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Women's History Month events, including Paralympic Gold Medalist April Holmes, the Women in the Arts Awards and more

During the month of March, the Orange County Library System recognizes Woman's History Month with a variety of events that celebrate women. Visit the Orlando Public Library on March 3 when Paralympic Gold medalist April Holmes shares her story of overcoming obstacles and her path to the Paralympics, where she has won 11 international medals.

Join us on March 24 at the Orlando Public Library for the annual Women in the Arts awards ceremony. The event features a tour of the Celebrating the Genius of Women art exhibit, which features the work of both local and international artists. Library customers are encouraged to vote for their favorite piece in person or on Facebook from March 10-19.

The Orange County Library System teams up with National Center for Women & Information Technology's Aspire IT, along with Intel, Northrop Grumman and Google, to bring young women ages 10-14 to the library for Girls Rocking Robotics. Every Saturday from March 31-April 14 at the Edgewater Branch library, participants will learn about technology through fun, interactive activities using LEGO Mindstorm robotics kits, all the while being inspired to pursue STEM-related careers from professional women in the field. See below for additional information.

If you have any questions about the events or information shared below, please feel free to contact us at 407-835-7323. You can also check for more library events online at www.ocls.info. We hope to see you soon!

Experiencing Italy: An Introduction to Italian Conversation and Culture

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

Saturdays, March 3 & 10, 10:30 a.m.

In this two-part series, professor and Italian native, Donatella Marcovigi of i-italianizeyou.com will teach the basics of Italian conversation such as greetings, grammatical rules and fun, interesting tips about the culture and travels that only a true native would know. At the end, you'll get a chance to practice with fellow students.

On A Mission To Be The Greatest

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

Saturday, March 3, 2:30 p.m.

In honor of Women's History Month, Paralympic Gold Medalist April Holmes shares her motivational story of overcoming adversity. In 2001, April was involved in a train accident that resulted in the loss of her left leg below the knee. While she lay in her hospital bed, a doctor told her about the Paralympic Games and a new goal was firmly implanted in her mind. Hear how April found the strength to go on to break world records and win 11 international medals. To learn more about April Holmes and her non-profit organization, the April Holmes Foundation, visit aprilholmes.com. Call 407.835.7323 or visit ocls.info to register

Carol Burnett Trivia Contest

Southwest Branch, 7255 Della Drive, 7255 Della Drive

Monday, March 5, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Carol Burnett broke new ground as the first female host of a TV variety show. *The Carol Burnett* show aired from 1967–1978 and became a comedy classic. Test your knowledge of the award-winning show in honor of its 50th anniversary. Join us for light refreshments and trivia prizes. Don't miss the fun and laughter! Registration required. Ages 13 and up.

Represent: Women in Film

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

Tuesdays, March 6–27, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Sunday, March 18, 2 p.m.

Learn about the struggles, sacrifices and achievements of women throughout the world. Step into the lives of these courageous, strong and persistent women by joining us for a Women's History Month mini-movie festival!

3/6 – *Motherland*

3/13 – *Miss Representation*

3/18 – *Suitable Girl*

3/20 – *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power*

3/27 – *All of Me: The Challenge of Obesity*

Prime Time Family Reading Time

Herndon Branch, 4324 E. Colonial Drive

Wednesday, March 7–April 11, 6–8 p.m.

Families with children will enjoy discussing children's stories with a storyteller and a scholar at this six-week series. A healthy meal will be provided. Enjoy family time and win prizes! Registration required. Call 407.835.7356 to register.

Introduction to American Sign Language

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Wednesdays, March 7–28, 7 p.m.

Join us for role playing and games designed to teach basic American Sign Language. During the progressive four week course, instructors will cover the manual alphabet, numbers, making introductions and more. Presented by ASL Services Inc. Ages 12 and up. Attendees must be able to participate in all four classes. Space is limited. Registration required. To register, visit ocls.info or call 407.835.7323.

Music in the Library: Matthew Gurnsey – The Kilted Man

Chickasaw Branch, 870 N. Chickasaw Trail

Saturday, March 10, 11 a.m.

Enjoy a live performance by Matthew Gurnsey, The Kilted Man. Matthew delights audiences with his rousing performances of traditional Irish and Scottish music. His unique talents with traditional Celtic instruments, such as the concertina, bodhran, bones and mandolin, add an air of authenticity to each piece and his stirringly rich bass voice provides the foundation for the hauntingly beautiful melodies. To learn more about Matthew Gurnsey, visit thekiltedman.com.

This Lady Sings the Blues: A History of Women in Blues Music

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

Saturday, March 10, 2:30 p.m.

Join Dr. Naima Johnston-Bush for a musical lecture on the history of women and blues music. Discover the stories behind some of your favorite artists, learn how the blues is connected to African-American slave music and hear original renditions of blues favorites. This is a great program for novices or blues lovers alike to explore an original American art form in an exciting new way.

Wonder Women

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

Saturday, March 10, 2:30 p.m.

Windermere Branch, 530 Main St., Windermere

Thursday, March 15, 3:30 p.m.

Chickasaw Branch, 870 N. Chickasaw Trail

Thursday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

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

Monday, March 19, 3 p.m.

Chickasaw Branch, 870 N. Chickasaw Trail

Monday, March 26, 11 a.m.

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Monday, March 26, 5 p.m.

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Tuesday, March 27, 4 p.m.

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

Saturday, March 31, 11 a.m.

Celebrate women in history! Join us for brainy trivia and brilliant activities. Ages 6–12.

Ableton User Group Launch Meetup with DiViNCi

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

Wednesday, March 14, 6 p.m.

Join us at the Melrose Center with special guests DiViNCi and Ableton Certified Trainer Steven Smith, as we celebrate the first meeting of the official Ableton User Group Orlando in its new home. DiViNCi will offer a live performance with PUSH 2, followed by a Q&A where he will discuss his live setup, how he maps his various controllers to control Ableton and his inspirational approach for creative longevity. Steven Smith will provide an in-depth demonstration of Ableton Live 10's new Wavetable synth.

Cuisine Corner: Tapas with a Twist

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

Wednesday, March 14, 6:15 p.m.

Join Chef Karen Ross of Karen's Creative Cuisines as she shares how to create tapas (small plates of appetizers or snacks) that will be sure to delight your taste buds. She will show you how to make spicy tuna fish cakes and fried almond herbs. For more information, visit mychefkaren.com.

Women in the Holocaust

Orlando Public Library, Albertson Room

Saturday, March 17, 2 p.m.

Mitchell Bloomer, resource teacher at the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida, shares the stories of women in the Holocaust, both as victims and as perpetrators. Presented in honor of National Women's History Month.

Women in the Arts Awards

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

Saturday, March 24, 2-4 p.m.

Join us in the main lobby to meet the artists and participate in an interactive gallery walk, immediately followed by the awards ceremony. Visit ocls.info/women-arts-awards for more details.

Local Author Festival: In Celebration of Women's History Month

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

Saturday, March 31, 2-4 p.m.

Meet and greet local authors at a special edition of our Local Authors Festival in celebration of Women's History Month. Authors from a variety of genres will share their experiences and books. Each author will have books available for purchase and signing.

Girls Rocking Robotics

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Saturdays, March 31-April 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Orange County Library System is inspiring girls and young women to pursue careers in technology by teaching computing concepts with fun, interactive activities. Working with the National Center for Women & Information Technology's Aspire IT program, OCLS will offer a three-day hands-on robotics program for girls, ages 10-14. Participants will use engineering design processes to tackle a social issue, using LEGO Mindstorms robotic kits. Working in small groups under the guidance of a mentor, participants will bring their designs to life. By engaging with professional women in technology, girls will discover opportunities in STEM-related careers. Sponsored by NCWIT AspireIT and supported by Intel, Northrop Grumman and Google.

Lunch and snacks are provided. Girls who complete the program will receive a \$20 LEGO gift card. Space is limited. Registration required. A \$5 materials fee is required at time of registration. The program is only open to girls, ages 10-14. To register, call 407.835.7323.