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Getting the par-tea started

By SARA NEWMAN snewman@somdnews.com Jan 25, 2017



Brenda and Michelle Chin drink samplings of different teas Tuesday at the History of Tea presentation at the P.D. Brown Memorial branch of the Charles County Public Library.

P.D. Brown Memorial Library took some time to enjoy afternoon tea Tuesday during a get together of tea enthusiasts and library event frequenters alike.

The tea party — or rather tea lesson — served as a celebration for January being declared as Hot Tea Month. About 20 participants attended the event and learned about the history of tea, tea culture, the differences between tea types and drank various hot teas.

Dauveen Walker, a reference supervisor at the library and organizer of the event, said in addition to this presentation she has hosted afternoon teas and a Downton Abbey themed tea where attendees dressed in period costumes mirroring those from the early 20th century British drama. These events are increasingly becoming favorites, she said.

"The teas are very popular, I have to admit," Walker said. "It would be nice to have another afternoon tea because it's really popular with a lot of people. I'll have to try to get on that."

Following a few YouTube slideshows about the origins and history of tea, Walker poured tea in small teacups for those in attendance and offered small cookies to go with the tea. Milk, sugar and honey were also offered to go with the tea.

Though tea is often associated with British culture, it originated in China where people had been drinking it for over 4,000 years, according to the presentation. When tea was brought to England in the late 1600s it was incredibly expensive — it took ships over a year to make the journey from China.

As Walker poured the tea, attendees commented on what they thought about the loose leaf black tea's taste and smell.

Amy Peregoy said she was never a tea drinker until she met her husband and now there aren't many teas she doesn't like — though black tea is preferable.



Peggy Romanoff agreed that black tea was her favorite but thought the loose leaf tea was a bit too strong.

Brenda, Josephine and Michelle Chin said they attended the event because they always like coming out for library programs and also really enjoy drinking tea. The group preferred all types of tea from Jasmine to Oolong, Green and Earl Grey, to Chamomile for an American tea.

"That's what I want to drink when I want to relax," Josephine Chin said.

"I think tea is well known for socializing and we can all get together and talk and they're relatively easy to put together," Walker said of the events. "Once people get here we have a really good time."

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