

THE QUINCY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS *2010 BIG READ: QUINCY* which will take place between September 9 and October 8 and will feature the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The Big Read is a month-long initiative designed to get members of the community to read the same book at the same time. Nine hundred copies of the book will be distributed throughout the Quincy community and over 20 programs and discussions will be held targeting all ages and backgrounds. The sole goal of the campaign is to spark reading and discussion as a whole by the community.

The library will kick-off the Big Read Gatsby style at the Women's City Club, 1550 Maine, Thursday, September 9, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Enjoy free food, 1920s music, a display of period automobiles and receive a free copy of the book. Mayor John Spring will welcome the crowd at noon and Dr. Deirdre Feagan will share insights into the novel in a keynote address.

Area teens will receive free copies of the book thanks to generous donations from the Quincy Service League and Great Debate Books. Teens who take the Big Read challenge can compete to win a Flip video camera by submitting an entry in the Bookflix video contest. The contest is for area teens in grades nine through 12. Copies of the guidelines for this contest are available at the main circulation desk and on the library website [www.quincylibrary.org](http://www.quincylibrary.org) after September 1.

The library will partner with Quincy University to present *The Jazz Age Lecture Series* every Thursday during the Big Read in the QU North Campus auditorium, 18<sup>th</sup> and Seminary Road. The series will kick-off with a lecture and performance, *Hot Jazz: Music of the 1920s* on September 16 at 6 p.m. Noted jazz trumpeter and educator Steve Parke will share his extensive knowledge of jazz music from its roots in the African-American slavery experience to the early days of ragtime. The lecture will conclude with a performance of 1920s jazz.

The series continues with *Flappers and Flasks: An Overview of the Jazz Age* September 23 at 1 p.m. Join Dr. David Costigan, QU history professor emeritus, as he takes those attending through the world of the 1920s.

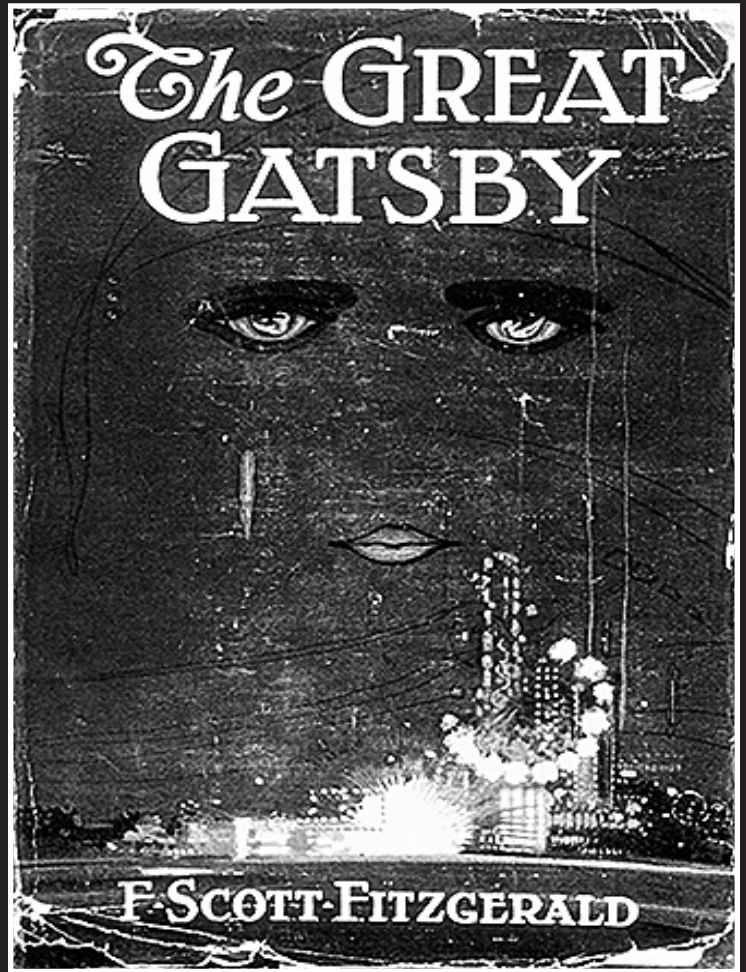
Architectural scholar, Karol Ehmen, will present *Elegant Extravagance: The Art Deco Movement* on September 30 at 1 p.m. The term "art deco" manifested itself roughly between the two World Wars (1920-1939). Learn about this lavish architectural style that can be found locally in the Quincy Junior High School and the old Coca-Cola plant now owned by Klingner & Associates.

The final lecture, *Descent into Decadence: The Great Gatsby Deconstructed*, will take place October 7 at 1 p.m. Fitzgerald is considered the definitive chronicler of the 1920s. In novels and short stories he immortalized the era he dubbed the "jazz age." Join Dr. Terrence Riddell, QU assistant professor of English, as he outlines the major themes and points found in the book.

The Big Read includes a Roaring Twenties Film Series dedicated to films depicting the years 1920-1929. Films include *Singin' in the Rain*, September 13; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, September 20; *Chicago*, September 27; and *The Great Gatsby*, October 4. All films will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Senior and Family Resource Center, 639 York. For reservations call 223-1309, extension 207.

The library will host book discussions at various locations around town. For a complete list of dates and times pick up a Big Read brochure or visit the website.

The Mary Weems Barton/Quincy Public Library Foundation



will host a *Great Quincy* event Friday, September 10, at 7 p.m. Come for cocktails, appetizers, entertainment and even a little 1920s scandal! Learn about Quincy in the 1920s and the efforts of the foundations to support the Quincy Public Library. For ticket information, visit [www.maryweemsbarton.org](http://www.maryweemsbarton.org).

Grandparents, grandchildren and everyone in between are invited to take a step back into time at the *Feather Boas and Fedoras: A Roaring Grandparent's Day Celebration* Saturday, September 18, at 2 p.m.

The Big Read crew will be at Riverfest on Sunday, September 19, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Get a complimentary black and white "Gatsby" photo taken. Feather boas, long gloves and fedoras will be on hand to help create the perfect shot!

The Big Read will go out with a bang with *All That Jazz: The Final Party* Friday, October 8, at 7 p.m. at the QJHS Morrison Theater. This theatrical performance, written and produced by Connie Phillips and the QU Theatre Department, features live music performed by local jazz legends Havens, Bumbry, Fonza and Parke. Audience members will witness firsthand the inner dialogue of Jay Gatsby's famed parties complete with music, dancing and drama. The program is free and open to the public, but tickets are required.

Tickets are limited to four per person, are available by reservation only, and may be picked up at the library. Call 223-1309, extension 207 for reservations or information.

> Julie Boll

# The BIG Read!