

The Most Wonderful Time
Holiday crafts and visits with Santa Claus mark holiday season / Page 3

Bookshop Serenade
Library tech assistant knows a good bookstore when he finds one / Page 4

Time for Tea and Coffee
Coffee pot's on at Savannah and Belt has two tea programs / Page 5

Winter Games

On your mark, get set It's time to hibernate, read and win some prizes

It should be no surprise that the 2024 Adult Winter Reading Challenge for adults is called Game On! and has a board game theme. After all, we embrace games at the library.

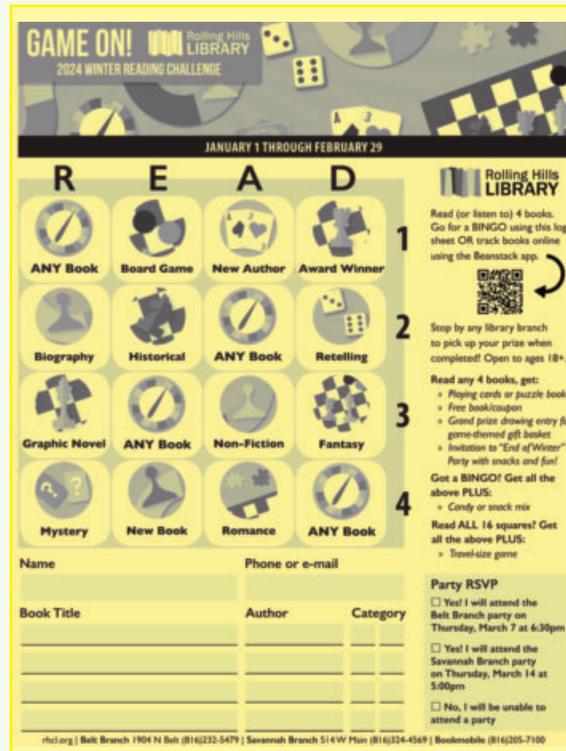
Not only is the winter challenge played with a bingo card, the library offers bingo sessions for adults. Add on the Chess and Checkers Club, game nights for families, scavenger hunts for youths, puzzle races, board game days, escape rooms, a large collection of board games to check out and the biggest game of them all, the Summer Reading Program, and you'll see that games are in our library DNA.

From Jan. 1-Feb. 29, ages 18 and older can win prizes by reading or listening to four books and tracking their books by using a bingo reading log or by using the online Beanstack app.

If you read any four books, you will win a deck of playing cards or a puzzle book, a free book or a Books Revisited free book coupon, entry into grand prize drawings for a game-themed gift basket at each branch and an invite to the Belt or Savannah end-of-winter parties.

A reading bingo will earn you an additional box of candy or snack mix. Read all 16 bingo squares for a blackout and you'll win a travel-size game.

Bingo categories include new author, award winner, biography, board game, historical, retelling, graphic novel, non-fiction, fantasy, mystery, new book, romance and any book.



“The Adult Winter Reading Challenge encourages you to read across different genres and outside your comfort zone and to try some things you might not have tried otherwise,” Belt manager Kelly Morris said.

Games are the theme of many library programs in January and February, including:

Chess and Checkers Club – 6 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 4 & 18 and Feb. 1 & 15, Belt. Teens and adults can challenge each other to games and learn new strategies. All skill levels welcome.

Board (BORED?) Games Days – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Mondays, Jan. 8 & Feb. 19, Savannah. Drop in to play a variety of games for all ages.

Bingo for Adults – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, Savannah.

Bring a white elephant gift for the prize table.

Book Groups – The Wishing Game by Meg Shaffer will be reviewed by the Belt’s evening group at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16. The Belt’s noon group on Wednesday, Jan. 17, will discuss **The Queen’s Gambit** by Walter Tevis. Savannah’s 3rd Thursday Book Group members will read books related to games and then discuss them at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18.

Nailed It! – 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, Belt. Teams of 2-4 people will take on a two-part, quasi-culinary challenge: Create a fake food masterpiece then try to recreate

Continued on Page 7

Read to me, Dolly

Country star is sending free books to help kids learn to read

Not many of us remember learning “how” to read. It is not a natural skill that develops by instinct. There is a progression from letters to words to sentences and grammar, all the way until we begin to grasp the elements of text that communicate a greater comprehension, like paragraphs and chapters and main ideas. Stories have beginnings, middles, and endings. Factual information often includes charts or diagrams, and important points are highlighted or in a bullet list.

Now, imagine if you are a child who struggles with daily existence. You are hungry and tired, and your parents or caregivers have a lot on their minds other than your developing brain.

We know kids need to be exposed to words and language from the time they are born to help them with all aspects of communication. Young children whose parents read to them regularly enter kindergarten having heard about 1 million more words than kids who were never read to. A 20-year study found that the mere presence of books in the home increases children’s academic success, vocabulary development, attention, and later job attainment.

Local schools have identified school readiness as a major issue, particularly post-pandemic when many children missed out on those earliest learning

experiences in school. Our library has many resources to help parents, including reading readiness materials and regular Storytimes. We also have the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program where parents and kids can get rewards for reading.

But the best news yet on this front is the State of Missouri opening enrollment for ALL children ages 0-5 for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. They will receive one book per month in the mail for FREE and begin to grow their own home library of books.

We want all parents to bring their children to the library, but we know there are barriers including transportation, time, and concerns about losing items or being charged for damages. The Imagination Library is easy to sign up for and gets the books right to their homes. It benefits all the children in the household, and titles are selected by professionals to be age-appropriate and high quality.

Please share this information with all your friends and family who have new babies so they can get signed up right away. You can find it at <https://dese.mo.gov/childhood/outreach/dolly-partons-imagination-library> or by using the QR code on Page 4 of this newsletter to link right to the enrollment form.

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.



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www.goodreads.com/group/
show/397463-rolling-hills-library



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Browse

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

Rolling Hills Library

rhcl.org

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt., St. Joseph
816-232-5479
HOURS: 9-8 Mon-Sat
12-6 Sun

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah
816-324-4569
HOURS: 9-7 Mon-Fri
9-5 Sat/12-5 Sun

Business Office

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

Bookmobile & Outreach

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

Michelle Mears

Library Director

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*The board generally meets
at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday
of each month.*

Friends of the Library

The Friends support the library through
volunteer and fund-raising efforts.
The Friends board meets 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.



Beginning Crochet

Interested in learning how to crochet or just need to brush up on your skills? Theresa McKnight will help you get started. All ages are welcome. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9432761. 5 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 7 & 21, Jan. 4 & 25 and Feb. 1 & 15, Savannah Branch.

It's That Time of the Year

Visits with Santa, crafts for young & old bring the Christmas spirit to library

Yes, that jolly man dressed in red (no, not Travis Kelce) is set to appear at the Belt and Savannah branches before the season's big day (no, not the Super Bowl). But there are several other events that will get young and old in the holiday spirit, too.

Upcycled Gingerbread Houses – Families and youths can drop in 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Savannah to create a gingerbread house using recycled materials. Participants also can bring their own objects.

Painting Classes – All ages of artists will have their chance to create paintings of cute elf shoes in two sessions at Belt with all materials provided. Adults will go first at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, and must register at events.rhcl.org/event/9151822. Kids, teens and families get their chance at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9151826.

Milk and Cookies with Santa – Ah, the main event! Families can enjoy crafts and a snack while waiting to have pictures taken with Santa Claus in the Belt Upper Story. The sessions are planned for 2-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 9.

Sensory Sensitive Santa – From 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, Santa will meet with sensory sensitive individuals and their families in a quieter setting in the Upper Story. Families with concerns or questions can call 816-232-5479 to share how the library can best serve their loved ones.

Make a Holiday Newsletter Computer Classes – Want to keep your friends and family up to date with



A seat on Santa's lap is the most desired seat for kids this time of year.

what happened in 2023? Then come create a holiday newsletter using Microsoft Publisher. The Savannah class is set for 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, and requires registration at events.rhcl.org/event/9471665. The Belt class is set for 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, and requires registration at events.rhcl.org/event/9471668. The classes are free and participants should have basic computer knowledge.

Christmas Crafts – Teens and adults can make a variety of projects from 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Savannah. All materials provided. Registration required at events.rhcl.org/event/9385773.

Gingerbread House Workshop: Holiday STEAM – Kids can stretch their engineering muscles while creating gingerbread houses from 3:30-5:25 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Belt. All supplies provided.

Family Night with Parents as Teachers – Children of all ages are invited to join Miss Jill and PAT staff for snacks, crafts, Storytime and a visit from Santa Claus at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Savannah.

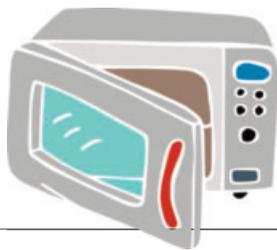
Needle Felted Holiday Angels – At 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Belt, expert fiber crafter Ms. Saundra will help you make a beautiful holiday decoration. All materials provided in this class for adults and teens. Registration is required at events.rhcl.org/event/9361289.

Last-Minute Holiday Gifts and Decorations – Teens and adults needing gifts or ornaments can make them at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at Belt. All materials provided, but you bring the creativity. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9361322.



DIGITAL MAGAZINES

Our digital collection provides you with the magazines you want and some you've never read before, covering cooking to politics. They are all FREE for you to read at rhcl.org/digital-library.



Teens: Microwave Mug Snacks

Ages 12 to 18 can learn how to make some simple snacks, both sweet and savory. Registration is required at events.rhcl.org/event/9413735 and closes Feb. 25.

3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, Belt Branch

Bookshop Serenade

Working in his family's store instills tech assistant with appreciation for older ways

By Devon Campbell

Rolling Hills Library I.T. and marketing assistant

I grew up in a time of change. For the most part of my life, technology has ruled the day. The hustle and bustle of the world sped up to look something akin to warp or ludicrous speed. Information exchanged at a moment's notice, the whole of human knowledge at our fingertips at all times.

Interestingly, for some of us, something else beckons from our past. Something from a simpler time, where we did not have ourselves uploaded. A lost world, in a small shop, where books and people come back to life.

When people say, "St. Joe needs a bookstore!", I have conflicted feelings. Sometimes I think a Barnes & Noble would be nice. Then I think, but are they really a "bookstore?" Sure, they have "tall, decaf, cappuccino" and music, movies and gifts. But, while diversification is good, too much can make you just a retail giant that has no feel for the culture of books, for the life of books.

I grew up in a bookstore of sorts in Kansas City. My father would make the commute from St. Joseph, 45 minutes south, turn onto Barry Road and then arrive at Metro North Mall to open OMEGA: Bibles, Books and Gifts. That was our bookstore. It was a smaller Barnes & Noble at the time, but a different atmosphere permeated OMEGA. Those of us who were lucky enough to be there knew our store areas. Some knew the Bible counter for-

wards and back, others knew Christian fiction from Left Behind to the Omega Code.

Then, there was me, who wanted to know all I could. I could tell many stories, from dealing with customers (irate to regular and everything in-between) to book signings, opening in the morning to closing at night.

Suffice to say, growing up with those experiences gave me an appreciation for bookstores.

So, what is all this getting at? Near the end of OMEGA's time, the Internet had grown into the main market for books. In essence, the Internet was running bookstores out of business. As stated, I have an appreciation for bookstores or the even more rare, the bookshop.

What's the difference? To me, they are two sides

of the same coin. The bookstore represents the new and shiny, all that's hip and up to date. The bookshop considers all that is history and is most generally a used book haven that has a different feel. It is the feel of the past, but in a space that allows us to touch the past with our own hands.

Many people don't care about anything not new. Why should you? Think of all the books that have been read to tatters, those books that washed away in floods, aren't all used books in that category? Well, no, they aren't. If you need proof, just look on Facebook or at Books Revisited to see the hidden world where books and people come back to life.



Devon Campbell recently joined the library as an IT and marketing assistant. If we can't find him, he's often down at Books Revisited.

Continued on Page 7



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books FREE of charge to children from birth to age 5, through funding shared by Dolly and the State of Missouri. Every child birth to age 5 in Missouri is eligible! Sign up now using this QR code.





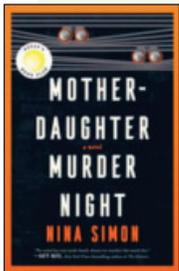
Yoga & Mindfulness Sessions

Yoga therapist Jessica Bledsoe will guide seniors through chair yoga and stretching exercises. **10 a.m. Fridays, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 Savannah Branch.** Yoga instructor Emily Fite will provide a calming start to 2024 for all ages using breathing techniques, singing bowls and coloring sheets. **11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, Belt Branch.**

Book Review

3 generations solve murder, their family issues in fun mystery

Amateur sleuthing over the murder next door is the theme in the lighthearted whodunnit **Mother-Daughter Murder Night** by Nina Simon. (MYSTERY SIMON in the library's catalog.)



Grandmother Lana has moved in with her adult daughter, Beth, and her teenage granddaughter, Jack, to their coastal California

town after a cancer diagnosis. When Lana spots strange activity out the window with her binoculars, she uncovers more than she bargained for.

Three generations of fierce, formidable and feisty women team up to sniff out a murderer after Jack finds a body while kayaking. Working together begins to repair Lana and Beth's strained relationship and strengthens the trio's bonds.

Part family drama and part murder mystery, this book is fun, entertaining and easy to read. An added note: Simon wrote this book for her mother after she was diagnosed with cancer.

— Jennifer George
Rolling Hills Library
technical services manager

Need to get out of the house? We're serving hot drinks & interesting movies

With colder temperatures greeting us nearly every day now, who wouldn't appreciate a nice hot drink or getting out of the house for an occasional movie? You'll get your chances this winter at the Belt and Savannah branches.

Savannah is offering patrons coffee, hot tea and cocoa on Fridays throughout December and January. Come in to sit and visit, work on a puzzle or color a masterpiece while you're sipping a hot brew.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, British-American Anne Davies will be the host for a proper British tea for teens and adults at 3 p.m. in the Belt Community Room. January is Hot Tea Month, and the event will feature delicious refreshments, the history of afternoon teas and fun with some British vocabulary.

Participants can wear hats and gloves for tea if they want. Registration is required at events.rhcl.org/event/9361746.

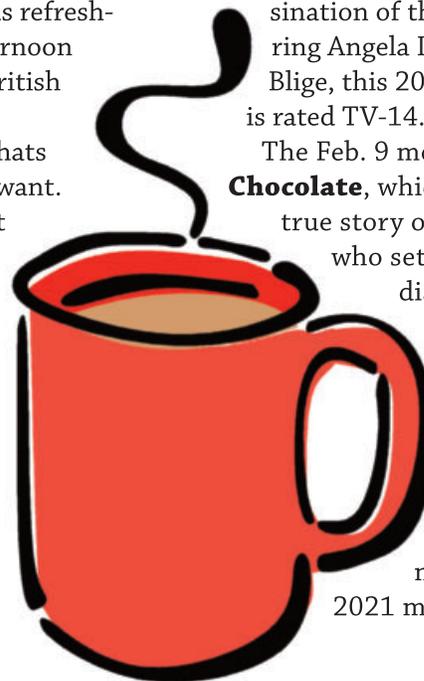
The Belt will continue to celebrate Hot Tea Month at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, with a traditional Japanese tea ceremony planned by technology services librarian Ms. Bridgid, who lived and worked for several years in Japan.

Space is limited for this event for teens and adults, so registration is required at events.rhcl.org/event/9525739.

Belt is offering Free Friday Films at 2 p.m. Dec. 1, Jan. 12 and Feb. 9 in the Community Room. Kicking off the series is **The Man Who Invented Christmas**, the tale of what led to Charles Dickens' creation of **A Christmas Carol**, the story that came to redefine Christmas. This 2017 movie is rated PG and stars Dan Stevens and Christopher Plummer.

On Jan. 12, **Betty and Coretta** follows the widows of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X as they carry on as single mothers after the assassination of their husbands. Starring Angela Davis and Mary J. Blige, this 2013 television movie is rated TV-14.

The Feb. 9 movie is **Peace by Chocolate**, which is based on the true story of a Syrian refugee who settles in a small Canadian town after his father's chocolate factory is bombed and is caught between wanting to become a doctor and preserving his family's chocolate-making legacy. This 2021 movie is not rated.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ STAR Program

Our Services to Adult Readers Program provides homebound adults who can't visit the library due to age, illness, disability or transportation challenges with library materials by mail or in-person delivery. Call us at 816-205-7100 for more information or to sign up.





Winter Seed Sowing

Master Gardener Anne Manns will show you how to plant seeds in the winter to get a head start on your garden. You will leave with seeds you've planted in small containers. Registration required at events.rhcl.org/event/9395335. 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, Belt Branch

Bullish Survivor

Our national mammal is an existential story that may be a warning for us all

I picked up a copy of **American Buffalo** by Steven Rinella last year at Books Revisited and added it to my

bedside stack. As

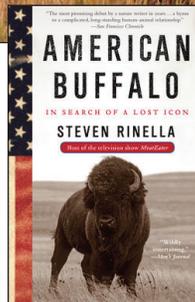
Book Review

someone who has been intrigued by the American West since I was a kid, it was a natural purchase.

It rose to the top of the pile earlier this year and provided a two-part story, one side being an almost encyclopedic but also entertaining read about the buffalo's earliest history and the other side being a tale of Rinella's buffalo hunt in Alaska.

Rinella is an outdoorsman, author and TV personality with the Netflix show **MeatEater**, which features his hunting trips and ways to cook game meat. He also can be seen in the new Ken Burns documentary **The American Buffalo** on PBS.

The book delves into how early buffaloes may have migrated to North America from Asia, how they prospered as the largest animal in the plains and mountains, how indigenous cultures depended on them for their subsistence, and how they were slaughtered to near extinction for their hides.



Rinella doesn't leave the buffalo to perish on the plains. He traces how, as the numbers of buffalo dwindled, some people kept a few of them to create their own herds, how some buffaloes disappeared on their own into the Canadian wilds and how modern efforts to save the buffalo are succeeding.

Those modern efforts are how Rinella came to take his Alaska hunt. State wildlife

officials limit the number of buffalo hunting licenses, and Rinella was lucky to win one of four in a lottery one year. His other piece of luck was finding a small group of buffaloes in the part of the vast wilderness that was open to hunting.

I'm not a hunter myself, but I have no problem with hunting if harvesting the animals includes eating their meat. That is an opinion I took many, many years ago when I learned how the buffalo came so close to extinction. After reading **American Buffalo**, 599.643 RIN in the library's catalog, I wonder if the buffalo isn't a metaphor for what we are doing with the Earth's climate.

— Alan Stolfus, Browse editor

New Mysteries @ the Library

- A Matter of Life and Death by Phillip Margolin
- The Golden Gate by Amy Chua
- Dark Angel by John Sandford
- Stalking Around the Christmas Tree by Jacqueline Frost
- I Will Find You by Harlan Coben
- Hiss and Tell by Rita Mae Brown
- Harlem After Midnight by Louise Hare
- The House of Wolves by James Patterson
- All That is Hidden by Rhys Bowen
- Collateral Damage by J.A. Jance
- Unnatural History by Jonathan Kellerman
- Of Manners and Murder by Anastasia Hastings
- Good Dog, Bad Cop by David Rosenfelt
- The Wolves Come at Night by J.T. Ellison
- Peg and Rose Stir Up Trouble by Laurien Perenson
- Dastardly Ducks by Mildred Abbott
- Whispers at Dusk by Heather Graham
- Murder in Westminster by Vanessa Riley
- To Catch a Storm by Mindy Mejia
- The Raven Thief by Gigi Pandian
- Wicked Dreams by Lisa Jackson

Puzzles, board games and Life-Sized Candy Land await families

From Page 1

an edible version of it. Open to all ages, but at least one adult is needed per team. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9362377.

Puzzle Races – 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, Belt Upper Story, and 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, Savannah. Teams of three to four people (one must be an adult) will try to put together a 300-piece puzzle in the fastest time. Register for the Savannah race at events.rhcl.org/event/9438638. Register for the Belt race at events.rhcl.org/event/9362426.

Game Night at the Library – 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29, Belt. 7 Wonders is the featured board game for families, or you can play other board games or bring your mobile device to play Jackbox Games.

What could be the biggest game for families this winter is **Life-Sized Candy Land**. The drop-in programs will be offered at 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 17, in the Belt Upper Story and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24, at Savannah.

Its people are part of bookstore's attraction

From Page 4

Books Revisited. A very special space that transcends the physical. On any given day, you can walk into the Friends of the Library's store and see books upon books, from front to back.

But there is so much more than just books; and I don't mean the DVDs and Blu-Rays. I mean people. The shop is all volunteers, save for Hans Bremer, Mr. Books himself, and his assistant Greer. They set the tone in the shop.

That tone rings loudly with fun, but also of knowledge. Authors I have never heard of have

been introduced to me with such passion and reverence that I have had no recourse but to research them.

Books Revisited truly is a hidden world. One that once you find it, the atmosphere will wash over you. From Hans' knowledge of all things to Diene's recipes, from Galen's sports stories to Greer's kindness (and of course, her dog Izzy's playfulness), these and many more are waiting at Books Revisited.

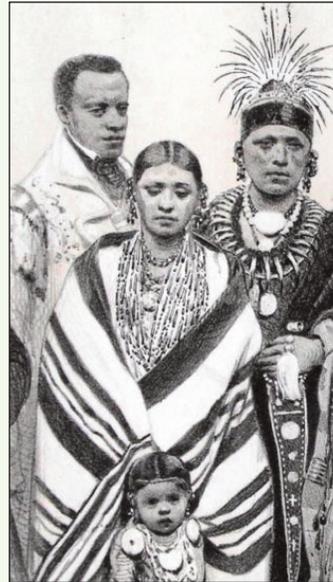
All I have left to tell you is to find it for yourself.

Holocaust, Robidoux's enslaved man are topics of two history programs

Two history programs are planned this winter at Belt, one looking at the Holocaust and the other telling the amazing story of Jeffrey Deroine, a man who was enslaved to Joseph Robidoux's family but later became free.

Saturday, Jan. 27, is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and Lafayette High School teacher Brooke Rich will present a program about her recent trip to Europe at 2 p.m. in the Community Room. This program is best suited for teens and adults.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas chose Rich to be one of 20 teachers to study the Holocaust by visiting important sites in Germany, Poland and Norway this past summer.

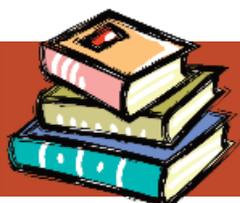


Jeffrey Deroine (rear left) became an interpreter for the U.S. government and indigenous tribes and also a successful farmer in St. Joseph.

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, Kami Jones from St. Joseph Museums will present a Black History Month program about Deroine, who lived 1806 to 1859. He was born in St. Louis as a slave to Robidoux and as he grew older he worked in Robidoux's trading posts. With an ease for learning native languages, he became an experienced trader and interpreter. In 1832, his freedom was purchased by either another trader or Ioway

chief Francis White Cloud.

Deroine became a government interpreter, negotiating treaties with indigenous tribes and accompanying White Cloud and a group of Ioway on a tour of Europe. He later became a prosperous farmer in St. Joseph, where he passed away.



Books Revisited
The Friends of the Library Bookstore

Offering used and rare books, music and more!
1908 N. Belt 816-205-7125
12-5 Monday, 9-5 Tuesday-Friday & 9-6 Saturday

Barb Dalrymple is The Cake Lady

Chocolate Cheesecake Swirl Bundt Cake

Cream cheese filling:

- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened (from an 8-ounce package)
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 egg

Cake:

- 1 box dark chocolate cake mix
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup water (I use milk)
- ½ cup oil
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips

Topping:

- 2 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 to 3 teaspoons milk
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
- ½ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour 12-cup Bundt pan or spray with baking spray with flour. For the filling, use a small bowl to beat cream cheese with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth and fluffy. Beat in sugar, flour and egg until smooth

and set aside.

In large bowl, beat cake mix, flour, water (or milk), oil and eggs with electric mixer on medium speed for two minutes, then stir in chocolate chips. Pour into pan.

Spoon filling over batter, keeping it away from edge of pan. Run table knife through batter in large zigzag pattern once around the pan.

Bake 40-45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Turn pan upside down onto cooling rack (I turn it onto a cake plate) to release cake. Cool completely, about one hour.

For the icing, use a small bowl to beat cream cheese and milk with a whisk. Beat in powdered sugar until smooth. If too thick, add milk one teaspoon at a time, until desired consistency. Spoon icing over cake.

In a small bowl, microwave whipping cream uncovered on high for 30 seconds or until cream just begins to simmer. Add chocolate chips and stir until smooth. Place mixture in a small resealable plastic bag. Cut off a small corner of bag and drizzle mixture over white icing. Enjoy.



Barb also is a Rolling Hills Library retiree who has made cakes for her friends and former co-workers for decades