



[Home](#)

[Catalog](#)

[Portal Español](#)

[Help](#)

[Electronic Resources](#)

[Hours/Locations](#)

[Patron Record Login](#)

[Library Calendar](#)

[Services/Policies](#)

[Interlibrary Loan](#)

[BookNews](#)

[Get a Library Card](#)

Selections:

The newsletter of the Sarasota County Library System

December, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 3

Welcome to *Selections*, the monthly electronic newsletter of the Sarasota County Library System.

Each month you will find stories related to local library news, national library events, book reviews, database news, and a variety of other topics. Produced by library staff from throughout the County, we will be highlighting different libraries and happenings each month.

Read *Selections* online, or [sign up here](#) to have it delivered to you by email.



This month brought to you by North Port Library Staff

The Campaign for America's Libraries

**Get information smart
@ your library**

Everything you want to know about everything you want to know. Just ask.
The Campaign for America's Libraries

Your research paper is due tomorrow. You have no idea what to bring to tonight's dinner party and you could really use some help in deciding about that new car you're thinking of buying. Where do you turn? How about the library? The Campaign for America's Libraries and the Sarasota County Library System remind you that whether what you need is in print or online, the library will help you find what you're looking for... Everything you want to know about everything you want to know....@ your library.

Do you know:

- There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S. – a total of 16,220, including branches.
- Americans spend more than three times as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.
- Americans check out an average of more than six books a year. They spend \$25.25 a year for the public library – much less than the average cost of one hardcover book.
- Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work.
- 95% of public libraries provide public access to the Internet.

Sarasota County Libraries Participate in Statewide Ask a Librarian Service



Thanks to **The Sarasota County Library System** and over 80 other public, academic, school, and special libraries around Florida; you can have an online chat with a real live librarian Sunday through Friday, 10:00am – 10:00pm and on Saturdays from 10:00am – 5:00pm. *Ask a Librarian* uses unique software that allows you to follow along on the Web with the librarian so you can see how and where the librarian is locating the information.

The chat session is totally interactive and there is no special software to download. Once your inquiry has been answered, you can print out or e-mail a transcript of the entire session in case you need to refer to it again. During periods that the online chat is not available you can e-mail your question and a librarian will get back to you via e-mail during regular working hours. To use *Ask a Librarian* visit <http://sclibs.net> and click on **Reference Desk** link <http://sclibs/ReferenceDesk.aspx>.

North Port Library Hosts Florida Library Directors' Event

On October 19, the North Port Library hosted an after-hours Social Learning Event for the annual Florida Library Directors' Meeting. The business aspects of the Meeting were conducted at the Hyatt Sarasota and the North Sarasota Library.

The North Port Library staff was delighted to showcase its facility's recent remodel and expansion. Some highlights of the facility tour were the unique youth services environment that supports emergent literacy and school readiness, state-of-the-art technology in program rooms, a new computer lab, and a creative and flexible approach to space allocation.

The reception area for the event included hors d'oeuvres provided by the Friends of the North Port Area Library and featured a looping slide show detailing the history of the North Port Library facility, ranging from photos of the library's early days in a private home to the current, newly remodeled structure. A local harpist donated her time and talent to create a lovely atmosphere for the evening. The slide presentation was offered to attendees as a business card disk for future reference.

For more information about the North Port Library's expansion project, please call 861-1310.

North Port Youth Services Library Appreciation Tree



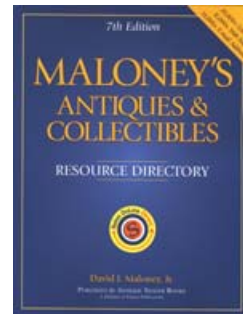
Please take a look at what the children have written:

I like Mary-Kate and Ashley books.
I like computers and books.
I like the blocks.
Books are awesome!
I like Santa.
I like Junie B. Jones books.
I like the computers.
The library is fun and I like to feed the duckies.
I like the Harry Potter books!
The library has cool books.
I like to read and play.
I like books.
I like the activities.
I like the cool books I can find.
I love reading books.

Because the holidays are a time when we can reflect on what makes us truly grateful, our Youth Services department decided to put up a Library Appreciation tree. The Library Appreciation tree was a project for our younger patrons to decorate a tree with paper cut outs with written comments about their favorite library resources and activities. This holiday tree is more than just decoration—it's an exchange of ideas and a chance to read our patrons' feedback.

We noted that many of our patrons like the computers. It's easy to understand why, since we regularly see them enjoying playing our learning games and using the Internet to do their homework and find out about their favorite pro-wrestling stars. Our patrons also listed books as another highlight, citing their favorite series *Mary-Kate and Ashley* and *Junie B. Jones*. And last but not least, they mentioned the ducks. The North Port Library has a pond on the premises where many of our patrons feed and get chased by our greedy little ducks. What a memorable experience.

Featured Reference



Reference Book Lets you find the Expert

Maloney's Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory is a resource for all collectors who wish to research their treasured objects. Published biennially, Maloney's is in its seventh edition, and is frequently referred to as the bible of the antiques and collectibles industry.

Whether you collect soft drink collectibles, southern folk pottery, or spinning wheels, this directory is an authoritative and reliable list of experts and institutions to contact. For example, under Southern Folk Pottery, you will find entries for:

Auction Services, Clubs/Associations for this collectible area, Museums/Libraries which specialize in Southern Folk Pottery, and lists of collectors and dealers of southern folk pottery, and even experts to consult.

Each entry has an up-to-date address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Specialty periodicals are also listed in entries, if applicable. Find this wonderful publication at several of the Sarasota County Libraries, including the North Port Library Reference Collection (Ref 745.1025 MAL).

Featured Database of the Month



Proquest is an online database available through the Sarasota County Libraries website. It provides periodicals and news sources of a wide variety. Of particular interest to local residents may be back issues of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* newspaper. You may perform free, full-text searches for any date ranging from 1996 to yesterday. The current day's newspaper is available the following day. To access Proquest, simply go to the Library website at <http://sclibs.net>, click on "Electronic Information Resources", and then click on Proquest. A search of "Publications" allows you to narrow your source to the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*.

Proquest also offers full-text scholarly journals (peer reviewed) and national newspapers. Check it out on the web!

Featured Internet Site of the Month



<http://www.floridamemory.com/>

The Florida Memory Project presents a selection of historical records that illustrate significant moments in Florida history, educational resources for students of all ages and archival collections for historical research. The Project utilizes selected original records, photographs and other materials from the collections of the State Library and Archives of Florida.

You can access the site directly using the url above or go through the library's Recommended Web Sites link:
<http://sclibs/Websites/History.aspx>

Community Connection

What's Going on in December at the North Port Library?

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10:00am – 12:00noon "Holiday Celebration Projects" for ages 7-15. Join local artist Louise Hall as the North Port Art Guild hosts this holiday craft day for children.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1:30 - 3:30pm "Landscape Assistance". Ask the Master Gardeners from the Sarasota County Extension Service your lawn and garden questions.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 11:30am – 12:30pm "Forty Carrots". Free class for caregivers and children, ages 0-5. Contact the Youth Desk for registration.

Thursday, Dec. 8, 5:30 – 7:00pm "Teen Book Club" for ages 12-17. Join other teens for a fun book discussion and free pizza as we talk about the book "A Child Called It" by Dave Pelzer.

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1:30 - 3:30pm "Landscape Assistance". Ask the Master Gardeners from the Sarasota County Extension Service your lawn and garden questions.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1:00 – 2:00pm "Recorder Holiday Concert". All ages are welcome to enjoy holiday music from this local group of recorder players!

Saturday, Dec. 17, 10:00 – 11:00pm “What Is A Food Chain?” School-age children are welcome to attend this educational and fun program about where wild animals get food and how we can ensure there is food for them in our community.

Check the Library Calendar to See What's Happening at All the Libraries

Click on the Library Calendar link from the Library's Home page



You can limit what shows on the calendar by individual library, by audience and by type of event. Just click on the dropdown boxes.

What are you Reading?

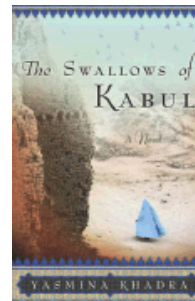
The Swallows of Kabul

by Yasmina Khadra

Published 2004 by Nan A. Talese

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 0385510012

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)



As I read about genocide in Darfur, the astounding rates of AIDS in Africa and other tragic situations on earth, I always think, "why doesn't someone do something!" This is exactly how I felt when I first became aware, in the late 90s, of the tragic situation of women in Afghanistan. I was horrified to read about their lack of freedom. They weren't allowed to go to school, to go to work, to go to male doctors. They couldn't leave their homes without being accompanied by a father, husband, brother, or son; and if they did leave, they had to be covered from head to toe in a burqa with netting over their eyes so they could see. Their windows had to be shaded so they couldn't be observed. These are some, but not all of the restrictions faced by the women of Afghanistan under the Taliban rule in the name of culture and religion. I remember thinking how bleak it sounded and how trapped and desperate the women must feel. Usually after great tragedies, people write about how it was. This is true of Afghanistan as books are being published about what it was like under the Taliban.

I read *The Swallows of Kabul* by Yasmina Khadra. Yasmina Khadra is the pseudonym for Algerian army officer

Mohamed Moulessehoul, who used a pseudonym to avoid military censors.

The Swallows of Kabul is a short book, and it takes the reader right into Taliban-controlled Afghanistan as it affects the lives of two couples of vastly different social classes. Moshen and Zunaira Ramat met in college and planned interesting and purposeful lives. She was an excellent teacher and he wanted to be a diplomat. He has no function now and restlessly roams Kabul without purpose, Zunaira is confined to her home unless Moshen accompanies her outside. She refuses to wear a burqa so she is literally housebound. Atiq Shaukat is a prison guard with an invalid wife, Musarrat. Atiq is struggling to remain faithful to the Taliban and to deal with his wife's illness and his own depression. In his wanderings about Kabul, Moshen witnesses an adulterous woman being stoned. He stops to watch and is drawn into the scene and he tosses a stone and hits the woman in the head. He is overcome with guilt and, mistakenly, thinks he will feel better if confesses what he has done to Zunaira. The results of his participation in the stoning and his confession have a profound effect on the destiny of both couples, whose lives become intertwined.

When I was trying to imagine the bleakness of Afghanistan under the Taliban, I pictured it somewhat the way the novel does. He presents a life without joy, purpose, music, warmth and, most of all, hope and optimism. At the same time the people are real and human and arouse compassion in the reader.

When I first read about women in Afghanistan under the Taliban, I wanted to help them. But I procrastinated and did nothing. Now, when I read about the genocide in Darfur, I want to do something. This time I will.

by Anne Ruth

Reference Question of the Month

Where can I find information on the new Medicare prescription drug coverage?

Check out the Medicare website at <http://medicare.gov> for the answers to many of your questions. Click on "Landscape of Local Plans" to then choose Florida's Medicare Advantage (MA) Cost Plans or Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) Organizations for local information.

Another great resource on this website is the [Medicare & You 2006](#) publication. While available in print at some libraries ([check catalog](#)), this popular printed work is available in full text online, and its table of contents makes chapter searching painless.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services may be reached toll free at (877) 267-2323 and will answer your Medicare questions.

Sarasota County Library System. Part of the Sarasota County Community Services Business Center. 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34241
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