



the ORLA newsletter.

MARCH 2024

she writes.

female authors
who are topping
the charts



THE SECRET HISTORY

DONNA TARTT

"Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* is a mesmerizing masterpiece that transcends the boundaries of traditional storytelling. Set against the backdrop of an elite New England college, this novel unravels the intricacies of friendship, morality, and the pursuit of knowledge in a darkly captivating narrative. Tartt's prose is rich

and immersive, drawing readers into the cloistered world of the protagonists with vivid detail and atmospheric depth. From the very first page, she weaves a spellbinding tale that keeps readers spellbound until the very last sentence. One of the novel's greatest strengths lies in its complex and deeply flawed characters. Each member of the eclectic group of students at Hampden College is meticulously crafted, their personalities layered with secrets, desires, and motivations that drive the plot forward. As their relationships evolve and unravel, Tartt delves into the depths of human nature, exploring themes of obsession, guilt, and the consequences of unchecked ambition. *The Secret History* is not merely a mystery novel; it is a philosophical exploration of the human condition. Through its enigmatic protagonist, Richard Pape, Tartt delves into the existential questions that haunt us all: the search for meaning, the nature of good and evil, and the boundaries between morality and amorality. As Richard becomes increasingly entangled in the web of his classmates' dark secrets, readers are compelled to confront their own moral compasses and grapple with the ambiguity of right and wrong. Furthermore, Tartt's evocative portrayal of the college setting adds another layer of intrigue to the story. The ivy-covered halls of Hampden College are depicted with such lush detail that they become almost palpable, serving as both a sanctuary and a prison for the novel's characters. Overall, *The Secret History* is a tour de force of literary fiction that lingers in the mind long after the final page is turned. Donna Tartt's masterful storytelling and profound insight into the human psyche make this novel a timeless classic that will continue to captivate readers for generations to come." – **Richard Bays, Oil City Library**

WHAT
WE'RE
READING

FODOR'S ESSENTIAL ICELAND

FODOR'S TRAVEL



"After two years of postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was able to eventually travel in the summer of 2022 with my children and granddaughters to mythic and fabulous Iceland, an island nation abutting the Arctic Circle in the North Atlantic Ocean. The natural scenery of the country is quite diverse, and overflows with the grandeur and splendor of (literally) thousands of waterfalls, scores of volcanoes, hundreds of mountains, & dozens of glaciers. Since returning, I've described Iceland to others as seeing the mystery and magnificence of some other planet, where the air is pure, the water everywhere is deliciously drinkable, and where nearly all of the inhabitants speak (excellent) English. *Fodor's Travel Guide, Essential Iceland* provides an up-to-date summary of potential experiences for the Icelandic traveler - including lodging, suggested restaurants, tour services, festivals, shopping, museums, and special sights. It is, of course, not possible for a guidebook to include all of the possibilities, even in a country as small as Iceland, but it was my experience that many of the most delightful aspects of the trip came from serendipitous discoveries in small villages and less visited areas of the island. *Fodor's Guide* is reasonably well organized, and includes fairly good maps of Iceland's various geographic areas. Compared with other travel guides I've used, I was pleased that *Fodor's* included descriptions of public swimming pools throughout the country (nearly every town, village, and hamlet has at least one pool, usually two - an indoor and an outdoor.) Like with most Iceland guide books, the 'Blue Lagoon' is a highly touted, must experience destination. It is my opinion that if you wish to visit a geothermal lagoon there are many other choices - less hyped, less crowded, and a lot cheaper." – **Randy Stewart, Volunteer at Franklin Public Library**

JUVENILE

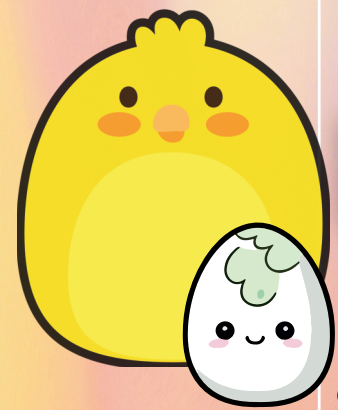
PEPPER & ME

BEATRICE ALEMAGNA

"When a little girl falls on the street, scraping her knee, her father tells her not to worry, that 'a beautiful scab will form.' But she does worry! The scab is not beautiful and it's keeping her from bending her knee! When will it ever go away? This book is a cute, and somewhat strange, look into how little kids deal with new and unknown situations by making them come alive in their imaginations. In order to deal with being stuck with a huge scab on her knee, our main character eventually gives it a name and treats it as an imaginary friend until the scab goes away. We follow our

character from her initial injury until the scab eventually comes off. Along the way, we see how she deals with being self-conscious about it & realizes that other people also get hurt and have to deal with the aftermath too. The artwork is also gorgeous in this - the drawings look like a child has done them, but also make the characters feel like real people with their own lives outside of our main characters. I recommend this to anyone that wants a cute story with a bit of an odd premise." – **Amanda Barker, Franklin & Cooperstown Libraries**





TEEN EGGVENT 2024

@ THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

**SATURDAY
MARCH 16TH
FROM 12-2 P.M.**

**WIN PRIZES
+ ENTRY
INTO BIKE
RAFFLE!**

Saturday, March 16th will be Franklin Public Library's 2nd Annual Teen Eggvent. Last year, the library noticed the lack of inclusion for older ages in local egg hunts. We were able to fix this problem with the help of the Elk's Club and Friends of the Franklin Public Library by introducing the area's very first teen egg hunt! It was such a success, that we've decided to host it again this year. There will be 2 age categories, 11-14 and 15-18. This year, you will once again be able to win lots of great prizes and will be entered into our bike raffle! This FREE event does have limited spots, so make sure to register no later than March 11th by calling (814) 432-5062 or stopping in to the Franklin Public Library!

REGISTER BY MARCH 11



PAWS 4 A Cause Therapy Dogs

UPCOMING PROGRAMS!

Come join us for a fun time reading to the PAWS 4 A Cause Therapy Dogs! These trained and friendly dogs are eager to see you and hear stories read to them. Practice your reading skills in a fun and engaging way! No registration required & all ages welcome.



**OIL CITY
LIBRARY**
MON. MARCH 11 / 6:00PM



**FRANKLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
WED. APRIL 10 / 6:00PM



PICTURE THIS

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.



Do you remember when the Oil City Library looked like this?! We've made lots of improvements over the years to the space, including new furniture, new carpeting, and many rearrangements. The before photo was taken in 2004 when staff members were documenting and celebrating the library's 100th birthday!



THEN

NOW



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

she writes.



female authors
who are topping
the charts

From the thought-provoking works of Zadie Smith to the enchanting tales of Sarah J. Maas, celebrate the brilliance and diversity of these talented female authors who have left an indelible mark on literature. If these authors aren't on your radar yet, they should be!



Taylor Jenkins Reid

Taylor Jenkins Reid is a contemporary fiction author known for her compelling storytelling and complex characters. Her novels, including "Daisy Jones & The Six" and "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo," explore the intricacies of relationships and the pursuit of identity with a unique and engaging narrative style. "Daisy Jones & The Six" is now an Amazon Prime limited series.



Lucy Score

Lucy Score is a contemporary romance author celebrated for her witty & heartwarming novels. With a knack for blending humor and romance, Score's books like "Things We Never Got Over" and "Things We Hide From the Light" captivate readers with relatable characters and delightful storytelling.



Jesmyn Ward

Jesmyn Ward is a highly acclaimed American novelist and essayist, recognized for her poignant exploration of race, family, and the American South. Her works, such as "Sing, Unburied, Sing" and most recently "Let Us Descend," have won numerous awards, showcasing her powerful and evocative writing. She is the only woman and only African American to win the National Book Award for Fiction twice.



Freida McFadden

Freida McFadden is an American author and practicing physician specializing in brain injury from New York City. She's written multiple bestselling psychological thrillers, including "The Housemaid", "The Coworker", "The Locked Door" and more. A movie adaptation of "The Housemaid" has been planned with Lionsgate for release within the next few years.





Kiley Reid

Kiley Reid is a rising star in contemporary fiction, known for her exploration of race, privilege, and social dynamics. Her debut novel, "Such a Fun Age," delves into the complexities of relationships & societal expectations, earning acclaim for its insightful commentary and engaging narrative. Her most recent title, "Come & Get It", is a provocative story about a residential assistant & her messy entanglement with a professor & 3 unruly students.



Rebecca Yarros

Rebecca Yarros is an American author who is best known for the "Empyrean" fantasy book series, which includes the titles "Fourth Wing" and "Iron Flame" & will soon be adapted into a television series with Amazon. The series follows a 20-year-old scribe who is forced into a world of dragons & war. "Fourth Wing" became a viral phenomenon on TikTok with more than a billion views.



R.F. Kuang

R. F. Kuang is a fantasy author known for her debut trilogy, "The Poppy War," which masterfully combines historical elements with a richly imagined world of magic. Her writing explores themes of war, power, and sacrifice, earning praise for its complexity and depth. Her more recent works include "Yellowface" & "Babel: an Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution".



Zadie Smith

Zadie Smith is a renowned British author and essayist celebrated for her thought-provoking novels, including "White Teeth" and "Swing Time." Known for her insightful commentary on race, culture, and identity, Smith's work reflects a keen understanding of human nature and societal complexities. Her most recent novel, "The Fraud", is a kaleidoscopic work of historical fiction set against a legal trial that divided Victorian England.



Sarah J. Maas

Sarah J. Maas is a bestselling fantasy author, widely recognized for her popular series like "Crescent City" and "A Court of Thorns and Roses." With a talent for world-building and crafting strong, complex heroines, Maas has captivated a global audience of fantasy enthusiasts. As of 2022, she has sold over twelve million copies of her books and her work has been translated into 37 languages.



Emily Henry

Emily Henry is a contemporary fiction and romance author known for her charming and heartfelt novels. With works like "Book Lovers" and "Happy Place," Henry combines humor and emotion to explore themes of love, friendship, and personal growth. Film adaptations for several of her adult romance titles have been planned & are set to release within the next couple of years.



Franklin Public Library debuts new

SENSORY BINS

The Franklin Public Library has recently introduced an innovative and inclusive feature to enhance the library experience for all patrons – sensory bins. These thoughtfully curated bins are designed to engage individuals of all ages and abilities, providing a multisensory experience within the library setting. Equipped with a variety of tactile materials, visual stimuli, and auditory elements, the sensory bins cater to diverse sensory preferences. Whether it's the soft touch of textured objects, the vibrant colors of visual aids, or the soothing sounds from auditory components, these bins aim to create a welcoming and accessible environment for everyone. There are currently four bins available to use: **Ocean, Ice Cream, Butterfly, & Garden**. If you'd like to use one of the sensory bins, please ask a staff member for assistance.



SEEDS AVAILABLE NOW!

SEED LIBRARY

Support Community Growers

Save Money

Try Different Varieties

The new Seed Library at the Oil City Library is finally beginning to take shape! The Seed Library operates by providing packets of fruit, vegetable & flower seeds for people to take home & plant, while also giving the opportunity for people to leave their own seeds for others to take home & grow. Paper envelopes will be provided for leaving harvested or partially used seeds.



We repurposed an old card catalog for the new Seed Library!



Using the Seed Library is as simple as pulling the drawers out & taking what you need! In the Fall, bring in your harvested seeds for others to grow in their gardens.

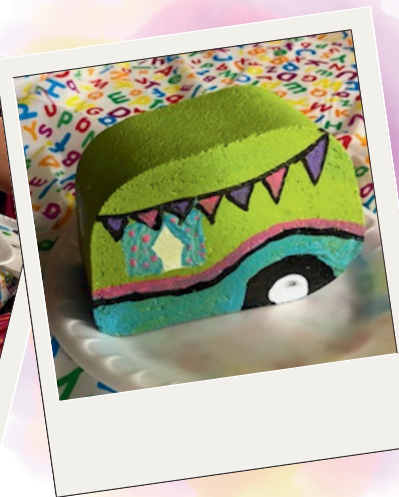
GOT SEEDS? 

If you have unopened (or partially used!) packets of seeds or recently harvested seeds, please consider donating them to the Oil City Library's Seed Library. Thank you to Agway of Oil City for being our first official Seed Library partner!

COOPERSTOWN GETS CRAFTY

The Cooperstown Public Library saw an amazing turnout at their last craft night in February. Terrie Grove, an ORLA staff member, taught the class how to turn an ordinary lawn paver into a painted mini camper! The event saw over 20 participants & was well-liked.

Future crafting events like this are in the works for the Cooperstown Public Library, so stay tuned to our social media & newsletter for more information if you missed out!



THE 4TH ANNUAL WINTER OF READING

read. track. win.

You read for
72,605
minutes!

You crushed it this year! Participants ages 5+ read for a total of **72,605 minutes** in ORLA's 4th Annual Winter of Reading challenge!



WINNERS

Adult: Emily G.

Teen: Isaiah G.

Ages 9-12: Gabriel G.

Ages 5-8: JR G.



Thank you to all who participated
& we'll see you again next year!



LIBRARY LOTTO

Tickets are still available!
Library Lotto tickets are
good for the entire 2024
year.

EACH TICKET
\$20
ONLY 1000 SOLD

FEBRUARY WINNERS!



NO WINNER



JUDY S.
OIL CITY, PA



BRANDON H.
OIL CITY, 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 2024. One additional winner will win \$500 determined by the Pennsylvania Daily Pick 3 evening drawing on July 25th, 2024!



SCIENCE CRAFT NIGHT

Join us at Franklin & Oil City libraries this month for FREE science craft nights! Make a fun and unique sensory bottle AND receive a Self-Esteem Workbook – all free of charge! A sensory bottle is a bottle filled with different materials generating a variety of sensations and stimulating essential areas of the brain when it's moved. It's a great tool to foster curiosity & the desire to explore! All materials will be provided. This event is made possible & sponsored by Recovery is Community NWPA.



Franklin Public Library

**THURSDAY
MARCH 21
4:30-6:00 PM**



Oil City Library

**MONDAY
MARCH 25
4:30-6:00 PM**

Annual Founders Fund Campaign Slated for April

FOUNDERS FUND
for the Preservation of Oil Region Library Services

In the absence of Week of Giving, we are inviting you to continue your generous support next month during National Library Week, April 7-13. Nine years ago, ORLA was founded with a dream of uniting all three Venango County libraries to offer and preserve quality services across our region. ORLA seeks to continue enhancing cooperation, creativity and generous community spirit through our annual Founders Fund campaign. More information will be featured in our April newsletter.



Spring 2024

Adult Craft Club at the Oil City Library is back! We're so excited to get back to crafting with you. Adult Craft Club is free to attend & all crafting materials will be provided. On Wednesday, March 27th, we will be making washi tape flowers. We're limited to 20 participants per time slot, so sign up soon!

Registration is OPEN NOW & you can choose between a 5:30PM or 6:30PM time slot. Visit the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072 to register.



This month,
we're making...

**Washi
Tape
Flowers**

March 27th

SELF DEFENSE

WITH NELSON FIGUEROA
CERTIFIED + LICENSED IN SELF DEFENSE

Join Nelson Figueroa, a licensed & certified self defense instructor, for a **FREE** self defense class at the Oil City Library on Monday, March 11th from 7-8:15 PM. Find out how you can protect yourself from attackers with easy-to-learn skills & movements. No registration required!

**FREE
CLASS**

**AT THE
OIL CITY LIBRARY**

MON. MARCH 11 / 7:00 - 8:15 PM



DRAWING LESSONS

FREE!



1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH / 6:00PM



- **From Imagination**
- **For Comics**
- **Characters**
- **& more!**



For more information:
Vlad Vov
VLADISLAVOVCHUK@GMAIL.COM

**BRING A SKETCHBOOK,
PENCIL & A RULER!**



at the
Oil City Library

2 Central Ave., Oil City, PA



BEGINNING MARCH 5TH

Upcoming Workshops

RESILIENCE IN

**job
seeking**

WORKSHOP

Learn the Foundations of
Job Searching, Effective Job
Search Activities & Applying
for Jobs Online

**FREE & OPEN
TO ALL!**

PROVIDED BY
Pennsylvania
CareerLink®



RESILIENCE IN JOB SEEKING WORKSHOP / 3PM - 4PM / FREE



**OIL CITY
LIBRARY**



**FRANKLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**COOPERSTOWN
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Join us at ORLA locations this month 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 your library in person or by phone call. Walk-ins are okay too!

FEATURED RESOURCES



LawDepot

LawDepot offers an extensive library of documents and legal resources, providing easy-to-use assistance with a wide range of legal needs. More than two million people have used LawDepot to save over a billion dollars in legal fees. Find LawDepot in the Libby app & check it out with your library card!

DIRECTED BY women

Films to Celebrate Women's History Month

kanopy



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	8:30am-3:30pm
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

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



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