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Share Your Love for Libraries All February Long! Library Lovers Month 2024

Kickoff Event with

finding rhythm

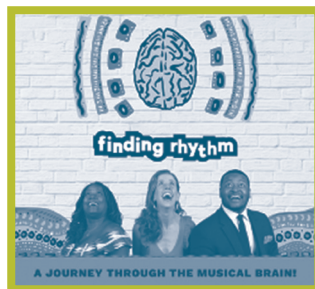
Saturday February 3, 2024 | 11 AM - 12 PM
Marilyn J. Praisner (Burtonsville) Library

Love is in the air this February, not only for Valentine's Day, but also for library lovers around the world. To celebrate our love for libraries—and to show just how essential libraries are to our community—FOLMC will host a family-friendly Library Lovers Month Kickoff with *Finding Rhythm* on Saturday, February 3 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Marilyn J. Praisner (Burtonsville) Library.

In this interactive experience, the Neuroscientist (Dr. Jessica), Father Rhythm (Dante' Pope), and Sister Song (Rochelle Rice) will share their music and teachings, and help children to find their rhythm and grow their brains. This event is geared toward elementary-age students.

Finding Rhythm teaches children how rhythm shapes them, helps them find the source of their individual power—and connects them with their community, through music and dance.

Finding Rhythm was created by a neuroscientist, Dr. Jessica Phillips-Silver, to teach children about the biological origins of human music and the special power of rhythm to empower individuals and heal communities. Dante' Pope is a touring musician, educator-advocate,



and the musical arranger and producer for *Finding Rhythm*. Rochelle Rice is an award-winning jazz, soul, and folk vocalist, as well as the host of *Tell Her This* podcast.



Featured on NBC4, in *DCist* and dubbed "The most DC thing" by WUSA9 news, *Finding Rhythm* had its world premiere at the Kennedy Center Family Theater in 2023, and its programs are included in elementary through high school educational curricula across the nation's capital. *Finding Rhythm's* single, *Soul. Beat. Connection.*, was inspired by Go-Go music, Washington DC's indigenous and official musical genre, and they will be playing lots of funky beats at our Kickoff Event!

The Marilyn J. Praisner (Burtonsville) Library is located at 14910 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD, 20866.

Even more ways to love libraries in February

Now that we've got you on your feet, head over to our website, www.folmc.org, for a host of Library Lovers Month-themed events and activities, and show your love for libraries all month long!

- Tell us why you love your library on our Library Lovers Month virtual postcards—we'll be sharing them with county officials.
- You can also download a "My library helped me ...?" flyer. Fill it out and take a selfie! Share it on FOLMC's Facebook, Threads, and Instagram pages using the hashtag #ILoveMyLibrary, and we might spotlight you during Library Lovers Month.

Library Lovers Month Kickoff is sponsored in partnership with the Montgomery County Library Board.

From the Desk of Ari Z. Brooks

Executive Director, FOLMC



A few lessons from Chuck Brown on ‘staying power’

I hope you’ll join us at our Library Lovers Month Kickoff event featuring *Finding Rhythm’s* Go-Go beats—did you know that Go-Go music began right here in Washington, DC?

Go-Go is a lively mix of syncopated rhythms with an emphasis on percussion. In fact, that’s where the name “Go-Go” comes from: As one song ends, the drumbeats continue immediately into the next song, and so the music just “goes and goes.”

The late Go-Go legend Chuck Brown, known as “the Godfather of Go-Go music,” was a singer and jazz guitarist whose band, the Soul Searchers, was credited with helping to originate Go-Go in the 1970s. His songs were about suffering but also resilience, all told in a way that spoke to the heart. Brown really embraced the evolution of his music retold by younger generations. He played well into his 70s; as a devoted fan of Go-Go, I grew up on this music and bebopped my head to the beat on the morning drives to school. Coincidentally, I even ran into him after a library meeting at the Starbucks in Chevy Chase. Always a showman, Brown was dressed in his signature, ostentatious style, yet was very friendly and approachable, living up to his legend.

I don’t think anyone who was part of DC’s underground scene in the ‘70s would think that Go-Go music would be around for more than 50 years, but just like Brown himself, Go-Go is a testament to

staying power, because it’s authentic, and it resonates.

FOLMC, too, has staying power—we’re turning 42 in 2024! And just like Brown and the musical genre he created, FOLMC has continually evolved to stay in sync with our audiences. For example, we recently rolled out a new, streamlined membership model, known simply as the “Friend,” which makes it easier than ever for you to give.

All you have to do now is give a gift; there’s no need to pick “donor” or “member”—because, after all, we’re all Friends of the Library.

We’ve also introduced a recurring giving option so that you can make monthly, quarterly, or annual donations, which will help to promote organizational sustainability.

When you have staying power, you have long-lasting value. You’ve earned people’s trust; you’ve stood the test of time. Staying power gives you the opportunity to innovate and to stay relevant—without it, you’re stuck. Or, as Chuck Brown would say, “it don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that Go-Go swing...”



The 2021 Go-Go mural by Kaliq Crosby at 1900 7th Street, NW, Washington Credit: DC Murals Project.

A Note from MCPL Director Anita Vassallo

Our 2023 Summer Reading Challenge! was a tremendous success with over 14,000 children and teens, ages 0-17, participating. This is an increase of more than 1,000 from the previous summer, and the highest enrollment there has been in the past eight years. Focusing on the 2023 theme, *All Together Now*, MCPL and FOLMC teamed up with Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, Friends of Montgomery County Animals, Manna Food Center, and Montgomery Parks Foundation to help children and teens spread kindness to local animals, people, and the planet. Participants embraced the challenge. As a result, pets found forever homes, 300 families were fed over 800 meals, and 460 solar panels will soon be powering local parks.

Great things are happening with our teens. Since February, the program offerings for teens have increased and the program attendance has steadily climbed. Eighteen branches are actively running Teen Advisory Board (TAB) programs along with our monthly virtual TAB. Teen services include:

- Gaming equipment - Establishing the library as a space where teens/tweens can experience community around video game play and engaging teens in the realm of workforce and careers by collaborating with Montgomery College e-sports teams and local video game content creating corporations.

- Training - A monthly tutorial for all staff on teen initiatives. Teen Services staff meet monthly to discuss programming and ideas.
- Career and workforce – Collaborating with other entities to help teens write resumes and providing financial literacy courses.
- Contemporary Conversations – Local high schools have been offered the opportunity for students to have discussions with our renowned guest speakers.

Part one of our Hatchling pilot was successful. The three *Hatchlings: Ready to Hatch* programs were well-attended, and feedback from customers was very positive. The Hatchlings program helps expectant and new parents build the skills needed to be their child’s first teachers. It assists in addressing kindergarten readiness and targets equity focus areas. It is presented in partnership with the Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings pilot program series, the Maryland State Library, and the Silver Spring Judy Center Early Learning Hub.

With generous support from FOLMC and an award from the Maryland State Library through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, MCPL has purchased a van for mobile outreach. This vehicle will significantly enhance our service to the community, allowing MCPL to bring resources and services to underserved communities.



MC Montgomery County
PL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

FOLMC Funded Activities & Supplies

Below are highlights of the over 400 programs FOLMC funded in 2023 through speaker fees, supplies, and equipment. To see a complete list, please check out our calendar at www.folmc.org. Thank you to our donors and volunteers for their dedication to our mission.

Aspen Hill Library

- Noon Year's Eve
- "The Real Juneteenth" with Sandy Spring Slave Museum
- Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Zine Making series with Sierra Barnes

Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library (Silver Spring)

- "Taiko, the Art of Japanese Drumming" with Mark Rooney
- Terrarium Making with Melanin Planted
- "We Call the Earth Our Mother" with Dovie Thomason
- Board Game Nights

Chevy Chase Library

- Gentle Hatha Yoga (Virtual) with Cheryl Kravitz
- "Elizabeth Cady Stanton" with History Alive
- Clayboy's Shave Ice for Family Fun Summer Kickoff
- Chinese Lion Dance with Chinese Youth Club

Connie Morella Library (Bethesda)

- Black History Month with Ada-Ari Books
- "Nonbinary Gender Identity" virtual discussion with K. Stuart Getty
- "Vienna-City of Great Composers" with Alicia Tompkins
- "Wonderful World of Worms"

Damascus Library

- Teen Meet-Ups
- Grounds Beautification by the Garden Club
- Teen Crafting

Davis Library (North Bethesda)

- "Aesop's Fables" with Bright Star Children's Theatre
- "Music Everywhere" with Teresa Jimenez
- Guided Meditation for Teens with Corina Urdaneta de Freije
- "Disney Hits" with Notes in Time

Gaithersburg Library

- Children's Yoga with Joana Bragg
- Indoor Mini-Golf
- Tween Book Club
- "The Kindness Bug"

Germantown Library

- Enhanced Signage and Marketing Materials
- Discovery Room toys, games, and fixtures
- Juneteenth lecture with the Menare Foundation
- Lunar New Year with Li-Ming Chinese Academy

Kensington Park Library

- Rhythmaya Dance with Oak Rhythmaya
- Magnetic Poetry
- Springtime Story Walk
- Slime STEAM

Little Falls Library

- Sphero Educational Robot
- Literary Salon Series with Karen Arnold
- Discovery Saturday: Painting with Found Items
- Rain Barrel Installation Project Initiated

Long Branch Library

- Children's Musical with Mr. Jon
- Double Dutch with Joy Jones of DC Retro Jumpers
- African Drumming for Teens with Kofi Dennis
- "Make a Juneteenth Flag"

Maggie Nightingale Library (Poolesville)

- Children's room enhancements including doll house refurbishment
- Poolesville Day Booksale
- "Piggy Bank Painting Party"
- Mini Canvas Art Making

Montgomery County Correctional Facility Library

- Metal bookshelf expanders
- Date stamps

Noyes Library for Young Children

- Superb Saturday STEM
- Take & Make Kits

Olney Library

- Nail Art Nights
- "Friendly Magic" with Mike Rose
- "Write A Memoir" with local authors Kaitlyn Jain and Amy Chan Zhou
- Mardi Gras Mask-Making

Marilyn J. Praisner Library (Burtonsville)

- Craft Take & Make Kits
- Repair/tuning of piano
- Personal Finance take home kits
- Earth Day Harpist with Judith Mostyn White

Potomac Library (Re-opened April 2023)

- Crafternoon
- Take & Make Kits
- Summer STEAM/Craft Tales

Quince Orchard Library

- Diorama Building with Cuddles & Rage
- Mahjong Game Night
- Owl Pellet Dissection
- "Gemeinschaftsgefühl, the Musical History of the Spread of Adlerian Psychology Around the World" with Rob Guttenberg

Rockville Memorial Library

- "How Old is a Hero?" Black History Month with Smithsonian Associates Discovery Theater
- Circus Science Show with Gregory May
- Life-Sized DinoLand Game
- "The Passion and Inspiration of the Drum" with Luis Garay

Twinbrook Library

- Winter Animals Presentation with Echoes of Nature
- Henna Art by Priya Walunjar
- Underground Railroad Exploits: Juneteenth Celebration with Janice Curtis Greene
- Strawberry DNA activity supplies

Wheaton Library

- "Punk the Capital" Film Screening
- Chalk our Walks
- African Heritage Month performance with Cheick Hamala Diabate
- Indigo Tye-Dye

White Oak Library

- Make Your Own Spiderman Magnets
- "Music Everywhere" with Teresa Jimenez

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Wheaton Library and Community
Recreation Center
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(301) 933-1110

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- Longtime FOLMC Donor Chris Kelly



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