



# the **ORLA** newsletter.

JUNE 2026

# UNEARTH A STORY



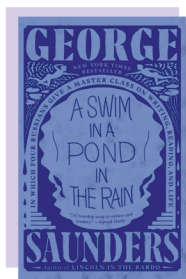
JUNE 15TH - JULY 25TH



FOR ALL AGES

# WHAT WE'RE READING

 Available on Libby



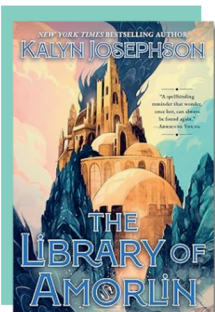
## A SWIM IN A POND IN THE RAIN

GEORGE SAUNDERS ★★★★★

For the last 20 years, George Saunders has been teaching a class on the Russian short story to his MFA students at Syracuse University. In *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, he shares a version of that class with us, offering some of what he & his students have discovered together over the years. Paired with iconic short stories by Chekhov, Turgenev, Tolstoy, & Gogol, the 7 essays in this book are intended for anyone interested in how fiction works & why it's more relevant than ever in these turbulent times. In his introduction, Saunders writes, "We're going to enter 7 fastidiously constructed scale models of the world, made for a specific purpose that our time may not fully endorse but that these writers accepted implicitly as the aim of art – namely, to ask the big questions, questions like, How are we supposed to be living down here? What were we put here to accomplish? What should we value? What is truth, anyway, & how might we recognize it?" He approaches the stories technically yet accessibly, & through them explains how narrative functions; why we stay immersed in a story & why we resist it; & the bedrock virtues a writer must foster. The process of writing, Saunders reminds us, is a technical craft, but also a way of training oneself to see the world with new openness & curiosity.

**"I've tried to read/listen to this book three other times and bounced off of it. It's a sit-down-and-focus kind of book; not one to be read just for pleasure, but so you can learn. Which makes sense! The author does not hide the fact that it is basically a series of lectures that deeply explore what makes a story work & why. It's very well written & I did learn a lot. But, I also think next time I'm just going to reach for the stories & skip the lectures. I highly recommend it to people who want to learn to write better or want to see how stories work behind just telling a tale."** Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

## FICTION



## THE LIBRARY OF AMORLIN ★★★★★

KALYN JOSEPHSON

A brilliant con artist and a secretive librarian collide in New York Times bestselling author Kalyn Josephson's enchanting adult fantasy debut, packed with twists, tricks, slow-burning romantic tension, and magical creatures -- perfect for fans of S.A. MacLean, Mai Corland, and K.A. Linde. Kasira used to be a masterful con artist: choosing her target, building trust, judging the precise moment to make her move. Now, she's working off a lengthy prison sentence by hunting dangerous magical creatures on behalf of the fanatical kingdom of Kalthos. But Kasira's past catches up to her when the ambassador from Kalthos arrives at her camp with a deal: her freedom in exchange for infiltrating and destabilizing the magical institution meant to protect all six kingdoms—the Library of Amorlin. When

Kasira assumes the role of the new Assistant Librarian, she enters an enchanting world brimming with books and beasts, tempting her with a life she can never have. But Kasira's real future depends on her long con to bring down the Librarian. Unfortunately, Allaster is as prickly as he is handsome, and his monstrous secrets are about to catch up with them both...

**"The Library of Amorlin is a VERY engaging story right from page one and will keep you going well past bedtime. You won't even realize what time it is. It has everything a fiction book should have – amazing creatures you've never seen before, and the magic is endless. You will find engaging characters that get you invested, and it's a story you have to finish!"** Jesse Bunnell, Library Assistant, Oil City Library

## JUVENILE

## ★★★★★ BUTT OR FACE?

KARI LAVELLE



Can YOU tell a butt from a face? Discover fascinating facts about animals with this hilarious guessing game picture book! *Butt or Face* offers kids a delightfully cheeky challenge – examine a close-up photo of an animal, and then guess whether you're looking at the top or the...um...bottom. The answer is revealed on the next page with a complete photo of the animal! Also included are factual animal details along with how these animals use camouflage or other trickery to engage with their home. Readers will discover animals like the Cuyaba dwarf frog, whose backside looks like a pair of eyes, the Mary River turtle that breathes through its butt, and many more!

**"I thought this book would be funny... (and I was right!)"** Odin, Lover of Books at the Franklin Public Library

# upcoming author talks

You're invited to join us every month for free, virtual, live discussions with bestselling authors! Watch from home & submit your questions to the author ahead of time.




**MATT DINNIMAN**

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
**DUNGEON CRAWLER CARL**

**THU. JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> | 7:00PM | ONLINE**

**Apocalyptic Mayhem, Lava-Spitting Llamas, & One Very Sassy Cat: Surviving the Universe's Most Twisted RPG with Matt Dinniman**  
Hold onto your heart-patterned boxers! Matt Dinniman, New York Times bestselling author of the wildly popular (and just plain wild) *Dungeon Crawler Carl* series, joins us to chat about his latest book, *A Parade of Horribles*, on Thursday, June 11th at 7 PM via digital live-stream.



**ZAILA Avant-Garde**

BESTSELLING AUTHOR, RECORD-SETTING BASKETBALL PLAYER, & SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMP

**TUE. JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> | 7:00PM | ONLINE**

**Wonderfully Weird: Celebrating the Joys of Feeling Different with Zaila Avant-Garde**  
Celebrate what makes you, you! Tune in for a virtual conversation with Zaila Avant-Garde as she talks about *Weird and Wonderful You* and how curiosity, confidence, and creativity can change the world. Join the discussion online Tuesday, June 16th at 7 PM via digital live-stream.

**REGISTER NOW  
AT**

[HTTPS://LIBRARYC.ORG/  
OILREGIONLIBRARIES](https://libraryc.org/oilregionlibraries)

SPONSORED BY



# 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.



This picture taken on Seneca Street in Oil City shows floodwaters in 1913. In the background is the ever recognizable National Transit Building & Annex along with the Orpheum Theater. While the Transit Building remains the same today, the Lyric Theatre stands in place of the Orpheum. We're excited to see the progress of the Lyric and its reopening in the near future!

**THEN**



**NOW**

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



# UNEARTH A STORY

**JUNE 15TH - JULY 25TH | FOR ALL AGES!**

Explore history, fossils + more this summer with your library. Track your reading, complete activities, + attend programs to earn ORLA Bucks that will win you some awesome prizes!



## LOG YOUR READING

Keep track of your reading with your reading log for ORLA Bucks that will win you cool prizes!

Read anything you want! It could be the morning newspaper, an article online, a chapter book from the library, or even a picture book with your little one. Track your reading using the log you get from the library.



# WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Attend programs at your library each week to earn extra ORLA Bucks.

Although attending them is not required to participate in Summer @ Your ORLA Library, we've got great programs lined up for all ages at each location. We'll be exploring history, fossils + more this summer. You won't want to miss your weekly visit to the library!



## OIL CITY LIBRARY

### AGES 5-8

Mondays at 1:00PM

### TEENS

Wednesdays at 2:00PM

### AGES 9-12

Mondays at 3:00PM

### ADULTS

Wednesdays at 5:00PM

## FRANKLIN LIBRARY

### AGES 5-8

Fridays at 11:00AM

### TEENS

Tuesdays at 2:00PM

### AGES 9-12

Fridays at 2:00PM

### ADULTS

Wednesdays at 4:00PM

# COMPLETE CHALLENGES

Complete challenges in your reading log to earn extra ORLA Bucks!

Want to add some difficulty to your reading habits in exchange for more ORLA Bucks? Complete the challenges in your reading log for more chances at prizes in your library's store!



SCAN ME



Register now by scanning the code or visit

**OILREGIONLIBRARIES.ORG**



## ORLA BUCKS

can be used in the store at your library to redeem awesome prizes!



# Oil City's Library Hall Wins Oil Region Historic Preservation Award

We're happy to share that Oil City Library's Library Hall recently received an Oil Region Historic Preservation Award from the Oil Region Alliance!

The Oil City Main Street Program nominated the Oil City Library under the Reconstruction category for the restoration of Library Hall. The Oil City Library was built in 1904 by Pittsburgh philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Library Hall, located on the second floor, was an event space open from 1904 to 1957, when budget cuts closed it to the public. While used as storage, the space came under serious disrepair. The project's main purpose was to restore the library's theatre to its original condition and intent with modern amenities. Renovations prioritized using as much original material (flooring, stage, woodwork, trim, etc.) from the theatre space as possible to complete the restoration.



## LIBRARY HALL MATINEE SHOWING THIS MONTH



**NIGHT AT  
THE MUSEUM  
(2006) PG**

**MON. JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>  
4:30 PM**



**JURASSIC  
WORLD REBIRTH  
(2025) PG-13**

**TUE. JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>  
4:30 PM**

Join us at Oil City Library's **Library Hall** for movie showings every other week!

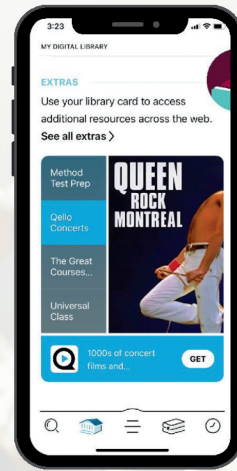
**ADMISSION ALWAYS FREE  
ALL AGES WELCOME  
FREE POPCORN!**



# 2 New Libby Extras at Your Library



Watch beautiful classical music, operas, & ballets from around the world, anywhere, anytime using **Stingray Classica**.



Find these in the **Extras** section in your Libby app, or visit [oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org) to get started!



Stream the world's largest collection of on-demand full-length music performances, concert films, and music documentaries. **Qello Concerts** transforms your connected devices into the ultimate live music concert film experience. Watch performances from Queen, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Slipknot, Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Pavarotti & more!



# Spring PROGRAM Break

**MAY 25 - JUNE 13**

**ALL KIDS & TEEN PROGRAMS**

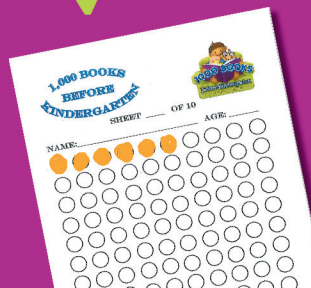
**PROGRAMS RESUME JUNE 15TH**



Keep track of the books you read with the library's easy color-the-shapes log!



These readers hit milestones recently!



## Why Participate?

There's no better time to lay the groundwork for independent learning than early childhood. Reading 1,000 books before kindergarten is a low pressure way to close the vocabulary gap & develop the early literacy skills so crucial to success in school. Any child can participate as long as they are not yet in kindergarten.

Register your child in person at your library or online at [www.oilregionlibraries.org/youth/1000-books-before-kindergarten/](http://www.oilregionlibraries.org/youth/1000-books-before-kindergarten/)

2026 ANNUAL  
OIL REGION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# LIBRARY LOTT

2026 tickets are  
available NOW!

EACH TICKET  
**\$20**  
ONLY 1000 SOLD

## MAY WINNERS!



**JACOB P.**  
BRUNSWICK, ME



**NO WINNER**

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT  
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET  
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!



**NO WINNER**

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT  
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET  
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!

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 2026.



Join us at our next Adult Craft  
Night with Terrie at both libraries  
to make your very own Uncle Sam  
Painted Paver! Participating is free  
& all materials are provided.

### Franklin Public Library

Thursday, June 25 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM

### Oil City Library

Friday, June 26 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Monday, June 29 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Spots Are Limited – call or stop  
by your library to register!



## ORLA Staff Graduates Leadership Venango Program

We're proud to announce that Emily Antkowiak, Adult Services Coordinator, is ORLA's 8th graduate of the Leadership Venango program!

Leadership Venango is a 9-month program created by the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce designed to identify, educate, involve & motivate individuals who desire to become more effective leaders. The program engages citizens from a broad range of geographical, institutional & economic backgrounds, with the goal of ensuring that new leadership will continuously be added to the community. During the 9 months, the class seeks to better understand the problems & opportunities we face in creating the best future for Venango County.



Congratulations to Emily! If you or anyone  
you know is interested in joining the Class of  
2027, apply now at [leadershipvenango.org](https://leadershipvenango.org).





**Libby.**  
The library reading app

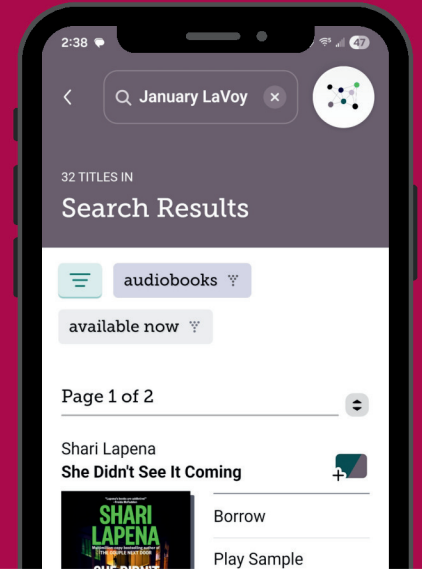


**TIP OF THE MONTH**

# Search by Audiobook Narrator

One of Libby's most useful features for audiobook fans is the option to **search by narrator**. For many listeners, a great narrator can be just as memorable as the story itself—and when you find a voice you really enjoy, it's natural to want to hear more. By entering a narrator's name in Libby's search bar, you can browse other audiobooks in your library's digital collection featuring that performer.

You can also find narrator information on each audiobook's details page, making it easy to tap their name and discover additional titles they've narrated.



## Next Month's **BOOK CLUB** Selections

JULY 2026

### Oil City Library Book Club

*Oil City Library*

Meets First Thursday  
of the Month at 10:30 AM



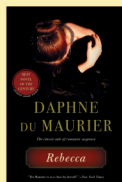
**The Rose Code**  
Kate Quinn



### The Bookmarkers Book Club

*Franklin Public Library*

Meets Second Tuesday  
of the Month at 12:00 PM



**Rebecca**  
Daphne du Maurier



### Thursday Evening Book Club

*Franklin Public Library*

Meets Third Thursday  
of the Month at 5:00 PM



**Here One Moment**  
Liane Moriarty



# CALL TO AUTHORS

We're excited to announce that the 5th Annual Oil Region Festival of the Book will be held **Saturday, August 29th** in the Central Avenue Plaza! 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 & to share and sell their works. Food vendors, guest speakers, & children's activities will also be present at the Oil Region Festival of the Book alongside local authors.

**Interested in being a featured author?  
Get started at**

**OILREGIONLIBRARIES.ORG/FOTB**

# FEATURED RESOURCES

**libby**  
The library reading app.

**Love is Love**  
LGBTQ+ Titles to Read During Pride Month



## Oil City Library

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

**Monday**.....9:00am-7:00pm  
**Tuesday**.....9:00am-7:00pm  
**Wednesday**.....9:00am-7:00pm  
**Thursday**.....9:00am-5:00pm  
**Friday**.....9:00am-5:00pm  
**Saturday**.....9:00am-3:00pm  
**Sunday**.....CLOSED

**MANGO**  
Language-learning centered around you.

Learning a new language isn't easy. It's a commitment which requires consistent interaction with the unknown & the unfamiliar, but one which leads to rewarding discoveries along the way. A blend of the right content at the right time, with intelligent algorithms, high-quality audio, & powered by proven methodologies, Mango's adaptive learning process evolves to your progress & unique learning behaviors, preparing you to start the conversation with confidence.

Start your Mango Languages journey at [oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org)



## Franklin Public Library

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

**Monday**.....10:00am-6:00pm  
**Tuesday**.....10:00am-6:00pm  
**Wednesday**.....10:00am-6:00pm  
**Thursday**.....10:00am-6:00pm  
**Friday**.....10:00am-6:00pm  
**Saturday**.....11:00am-4:00pm  
**Sunday**.....CLOSED

*Films for PRIDE MONTH*

Celebrate the LGBTQ+ Community with These Films

**kanopy**

# FIND US ONLINE

[oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org)



Libby, Mango Languages & Kanopy are available to you for FREE with your library card at [oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org)