

# CATTAILS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

FROM THE OUACHITA PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

## WINTER READING CHALLENGE

LET'S GEUX READ THIS  
WINTER WITH OUR  
FRIENDS FROM ULM!

## TINY ART COMPETITION

EXPRESS YOURSELF  
CREATIVELY DURING OUR  
TINY ART COMPETITION!

## HOW DOES ART AND LITERATURE AFFECT US?

ARTIST, INIQUE HARRIS, TELLS  
HOW WRITING AND DRAWING  
SHAPED HER.





# IN THIS ISSUE



## FIND BILLIE THE BOOKWORM!

Our Bookworm, Billie, is hidden six times throughout these pages. See if you can find all six!

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### SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTIST

Notice anything different? We’ve changed our color palette for our February/March edition to celebrate West Monroe branch library as a gallery location for the Art Crawl!



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The book sale is cash only and proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library, who support Library programming.

**West Ouachita Library**  
188 Hwy 546, West Monroe, LA 71291  
Fri., Feb. 27th & Sat., Feb. 28th from 9-3 p.m.  
Fri., March 27th & Sat., March 28th from 9-3 p.m.

# HOW DOES ART AND LITERATURE AFFECT US?

BY INIQUE HARRIS



As a child, the perspective I put on myself at home was reminiscent of a small mouse that would tuck herself away in a fantasy bookstore filled with all the joys of life I could think of--- picture books, chapter books, dictionaries- you name it.

My mom always emphasized the importance of reading, making sure books were not only accessible, but celebrated and revered. Colorful titles lined child-sized shelves in our home. The collection often resembled a small, respectable library like those depicted in *The Secret Garden* or a Hayao Miyazaki film.

Being literate was a core value in my mom’s home. She led by example, filling nights with tales of fairies, faraway lands, and stories of all sorts. A little girl named Junie would sassily lament her middle name of Beatrice one night, while a tale of a mother singing a lullaby for her son only for him to repay it later in life would fill another. As I grew, I became impatient waiting for a new tale every night, so I took it upon myself to try reading on my own.

Every new word I sounded out by myself was a little victory. Each turn of the page would grow my confidence. Little by little, I started to become a stronger reader, seeking out new worlds of my own and all the places they could take me.

As time went on, having the characters to exist only in my mind was no longer enough. Deciding to put pen to paper, I brought life to the characters that inspired me. Colored in markers and watercolors, the characters entered new worlds, interacted with one another, and allowed me to start making worlds of my own, becoming a storyteller like my mom all those years ago.

Drawing and reading became synonymous with each other. With a book in my right hand and a sketchbook in my left, my creativity began to surge. I would try my best to expand or even recreate the worlds of Harry Potter, Charlie Bone, Percy Jackson and many others through my drawings. These characters were not only my inspirations, but my friends. For the shy and quiet child I was, I always dreamed about worlds where a ‘weird girl’ could belong and where these characters invited me into their worlds with open arms.

I am now at a place in my life where I have my own characters. That little girl listening to her mom’s stories has grown up to stand in front of other children, sharing my worlds.

I hope that my characters inspire the same sort of thing in them. I hope that through my art and stories kids can be inspired to make their own worlds. Most of all, I hope that my characters are friends to them, like all the characters of the books I read growing up were for me.

## STORY TIMES

<b>MAIN</b> 0-24 mo.... Tues.   9:45 a.m. 18-36 mo... Thurs.   10:30 a.m. 3-5 yrs..... Tues.   10:30 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Tues.   4 p.m. Family..... Second Sat. of each month   10:30 a.m.	<b>CARVER-MCDONALD</b> 0-5 yrs..... Mondays   4 p.m. 6-12 yrs..... Tues.   4 p.m.	<b>LOUISE WILLIAMS</b> 0-5 yrs..... Wed.   10 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Tues.   4 p.m.	<b>ANNA MEYER</b> 0-5 yrs..... Wed.   10:30 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Wed.   4 p.m.	<b>OUACHITA VALLEY</b> 0-36 mo.... Tues.   10:30 a.m. 3-5 yrs..... Wed.   10:30 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Thurs.   4 p.m.	<b>LOLLIE BURNS</b> 0-5 yrs..... Tues.   10 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Tues.   4 p.m.	<b>SEARCY MEMORIAL</b> 0-5 yrs..... Wed.   10 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Wed.   3:45 p.m.	<b>STERLINGTON MEMORIAL</b> 0-5 yrs..... Wed.   10 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Thurs.   4 p.m. (STEM Storytime)	<b>WEST MONROE</b> 0-24 mo.... Wed.   10 a.m. 3-5 yrs..... Wed.   10:30 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Thurs.   3:30 p.m.	<b>WEST OUACHITA</b> 18-36 mo.. Tues.   10:30 a.m. 3-5 yrs..... Wed.   10:45 a.m. 6-12 yrs..... Wed.   3:45 p.m.
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# WINTER READING CHALLENGE: LET'S GEAUX READ!

Thursday, January 1st – Saturday, February 28th



The library's annual Winter Reading Challenge, Let's Geaux Read!, is themed in partnership with ULM this year to encourage readers of every age to stay active in reading and physical health by earning badges on our virtual bingo card. It's all about starting the year off with strong reading goals and good exercise habits to stay fit. Join #ULMxOPPL from January 1st – February 28th, as we get engaged in activities on and off campus to remember that reading and physical training can bring your community together by exercising your mind year-round!

## How Do I Sign Up?

- 1 Go to [oplib.org/winter](http://oplib.org/winter) OR download the Beanstack Tracker app on your smartphone.
- 2 Make your account in the online summer reading portal, called Beanstack.
- 3 Log your reading and activities in Beanstack on the web or on the app.

If you have a question or need assistance, reach out to your library by visiting in-person, by calling any branch, or by sending an email to [help@oplib.org](mailto:help@oplib.org).

## What Prizes Can I Win?

### ADULTS (18+):

Blanket  
Stadium seat  
Dog bandana  
Licensed ULM apparel  
Four tickets each for the ULM vs. LaTech home games (baseball and softball)

### TEENS (13-17):

\$100 gift card to Surge  
Licensed ULM apparel  
Licensed ULM lanyard  
Mini helmet

### EARLY LITERATURE (0-5):

Glow-in-the-dark blanket  
My First Sports Bag  
Warhawk plushie

### KIDS (6-12):

Spikeball  
Sporty UNO  
ULM autographed memorabilia  
Mini helmet  
First pitch at a ULM baseball and softball game

















































KIDS PROGRAMS

- EVENTS MOVIES ARTS & CRAFTS BOOKS & STORIES VIDEO GAMES CLASSIC GAMES STEM HEALTH & WELLNESS

ANNA MEYER	
	<b>STEMULATING MONDAY: AIR ROCKETS</b> Mon., Feb. 2   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Kids build their own air rockets. Launch learning to new heights.
	<b>CHILDREN'S CINEMA</b> Sat., Feb. 14   12-2 p.m.   FAMILY Featuring <i>Wish</i> (PG). Enjoy the show and snacks are on us.
	<b>MAKE &amp; TAKE: SNOW SLIME</b> Fri., Feb. 20   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Kids can mix, stretch, and take home their own frosty slime creation.
	<b>CHILDREN'S CINEMA</b> Sat., Mar. 14   12-2 p.m.   FAMILY Featuring <i>Dora and the Lost City of Gold</i> (PG). Snacks are on us, and don't forget to bring a friend!
	<b>CREATIVE CRAFTERNOONS: SPRING DOOR HANGERS</b> Mon., Mar. 16   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Craft an adorable Easter door hanger just in time for spring.
	<b>CREATIVE CRAFTERNOONS: RAINBOW SKETCH ART</b> Fri., Mar. 27   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Scratch the paper and reveal a colorful masterpiece underneath.
CARVER-MCDONALD	
	<b>THE MOMMY &amp; ME COOKBOOK</b> Tues., Feb. 10   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Join us for some healthy recipes in making kids' easy evening snacks.
	<b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH WREATH</b> Tues., Feb. 24   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Black History Wreath Art Craft with notable African Americans.
	<b>NATIONAL READING MONTH</b> Tues., Mar. 3   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Dr. Seuss' Birthday story and book journal for writing stories.
	<b>FLOWER SIGN CRAFT WITH ART</b> Tues., Mar. 17   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Make your own paper loop flower sign craft.
LOUISE WILLIAMS	
	<b>WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MY LIBRARY STORIES</b> Sat., Feb. 21   11-12 p.m.   FAMILY The family will read their story about "Why They Love Their Library."
	<b>PIZZA, POPCORN, CANDY AND A MOVIE!</b> Sat., Mar. 21   11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.   FAMILY Bring a blanket, relax, and enjoy a movie, popcorn, and pizza.
MAIN	
	<b>DIY SELF PORTRAIT &amp; VALENTINE'S DAY CARD CRAFT</b> Thurs., Feb. 5   4-5 p.m.   AGES: 6-12 Create a portrait using paper cutout! All supplies will be provided.
	<b>BOOKS &amp; BUMPS</b> Wed., Feb. 4   10-11 a.m.   FAMILY In observance of National Heart Month, parents will learn simple ways to support a healthy heart for babies before birth and beyond.
	<b>SATURDAY MATINEE</b> Sat., Feb. 7   2-4 p.m.   FAMILY Join us for a movie with special treats! Featured Film: <i>Elemental</i> (PG).
	<b>MAKE-IT-MONDAY - VALENTINE'S DAY HEART PAINTING</b> Mon., Feb. 9   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Make colorful heart-shaped art to give for Valentine's Day!
	<b>MINECRAFT SURVIVAL MODE!</b> Thurs., Feb. 19   4-5 p.m.   AGES: 6-12 Join us for an afternoon of Minecraft Survival Mode! Bring your own device or play split-screen with a Nintendo Switch provided by the library! Max of 4 players on Switch and 8 players total in one game.

MAIN	
	<b>ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY BOWL</b> Sat., Feb. 21   2-4 p.m.   AGES: 9-12 Test your knowledge of Black history facts and celebrate the achievements, culture, and contributions of Black Americans. Register in the Main branch Children's Department.
	<b>BLACK HISTORY BINGO</b> Wed., Feb. 25   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Have fun while gaining knowledge about Black History and culture.
	<b>GAME DAY</b> Thurs., Feb. 26   4-5 p.m.   AGES: 6-12 Test your skills with board games, card games, or other group activities!
	<b>BOOKS &amp; BUMPS</b> Wed., Mar. 4   10-11 a.m.   FAMILY In observance of National Nutrition Month, parents learn practical ways to support healthy nutrition for babies before birth and beyond.
	<b>DIY ZINE!</b> Thurs., Mar. 5   4-5 p.m.   AGES: 6-12 Learn how you can make your own Zine! All supplies will be provided.
	<b>SATURDAY MATINEE</b> Sat., Mar. 7   2-4 p.m.   FAMILY Watch <i>Trolls Band Together</i> (PG) with special treats!
	<b>ST. PATRICK'S GAME DAY</b> Wed., Mar. 11   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Play St. Patrick's Day games and enjoy a special sweet treat!
	<b>CLAY SCULPTURE</b> Thurs., Mar. 12   4-5 p.m.   AGES: 6-12 Make a spring-themed clay sculpture that you can take home.
	<b>SHAMROCK NECKLACE</b> Mon., Mar. 16   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Enjoy a delicious treat while making a colorful wearable necklace!
	<b>DIY BOOK DISPLAY</b> Thurs., Mar. 19   4-5 p.m.   AGES: 6-12 Take on the role of librarian and create a themed book display.
	<b>GAME DAY</b> Thurs., Mar. 26   4-5 p.m.   AGES: 6-12 Test your skills with board games, card games, or other group activities!
OLLIE BURNS	
	<b>SEED STARTING CLASS</b> Sat., Feb. 7   2-3 p.m.   FAMILY Join us for a seed starting class with a special guest.
	<b>DIBLES JUMP-START CAMP</b> Mon., Mar. 23 through Fri., Mar. 27   9-11:30 a.m.   FAMILY Madison James Foster Spring Break Dibles Camp
OUACHITA VALLEY	
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Feb. 3   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Celebrate Black History Month with a Diversity Handprint Art!
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Feb. 10   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 DIY: Valentine's Day Paper Lanterns!
	<b>POPCORN AND A MOVIE</b> Sat., Feb. 14   2-3:30 p.m.   FAMILY Join us for a movie screening of <i>Raya and The Last Dragon</i> (PG).
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Feb. 17   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Let's make pipe cleaner snails!
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Feb. 24   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Make your very own popsicle stick stamp art.
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Mar. 3   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Make your own paper butterflies!
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Mar. 10   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Create a cool rainbow tube blower craft.
	<b>POPCORN AND A MOVIE</b> Sat., Mar. 14   2-3:30 p.m.   FAMILY Join us for a movie screening of Disney's live-action <i>Lilo &amp; Stitch</i> (PG).
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Mar. 17   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Let's make a 3-D shamrock craft!
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Mar. 24   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Create cool artwork with aluminum!
	<b>CRAFTY TUESDAYS</b> Tues., Mar. 31   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Come out and paint a wooden flower craft.

SEARCY MEMORIAL	
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Feb. 3   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 4-8 Enjoy a reading of <i>The Day It Rained Hearts</i> by Felicia Bond while creating a craft based on the book.
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Feb. 10   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Create a cool robot Valentine craft.
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Feb. 17   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 9-12 Make a Chinese Dragon Craft in honor of the Chinese New Year.
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Feb. 24   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 We will create a Flag Day Craft.
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Mar. 3   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 4-8 Create a groovy green collage.
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Mar. 10   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Create a 3-D Spring Meadow Craft.
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Mar. 17   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Build a Leprechaun House for St. Patrick's Day!
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Mar. 24   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 4-8 Make a mommy swallow and baby bird's nest.
	<b>CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY</b> Tues., Mar. 31   3:45-4:30 p.m.   AGES 9-12 Create your own Flower Fairy.
STERLINGTON MEMORIAL	
	<b>LEGO CLUB</b> Mon., Feb. 2   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Build a cool lego set, complete a fun lego challenge card, or free build with legos.
	<b>DECORATE A MINI VALENTINE CAKE</b> Fri., Feb. 13   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Decorate a mini Valentine cake. Call 318-327-1382 to register.
	<b>YOGA STORYTIME</b> Mon., Feb. 23   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Storytime with fun yoga games and creative activities that encourage mindfulness. Come read and move with us!
	<b>PAPER SCULPTURE</b> Fri., Feb. 27   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Celebrate Black History Month by learning about artist Charles McGee and create your own 3-D paper sculpture.
	<b>LEGO CLUB</b> Mon., Mar. 2   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Build a cool lego set, complete a fun lego challenge card, or free build with legos!
	<b>POLKA DOT MUSHROOM ART</b> Fri., Mar. 13   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Celebrate Women's History month by learning about artist Yayoi Kusama and create your own vibrant polka dot mushroom sculpture. Registration required. Call 318-327-1382 to register.
	<b>YOGA STORYTIME</b> Mon., Mar. 16   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Storytime with fun yoga games and creative activities that encourage mindfulness. Come read and move with us!
	<b>GARDEN GNOME PLANTER</b> Fri., Mar. 20   4-5 p.m.   FAMILY Make a cute garden gnome planter for your spring flowers. Registration required. Call 318-327-1382 to register.
WEST MONROE	
	<b>KID'S WORLD CRAFT</b> Tues., Feb. 3   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 4-8 Come join us for a Valentine's Day DIY Craft.
	<b>ICE CREAM FOR BREAKFAST DAY</b> Sat., Feb. 7   9-11 a.m.   FAMILY Come enjoy Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day.
	<b>TWEEN'S CLUB</b> Tues., Feb. 10   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 9-12 Come join us and make your own butterfly.
	<b>KID'S WORLD CRAFT</b> Tues., Feb. 17   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 4-8 Come make an MLK Paper Plate Craft.
	<b>KINDNESS WEEK CRAFT</b> Fri., Feb. 20   3-4:30 p.m.   FAMILY Come paint rocks with us!
	<b>TWEEN'S CLUB</b> Tues., Feb. 24   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 9-12 Come and join in with MLK JR. Day USA History Trivia.
	<b>READING ACROSS AMERICA TRIVIA</b> Mon., Mar. 2   3-4:30 p.m.   FAMILY Come enjoy trivia from Dr. Seuss.

WEST MONROE	
	<b>KID'S WORLD CRAFT</b> Tues., Mar. 3   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 4-8 Come make a Woodland Animal.
	<b>NATIONAL CEREAL DAY</b> Sat., Mar. 7   9-11 a.m.   FAMILY Come and eat Cereal for breakfast on National Eat Cereal Day.
	<b>TWEEN'S CLUB</b> Tues., Mar. 10   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 9-12 Come and join us for a St. Patrick's Day Craft.
	<b>HOMESCHOOL PLANTING SEEDS</b> Mon., Mar. 16   10-12 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Come join us to plant seeds!
	<b>KID'S WORLD CRAFT</b> Tues., Mar. 17   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 4-8 Come join us for a St. Patrick's Day craft!
	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS CRAFT</b> Fri., Mar. 20   3-4:30 p.m.   FAMILY Come join us and make something that brings you happiness.
	<b>TWEEN'S CLUB</b> Tues., Mar. 24   3-4:30 p.m.   AGES 9-12 Come join us and make poems for World Poetry Day.
WEST OUACHITA	
	<b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b> Mon., Feb. 2   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Come join us for a Valentine's Day STEM activity.
	<b>PAINTING WITH A POP</b> Mon., Feb. 9   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Come paint with us!
	<b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b> Mon., Mar. 2   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Come join us for the egg drop STEM challenge!
	<b>PAINTING WITH A POP</b> Mon., Mar. 9   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Come paint with us!
	<b>STEMULATING MONDAY</b> Mon., Mar. 16   4-5 p.m.   AGES 6-12 Come join us for a St. Patrick's Day STEM activity.

HOMESCHOOL LIBRARY EXPRESS FOR PRE-K - 5

Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Family | Main Branch  
Please contact Mrs. Angela at 318-327-1490 ext. 3007 or email agreer@oplib.org for more details.

VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT  
Thurs., Feb. 2 | 10-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY  
Come and make a fun Valentine's Day craft.

STEM & GAMES  
Mon., Feb. 9 | 10-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY  
Join us for a day of exciting games and a hands-on STEM activity.

SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR  
Mon., Feb. 23 | 10-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY  
Present at our social studies fair! Details will be given during regular meeting times.

BOOK CHARACTER DAY  
Mon., Mar. 2 | 10-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY  
Participating homeschoolers will come dressed as their favorite book character and celebrate a love of reading.

STEM & GAMES  
Mon., Mar. 9 | 10-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY  
Join us for a day of exciting games and a hands-on STEM activity.

BINGO & SALAD  
Mon., Mar. 23 | 10-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY  
Have fun with bingo and a salad bar. Details will be given during regular meeting times.



# TEEN PROGRAMS

- MOVIES


- BOOKISH & WRITING


- EVENTS & SOCIALS


- VIDEO GAMES


- COMMUNITY SERVICE



- ARTS & CRAFTS



- CLASSIC GAMES



- DUNGEONS & DRAGONS





## ANNA MEYER


- 


**MARDI GRAS DUCT TAPE NECKLACE**  
Mon., Feb. 2 | 4-5 p.m.  
Create a Mardi Gras-themed necklace using duct tape!
- 


**D&D**  
Sat., Feb. 14 | 2:30-4 p.m.  
Join us on an adventure! Bring your own character or create your own.
- 


**GAME WITH FRIENDS**  
Thurs., Feb. 19 | 4-5 p.m.  
Bring your friends for a fun evening playing Nintendo!
- 

**MOVIE MATINEE**  
Sat., Feb. 28 | 2-4 p.m.  
Join us for a screening of the live action *How to Train Your Dragon* (PG). Refreshments provided!
- 

**COLORING PAGE**  
Thurs., Mar. 5 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Come relax with us as we color a spring-themed coloring page.
- 


**DESIGN YOUR OWN TRINKET BOX**  
Mon., Mar. 9 | 3-4 p.m.  
Decorate your own trinket box!
- 


**D&D**  
Sat., Mar. 21 | 2:30-4 p.m.  
Join us on an adventure! Bring your own character or create your own.
- 


**PAPER FLOWER BOUQUET**  
Thurs., Mar. 26 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Create an everlasting bouquet of flowers using paper!
- 


**EASTER EGG DECORATING**  
Mon., Mar. 30 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Decorate an Easter Egg that will last you all year long!


## CARVER-MCDONALD


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**SUPER BOWL SATURDAY**  
Sat., Feb. 7 | 2-3 p.m.  
2 teams will have 60 seconds to complete challenges.
- 

**BE MY VALENTINE**  
Thurs., Feb. 12 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Create beautiful cards for that special person.
- 

**GLOW WITH THE FLOW**  
Sat., Feb. 21 | 2-3 p.m.  
STEM- Create a temporary lava lamp.
- 


**AFRICAN ART**  
Thurs., Feb. 26 | 4-5 p.m.  
Art activity with Mrs. Santos, MLK Jr. Jr High art teacher.
- 


**ARE YOU CEREIOUS?**  
Sat., Mar. 7 | 2-3 p.m.  
National Cereal Day STEM- How much iron is in your cereal?
- 


**NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH**  
Thurs., Mar. 12 | 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Prepare an easy healthy snack for after-school.
- 

**SAVE YOUR EYE MONTH**  
Sat., Mar. 21 | 10-11 a.m.  
Mrs. Jhonson-Mitchell, OA, will discuss healthy eye care.

## LOUISE WILLIAMS

- 

**JEWELRY MAKING**  
February - Jewelry Making Passive Program
- 

**CREATING ART COLLAGES**  
March - Creating Art Collages on Canvas Passive Program
- 


**BLACK HISTORY WRITING AWARDS CEREMONY**  
Sat., Mar. 14 | 1-2 p.m.  
Presentation of Awards for Black History Writing Contest winners!


## TINY ART COMPETITION


Mon., Mar. 16 through Sat., Mar. 21 | Main Branch


Express yourself creatively by painting on 2”x 2” canvas. Mini canvases and easels will be available at every branch while supplies last. The paintings will be showcased on Facebook for people to vote for their favorite. The top 3 will receive prizes.


### MAIN

- 

**WRITE ON!**  
Mon., Feb. 9 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Connect with fellow teen writers, share your work, and learn about the world of creative writing together.
- 


**COZY GAME CAFE**  
Thurs., Feb. 12 | 4-5 p.m.  
Drop in for a chill time of board games, video games, and puzzles!
- 


**TAB MEETING**  
Thurs., Feb. 26 | 4-5 p.m.  
Join us for a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) interest meeting. Please call 318-327-1490 or email aestep@oplib.org to register.
- 


**WRITE ON!**  
Mon., Mar. 9 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Connect with fellow teen writers, share your work, and learn about the world of creative writing together.
- 


**TAB MEETING**  
Thurs., Mar. 26 | 4-5 p.m.  
Join us for a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) interest meeting. Please call 318-327-1490 or email aestep@oplib.org to register.

### OUACHITA VALLEY

- 

**MAKE FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS**  
Wed., Feb. 11 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Come make friendship bracelets for Valentine's Day!
- 

**YARN AND PAINT ART**  
Tues., Feb. 17 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Come paint and make Yarn Art with us!
- 

**PAINT STAINED GLASS BOOKMARKS**  
Wed., Mar. 11 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Paint stained glass patterned bookmarks!
- 


**SPRING-THEMED PERLER BEAD CUP TOPPERS**  
Tues., Mar. 17 | 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Come make a spring-themed custom cup topper with Perler Beads!


### SEARCY MEMORIAL

- 


**ORIGAMI HEART BOOKMARK**  
Thurs., Feb. 5 | 4-5 p.m.  
Create a unique heart bookmark using your origami skills!
- 


**MOVIE NIGHT**  
Thurs., Feb. 12 | 4-6 p.m.  
Join us for refreshments and a showing of *Valentine's Day* (PG-13).
- 

**VIDEO GAME AND VIBE**  
Thurs., Feb. 19 | 4-5 p.m.  
Come play some of our brand new games on the Nintendo Switch with friends.
- 

**CANVAS PAINTING**  
Thurs., Feb. 26 | 4-5 p.m.  
Relax and paint your very own masterpiece.
- 


**BINGO NIGHT**  
Thurs., Mar. 5 | 4-5 p.m.  
Come play a game of Bingo and win some cool prizes.
- 


**WII GAME NIGHT**  
Thurs., Mar. 12 | 4-5 p.m.  
Come play the Wii with friends for an evening of old school fun.
- 


**SPRING TREE CRAFT**  
Thurs., Mar. 19 | 4-5 p.m.  
Create a beautiful spring tree craft.
- 


**PAPER TULIPS CRAFT**  
Thurs., Mar. 26 | 4-5 p.m.  
Create colorful paper tulip bouquets.


### STERLINGTON MEMORIAL


- 


**LEARN TO MAKE AN AGAMOGRAPH**  
Tues., Feb. 3 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Learn the awesome optical illusion art of agamographs by making your own.
- 


**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Feb. 5 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 


**FOUR SEASON TREE**  
Tues., Feb. 10 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Create a group painting of the four seasons surrounding a tree.
- 


**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Feb. 12 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 


**MARSHALLOW TOWERS & CATAPULTS**  
Tues., Feb. 17 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Form marshmallow towers and catapults and commence to battle.
- 


**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Feb. 19 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 


**WE'RE WRITING, RIGHT?**  
Tues., Feb. 24 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Write creatively together. Plan your next graphic novel. Play writing games.
- 


**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Feb. 26 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 


**DIY STRESS NINJAS**  
Tues., Mar. 3 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Feeling stressed? Let's make some stress ninjas to stealthily de-stress yourself.
- 


**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Mar. 5 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 

**PENNANT WORKSHOP**  
Tues., Mar. 10 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Make a pennant for your bedroom door or wall. Represent your fandom today.
- 

**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Mar. 12 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 


**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Mar. 19 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 


**MAKE YOUR OWN 3-D SHAPES**  
Tues., Mar. 24 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Learn to make and fold your own 3-D shapes.
- 


**GAME ON THURSDAY**  
Thurs., Mar. 26 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Game with friends! Board games, card games, Switch games, etc.
- 


**DIY COLORING PAGE**  
Tues., Mar. 31 | 3:30-5 p.m.  
Draw your own coloring page and make copies.


### WEST MONROE


- 

**NATURE BRACELET DIY**  
Wed., Feb. 4 | 4-5 p.m.  
Create a beautiful bracelet using flowers and clear tape for an aesthetic piece of nature you can wear anywhere!
- 

**POETRY & CHILL**  
Wed., Feb. 11 | 4-5 p.m.  
A cozy creative session where we play with words, prompts, and poetry. No pressure, just a relaxed space to write and express yourself.
- 


**WARM HEARTS WINTER DRIVE**  
Wed., Feb. 18 | 9-6 p.m.  
Let's give back! Donate winter essentials to help keep our community cozy and supported during the cold months.
- 


**MOVIE MATINEE**  
Wed., Feb. 25 | 4-5:40 p.m.  
Join us for a warm, feel-good screening of *Soul* (PG). Popcorn provided!
- 

**GAME ON HANGOUT NIGHT!**  
Wed., Mar. 11 | 4-5 p.m.  
Kick back and play PS4 games with friends! Have some laughs and enjoy a chill evening of gaming and good company!
- 

**BEGINNER COSPLAY WORKSHOP**  
Wed., Mar. 18 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
New to cosplay? Bring your ideas or favorite characters and learn simple materials, hacks, and starter techniques for creating your first cosplay. No experience required!

### WEST MONROE

- 

**MOVIE MATINEE**  
Wed., Mar. 25 | 3:45-5:40 p.m.  
Join us for a screening of *Barbie* (PG-13). A fun, vibrant, and thoughtful movie night full of pink, laughter, and heart!
- 

**COSPLAY KARAOKE**  
Sat., Mar. 28 | 2-4 p.m.  
Suit up, show up, and sing your heart out! Dress as your favorite character (or just come as yourself!) and perform your favorite songs. Big energy, big fun, zero pressure.

### WEST OUACHITA

- 

**MOVIE NIGHT**  
Tues., Feb. 3 | 4-6 p.m.  
Come join us for snacks and *Gnomeo and Juliet* (G).
- 

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**  
Tues., Feb. 10 | 4-5 p.m.  
We will be making Valentine's Day cards for a local nursing home.
- 

**COSPLAY CLUB**  
Tues., Feb. 24 | 4-5 p.m.  
Come join us for Cosplay Club and bring any project you need help finishing. Costumes are always welcome!
- 

**GAME NIGHT**  
Tues., Mar. 3 | 4-5 p.m.  
Come join us for snacks and board games.
- 

**PAINTING WITH A POP**  
Tues., Mar. 10 | 4-5 p.m.  
Come paint with us!
- 

**COSPLAY CLUB**  
Tues., Mar. 31 | 4-5 p.m.  
Come join us for Cosplay Club and bring any project you need help finishing. Costumes are always welcome!

## HOMESCHOOL LIBRARY EXPRESS FOR GRADES 6-12

Mondays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Family | Main Branch

Please contact Ashten at 318-327-1490 ext. 3024 or email aestep@oplib.org for more details.

### VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFT

Mon., Feb. 2 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
Come and make a fun Valentine's Day craft.

### STEM & GAMES

Mon., Feb. 9 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
Join us for a day of exciting games and a hands-on STEM activity.

### SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR

Mon., Feb. 23 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
Present at our social studies fair! Details will be given during regular meeting times.

### BOOK DAY

Mon., Mar. 2 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
Bring your favorite book to discuss and learn about our book club.

### STEM & GAMES

Mon., Mar. 9 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
Join us for a day of exciting games and a hands-on STEM activity.

### BINGO & SALAD

Mon., Mar. 23 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
Have fun with bingo and a salad bar. Details will be given during regular meeting times.



# JOIN A BOOK CLUB



## BOOKS & BANTER

### MAIN BRANCH

Books & Banter is for romance lovers who enjoy good stories and even better conversations.

**Tues., Feb. 3 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
Bring your favorite romance book to discuss!

**Tues., Mar. 3 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*Practice Makes Perfect* by Sarah Adams



## CULTURE IN CONTEXT

### MAIN BRANCH

Discuss works written predominantly by authors that are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color).

**Tues., Feb. 17 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*Chain-Gang All-Stars* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

**Tues., Mar. 17 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*The Fetishist* by Katherine Min



## JUST READ

### SEARCY MEMORIAL

We discuss our favorite books from all genres. Come and discuss while enjoying cookies and coffee.

**Thurs., Feb. 26 at 2-3 p.m.**  
Join us as we discuss old and new titles for the winter months. Refreshments will be provided.

**Thurs., Mar. 26 at 2-3 p.m.**  
Join us as we discuss old and new titles for the beginning of spring. Refreshments will be provided.



## KETTLE & CAULDRON

### WEST MONROE

Where stories steep and conversations flow.

**Mon., Feb. 9 at 4:45-5:45 p.m.**  
*Murder by Page One* by Olivia Matthews

**Mon., Mar. 9 at 4:45-5:45 p.m.**  
*The Queen of Dirt Island* by Donal Ryan



## LOST IN THE STACKS

### MAIN BRANCH

Spans genres with member selected titles, this is where books and friends meet.

**Tues., Feb. 10 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*El Dorado Drive* by Megan Abbott

**Tues., Mar. 10 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall



## MYSTICAL MARGINS

### WEST OUACHITA

Mystical Margins Book Club is escaping the ordinary one enchanted page at a time!

**Fri., Feb. 6 at 1-2 p.m.**  
*The Will of the Many* by James Islington

**Fri., Mar. 6 at 1-2 p.m.**  
*Alone With You in the Ether: a Love Story* by Olivie Blake



## ONLINE BOOK CLUB

### FACEBOOK

Too busy to join a traditional book club? Try our Facebook group and check online to see what our quarterly read will be! Scan our QR code to Join.



## OTAKU READER'S CLUB

### OLLIE BURNS

**Wed., Mar. 4 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
Join us as we discuss various genres of manga and other graphic novels. Genre of the month: Adventure!



## PAGE TURNERS

### WEST OUACHITA

We discuss thrilling and suspenseful page turners.

**Fri., Feb. 13 at 2-3 p.m.**  
*Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy

**Fri., Mar. 13 at 2-3 p.m.**  
*Not Quite Dead Yet* by Holly Jackson



## RAINBOW READS

### MAIN BRANCH

Rainbow Reads is an 18+ book club that celebrates diversity with books by and about our LGBTQ+ community members. For questions reach out to Ellen at emasters@oplib.org.

**Thurs., Feb. 26 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

**Thurs., Mar. 26 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*This Princess Kills Monsters* by Ry Herman



## READ WELL WITH OTHERS

### OUACHITA VALLEY

Join as we read and discuss our favorites and recent reads.

**Wed., Feb. 18 at 5:30-7 p.m.**

**Wed., Mar. 18 at 5:30-7 p.m.**



## SCIFI FANTASY

### STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

We read and discuss great scifi and fantasy books with others that enjoy them too!

**Sat., Mar. 28 at 2-3 p.m.**  
*The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu

**Sat., Mar. 28 at 2-3 p.m.**  
*When the Moon Hits Your Eye* by John Scalzi



## THRILLING THURSDAYS

### MAIN BRANCH

Thrilling Thursdays discusses books with twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat.

**Thurs., Feb. 19 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*Such a Quiet Place* by Megan Miranda

**Thurs., Mar. 19 at 5:30-7 p.m.**  
*Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy

## YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUBS



## GRIMM READER'S

### ANNA MEYER

A Young Adult book club that discusses YA horror.

**Sat., Feb. 21 at 2-3:30 p.m.**  
*Holly Horror* by Michelle Jabès Corpora

**Sat., Mar. 28 at 2-3:30 p.m.**  
*We Don't Swim Here* by Vincent Tirado



## THE MIDNIGHT READER

### OUACHITA VALLEY

A Young Adult book club.

**Sat., Feb. 28 at 2-3:30 p.m.**  
*Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross

**Sat., Mar. 28 at 2-3:30 p.m.**  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë

# DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMS

## ANNA MEYER BRANCH

File Edit View Help

Space is Limited. Call (318) 327-1351 or email Nathan at nflores@oplib.org to register.

### COMPUTER BASICS CLASS

**Every Mon.**  
**at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Learn computer basics and hone your skills to operate a computer.

### PRACTICAL COMPUTER SKILLS

**Every Tues.**  
**at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Build on basic knowledge to learn practical and useful computer skills.

### COMPUTER BASICS CLASS

**Every Wed.**  
**at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Learn computer basics and hone your skills to operate a computer.

### SMARTPHONE LITERACY

**Every Thurs.**  
**at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Learn more about smartphones including how to operate, navigate, and utilize them in effective ways.

## MAIN BRANCH

File Edit View Help

### COMPUTER BASICS

**Thurs., Feb. 12**  
**at 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Learn the basics of using a computer, like saving a file and creating a folder.

### INTERNET BASICS

**Thurs., Mar. 12**  
**at 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Learn about search engines, the internet, and navigating websites.

## LOVE YOUR LIBRARY?

We've got online resources as good as gold! You don't need luck to know that your local library has got your back. Your library card can bring the world to your fingertips—right from the comfort of home!



Use your library card and PIN number (last 4 digits of your telephone number) to:

Access your OPPL account online

Access Free Digital Apps



### Easy Login Tips:

**Hoopla:** Email address and password after creating an account with your library card number

**CloudLibrary:** Library card number + PIN (last 4 digits of your phone number)



### Convenient Services at Your Fingertips:

Place or order items online for pickup at any of our 10 branches.

Check out and return items at any location.

Extend your checkout period by phone or online.



Enjoy books, movies, music, and more through digital apps:

Hoopla • Freegal • CloudLibrary • Kanopy • Homework LA



Homework Louisiana



ADULT PROGRAMS

- MOVIES BOOKISH & WRITING EVENTS & SOCIALS
- TALKS HEALTH & WELLNESS ARTS & CRAFTS
- GAMES D&D & RPG GAMES



ANNA MEYER

- TABLETOP RPG GAME  
Mon., Feb. 9 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Join our Tabletop RPG Campaign! This session is for our Fallout Campaign.
- TABLETOP RPG GAME  
Mon., Feb. 23 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Join our Tabletop RPG Campaign! This session is for our Dungeons & Dragons Campaign.
- TABLETOP RPG GAME  
Mon., Mar. 9 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Join our Tabletop RPG Campaign! This session is for our Fallout Campaign.
- BINGO BONANZA  
Mon., Mar. 16 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Join us for some rousing rounds of Bingo!
- TABLETOP RPG GAME  
Mon., Mar. 23 | 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Join our Tabletop RPG Campaign! This session is for our Dungeons & Dragons Campaign.

CARVER-MCDONALD

- BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS  
Thurs., Feb. 12 | 11-12:30 p.m.  
For Black History Month, one of the last Freedom Riders in history will speak on the Black History Theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations."
- REAL SCAMS, REAL STORIES!  
Thurs., Mar. 12 | 11-12:30 p.m.  
Learn how to identify and protect yourself from potential scams before they happen.
- ALABAMA SWEET BREAD  
Thurs., Mar. 26 | 11-12:30 p.m.  
Chef Darrell Teats from KNOE News-Channel 8 will provide one of his signature sweet desserts.

LOUISE WILLIAMS

- HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS  
Thurs., Feb. 5 | 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Come join us as Lora Peppers of Ouachita Parish Public Library's Genealogy Department discusses the history of Mardi Gras.
- AMERICAN HISTORY IN COLOR  
Sat., Feb. 7 | 1-2 p.m.  
In celebration of Black History Month, Lela Scott will discuss the rich history and legacy that makes us proud to be Americans.
- KARAOKE NIGHT-LOVE SONGS  
Mon., Feb. 9 | 5-6 p.m.  
Let's have fun as we sing "Love Songs" at Karaoke Night! Light refreshments served.

LOUISE WILLIAMS

- HERBS AND SPICES  
Thurs., Feb. 12 | 1-2 p.m.  
LSU AgCenter Agent Cathy Agan shares healthier ways to use herbs and spices in recipes to reduce sodium intake.
- HERBS AND SPICES  
Thurs., Mar. 12 | 1-2 p.m.  
LSU AgCenter Agent Cathy Agan shares healthier ways to use herbs and spices in recipes to reduce sodium intake.
- KARAOKE NIGHT  
Mon., Mar. 16 | 5-6 p.m.  
Let's have fun as we display our singing talent at Karaoke Night. Light refreshments served.
- THE SUGAR STORY  
Thurs., Mar. 19 | 1-2 p.m.  
LSU AgCenter Agent Kathy Agan and Branch Manager Terrie Williams will tell the story and demonstrate what can be made with "sugar."

MAIN

- CAT'S TAIL GUILD  
Thurs., Feb. 5 | 5-7 p.m.  
Come play D&D and Tabletop RPG one-shots with us!
- WRITE CLUB  
Mon., Feb. 9 | 5:30-7 p.m.  
Join Write Club and hone your craft!
- HOOKS & BOOKS  
Tues., Feb. 10 | 2-3:30 p.m.  
Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.
- CHRONICLES OF YARNIA  
Tues., Feb. 24 | 5:30-7 p.m.  
Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.
- CAT'S TAIL GUILD  
Thurs., Mar. 5 | 5-7 p.m.  
Come play D&D and Tabletop RPG one-shots with us!
- WRITE CLUB  
Sun., Mar. 9, 2025 | 5:30-7 p.m.  
Join Write Club and hone your craft!
- HOOKS & BOOKS  
Tues., Mar. 10 | 2-3:30 p.m.  
Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.
- CHRONICLES OF YARNIA  
Tues., Mar. 24 | 5:30-7 p.m.  
Learn crochet basics or bring your own projects. All types of needlework are welcome. The club promotes conversation, collaboration, and creativity.

OLLIE BURNS

- VALENTINE COLORING  
Wed., Feb. 11 | 5-6 p.m.  
Join us for a relaxing Valentine Coloring where you can unwind, socialize, and enjoy Valentine-themed coloring for stress relief and self-care. All materials provided.
- VISION BOARD REFRESH  
Mon., Mar. 9 | 5-6:30 p.m.  
Join us for a Vision Board Refresh where you can reflect, reset goals, and creatively refresh your vision boards in a supportive and inspiring space.
- WHAT ARE YOU GROWING THIS SEASON  
Wed., Mar. 25 | 5-6:30 p.m.  
A reflective program where we're planting seeds for growth, goals, and new beginnings.

OUACHITA VALLEY

- MOVIE MATINEE  
Fri., Feb. 6 | 2-4 p.m.  
Join us for popcorn and a movie. We will be showing *Fantastic 4* (PG-13).
- 52 WEEK SAVINGS CHALLENGE  
Sat., Feb. 14 | 2-3 p.m.  
Come learn about saving your money.
- MOVIE MATINEE  
Fri., Mar. 6 | 2-4 p.m.  
Join us for popcorn and a movie. We will be showing *Freakier Friday* (PG).
- UNDERSTANDING YOUR HOME EQUITY  
Sat., Mar. 14 | 2-3 p.m.  
Come learn about home equity.

CHAIR AEROBICS

OLLIE BURNS

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Throughout February and March. \*We will be closed on February 16th for President's Day

FROM 10:30 TO 11:30 A.M.

Join us for 1 hour of invigorating dance fitness from a chair. You'll enjoy the music, movement, and fun. Sit while you get fit.

Speakers are invited to help our patrons stay informed about better health through nutrition, physical fitness, and knowledge of helpful life practices.

SEARCY MEMORIAL

- MOVIE MATINEE  
Thurs., Feb. 12 | 2-4 p.m.  
Spend the afternoon with us watching *The Princess Bride* (PG). Refreshments will be provided.
- COLORING THE AFTERNOON AWAY!  
Thurs., Mar. 12 | 2-3 p.m.  
Come and join us as we relax, have a cup of coffee and snack, and color the afternoon away!

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

- SPREAD THE LOVE PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE  
Feb. & Mar.  
Spread the Love Peanut Butter Drive aims to benefit individuals served by the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana. Peanut butter is a highly sought-after item at food banks due to its protein-packed goodness, loved by both kids and adults. We request donations of peanut butter or alternative nut butter options.
- HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS IN MONROE  
Wed., Feb. 4 | 2-3:30 p.m.  
Local historian, Lora Peppers of the Library's Genealogy and Special Collections Department, will be giving a lecture of the history of Mardi Gras in the Monroe area.
- FAUX FLORAL NAPKIN RING  
Wed., Feb. 11 | 2-3:30 p.m.  
Use faux flowers to make a pair of napkin rings. Whether you make them for Valentine's Dinner with your sweetheart or brunch with your bestie, a floral napkin ring will brighten up any meal. Call 318-327-1382 to reserve your spot.
- SUSTAINABLE PENNANT WORKSHOP  
Wed., Mar. 11 | 2-3:30 p.m.  
Join Kelsey Mardis of Carry On Thrifty Fabric to create your own pennant with recycled fabrics. Space is limited so call 318-327-1382 to reserve your spot.

WEST MONROE

- MUSICAL MORNINGS  
Sat., Feb. 14 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
We will be showing the 2007 version of *Hairspray* (PG). Refreshments provided.
- DIY MARDIS GRAS CENTERPIECES  
Wed., Feb. 18 | 2-3 p.m.  
Join us as we create decorative centerpieces for Mardi Gras.
- DIY FLOWER GARDEN SIGN  
Wed., Mar. 11 | 2-3 p.m.  
DIY garden signs are a fun way to add whimsy to an outdoor space. Registration required. Call 318-327-1365 to register.

- MUSICAL MORNINGS  
Sat., Mar. 14 | 10:30-12:30 p.m.  
We will be showing *Chicago* (PG-13). Refreshments provided.

WEST OUACHITA

- THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB  
Thurs., Feb. 19 | 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Come paint Mount Fuji with Cherry Blossoms with us! We have the supplies, you come dressed to paint! Call 318-327-5414 to register. Spaces are limited.
- MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON  
Thurs., Feb. 26 | 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
This month's movie is *Jerry and Marge Go Large* (PG-13). Based on a true story of a retired couple in Evart, Michigan who find a loophole in the lottery.
- THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB  
Thurs., Mar. 19 | 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
We will be painting a cute bunny to celebrate spring! We have the supplies, come dressed to paint! Call 318-327-5414 to register. Spaces are limited.
- MOVIES IN THE AFTERNOON  
Fri., Mar. 20 | 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Join us for a popcorn and a movie! This month's movie is *The Greatest Showman* (PG), the life story of P.T. Barnum, the creator of the Barnum & Bailey Circus.





*Porte Bouquet No. 15*



*In The Garden No. 3*



*Birds and Flowers No. 7*



*Chanticleer and the moon Bird No. 90*



*In The Garden No. 1*

# CLEMENTINE HUNTER AT THE LIBRARY

The biography of Clementine Hunter is an inspirational tale of hard work, determination, and talent. Her parents moved to Melrose plantation in Natchitoches Parish in hopes of better working conditions and more opportunities. Hunter worked at Melrose as a field hand, then as a cook and housekeeper in the main house.

Melrose was a haven for writers and artists including James Pipes Register and Francois Mignon. Mignon tells of the 50-year-old Hunter telling him she could “mark a picture” using discarded leftover paints. Upon viewing her previous work, Mignon provided some financial assistance to help Hunter buy materials so she could paint.

Hunter preferred to give away her art but Register and Mignon encouraged her to market it. By the late 1940’s

Clementine Hunter’s artwork was quite well-known. Hunter, who passed in 1988, is remembered as one of the most significant self-taught folk artists in the United States.

On March 2, 1964, Miss Frances Flanders, Director, reported to the Library Board of Control that ten Clementine Hunter paintings and a check for \$50 to pay for framing were donated to the library by Mr. James Pipes Register of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Register was a friend and mentor of Clementine Hunter. He encouraged her to experiment with varying types of art and supplied her with paper montages of flowers, people, animals and landscapes to test with color. Portions of the resulting collection of abstracts were offered to Louisiana public libraries. Ouachita and East

Baton Rouge Parish Libraries accepted the donation, and the paintings were part of the Ouachita Parish Public Library circulating art collection from 1966 until 1985 – almost 20 years. A News Star World article published on August 29, 1985, titled “Hunter’s work not for rent” explained the decision to remove them from circulation. To protect the paintings from environmental damage, much care is taken for them as they are stored in acid-free archival boxes in the climate-controlled Special Collections.

The paintings are currently available to view for small group inquiries and research by appointment. However,

as renovations on the new Main branch building – to be located at 1000 Oliver Road in Monroe – come to a close, Clementine Hunter’s paintings will have a permanent viewing area within the new building enclosed in a museum quality display case to ensure proper preservation of her works.

Of the ten paintings at the Ouachita Parish Public Library, four are titled *In the Garden*, three *Birds and Flowers*, two *Porte Bouquet*, and one *Chanticleer and the Moon Bird*. They range in size from 18 x 24 and 16 x 20 to 18 x 24 inches.





Ouachita Parish Public Library  
1800 Stubbs Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71201  
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