

African music, stories presented

Join storyteller Naim Abdur Rauf and learn about African culture through music, dance, games and stories 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at Borders Books & Music, 30905 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Explore the fun of origami with Don Shall of Ann Arbor, who brings his superb talent to the store 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

Admission is free for both events. Call (810) 737-0110.

Store sets readings, discussions

Borders Book Shop, 31150 Southfield Road at 13 Mile in Birmingham, offers a variety of events for all ages in February.

Call (810) 844-1515 for more information.

■ Borders' Third Thursday Open Mike night 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, will feature poets and writers from "Variations on the Ordinary: A Women's Reader" (Plain View Press), an anthology of poetry, fiction and essays edited by local poet Margo LaGattuta. This will be followed by an open mike session with host Janet Lawless 8 p.m. Sign up for 10-minute slots in person beginning at 6:45 p.m.

LaGattuta is a poet with four published books. She teaches writing at Oakland Community College and hosts a weekly radio interview program on WPON. Writers featured in "Variations on the Ordinary," not all of whom will be performing, include Nancy Henderson, Mary Ann Wohler, Aline Soules, Susan Knoppow, Pearl Kastran Ahnen, Gerry Tamm, Sandy Gorling, Vivian DeGarin and Nancy Ryan.

■ Borders will host two of this year's Coretta Scott King Award recipients this month. Flint native Christopher Paul Curtis will

read from and sign his premiere novel "The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963" (Delacorte Press) 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16. Curtis also received a Newbery Honor for this hilarious and touching story of a Flint family's trip to the South during one of the darkest moments in America's history.

Illustrator Tom Feelings will discuss "The Middle Passage" (Dial Books) 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23. The book tells the horrific tale of the African slave trade in 84 extraordinary narrative paintings. Feelings has illustrated several children's books, including "Soul Looks Back in Wonder," "Moja Means One" and "Now Sheba Sings the Song," but expects a wider, adult audience for "The Middle Passage."

Borders has chosen "The Middle Passage" as a Staff Selected title and will discount it 30 percent in February.

■ Two scheduled programs are especially for younger readers, 3 to 7 years old.

Storyteller Elaine Gregory will perform African folk tales 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, as part of Borders' African-American History Month celebration. At 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, children can meet the snowman.

"HAPPINESS WITH HERBS."

Just one of the entertaining and informative seminars offered this week during the Home & Garden Exhibit at the Somerset Collection. Admission is free but seating is limited so please be sure to make your reservations today at (810) 643-7440.

THURSDAY NIGHT CABARET SERIES

Bess Bonier Trio In Concert

Tonight, February 15 - 6:30 pm

Detroit's eminent lady of jazz showcases her legendary talents on the Rotunda stage at the Somerset Collection. Beverage service will be available.

HAPPINESS WITH HERBS

Saturday, February 17 - 1:00 pm

Marty Figley, Observer & Eccentric columnist presents an overview of herb gardening from growing to harvesting. Her special tips on cooking and crafting with herbs are presented too.

INTRODUCTION TO WATER GARDENING

Saturday, February 17 - 3:00 pm

Water Gardening is one of the hottest trends but where do you start? Mark H. Sanford of English Gardens shares the basics on planning, constructing and planting a year-round water garden.

FIRST AID FOR HOUSE PLANTS & GROWING GLORIOUS ORCHIDS


Wednesday, February 21 - 6:30 pm

Jane Suhail from Planterra solves the mystery of keeping your house plants happy and healthy. She also shares her secret for keeping orchids in bloom ten months out of the year.

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