

*The Big Read* is a national initiative created by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, designed to revitalize the role of literature in American society. During April and May, the Florida Center for the Book, Broward County Library, and the Florida Center for the Literary Arts at Miami Dade College join forces to invite everyone in Broward and Miami Dade to read *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury's bleak description of a society that embraces mass culture and discourages free thinking through the burning of books. Following is a list of free The Big Read events being held in Broward County.

## HOT HIGHLIGHTS

### **The Big Read – Fahrenheit 451**

#### **Get Fired Up!**

**Thursday, April 27, 6 pm**

#### **Main Library**

"Book burning" art installation, an exhibition of *Fahrenheit 451* book covers, a dramatic reading of *Fahrenheit 451* and The Big Read Book Giveaway

#### **Is the Government**

#### **Controlling Public Information?**

**Saturday, May 6, 2 to 4 pm**

#### **Northwest Regional Library**

Nova Southeastern University law professor Timothy Dixon will discuss government influences on public radio/television programming and Patriot Act provisions that discourage information exchanges and Internet use.

#### **Ray Bradbury Cinema Festival**

**Sunday, May 7, 1 pm**

#### **Main Library**

*Fahrenheit 451* – Based on Ray Bradbury's novel, starring Julie Christie and directed by Francois Truffaut.

*The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* – Based on Ray Bradbury's short story, *The Foghorn*. Starring Kenneth Tobey, Cecil Kellaway and Lee Van Cleef, this 1953 black & white classic features a large dinosaur animated by Ray Bradbury's childhood friend, Ray Harryhausen.

#### **Reading Books That Were Burned**

#### **Film Discussion**

**Saturday, May 13, 2 to 4 pm**

#### **Imperial Point Branch**

Teens and adults are invited for a movie matinee of *Fahrenheit 451* followed by a discussion with librarian Dara Wiesenthal on what this classic has to say about the importance of intellectual freedom.

#### **Do You Remember 1953?**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2 to 3:30 pm**

#### **North Regional/BCC Library**

- The number of households with TVs in the U.S. increased from 1 million to 20 million.
- School children learned to "duck and cover" in the event of an atomic attack.
- Senator McCarthy hunted for Communists.
- The novel *Fahrenheit 451* was published.

Songs and film clips will be featured. Share your memories of this volatile period in the history of our country and discuss how the events of the time inspired Ray Bradbury's vision of the future in the novel *Fahrenheit 451*.

#### **Are We the "Futuristic" Society Ray Bradbury Predicted in Fahrenheit 451?**

#### **Regional Town Meeting Hosted by**

#### **Television Personality Michael Putney,**

**Thursday, May 18, 7 pm**

#### **Weston Branch**

#### **Dystopias: Living in an**

#### **Imperfect World**

**Thursday, May 18, 7 to 8:30 pm**

**and Tuesday, May 23, 1 to 2:30 pm**

#### **North Regional/BCC Library**

Librarian Nevin Gussack will lead a discussion about the future depicted in Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. Comparisons will be made to dystopias in other books and movies such as *1984*, *Animal Farm*, and *Planet of the Apes*.

Current events and whether or not they compare to events described in *Fahrenheit 451* will also be discussed. Participants are encouraged to read the book or watch the movie *Fahrenheit 451* prior to the discussion.

#### **Intellectual Freedom and Broward County Library's Collection Procedures: How the Library Selects, Maintains, and Defends Its Collections**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2 to 3:30 pm**

#### **Northwest Regional Library**

Learn about intellectual freedom and Broward County Library collection policies. A discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* follows.

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Discussions feature Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, unless otherwise noted.

**Monday, April 17, 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

#### **Lauderdale Lakes Branch**

With Monique Smith. Sponsored by the Friends of the Lauderdale Lakes Library

**Tuesday, April 18, 10:30 am**

#### **Southwest Regional Library**

**Thursday, April 27, 1 to 2 pm**

#### **West Regional Library**

**Thursday, April 27, 2 to 3 pm**

#### **Beach Branch**

**Thursday, April 27, 6:30 to 7:30 pm**

#### **Weston Branch**

**Thursday, April 27, 7 pm**

#### **City of Parkland Library**

**Friday, May 5, 3:30 to 4:30 pm**

#### **Northwest Branch**

**Sunday, May 7, 7 pm**

#### **Barnes & Noble**

with Dr. Lynn Wolf

**Monday, May 8, 6:30 pm**

#### **Wilton Manors Library**

**Tuesday, May 9, 1:30 to 2:30 pm**

#### **Stirling Road Branch**

**Tuesday, May 9, 2 pm**

#### **The Township in Coconut Creek**

Sponsored by Broward County Talking Books and The JBI Library, David Posnack Jewish Community Center. The JBI Library offers books of Jewish and general interest, regularly recorded periodicals, and cultural and liturgical materials.

**Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

#### **North Regional/BCC Library**

**Thursday, May 11, 2 to 3:30 pm**

#### **North Regional/BCC Library**

**Thursday, May 11, 12:30 pm**

#### **Pompano Beach Branch**

#### **Fahrenheit 451**

#### **Círculo de Lectura en Español**

**Thursday, May 11, 7:30 pm**

#### **Barnes & Noble**

Broward County Library and El Círculo de Lectura en Español present a discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Librarian, author and literary critic Freda Mosquera will conduct the program in Spanish.

*El Círculo de Lectura en Español y la Biblioteca Pública de Broward invitan cordialmente a la discusión de la novela Fahrenheit 451 del escritor norteamericano Ray Bradbury. La discusión será moderada por la escritora y crítica literaria Freda Mosquera.*

**Saturday, May 20, 2 pm**

#### **Deerfield Beach Percy White Branch**

**Tuesday, May 23, 1 to 2 pm**

#### **Tamarac Branch**

Sponsored by the Friends of Tamarac Branch

#### **Libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

#### **Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451**

**Wednesday, May 24, 6 to 7:30 pm**

#### **Imperial Point Branch**

The themes in *Fahrenheit 451* and how they relate to libraries.

**Thursday, May 25, 10:30 am**

#### **Lighthouse Point Library**