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**Learn to make gourmet hot chocolate, decorate festive holiday cookies and more food fun
at the library**

This month, the library is gearing up for a delicious holiday season. Stop by the Orlando Public Library on December 5 and learn to bring your hot chocolate to the next level with Cuisine Corner: Gourmet Hot Chocolate. Later in the month, you can bring the family to the Winter Garden, North Orange or Southwest branches for cookie-decorating events, where our younger customers can create and enjoy their sweet treats. We'll also have gingerbread man workshop at various locations throughout the month. See below for more details.

If you have any questions about the events or information shared below, or to register for an event, call the library at 407-835-7323. You can also check for more food-related library events online at ocls.info/cuisinecorner

Cuisine Corner: Pastelón

Orlando Public Library, Cypress Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, December 2, 11 a.m.

Yamira Lee Johnson, head chef and founder of Breaking Bread with Mira and certified holistic life coach, will demonstrate how to make Pastelón. This savory Puerto Rican dish consists of layered sweet plantains, ground beef, sauce and cheese. For more information about Breaking Bread with Mira, visit facebook.com/breakingbreadwithmira.

Cuisine Corner: Gourmet Hot Chocolate

Orlando Public Library, Cypress Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.

Ditch the packet and upgrade your hot chocolate with these gourmet twists on a holiday favorite. Library staff will introduce you to deluxe hot cocoa recipes to keep you warm all winter long.

Cuisine Corner: Holiday Tea Time

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.

Orlando Public Library, Cypress Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m.

Indulge in some holiday tea blends with Karon Cannon of Tea Craze! Learn about the history, types and health benefits of drinking tea, as well as some of Karon's new blends for this holiday season. Enjoy a tea tasting and tips on brewing the perfect cup of tea! Registration required.

Little Chef: Teddy Bear Toast

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Thursday, December 7, 2 p.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Friday, December 8, 11 a.m.

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Monday, December 18, 10:30 a.m.

You're never too young to get your start in the kitchen! Kids will learn how to make teddy bear toast for a healthy kids breakfast or a snack. Bring your little one to learn cooking skills such as kitchen safety, layering, measuring, smearing, tasting and presentation as you interact with a delicious recipe. This class is a "Mommy or Daddy and me" event. Space is limited. Registration required. Ages 3-5.

Cuisine Corner: Eating a Variety of Fruits and Vegetables

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m.

Learn the importance of eating a variety fruits and vegetables and the benefits of including them in your diet. Presented by the UF/IFAS Extension Orange County. Seats are limited. Registration required.

Cuisine Corner Junior: Gingerbread Cookie Workshop

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Saturday, December 9, 2:30 p.m.

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Monday, December 11, 3:15 p.m.

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Tuesday, December 12, 4 p.m.

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Saturday, December 16, 1 p.m.

Hiawassee Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Drive

Tuesday, December 19, 6 p.m.

South Trail Branch, 4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail

Wednesday, December 20, 4:30 p.m.

Washington Park Branch, 5151 Raleigh St., Suite A.

Wednesday, December 20, 4:30 p.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Saturday, December 23, 11 a.m.

Run, run as fast as you can to catch the gingerbread man! Decorate a famous holiday treat in this month's Cuisine Corner Junior event. Registration required. Ages 8–18.

Food 101: Shellfish

Orlando Public Library, Albertson Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.

The Food 101 series introduces you to a new topic every month, examining the historical and social significance of what we eat. In December, learn about different kinds of shellfish and how they're consumed around the world. Samples limited. Registration required.

Cuisine Corner Junior: Melted Snowman Bark

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 p.m.

Learn and create a winter-inspired treat to celebrate the season and enjoy a sweet dessert.

Registration recommended. Ages 8–18.

Cookie Decorating

Winter Garden Branch, 805 E. Plant St., Winter Garden

Thursday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Monday, December 18, 5 p.m.

Southwest Branch, 7255 Della Drive

Friday, December 22, 10:30 a.m.

Frosting, sprinkles, candy and cookies ... what more could you want?! Stop in and express your creativity by decorating a sugary treat. Enjoy the best part of all, eating it! Ages 6–18.

Cuisine Corner: Sugar Shock

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Saturday, December 16, 11 a.m.

It's easy to exceed the recommended amount of sugar intake per day. Ever wonder how much sugar is in common drinks? Boost your brain power by learning what to look out for and reduce your sugar intake. Seats are limited. Registration required.

The Perfect Fall Chowder: Hold the Cream, Please!

Orlando Public Library, Cypress Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Wednesday, December 20, 6:15 p.m.

Chef Jenn of dajeneats.com demonstrates how to make a creamy, dreamy roasted corn chowder, perfect for fall. Skip the dairy, but not the flavor! Space is limited. Registration required.

Cuisine Corner: Holiday Appetizers, Vietnamese bánh mì

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Thursday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.

Local chef and author Ha Roda shares tips on making Vietnamese bánh mì (sandwiches) for a fun holiday appetizer. Stop by for a demonstration on making Vietnamese bánh mì and tasty samples. Registration required.

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