



the ORLA newsletter.

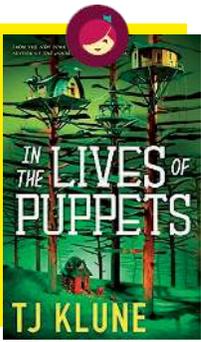
AUGUST 2023



[read]

Deaf Representation in Literature





IN THE LIVES OF PUPPETS

TJ KLUNE

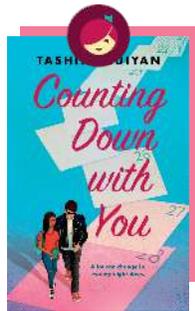
"Humanity failed, machines prevailed. They would create a better world than their predecessors, without the destructive qualities of emotion and free will. Or so they believed...but as they always do, love and freedom make themselves present. If only the machines could have better prepared for when their machines would want a purpose of their own. TJ Klune does an amazing job of describing what it means to be a family, a friend, and how to show those you care about loyalty and love. As a book almost completely dictated by machines, the descriptive displays of humanity are omnipresent. This science fiction retelling of the classic tale of *Pinocchio* is sure to make you see the beauty in the flawed. Join Victor, one of the last humans on Earth, as he and his friends take a perilous journey to save one of the very machines that helped to create them all." – *Daidre Green, Oil City & Franklin Libraries*

WHAT WE'RE READING

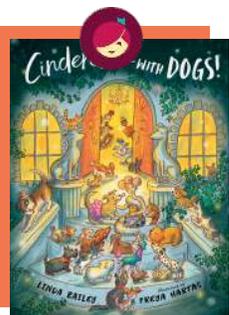
 Also Available on Libby!

COUNTING DOWN WITH YOU

TASHIE BHUIYAN



"Karina Ahmed agrees to fake date the school's resident bad boy Ace to cover up the fact she's tutoring him in English - but she can only do it for 28 days, the time her strict parents are visiting family out of the country. *Counting Down with You* is billed as a romance, and the romance does deliver, but the journey for Karina to love herself is the superior story here. It particularly shines as Karina finds her voice and learns how to balance her love for her family with what she needs for herself. Karina has a great group of friends that support her and understand her, as well as a supportive grandmother and a caring if occasionally clueless brother. Her struggles between what she wants for her future and the pressures of expectations are universal, and there are no final neat answers to be found. The author tells a story of how culture and faith can both clash and comfort, and how everyone's story is different, even across similar cultures and family structures. **Trigger warnings:** Karina deals with anxiety, and her descriptions resonate. Interactions with her parents are verbally abusive." – *Erin Joyce, Oil Creek Library District*



CINDERELLA – WITH DOGS!

LINDA BAILEY, ILLUSTRATED BY FREYA HARTAS

"Who doesn't love a good Cinderella story? But who would expect one involving a furry dog...or in this book a 'Fairy Dogmother'? Cinderella was a lonely & sad person who couldn't go to the ball. She had to stay home & work. She never went anywhere fun. She wished she had a Fairy Godmother... but what she got was a Fairy Dogmother. How surprised Cinderella was! She loved dogs. They had such fun together, especially while chasing squirrels. The Fairy Dogmother helped Cinderella get ready for the ball by pulling out her magic wand & POOF! She was dressed for the ball in an old fleece dog blanket. Fairy Dogmother

waved her magic wand again & POOF! She fixed Cinderella's hair to look like a poodle. Cinderella was off to the ball, wearing booties on her feet. Cinderella entered the ball, with her Fairy Dogmother, running & howling, shocking everyone there. But not the royal family. They loved dogs & they had dozens of dogs of their own. Cinderella danced with the prince all night. When it was time to go home, Cinderella left one of her booties behind so the Prince & his dogs could find her. The next day, the Prince & his dogs showed up at Cinderella's house & he asked her to marry him. She said no because she hardly knew him. Although, they did have fun together chasing squirrels." – *Kathy Lynch, Oil City Library*



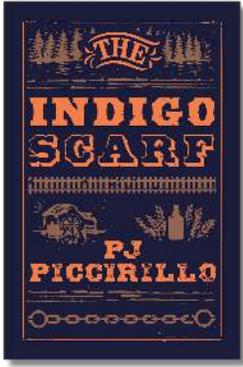
WANNA SUBMIT YOUR OWN BOOK REVIEW?

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!

AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER HISTORY

IN NORTHERN APPALACHIA

Elk County author PJ Piccirillo will discuss his research into African American pioneer history in north central Pennsylvania. Piccirillo spent four years preparing his historical novel *The Indigo Scarf*. This acclaimed and award-winning book is set in and around present-day Cameron, Clinton, and Lycoming counties during the early 19th century. The book has sparked conversation not only about the slave experience in rural northern Appalachia, but the struggles of generations of African Americans after emancipation, and the travails of pioneer life, specifically Allegheny pioneer life.



PJ's books will also be on sale at this event! Attendees can purchase a signed copy of any of PJ's three published works.



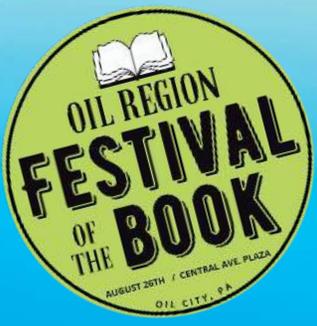
AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER HISTORY

IN NORTHERN APPALACHIA

TUESDAY. | 6PM
AUGUST 8TH

with *The Indigo Scarf* author
PJ PICCIRILLO

at the Oil City Library
FREE TO ATTEND



FOOD. FUN. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, BOOKS.

The 3rd Annual Oil Region Festival of the Book will be held Saturday, August 26th from 10 am - 2 pm in the Central Avenue Plaza in front of the Oil City Library! The Oil Region Festival of the Book provides an opportunity for community outreach to local & regional published authors.

Participating authors will be provided space at the festival to engage with our community and to share and sell their works. Food vendors, book sales, and children's activities will also be present at the Oil Region Festival of the Book alongside local authors.

We hope you'll join us again this year supporting local & regional writing during Venango County's first literary festival!



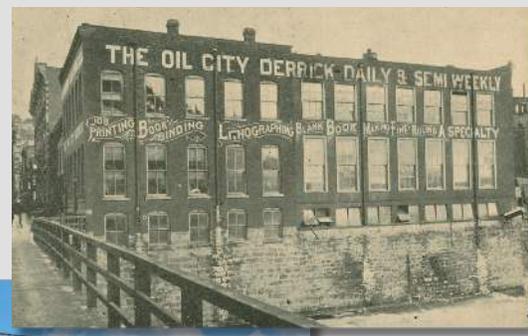
WRITTEN AND CREATED BY **EMILY ANTKOWIAK**

Each month, I take one historical image & photograph it superimposed over the same area as it appears today. This allows you to see what Venango County looked like in the past with a modern reference. My hope is to share neat photos from the library's archives to make them and their history more attainable.



The first issue of the Derrick was published Sept. 11, 1871. The structure in this photograph was built in 1890 to accommodate the growing business. According to the 1896 Souvenir Edition of the Derrick, "there now stands next the bridge over Oil Creek, a solid, slightly structure that fittingly represents the paper's condition." This building stretched the length of the block between Center Street and Sycamore Street. In 1952, the Derrick moved its operation to Oil City's West End where it is still located today.

THEN



NOW

Do you have an image or location you'd like to see featured? Email eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org with your suggestions!

Summer Programs Have Wrapped Up

After 6 weeks of a STEAM-focused summer program, *In Your Element* has officially wrapped up! We had so much fun this year. Participants of all ages received "scratch-off" tickets when they met reading goals, completed an activity or attended a program at their library. Scratch-off tickets revealed special prizes, such as free books, trinkets & raffle entries for gift certificates to local businesses.

During library programs, youth participants explored STEAM topics & made their own stomp rockets, exploding art, cork shooters, layered lollipops, boba tea, string art, solar bugs & more! Adult participants competed for the coveted title of "ORLA's Top Crafter", creating masterpieces each week that the public could vote on.



Youth participants wrapped up their last week of programs with an Escape Room puzzle. In total, *In Your Element* participants logged over 30,000 minutes this summer! We had a wonderful time at all 3 libraries & hope you'll join us again next year!



A SERIES EXPLORING HOW LIBRARIES CONTRIBUTE TO OUR DEMOCRACY & EXPAND OUR FREEDOMS

ACCESS IS KEY

CONTRIBUTED BY DAN FLAHERTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OIL REGION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Without a doubt, the core mission most commonly attributed to our public libraries is providing ACCESS. We fully embrace this role at ORLA. There are many intriguing, and sometimes challenging, aspects of fulfilling this mission. We utilize a number of different resources to help us realize our goals in meaningful, impactful ways: The American Library Association Bill of Rights, reputable review sources and award nominees, input from community members, examples from other libraries, availability of services within our communities and the Pennsylvania Library Code.

Libraries are for everyone. Period. In order to provide access to everyone, it implies that not everything will be desired by everyone. Instead, we look to purchase a diverse variety of resources and offer various services that cater to people from different backgrounds with different interests and career or recreational goals. Therefore, we highly encourage individual liberties in choosing your own resources to engage with. Explore (or not!) to your heart's content. However, we discourage anyone actively attempting to limit access to particular resources or for certain individuals they are not directly responsible for.

In efforts to enhance access, our libraries have moved to a fine-free borrowing system. In response, we've experienced an increase in total number of users and circulation while retaining our materials at similar rates. For non-library card holders we also make many of our services available. In-house use of materials, program attendance, office services, computer access, meeting spaces, research requests and community informational materials are all made available to any visitor.

While our ultimate goal is to provide everyone access to anything, we do encounter limitations. Future editions will address some of these points such as library funding and the PA Library Code that dictate certain responses. Community connections are another aspect that allows us to maneuver according to our area partnerships and service providers. The unique situations at any public library tend to create different responses to the same ultimate goal - providing, expanding and guaranteeing access for anyone, regardless of origin, background, or views. We encourage you to visit all public libraries to see how they realize these goals and how you may be able to recommend further developments!



[read]

Deaf Representation in Literature

Deaf representation in literature has seen significant growth and recognition in recent years. Authors have embraced the importance of authentic representation, crafting narratives that delve into the Deaf experience, highlighting their unique perspectives, culture, and language. These stories not only provide a platform for Deaf individuals to see themselves reflected in literature but also foster greater understanding and empathy among readers. Check out these titles that highlight & provide further education about the Deaf experience at any ORLA location.

LEARN SIGNING ESSENTIALS IN 30 DAYS



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS

American Sign Language for Beginners

Rochelle Barlow

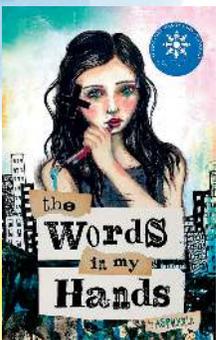
From letters & numbers to essential vocabulary & grammar basics, this beginner's guide provides the essentials needed to develop a solid foundation for American Sign Language in the real world. Each daily lesson takes less than 30 minutes to complete & focuses on a single set of vocabulary or ASL grammar. Throughout, you'll find key phrases, helpful memory tips, signing practice activities, & insight into Deaf culture.

The Words in My Hands



Asphyxia

Deaf since the age of 3, Piper has always been told that she needs to compensate in a world that puts those who can hear above everyone else. But when she meets Marley, a whole new world opens up—one where Deafness is something to celebrate rather than hide, & where resilience & hope are created by taking action, building a community, & believing in something better.

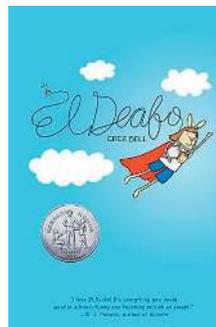
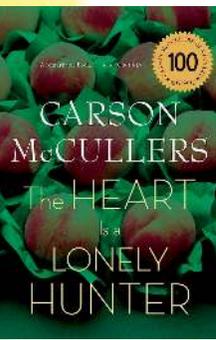


The Heart is a Lonely Hunter



Carson McCullers

Set in a small town in the middle of the deep South, it is the story of John Singer, a lonely deaf man, & a disparate group of people who are drawn towards his kind, sympathetic nature. The owner of the café where Singer eats every day, a young girl desperate to grow up, an angry drunkard, a frustrated black doctor: each pours their heart out to Singer, their silent confidant, & he in turn changes their disenchanting lives in ways they could never imagine.

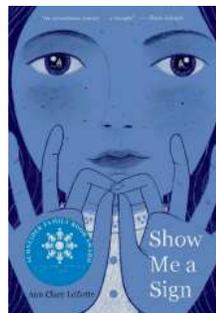


El Deafo

Cece Bell



This funny perceptive graphic novel memoir about growing up hearing impaired is also an unforgettable book about growing up, and all the super and super embarrassing moments along the way.

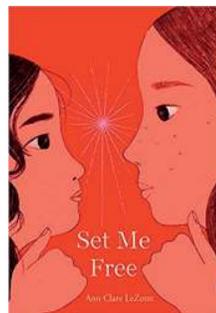


Show Me a Sign

Ann Clare LeZotte



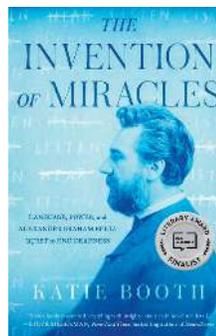
Deaf author and librarian Ann Clare LeZotte weaves an Own Voices story inspired by the true history of a thriving Deaf community on Martha's Vineyard in the early 19th century.



Set Me Free

Ann Clare LeZotte

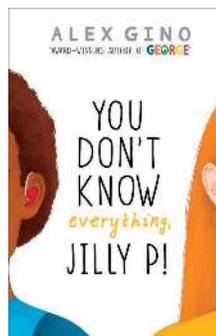
A riveting standalone companion to the Schneider Family Book Award winner, Show Me a Sign by Deaf author and librarian, Ann Clare LeZotte.



The Invention of Miracles

Katie Booth

The historical account tells the dual stories of Alexander Graham Bell's remarkable, world-changing invention & his dangerous ethnocide of Deaf culture and language. It also charts the rise of Deaf activism and tells the triumphant tale of a community reclaiming a once-forbidden language.



You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!

Alex Gino

Jilly thinks she's figured out how life works. But when her sister Emma is born Deaf, she realizes how much she still has to learn. This heartwarming story teaches young readers how being open to difference can make you a better person, and how being open to change can make you change in the best possible ways.



Also Available on the Libby app!

Synopses Courtesy of goodreads.com

2023 ANNUAL
OIL REGION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY LOTT

2024 Library Lotto tickets
are COMING SOON! Inquire at
your local ORLA branch for
more details.



JULY WINNERS!



KATHLEEN R.
OIL CITY, PA



AARON P.
OIL CITY, PA



KELLY G.
FRANKLIN, PA

CHRISTMAS
IN JULY



WINNER!

MIKE A.
FRANKLIN, PA

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.

Oil Valley Film Festival Returns to Oil City Next Month

Need something fun & free to do next month? Check out the Oil Valley Film Festival September 8th, 9th & 10th! We'll be hosting the first 2 days at the Oil City Library (September 8th & 9th). The final day will be hosted by The Pointe. The Oil Valley Film Festival's mission is to bring the voices and films of new and established filmmakers to the heart of Venango County, an area underrepresented in the world of film.

The festival comprises competitive sections for American and international narrative and documentary films, both feature-length films and short films, and a curated block of out-of-competition selections. Audience favorites in feature and short categories, as voted on by the attending audiences, receive prizes separate from jury prizes.

The Oil Valley Film Festival was founded by Matt Croyle in 2015. It is the first international film festival of its kind in Pennsylvania's Oil Region.

To learn more about the Oil Valley Film Festival, visit their website at <http://oilvalleyfilmfestival.weebly.com> or call (914) 279-5066.



OIL HERITAGE FESTIVAL TOUCH-A-TRUCK



The Oil City Library's Touch-a-Truck event during the Oil Heritage Festival last month was a great success & our biggest Touch-a-Truck event so far! Thank you to everyone who supported & participated in this event.

Top Left: Shay & Warren Struthers hanging out in Morrison Funeral Home's hearse. Warren is displaying his best "corpse" pose.

Top Right: Jack Thomas is all smiles while in the driver's seat of a construction vehicle.



Bottom Left: Claudia Beichner standing in Northwest Bank's vintage bank truck.

Bottom Right: Lincoln Blackwelder is in the bucket of a front end loader. His sister, Maggie Blackwelder, is in the cab "driving".

ADULTING 101

Adulting 101 is a new program at the Franklin Public Library targeted for teens between the ages of 12-18 and will provide useful tips and career options on a vast amount of topics. Each month will focus on a new theme and will hold several workshops, including informational presentations, outreach tours of businesses, and hands-on activities that coincide with the theme.

Participants can attend one of these workshops or all of them!

This program is free to attend & does not require a library card. Registration will need to be completed at the beginning of each month for the current theme.

ADULTING 101



MONTHLY THEMES

- March - Cooking Essentials
- April - Mending & Caring for Clothing
- May - Car Maintenance
- June - Knowing Your Body & Communication
(Learning about vitals, CPR, and the correct way to communicate with your peers)
- July - Budgeting and Handling Money
- August - Lawn Care & Power Tool Safety
- September - Connecting to the Arts & Your Community
- October - IT & Technology
- November - Electricity
+ Plumbing
- December - Safety



Register for August Sessions

LAWN CARE & POWER TOOL SAFETY

- Basic Lawn Maintenance
- Power Tools & Power Tool Safety
- Bouquet Building with Pocket Full of Posies

Visit us online soon for dates & times of workshops!

Register Now at
oilregionlibraries.org/teens

Upcoming Workshops



COVER LETTERS
OIL CITY LIBRARY
3PM - 4PM
FREE



COVER LETTERS
FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
3PM - 4PM
FREE

Join us at the Oil City Library on Tuesday, August 1st at 3PM for a Cover Letters Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! This workshop aims to teach the basics of creating a cover letter to attach to your resume. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Oil City Library or by calling (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!

Join us at the Franklin Public Library on Tuesday, August 8th at 3PM for a Cover Letters Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! This workshop aims to teach the basics of creating a cover letter to attach to your resume. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Franklin Public Library or by calling (814) 432-5062. Walk-ins are okay too!

