



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Office of Public Affairs

### MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Debra Rhodes Gibson at (904) 827-6925

### Library Activities for “St. Johns Reads” throughout February *Special programs focus on novel “March” and the Civil War*

**St. Augustine, FL – (February 2, 2010)** – The St. Johns County Public Library System celebrates the 5<sup>th</sup> annual “St. Johns Reads” this month with the novel *March*, a Pulitzer-Prize winning novel by Geraldine Brooks. St. Johns Reads brings together the entire community in a county-wide book club with related programming at all branch libraries.

*A Publisher’s Weekly* review describes *March*:

"Brooks' luminous second novel, after 2001's acclaimed *Year of Wonders*, imagines the Civil War experiences of Mr. March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. An idealistic Concord cleric, March becomes a Union chaplain and later finds himself assigned to be a teacher on a cotton plantation that employs freed slaves, or "contraband." His narrative begins with cheerful letters home, but March gradually reveals to the reader what he does not to his family: the cruelty and racism of Northern and Southern soldiers, the violence and suffering he is powerless to prevent and his reunion with Grace, a beautiful, educated slave whom he met years earlier as a Connecticut peddler to the plantations."

St. Johns Reads activities include films, book discussions, Civil War reenactments and more. Full schedule below:

#### **Harriet Tubman Living History:**

- Ponte Vedra Beach Branch – Thursday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.
- Hastings Branch – Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 A.M.
- Southeast Branch – Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.

#### **Dessert & Discussion:**

- Main Library – Monday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.
- Anastasia Island Branch – Thursday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.
- Southeast Branch – Saturday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.
- Ponte Vedra Beach Branch – Monday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 A.M.
- Southeast Branch – Thursday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 P.M.
- Bartram Trail Branch – Thursday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

#### **St. Augustine During the Civil War:**

- Anastasia Island Branch – Saturday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Seminar:**

- Main Library – Monday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 P.M.
- Ponte Vedra Beach Branch – Tuesday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M.
- Bartram Trail Branch – Saturday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.
- Southeast Branch – Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 A.M.
- Hastings Branch – Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.

**Movie Night “Glory”:**

- Main Library – Monday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 P.M.
- Hastings Branch – Thursday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.

**Movie Night “Little Women”:**

- Anastasia Island Branch – Thursday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 P.M.
- Southeast Branch – Thursday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M.
- Bartram Trail Branch – Monday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 P.M.
- Main Library – Monday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 P.M.

**Ken Burns’ Civil War Film Festival:**

- Anastasia Island Branch – Nine-part series, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, call 209-3730 for dates and times

**75th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Re-enactors:**

- Bartram Trail Branch – Saturday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 P.M.
- Southeast Branch – Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.
- Ponte Vedra Beach Branch – Saturday, Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.

**Re-enactor: A Union Soldier Tells His Story:**

- Anastasia Island Branch – Saturday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 P.M.

St. Johns Reads is sponsored by a partnership with all seven Friends of the Library groups. For more information contact Library Administration at (904) 827-6925 or visit [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org).

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