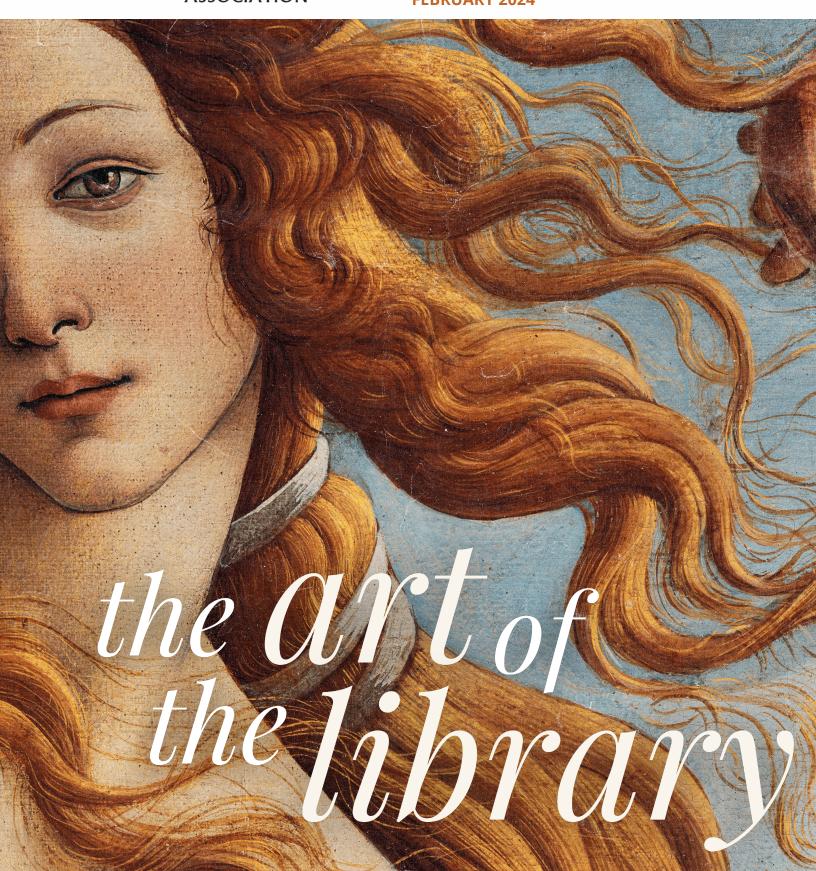
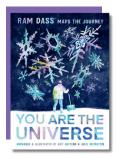


# the ORLA newsletter.

**FEBRUARY 2024** 





### YOU ARE THE UNIVERSE:

RAM DASS MAPS THE JOURNEY

RAM DASS, ARRANGED BY AMY BUETENS

"You Are the Universe: Ram Dass Maps the Journey is a profound exploration of spirituality and self-discovery. Ram Dass, a celebrated and well-respected spiritual teacher, invites readers to embark on a transformative journey, blending Eastern philosophy with modern insights.

After his death in 2019, his writings and lectures were thoughtfully arranged and illustrated into this powerful book that delves into the interconnectedness of life, encouraging a shift in perspective towards a more expansive and interconnected understanding of existence. With wisdom and compassion, Ram Dass navigates complex concepts, making them accessible for readers on their own personal quests for meaning. Divided into 3 sections (Ram Dass's life story, a heavily illustrated exploration of the soul & ego, and a toolbox for methods to become a more loving & self-aware individual), this book



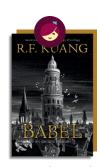


serves as a compelling guide for those seeking a deeper understanding of the universe and their place within it. After all, we are all born into a body - a 'space suit', as the book suggests. After a while, we don't seem to notice the suit very much. Ram Dass encourages you to look further inward and remember that you are not just a space suit, but a soul on a journey made of love & wisdom." - Natalie Cubbon, Oil Region Library Association

### BABEL: OR, THE NECESSITY OF VIOLENCE AN ARCANE HISTORY OF THE OXFORD TRANSLATORS' REVOLUTION

R. F. KUANG

"It's no secret that I have a type (it's dark academia), so I was ecstatic when I heard about R.F. Kuang's *Babel*, which also deals with my other loves (languages, translation, & etymology). In *Babel*, a young Cantonese boy, orphaned by the plague, is claimed by an English man with the condition that the boy studies language to prepare himself for enrollment at Oxford's Royal Institute of Translation, or Babel. The students at Babel have a wide range of job



opportunities once graduated, but their ultimate goal is to work on the tower's top floor, where silver bars are enchanted through the power of translation. This silver-working is the heart of Britain's power and their quest for colonization. Kuang presents a critique of the growth of the British empire in the 1800s through an anti-colonial, anti-imperialist, and anti-capitalist lens. Due to this book pinging so many of my interests, I was able to overlook a lot of flaws it has. Some characters come across as flat, the footnotes (if you actually see them) and some explanations will rip you out of a scene for some linguistic jargon (of which I ate right up), and the lack of thorough explanation of how the silver-working actually works in the real world was a let down for me. Kuang took dark academia, blended it with historical fiction, added some fantasy/magical realism, and sprinkled in a little nonfiction along the way. Every reader who picks up this book will take away something different from it, and that alone makes it worth reading. " – *Emily Antkowiak, Oil City Library* 



### IONA IVERSON'S RULES FOR COMMUTING

**CLARE POOLEY** 

"I recently listened to this delightful book on Libby. The narrator can make or break an audiobook and this one did a fine job with the voices. But it's really about the story, isn't it? Much is made of lona's attitude toward life and how human we all are no matter our background or current lifestyles. The author presented these ideas in a sweet story about making assumptions based on appearances and where that can lead that kept me listening to the very end. An event at the beginning of the story brings several train commuters (who wouldn't have

normally spoken to each other) into a conversation that turns into a months-long journey of friendships and realizations and general betterment of their lives -- all because Iona got involved. This book did not have foul language, sex scenes or violence -- yay! It was good enough for me to submit this review!" - **Debra Houser, Franklin Public Library** 

### Franklin Library Receives Generous Estate Donation

The Franklin Public Library recently was the recipient of a generous donation from the estate of Melinda Jean Remley, who passed away in May of 2023.

According to her obituary, Melinda was a graduate of Oil City High School, Class of 1967, and went on to graduate from Clarion State University with degrees in Secondary Education, Reading Specialist, and Library Science. From 1971 - 1974 she was an elementary school teacher at Sugarcreek and Cooperstown Elementary Schools. From 1974 -1986 she was a reading teacher at Rocky Grove High School and was also involved with teaching gifted students and the yearbook class. From 1986-1987 she furthered her education at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

She was Medical Records Director from 1988-1990 at Franklin Regional Medical Center. She was Director of Clinical Information from 1990-1992. She was Quality Improvement Manager from 1992-1994. In 1994 she was appointed Vice President, Patient Manager Service at Northwest Medical Center and obtained her Doctorate Degree in Hospital Administration.



Melinda Jean Remley

We're extremely grateful for the contribution made to honor Melinda's legacy. We plan to utilize a portion of the funds to make immediate building repairs. The rest will be invested to support funding for the Franklin Public Library's services & programs for years to come.

# Franklin Library Hosting Bunco Party

Join us at the Franklin Public Library for a Bunco Party on **Thursday, February 8th!** Registration is required - sign up at the Franklin Public Library or by calling (814) 432-5062. Each game is limited to 24 players & games start at 11:00AM. The registration fee is \$20/player and includes lunch. All proceeds benefit the Franklin Public Library.

Bunco is a dice game generally played with twelve or more players, divided into groups of four, trying to score points while taking turns rolling three dice in a series of six rounds. A bunco is achieved when a person rolls three-of-a-kind and all three numbers match the round number.





NRITTEN AND 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.



**Public** Franklin Library went through a modernization project in the late 1970s. A new wing was added to the house adult collections, space was reconfigured with the removal of partitions, and new shelving was installed where the YA section is housed today. This photo from 1979 shows Mildred Judson, a library employee, taking care of the front desk and getting ready to assist patrons. A new circulation desk came to Franklin Public Library in October 2023 after 2 years of planning. It was created by Hardwood Expressions and is well loved by staff and patrons alike!





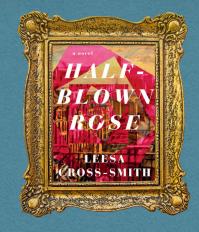
Do you have an image or location you'd like to see featured? Email <u>eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org</u> with your suggestions! 

# the art of the library

Delve into thrilling tales of art heists, historic masterpieces & more. Whether you're a casual art enthusiast or just looking for an entertaining read, these titles promise an insightful journey through the captivating & vibrant world of art.



Also Available on Libby



### Half-Blown Rose Leesa Cross-Smith

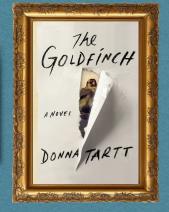
An irresistible story of a woman remaking her life after her husband's betrayal leads to a year of travel, art & passion in Paris.



### **The Goldfinch** Donna Tartt



A young New Yorker grieving his mother's death is pulled into a gritty underworld of art & wealth in this extraordinary and beloved Pulitzer Prize winner.



### **The Artivist** Nikkolas Smith

When a young boy realizes the scope of inequities in the wider world, he's seized with the urge to do more. He decides to bring together the different parts of himself - the artist & the activist - to become... an Artivist.



### **The 500 Million Dollar Heist** Tom Sullivan

The third book in this graphic nonfiction series about real FBI cases details the Isabella Stewart Gardner heist - the largest, and one of the most famous, art thefts in the world.



### **Oh, Olive!** Lian Cho

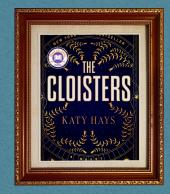
Lian Cho delivers a hilarious picture book that celebrates the creativity of a young girl who breaks from the rigid traditions of her famous artist parents to make a colorful splash in her own unique style.

### 



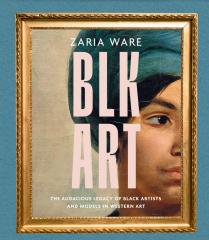
### **BLK Art** Zaria Ware

A fun & fact-filled introduction to the dismissed Black art masters and models who shook up the world. Elegant. Refined. Exclusionary. Interrupted. The foundations of the fine art world are shaking.



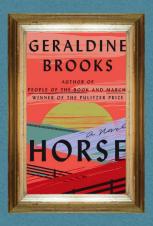
### **The Mona Lisa Vanishes** Nicholas Day

This middle-grade nonfiction narrative details how the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre, how the robbery made the portrait the most famous artwork in the world - and how the painting by Leonardo da Vinci should never have existed at all.



### **The Cloisters** Katy Hays

In this sinister, jaw-dropping debut novel, a circle of researchers uncover a mysterious deck of tarot cards & shocking secrets in New York's famed Met Cloisters.



### **Horse** Geraldine Brooks

A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

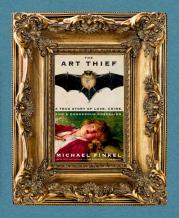


### **The 12-Hour Art Expert** Noah Charney

Interested in art but feel under-informed? Curious but afraid you might not "get" it? This book guides its readers through a brief series of masterpieces of Western art - from cave paintings to sharks in formaldehyde. 12 chapters teach readers about art, the art trade, & art history in a thorough (though concise) fashion.



For centuries, works of art have been stolen in countless ways from all over the world, but no one has been quite as successful at it as the master thief Stéphane Breitwieser. Carrying out more than 200 heists over nearly 10 years in museums and cathedrals all over Europe, Breitwieser stole more than 300 objects, until it all fell apart in spectacular fashion.



Check Out
Any of
These Titles
at Your
Local ORLA
Location

ին ըն ըն ըն ին ին ին ին ին

# DIE BELAND

BIG MMB MACHINA

# SICKNESS



AT THE OIL CONTRAL AVE. OIL CITY, PA

SATURDAY MARCH 2

FREE ENTRY

7:00 PM

DONATIONS APPRECIATED
ALL DONATIONS SUPPORT OIL CITY
LIBRARY HALL RESTORATION PROJECT





# Spring 2024

Adult Craft Club at the Oil City Library is starting up again this February! We're so excited to get back to crafting with you. Adult Craft Club is free to attend & all materials will be provided. Registration is OPEN NOW, so sign up for February's session and choose between a 5:30PM or 6:30PM time slot. Visit the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072 to register.



Wednesday, February 28th



Wednesday, March 27th



Wednesday, April 24th



Wednesday, May 29th

**Register Today!** 



### Franklin Library Seeking Children's Program Coordinator

Want to join our team? The position for Children's Coordinator at the Franklin Public Library is currently open and applications are being accepted.

This is a Part-Time (25 hours/week) position with a wage of \$12/hour. Interested individuals can pick up an application at any ORLA location or apply online at <u>oilregionlibraries.org/information/jobs/</u>. Email <u>manager@oilregionlibraries.org</u> for more information.

## **AARP Offering Free Tax Preparation Services**

AARP Tax-Aide Counselors will be available to complete Federal, State, & Local income tax returns for the 2023 tax year, as well as PA Tax/Rent Rebate. Appointments are required.

#### Please make sure to bring your:

- Social Security Card
- Photo ID
- 2022 Tax Return



Those wanting PA Tax/Rent Rebate should bring rent receipts or stamped "PAID" tax receipts. Call one of the listed locations to schedule your appointment today!



### **First Baptist Church**

Franklin Thursdays & Fridays, 8AM-3PM Call (814) 346-1536 for an appointment.



### **Cranberry Mall**

Cranberry Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9AM-3PM Call (814) 208-8651 for an appointment.



### **Titusville Health & Aging Center**Titusville

Call (814) 499-3023 for an appointment.



# JANUARY 8 THROUGH FEBRUARY 17

It's not too late to join this ORLA-wide reading challenge! Last year, we read 95,109 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!

Reader Zone
Use code **4b37c** 





ORLA's 5th Annual Appeal, which was launched in mid-December of 2023, has now raised over \$28,000 and counting! We want to sincerely thank YOU for supporting your library and spreading the word about the value of libraries to others. Financial support helps us to provide more materials and resources for the communities we serve.

Missed the Annual Appeal? You can still support your library by donating during ORLA's annual Founder's Fund campaign next month. We are so grateful and thank you for your continued support!

\$28,645 RAISED



199 **DONORS** 

# 2024 PUZZZZZ CHALLENGE

SATURDAY JAN. 27TH AT THE BELLES LETTRES CLUB



The 2024 Puzzle Challenge took place Saturday, January 27th at the Belles Lettres Club of Oil City.

This year, 15 total teams competed across 2 divisions to finish either a 500 or 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle within the 4-hour time limit.

Team "Livin' on the Edge" were the winners of the Professional Puzzlers Division, finishing their 1000-piece puzzle in 2 hours, 6 minutes & 47 seconds! Team "Tendco" were the Jigsaw Juniors Division winners, finishing their 500-piece puzzle in just 1 hour, 30 minutes & 31 seconds!

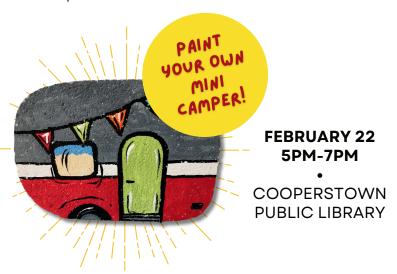
A huge thank you to the Belles Lettres Club for the amazing venue & yummy food!

ΓEAM	DIVISION	TIME
endco	Jigsaw Juniors (500)	1:30:3

Tenaco	Jigsaw Juniors (500)	1:30:31
Livin' on the Edge	Professional Puzzlers (1000)	2:06:47
Boffa	Jigsaw Juniors (500)	1:43:00
Liberty Street	Jigsaw Juniors (500)	2:04:55
Irregulars		
3 Daughters &	Professional Puzzlers (1000)	2:28:38
a Mom		
Misfits	Professional Puzzlers (1000)	3:07:53
Speed Solvers	Professional Puzzlers (1000)	3:17:38
Gettin' Jiggy With It	Jigsaw Juniors (500)	2:27:32
Peace by Piece	Jigsaw Juniors (500)	2:50:41
Puzzkill	Professional Puzzlers (1000)	3:38:25
Puzzling Puzzlers	Professional Puzzlers (1000)	4:19:06

### **Cooperstown Library to Hold Craft Night**

Terrie Grove will once again be holding a craft night at the Cooperstown Public Library on Thursday, February 22nd from 5:00 - 7:00 PM! This time, we'll be making Camper Paver Lawn Ornaments (pictured below). Participants will have the opportunity to turn an ordinary paver stone into a painted mini camper!



Participating is free and all materials will be provided, but spots are limited! Make sure to contact the Cooperstown Public Library by calling (814) 374-4605 to claim your spot today.





### **MINDFULNESS** & MEDITATION evenings

Mindfulness & Meditation Evenings are back at the Oil City Library! This time provides an opportunity to practice turning inward & focusing your mind in a group. Group meditation can support concentration, awareness, and deepening of experience. The hour will be divided between guided and silent meditation with a short break between sessions.

Questions? Contact Mary Ann at (814) 493-5417 or mabdance@aol.com

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

# Upcoming Workshops





**PA CAREERLINK SERVICES OVERVIEW WORKSHOP OIL CITY LIBRARY** 3PM - 4PM

Join us at the Oil City Library on Tuesday, February 13th at 3PM for a PA CareerLink Services Overview Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! This workshop aims to give you an overview of all the services offered through the PA CareerLink®, including the WIOA Program and its eligibility requirements. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Oil City Library or by calling (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!



RESILIENCE IN JOB SEEKING **WORKSHOP OIL CITY LIBRARY** 3PM - 4PM

Join us at the Oil City Library on Tuesday, March 5th at 3PM for a Resilience in Job Seeking Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! This workshop aims to teach you the foundations of job searching, effective job search activities and applying for jobs online. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Oil City Library or by calling (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!

### **FEATURED RESOURCES**









Libby, Makey Makey, & Kanopy are available to you for FREE with your library card at **oilregionlibraries.org** 



### **Oil City Library**

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

8:30am-8:30pm
8:30am-8:30pm
8:30am-8:30pm
8:30am-5:00pm
8:30am-5:00pm
8:30am-3:30pm
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

182 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







