

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **History**

### **Duffy Hudson Presents: Houdini, the Life and Legend**

Orlando Public Library, Library Central                      Sunday, January 10, 2 p.m.

Broadway and film veteran Duffy Hudson will bring Houdini to life in this unique one-man show. Houdini returns from the Other Side but will his dear wife Bess even know he is there? Learn about Houdini's life, magic and the great escapes.

### **The Life and Times of John Ringling**

Orlando Public Library, Library Central                      Tuesday, January 19, 6:30 p.m.

John Nicholas Ringling is the most well-known of the seven Ringling brothers, who started the Ringling Brothers Circus in 1870. In 1927, John Ringling moved the winter headquarters to Sarasota. Upon his death in 1936, he willed to the state of Florida his Sarasota mansion, a Baroque art museum and his entire art collection. Hobbies Historian Audrey Bylott will discuss the life and times of John Ringling.

### **Saving Florida: Women's Fight for the Environment in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Orlando Public Library, Library Central                      Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

Florida is renowned for its beautiful beaches, natural springs and subtropical wilderness. However, dredge-and-fill projects, air pollution and pesticides spread so uncontrollably during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century that they sparked an environmental movement. Those who engaged and led the fight were often women. Dr. Leslie Poole will explore the women who led the fight for unprecedented changes in how the Sunshine State reverts its unique natural resources.

### **Thomas Edison: The Wizard of Menlo Park**

North Orange Branch    Saturday, January 23, 2 p.m.

Known as "The Wizard of Menlo Park," Thomas Alva Edison was an American inventor, holding more than 1,000 patents. He invented and developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world including a long-lasting light bulb, the use of electric power, a stock ticker, a battery for the electric car, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera. Edison built his winter retreat, and later a laboratory, in Fort Myer, which is now open to the public.

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