

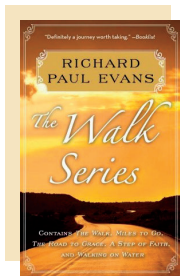


the ORLA newsletter.

DECEMBER 2022



ORLA's New
Partnership with Area
Elementary Schools



THE WALK SERIES

THE WALK, MILES TO GO, THE ROAD TO GRACE, A STEP OF FAITH, WALKING ON WATER

RICHARD PAUL EVANS

"This series of books is about Alan Christoffersen and the story of his walk of approximately 3,500 miles across America from his home in Seattle, WA to Key West, FL. He takes this journey to "find hope". Alan's journey

begins after his world collapses and he loses his advertising business, his wife and his home. He takes the barest of essentials and leaves behind all he's known. He encounters many people along the way and they share many lessons with him. In book 4, (*A Step of Faith*) Alan has to stop his journey to Key West to attend another journey - taking care of his health. Again, he meets people that have lessons to teach Alan about love and accepting this love and to have faith that life is worth living and that he can be forgiven. In the last book of this series, Alan faces yet another crisis that threatens to keep him from reaching his goal. With the help and support of a new friend and the reappearance of an old friend, Alan finds the determination to continue his journey to Key West and a new life. This series of books was amazing! It's amazing to me that someone could literally walk 3,500 miles alone, relying on the kindness of strangers along the way and having the faith to make this long, incredible journey across the country. An ending thought from book 5 (*Walking on Water*): In the end, it is not by knowledge that we make our journey, but by hope and faith - hope that our walk will be worthy of our steps and faith that we are going somewhere. And only when we come to the end of our journey do we truly understand that every step of the way we were walking on water."

-- Kathy Lynch, Oil City Library

WHAT WE'RE READING

THE NO-SHOW

BETH O'LEARY



"Beth O'Leary again delivers a romance full of feelings. The story features three women, strangers, who have one thing in common. They've all been stood up on the same day - Valentine's Day - and, unbeknownst to them, all by the same man. Each one forgives him and lets him back in for a second chance, but are they just in for yet another heartbreak by a man with three women on the hook? Each woman featured had totally won me over in her first chapter, with complete personalities written in a few short pages. Carter had me on tenterhooks the entire time - I really did not want to like him, but he kept winning me over, until the hurt from the woman I loved even more colored the edges of my vision again. It wasn't an emotional roller coaster ride, but something quieter and poignant, stronger in its restraint. The happy ever after felt earned, not shoehorned, and O'Leary's use of narrative time skips worked very well." -- Erin Joyce, Oil Creek Library District



THE CHRISTMAS BOOK FLOOD

EMILY KILGORE

"*The Christmas Book Flood* by Emily Kilgore is a beautiful picture book about the Jolabokafloð (translated as 'Christmas book flood') tradition in Iceland. Beginning during WWII, people began buying books as special presents to be given on Christmas Eve. To this day, people enjoy a bar of chocolate or sip on hot cocoa and read all night long as they carry on this tradition. The illustrations are beautiful, and this book just makes you want to cozy up with some hot chocolate and read more books!" -- Emily Gibson, Oil City Library



WANNA SUBMIT YOUR OWN BOOK REVIEW?

Email a review of a book you read recently (good or bad!) to promotions@oilregionlibraries.org to be featured in a future issue of the ORLA Newsletter!

Poetry Reading Next Month at Franklin Library

A local organization, Poets Against Racism, will be doing a poetry reading next month at the Franklin Public Library. Poets Against Racism is a collective group of performers who challenge, discuss & confront racism through their own unique forms of art. They encourage people from all over the world to fight racism, bigotry & Islamophobia expressively through the powerful art form that is poetry. They wish to spread love, peace & positivity among everyone regardless of race, color, creed, gender or sexual orientation through the enjoyment of live performance. We hope you can join us for this unique & powerful event on **Saturday, January 21st at 11:00AM at the Franklin Public Library.**



Hidden Heritage Bundles on Sale at Oil City Library

We're once again selling limited copies of Hidden Heritage bundles at the Oil City Library - this time, July through December of 2022. Missed some issues? Want the whole set? Buy them all in one volume for \$25 each. All proceeds benefit the continuation of this historic preservation project. Grab yours on **Thursday, December 15th from 11:00AM - 1:00PM** at the Oil City Library while supplies last! Bundles will be sold on a first come, first served basis. We will also have a limited amount of bundles from January through June 2022 available to purchase. If there are any extras left, they'll be available to purchase at the Front Desk during business hours. Thank you in advance for your support!



Healthy Habits Celebration at OCL

Join us for winter crafts, games, treats and a free book at the Oil City Library for a Healthy Habits Winter Celebration on **Wednesday, December 14th from 5-7PM!** Open to the public & free to attend. Questions? Contact weaver14@upmc.edu or call (814) 518-2055.



BEST OF 2022

As the current year comes to an end, we're counting on you to give some of the best books of the year the recognition they deserve! **Vote now** for your favorite in each of the following categories:

AUDIOBOOK 

MYSTERY

FICTION 

NON-FICTION

YOUNG ADULT 

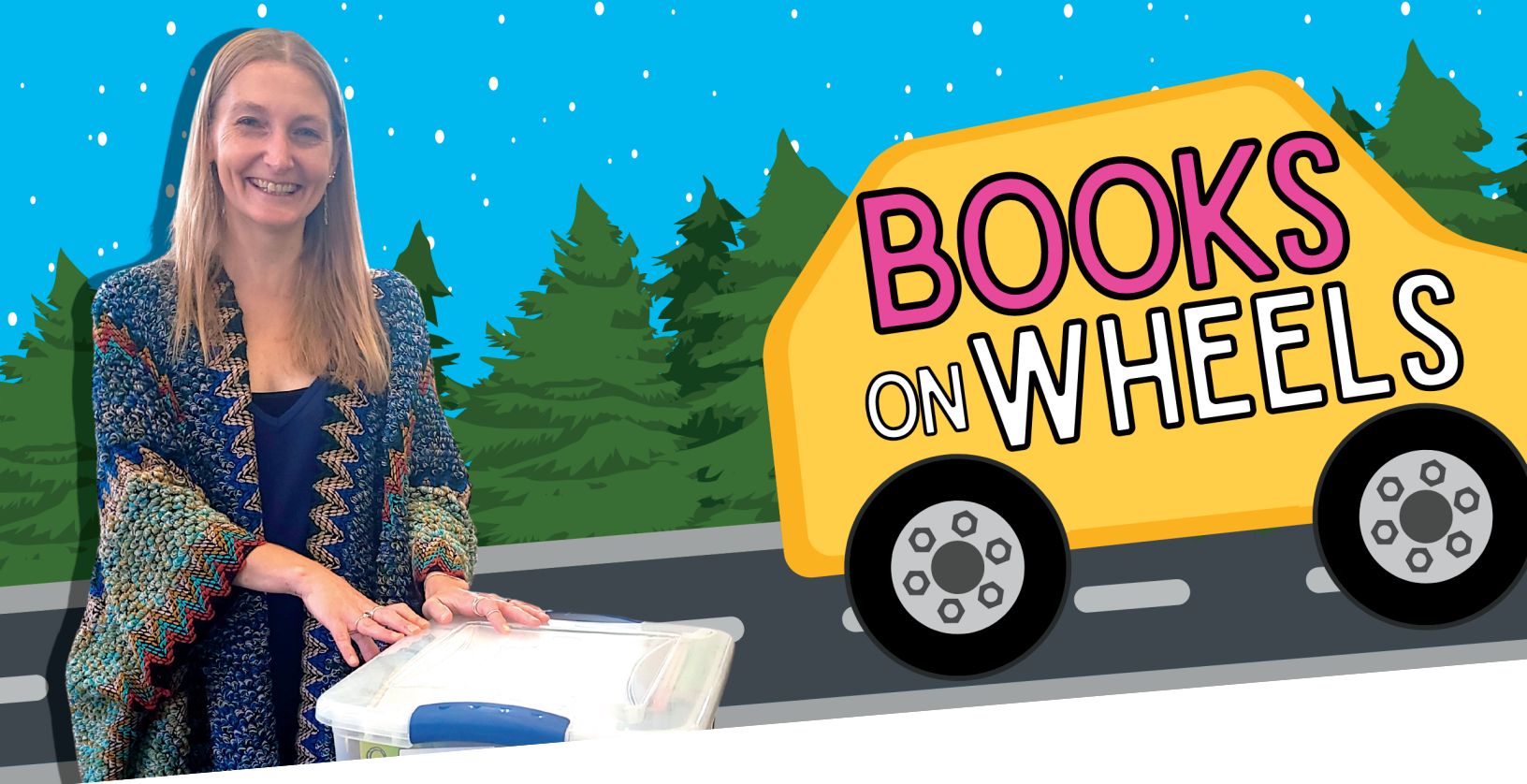
KIDS FICTION

KIDS GRAPHIC NOVEL

PICTURE BOOK

Vote online or in-person at any ORLA location during December. Winners will be announced in January.





BOOKS ON WHEELS

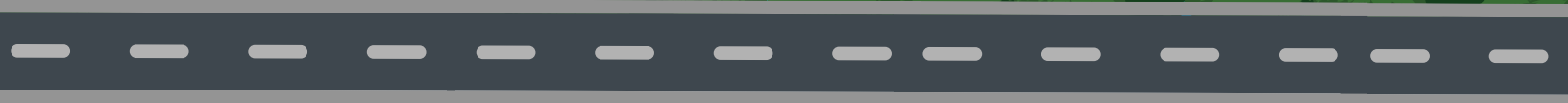
ORLA's New Partnership with Area Elementary Schools

Last month, Youth Services Coordinator Annie Welsh loaded up 17 large bins of library books to be delivered to area Elementary Schools as part of a new program she created to make new and diverse titles more accessible to local students. She calls the program "Books on Wheels", which consists of a monthly delivery of over 500 hand-selected books to classrooms. The offerings in each bin range from picture books to chapter books, and materials will be different every month.

"...TEACHERS CAN ONLY GET TO THE SCHOOL LIBRARY ON RARE OCCASIONS."

"There is no longer a school librarian at Smedley and Seventh Street Elementary Schools in Oil City. They have not purchased new books for their school libraries in at least five years, and teachers can only get to the school library on rare occasions. When they can go, it is up to the teacher to check out the books for students, adding more responsibility to already overworked teachers. The school libraries have been shuffled around and moved due to the need for more classroom space, making organization essentially absent", explained Youth Services Coordinator, Annie Welsh.

In order to expose the students to new and diverse titles, the Oil City Library is taking a direct approach to material distribution. Each month, between 30 and 40 books will be checked out to each classroom for student use, and delivered by our Youth Services Coordinator. Teachers will be able to choose books via our online catalog, or our Youth Services Coordinator will select a variety of appropriate age-level books for each classroom. Teachers will independently decide if they will send books home with the students or keep them in their classroom.



"...ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PREDICTORS OF GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IS READING PROFICIENTLY BY THIRD GRADE."

Welsh highlighted the various benefits of the new program, "Access to these updated print materials will help encourage better literacy outcome for the students at these schools. According to The Reading Foundation, students are still learning to read through third grade, and beyond third grade they are *reading to learn*. The Reading Foundation also states that one of the most important predictors of graduating from high school is reading proficiently by third grade".

"Because of the limitations of their school libraries, many Oil City School District students no longer have easy access to new and popular titles to read. This pilot program will allow them access and exposure to a wider variety of books than they currently have. Allowing them access to more variety of titles will expand their reading choices and spark interest in different subjects. It will be easier for students to engage with the public library on their own time, as each child is eligible for a free library card and this will strengthen our partnership with the schools.

"THE GOAL OF THE PROJECT IS TO REPLICATE THE PROGRAM ACROSS ALL VENANGO COUNTY SCHOOLS..."

"Parent information will be sent home periodically about the check out program, educating adults about what the library can offer to both the adults at home and the students. This project also eases the burden on teachers as there will be ready access to current and popular titles in their classroom for their students to read, freeing up the teachers' time. If the project at Smedley and Seventh Street is successful, and we are able to gain sufficient funding, the goal of the project is to replicate the program across all Venango County schools and see the benefits multiply."



Friends Hold LEGO® Raffle at Oil City Library

Tickets are on sale now for the Friends of the Oil City Library's LEGO® Raffle! Included in this amazing prize:

- Handmade LEGO® Building Table
- LEGO® Books & Activities
- Several LEGO® Building Sets



This is the perfect gift for the LEGO® lover in your life! Tickets are available at the Oil City Library for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. All proceeds benefit Friends of the Oil City Library projects. Winner will be drawn on December 19th!



SPONSORED BY
THE FRIENDS OF THE OIL CITY LIBRARY

Oil City Saturday Hours to Increase



Beginning in January 2023, the Oil City Library will be open for an additional hour on Saturdays. Public hours will be 8:30AM - 3:30PM. This change will take effect on January 7th, 2023.

2023 ANNUAL
OIL REGION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY LOTTO



Tickets are still available! Library Lotto tickets are good for the entire 2023 year & make great Christmas gifts!

CHANCES TO WIN



EVERY MONTH

A total of 36 winners will be determined by the **Pennsylvania Daily Pick 3** evening drawing at 7:00PM on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd days of each month in 2023. One additional winner will win \$500 determined by the Pennsylvania Daily Pick 3 evening drawing on July 25th, 2023!

Upcoming Workshops



COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP
OIL CITY LIBRARY
10AM - 11AM
FREE

Join us at the Oil City Library on Monday, December 5th at 10AM for a Computer Basics Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! Almost all workplaces require some computer skills. Learn to confidently navigate your way through basic systems, including the desktop environment, internet searching, emailing, and Microsoft word. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Oil City Library or by calling (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!



COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP
FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
11AM - 1PM OR 3PM - 5PM
FREE

Join us at the Franklin Public Library on Tuesday, December 13th at 11AM or 3PM for a Computer Basics Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! Almost all workplaces require some computer skills. Learn to confidently navigate your way through basic systems, including the desktop environment, internet searching, emailing, and Microsoft word. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Franklin Public Library or by calling (814) 432-5062. Walk-ins are okay too!



2023 PUZZLE CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023
12PM-4:30PM, DOORS OPEN AT 11AM

The popular Puzzle Challenge is back for a second year! Teams will race against the clock to see who can finish their jigsaw puzzle in the fastest time. The Puzzle Challenge is open to 10 teams of up to 4 members per division. There are 2 divisions, **Adult** and **All Ages**.

Adult division team members must be all 18 years of age or older. All Ages division teams must have at least one team member that is 17 or younger. Registration is open now and there is a \$20 registration fee per team. Registration forms are available at the Oil City Library.

The tournament takes place at the Belles Lettres Club in Oil City on Saturday, January 28. The clock starts at 12PM sharp and the tournament runs until 4:30PM. Questions? Email eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org



AT THE BELLES LETTRES CLUB



CLOCK STARTS AT 12:00PM



\$20 REGISTRATION FEE



**JANUARY 9
THROUGH
FEBRUARY 17**

**THE 3RD ANNUAL
WINTER OF
READING**

read. track. win.

The next ORLA-wide reading challenge is almost here! Last year, we read 47,394 minutes. Can you help us beat our record?

Use our app, **ReaderZone**, to track how many minutes you read this winter for a chance to win some cool prizes!



FEATURED RESOURCES



Oil City Library

2 Central Ave.
Oil City, PA 16301
(814) 678-3072

Monday	8:30am-8:30pm
Tuesday	8:30am-8:30pm
Wednesday	8:30am-8:30pm
Thursday	8:30am-5:00pm
Friday	8:30am-5:00pm
Saturday	9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Franklin Public Library

421 12th St.
Franklin, PA 16323
(814) 432-5062

Monday	12:00pm-5:00pm
Tuesday	10:00am-6:00pm
Wednesday	10:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	10:00am-6:00pm
Friday	12:00pm-5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-3:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Cooperstown Public Library

187 N. Main St.
Cooperstown, PA 16317
(814) 374-4605

Monday	2:00pm-7:00pm
Tuesday	10:00am-4:00pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	2:00pm-7:00pm
Friday	10:00am-4:00pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

FIND US ONLINE

oilregionlibraries.org



libby

The one-tap reading app from your library.



hot reads for cold nights

steamy romance books

Cisco Networking Academy



Are you ready to use technology to make the world a better place? These self-paced, online courses include the same content taught by Cisco experts in classrooms around the world. The Networking Academy offers a comprehensive learning experience that includes online curriculum, assessments, case studies, games and simulations that are all delivered through their cloud-based learning and collaboration platform.



REALITY TV series

Shows About Real People & Places

kanopy



Libby, Cisco Networking Academy, & Kanopy are available to you for FREE with your library card at oilregionlibraries.org