'Malley said. "They host everything from job training to book clubs to knitting circles."

Back at Jones' class, her students kept busy discussing symbols of wisdom as they hand-stitched their blocks together. She urged them not to worry about perfection but about connecting with their work, with others, with themselves.

"If you don't like the stitches," she said, "slow down. That's what this is all about. Slowing down. The purpose is to look back, to see the value in your life."

Provided By: The McClatchy Company

Index Terms: MetLife Foundation Creative Aging Libraries Project; Westchester Public Library

Personal Name(s): Delorise Thompkins; Anita Jones; Raymond Santiago; Carol Kaminsky; Irma Ulate; Ada Martins; Maura O'Malley

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