



the **ORLA**
newsletter.

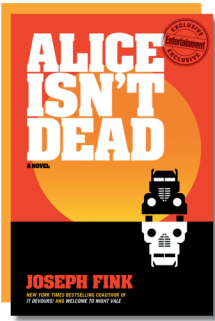
AUGUST 2026

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, colorful collage of various dog breeds' faces, including Dalmatians, Pugs, and Shetland Sheepdogs, rendered in a stylized, painterly manner.

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

WHAT WE'RE READING

Available on Libby

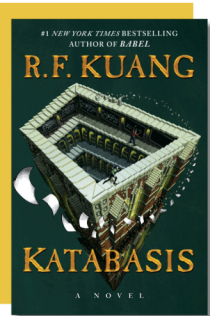


ALICE ISN'T DEAD ★★★★★

JOSEPH FINK

Keisha Lewis lived a quiet life with her wife, Alice, until the day that Alice disappeared. After months of searching, presuming she was dead, Keisha held a funeral, mourned, and gradually tried to get on with her life. But that was before Keisha started to see her wife, again and again, in the background of news reports from all over America. Alice isn't dead, and she is showing up at every major tragedy and accident in the country.

“As a librarian and a horror fan, this book IMMEDIATELY became one of my all-time favorites! As soon as I started reading it, I could not put it down! From the writing style to the addicting storyline and plot, I will personally forever consider this book a classic!” Lili Danes, Library Assistant at the Franklin Public Library



KATABASIS ★★☆☆☆

R.F. KUANG

Alice Law has only ever had one goal: to become one of the brightest minds in the field of Magick. She has sacrificed everything to make that a reality: her pride, her health, her love life, and most definitely her sanity. All to work with Professor Jacob Grimes at Cambridge, the greatest magician in the world. That is, until he dies in a magical accident that could possibly be her fault. Grimes is now in Hell, and she's going in after him. Because his recommendation could hold her very future in his now incorporeal hands, and even death is not going to stop the pursuit of her dreams.... Nor will the fact that her rival, Peter Murdoch, has come to the very same conclusion. With nothing but the tales of Orpheus and Dante to guide them, enough chalk to draw the Pentagrams necessary for their spells, and the burning desire to make all the academic trauma mean anything, they set off across Hell to save a man they don't even

like. But Hell is not like the storybooks say, Magick isn't always the answer, and there's something in Alice and Peter's past that could forge them into the perfect allies...or lead to their doom.

“I really wanted to like this book. I loved *Babel* by the same author and was excited when I saw a new one was coming out. Honestly though, it was just *meh*. The plot wasn't very engaging, the characters were boring and went on long tangents that didn't really add to the story, and after a while I forgot they were even supposed to be in hell. I think better editing would have helped the book more. In the end, I didn't even end up finishing it.” Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

KAREN'S SCHOOL PICTURE

KATY FARINA

Karen has to get glasses! She doesn't want them, especially because school pictures are going to be taken soon. But she picks out some pretty pink ones and thinks she looks very grown-up. Then Yicky Ricky at school starts calling her names, like Owl Girl and Googly Eyes. If Karen wears her glasses for the school picture, Ricky will make fun of her. If she doesn't wear them, she'll feel like she's afraid to be herself. Glasses or no glasses, that Ricky is going to get it!



“Karen’s School Pictures was a very good story. Karen had to get glasses because she can’t see or read up close or far away and Ricky was being rude to her until he had to wear glasses and when Karen stuck up for him he got mad and told her that she was a noisy owl then when Karen got home she told her big sister that Ricky called her a noisy owl and her sister told her she is not a noisy owl and her friends agreed and at the end of the story Ricky said sorry to Karen and she said it’s okay and she gave a picture to everyone in her family and gave Ricky a picture in his desk.” Kinsley S., Age 9, Lover of Books at the Oil City Library

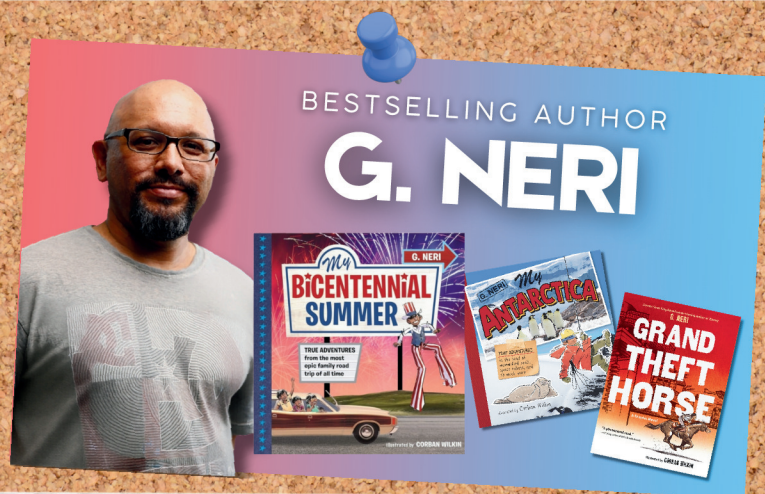
upcoming author talks

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



THU. AUG. 27TH | 2:00PM | IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

High Altitudes and High Stakes: a Miss Marple Mystery with Lucy Foley
Join us for a thrilling conversation with acclaimed author Lucy Foley as we delve into her brand-new Miss Marple mystery, *Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel*, Thursday, August 27th at 2 PM at the Oil City Library or online via digital live-stream.



THU. AUG. 20TH | 7:00PM | ONLINE

My Bicentennial Summer: a True-Life Adventure Across America with G. Neri Offering a unique glimpse into the heart of America's history - the good, the bad, & the ugly - celebrated author G. Neri invites readers on a journey through the U.S. in his funny & heartfelt book, *My Bicentennial Summer*. Join the discussion on Thursday, July 30th at 7 PM online 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.



We're visiting Franklin this month at the Alsace Hotel. Better known as the Park Hotel, the original name came from the region of France Gen. Charles Miller was born in. The hotel opened in 1902, and the name changed to Park Hotel a few years later, reflecting its location across from Franklin's South Park. One of its most notable guests was Thomas Edison & his family. Fire broke out in the building in early 1944 and left the hotel so damaged that it was torn down shortly after.



THEN

NOW



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

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

this month at the Franklin Public Library!



Join us at the Franklin Public Library for a week full of fun, free events celebrating all things DOGS!



DOG MAN SCAVENGER HUNT

Participate in a weeklong Dog Man scavenger hunt inside the library! Find all Dog Man characters to win a special Dog Man prize!

ENTER TO WIN
THIS DOG DAYS OF
SUMMER RAFFLE
BASKET



TICKETS \$5 EACH
OR 5 FOR \$20

in partnership with
Rotary
Club of Franklin

ORAS SUMMER ASTRONOMY

monday 8/17 🐾 5:00pm

Discover the wonders of the night sky with the Oil Region Astronomy Society! Learn about summer astronomy & how to get started exploring the universe. We'll also introduce our binocular kits, available to borrow from the library to continue your astronomical adventures at home.

SEARCH + RESCUE DOGS

tuesday 8/18 🐾 5:00pm

Meet Bob Carnaghi & learn about the incredible world of search & rescue dogs! Discover how these highly trained K-9s help locate missing people, the training they undergo, & the important work of Riot Control K9.

DOG STORYTIME

wednesday 8/19 🐾 10:30am

Calling all dog lovers! Join us for a paws-itively fun storytime featuring dog-themed books, songs, & a tail-wagging craft to take home.

PLUSHIE PUPPY ADOPTION EVENT

friday 8/21 🐾 11:00am

Every puppy deserves a loving home! Children can "adopt" their very own plushie puppy, create an adoption certificate, & participate in fun, dog-themed activities to celebrate their new furry friend. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED - CALL (814) 432-5062**

READ TO A THERAPY DOG

saturday 8/22 🐾 11:00am

Share a story with a friendly therapy dog! Children can practice reading aloud while spending time with these gentle canine companions & their handlers.



GET YOUR PAWS

on these books



THE ART OF HOW DOGS SLEEP ALISON KIM

Did you know there is an art to how dogs sleep? It's not quite as simple as it looks. There's the matter of

finding the perfect spot, the perfect ambience, and, of course, the perfect position. This charming picture book, with its wide cast of adorable dogs, explores their secret & slumberry world and subtly invites readers to slow down, be mindful, & drift off to sleep with their paw-fect companions.



JIA HAS A DOG PROBLEM STEPHANIE ELLEN SY

Jia runs from every dog-big, tiny, spotted, or shaggy. Charlie the French bulldog hides from every kid-behind couches, laundry, even grown-ups' legs. When something far scarier forces these two together, they discover a sweet surprise- a friend who understands.



WE WANT A DOG LO COLE

This hilarious rhyming text takes us through 27 unexpected & amusing varieties of dogs that one could have, like "one that begs, one that sheds, one that rips things into shreds." While the book is sure to delight any dog lover, the narrator's choice at the end will make readers laugh out loud!



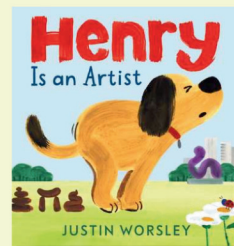
VAN GOGH'S DOG GEORGIA LARSON

Vincent van Gogh struggles to find inspiration until Sunny, a dog on a mission, shows him how the world around him is full of creativity, leading them on a journey through locations that inspired some of van Gogh's most famous paintings.



JOAN IN THE CONE BILLY SHARFF

For Joan the dog, life is different now. With her cone, she gets trapped in the doggy door. She doesn't command the same respect she once did at the dog park. Through funny challenges, Joan reflects on her pre-cone glory days. But with time, Joan begins to see there is love, life, & joy beyond the rim of the cone.



HENRY IS AN ARTIST JUSTIN WORSLEY

Each day on his walk, Henry the dog creates art that goes unappreciated until his work is discovered by a new audience.



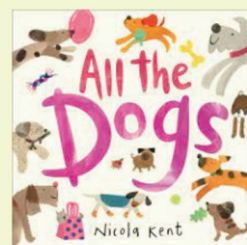
UH-OH, HUGO! JONATHAN STUTZMAN

After a day full of adventures that leave him dirty & stinky, Hugo the pug ends his perfect day with a bath.



IF WE WERE DOGS SOPHIE BLACKALL

Join two friends as they bark and growl, woof and howl - and maybe even quack - in a romp that makes room for everybody's ideas.



ALL THE DOGS NICOLA KENT

Big dogs, small dogs, hardly there at all dogs. Two dogs, three dogs, always need a pee dogs! Have fun reading along in this gorgeous doggy picture book & meet ALL the dogs.

LIBRARY HALL PRESENTS SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MISSING ARCHIVES

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2026 | OIL CITY'S LIBRARY HALL

ORLA's Annual Literary-Themed Gala

Sponsorship Packages

Choose Your Level & Support Local Library Programming

The Sherlock – \$2,500

- Logo on event poster
- Individual social media recognition
- Recognized in all event marketing
- Signage and recognition at event
- Listed on event program
- Eight event tickets

The Watson – \$1,000

- Social media recognition
- Signage and recognition at event
- Listed on event program
- Six event tickets

The Baker Street Irregulars – \$500

- Social media recognition
- Signage at event
- Listed on event program
- Four event tickets

The Moriarty – \$250

- Social media recognition
- Listed on event program
- Two event tickets



BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY

CALL (814) 678-3072

OR EMAIL

INFO@OILREGIONLIBRARIES.ORG

LIBRARY HALL MATINEE SHOWING THIS MONTH



**MICHAEL
(2026) PG-13**

TUE. AUGUST 4TH
4:30 PM

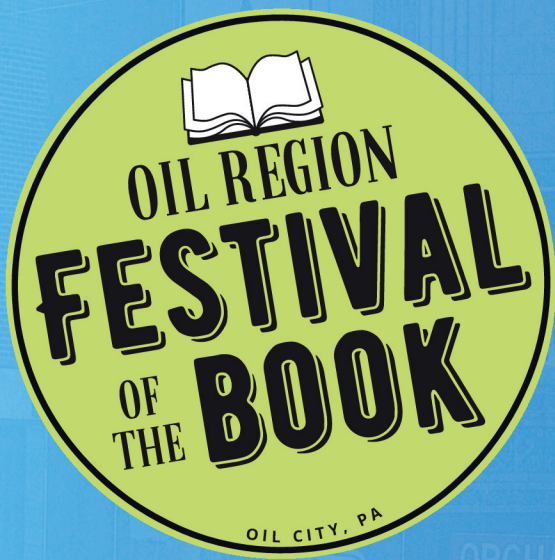


**HOPPERS
(2026) PG**

MON. AUGUST 17TH
3:30 PM

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





SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

10:00AM - 2:00PM

CENTRAL AVE. PLAZA | OIL CITY, PA

Celebrate local stories & the power of reading at Oil City's **6th Annual Oil Region Festival of the Book**! This vibrant community event brings together local & regional authors to share, sell, & sign their works. Enjoy a day filled with author meet-&-greet, engaging speakers, food vendors, children's activities, book sales, & library card sign-ups.

Whether you're a lifelong reader or just discovering the joy of books, there's something for everyone. Come out & support local authors, your public library, and a love of literacy in the heart of the Oil Region! The event is free to attend & all ages are welcome.

NEW AUTHOR Q+A PANEL

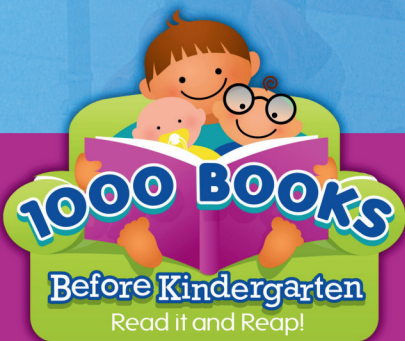
Join us again this year for a panel of authors who will discuss this year's topic, **"Publishing Physical Books vs. eBooks"**.

Join us inside the library at 12:00 PM to hear the discussion & get all your questions answered from this year's panelists!



FOOD, FUN, & MOST IMPORTANTLY, BOOKS.

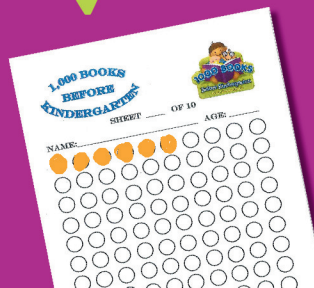
Learn more at OILREGIONLIBRARIES.ORG/FOTB



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/

2026 ANNUAL
OIL REGION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY LOTT

2026 tickets are
available now! Inquire at
your local branch to
purchase yours today!

EACH TICKET
\$20
ONLY 1000 SOLD

JULY WINNERS!



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!



DOT M.
OIL CITY, PA



WINNER!

JACK W. MARION, IN

WINNER GENEROUSLY DONATED
WINNINGS BACK TO THE 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.

News From the Beekeeper



Hello! You may have noticed a few changes over the last month... The Oil City Library's queen wasn't performing well, so that colony got replaced with a fresh batch that is showing off its comb-building skills on the top frame. The wax is such a beautiful buttery color! Also, the orange globs in the syrup jars are there because I'm using a different recipe. They are normal and look yucky, but the girls seem to like it anyway. When the queen moves onto the new honeycomb, I'll do some rearranging & clean the glass again.

Here's some questions I answered from last month:

Q: How do you know when to replace the hive?

A: When there are too many bees for the frames to hold comfortably at night, the scouts will look for a bigger home. They might swarm & leave, so I remove the surplus before they get crowded.

Q: Have you ever had any bees escape into the library before?

A: Yes! When I am disconnecting & reconnecting the entrance tube, this happens. Fortunately, the escapee will head for a window & I have a jar ready to catch her.

- The Beekeeper 

you're invited to a...

PAVER Painting Party



Join us for a night of crafting at the Oil City Library, painting a paver of your choice on **Monday, August 24th** from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. All supplies will be provided & attending is free. Spots for this program are limited!
Register at the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072.

Various paver shapes will be available. Ideas & patterns will be provided, but participants can paint whatever they'd like!





Libby.
The library reading app

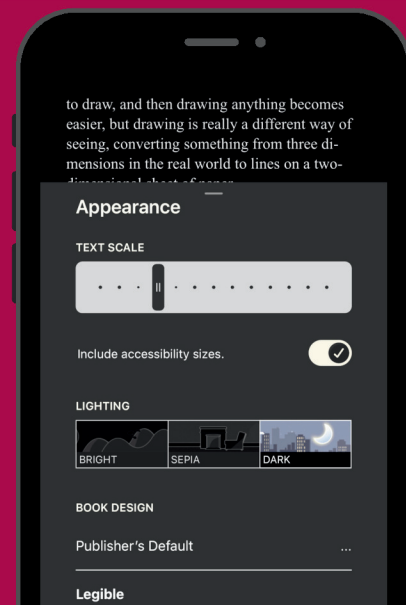


TIP OF THE MONTH

Adjusting Text Size, Lighting, & Font

With a book open in Libby, tap the center of the screen to open the navigation bar, then tap the capital letter "A" near the top of the screen. From here, you can customize the book's appearance:

- Move the "Text Scale" slider to the right to increase the text size. Toggle on "Include accessibility sizes" for more granular control & a larger maximum size.
- The lighting in the book can be set to "Bright," "Sepia," or "Dark." If you want to maximize the contrast in Libby, select "Bright."
- You can customize the font under "Book Design." The OpenDyslexic font has larger spacing and may be easier to read for some.
- You can also adjust the text & lighting in magazines. Tap "Article" near the bottom of the reader, then tap the capital letter "A" near the top of the screen to adjust your text size in magazines.



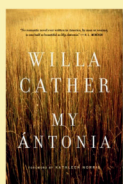
Next Month's **BOOK CLUB** Selections

SEPTEMBER 2026

Oil City Library Book Club

Oil City Library

Meets First Thursday
of the Month at 10:30 AM



My Antonia
Willa Cather



Also Available
on Libby!

The Bookmarkers Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Second Tuesday
of the Month at 12:00 PM



**Remarkably
Bright Creatures**
Shelby Van Pelt



Also Available
on Libby!

Thursday Evening Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Third Thursday
of the Month at 5:00 PM



Buckeye
Patrick Ryan



Also Available
on Libby!

DO YOU HAVE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY?

The PA Treasury receives hundreds of millions of dollars in unclaimed property every year, often because of something as simple as a misspelled name or an out-of-date address. 1 in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property, and the average claim is more than \$1,000! Stop by the Oil City Library during this free PA Unclaimed Property Event to see if you have any unclaimed property you can claim.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY EVENT

Come Search For Property

19
AUGUST

3 PM - 7 PM

Oil City Library
2 Central Ave.
Oil City, PA 16301



patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property

Stacy Garrity
Pennsylvania Treasurer

FEATURED RESOURCES



libby
The library reading app.

Biographical Fiction

Fictional Accounts of History's Most Interesting People



Newspaper Archive
by **Storyed**

Newspaper Archive is a great resource for historical & genealogical information. A compilation of Pennsylvania newspapers includes access to articles from as early as the 1600's up to modern times. Local historic newspapers include "The Blizzard", "The News Herald", "The Derrick" & "Oil City Register".

Get started at oilregionlibraries.org



SUMMER OF THE SHARK

a Collection of Films with Fins on

kanopy



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



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

FIND US ONLINE

oilregionlibraries.org



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