

CATTAILS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

FROM THE OUACHITA PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

LET'S GEAUX 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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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

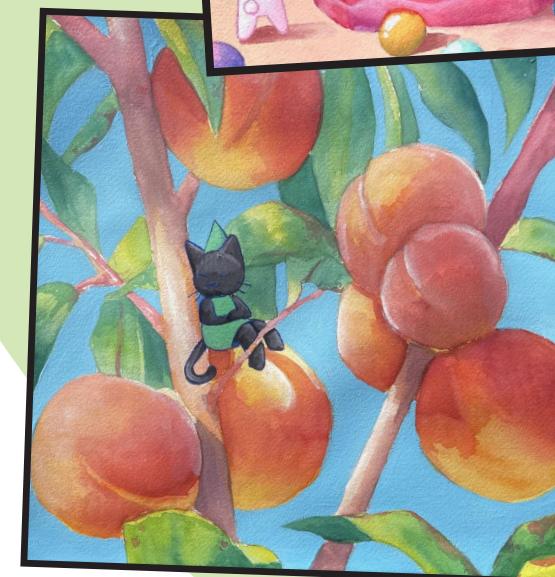
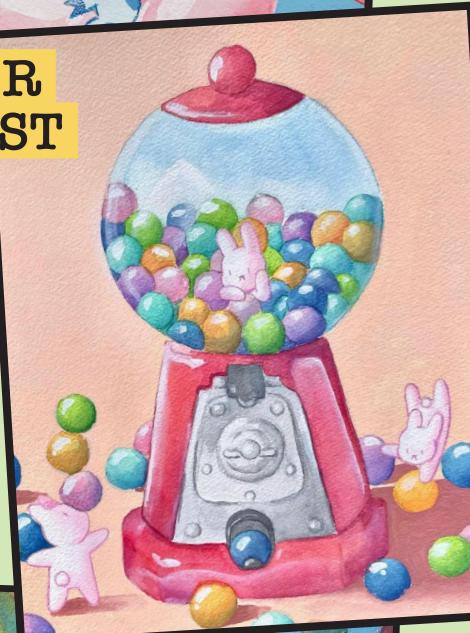
Fri., Feb. 27th & Sat., Feb. 28th from 9-3 p.m.

Fri., March 27th & Sat., March 28th from 9-3 p.m.



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!



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

MAIN

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.

ANNA MEYER

0-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:30 a.m.

6-12 yrs.... Wed. | 4 p.m.

CARVER-MCDONALD

0-5 yrs..... Mondays | 4 p.m.

6-12 yrs.... Tues. | 4 p.m.

LOUISE WILLIAMS

0-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10 a.m.

6-12 yrs.... Tues. | 4 p.m.

OLLIE BURNS

0-5 yrs..... Tues. | 10 a.m.

6-12 yrs.... Tues. | 4 p.m.

OUACHITA VALLEY

0-36 mo.... Tues. | 10:30 a.m.

3-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:30 a.m.

6-12 yrs.... Thurs. | 4 p.m.

WEST MONROE

0-24 mo.... Wed. | 10 a.m.

3-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:30 a.m.

6-12 yrs.... Thurs. | 3:30 p.m.

WEST OUACHITA

18-36 mo.... Tues. | 10:30 a.m.

3-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10:45 a.m.

6-12 yrs.... Wed. | 3:45 p.m.

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

0-5 yrs..... Wed. | 10 a.m.

6-12 yrs.... Thurs. | 4 p.m.

(STEM Storytime)

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 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.

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



ANNA MEYER

STEMULATING MONDAY: AIR ROCKETS

Mon., Feb. 2 | 3-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Kids build their own air rockets. Launch learning to new heights.

CHILDREN'S CINEMA

Sat., Feb. 14 | 12-2 p.m. | FAMILY
Featuring *Wish* (PG). Enjoy the show and snacks are on us.

MAKE & TAKE: SNOW SLIME

Fri., Feb. 20 | 3-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Kids can mix, stretch, and take home their own frosty slime creation.

CHILDREN'S CINEMA

Sat., Mar. 14 | 12-2 p.m. | FAMILY
Featuring *Dora and the Lost City of Gold* (PG). Snacks are on us, and don't forget to bring a friend!

CREATIVE CRAFTERNOONS: SPRING DOOR HANGERS

Mon., Mar. 16 | 3-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Craft an adorable Easter door hanger just in time for spring.

CREATIVE CRAFTERNOONS: RAINBOW SKETCH ART

Fri., Mar. 27 | 3-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Scratch the paper and reveal a colorful masterpiece underneath.

CARVER-MCDONALD

THE MOMMY & ME COOKBOOK

Tues., Feb. 10 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for some healthy recipes in making kids' easy evening snacks.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WREATH

Tues., Feb. 24 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Black History Wreath Art Craft with notable African Americans.

NATIONAL READING MONTH

Tues., Mar. 3 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Dr. Seuss' Birthday story and book journal for writing stories.

FLOWER SIGN CRAFT WITH ART

Tues., Mar. 17 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Make your own paper loop flower sign craft.

LOUISE WILLIAMS

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MY LIBRARY STORIES

Sat., Feb. 21 | 11-12 p.m. | FAMILY
The family will read their story about "Why They Love Their Library."

PIZZA, POPCORN, CANDY AND A MOVIE!

Sat., Mar. 21 | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Bring a blanket, relax, and enjoy a movie, popcorn, and pizza.

MAIN

DIY SELF PORTRAIT & VALENTINE'S DAY CARD CRAFT

Thurs., Feb. 5 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES: 6-12
Create a portrait using paper cutout! All supplies will be provided.

BOOKS & BUMPS

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.

SATURDAY MATINEE

Sat., Feb. 7 | 2-4 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a movie with special treats! Featured Film: *Elemental* (PG).

MAKE-IT-MONDAY - VALENTINE'S DAY HEART PAINTING

Mon., Feb. 9 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Make colorful heart-shaped art to give for Valentine's Day!

MINECRAFT SURVIVAL MODE!

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

ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY BOWL

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.

BLACK HISTORY BINGO

Wed., Feb. 25 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Have fun while gaining knowledge about Black History and culture.

GAME DAY

Thurs., Feb. 26 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES: 6-12
Test your skills with board games, card games, or other group activities!

BOOKS & BUMPS

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.

DIY ZINE!

Thurs., Mar. 5 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES: 6-12
Learn how you can make your own Zine! All supplies will be provided.

SATURDAY MATINEE

Sat., Mar. 7 | 2-4 p.m. | FAMILY
Watch *Trolls Band Together* (PG) with special treats!

ST. PATRICK'S GAME DAY

Wed., Mar. 11 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Play St. Patrick's Day games and enjoy a special sweet treat!

CLAY SCULPTURE

Thurs., Mar. 12 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES: 6-12
Make a spring-themed clay sculpture that you can take home.

SHAMROCK NECKLACE

Mon., Mar. 16 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Enjoy a delicious treat while making a colorful wearable necklace!

DIY BOOK DISPLAY

Thurs., Mar. 19 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES: 6-12
Take on the role of librarian and create a themed book display.

GAME DAY

Thurs., Mar. 26 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES: 6-12
Test your skills with board games, card games, or other group activities!

OLIE BURNS

SEED STARTING CLASS

Sat., Feb. 7 | 2-3 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a seed starting class with a special guest.

DIBLES JUMP-START CAMP

Mon., Mar. 23 through Fri., Mar. 27 | 9-11:30 a.m. | FAMILY
Madison James Foster Spring Break Dibles Camp

OUACHITA VALLEY

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Feb. 3 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Celebrate Black History Month with a Diversity Handprint Art!

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Feb. 10 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
DIY: Valentine's Day Paper Lanterns!

POPCORN AND A MOVIE

Sat., Feb. 14 | 2-3:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a movie screening of *Raya and The Last Dragon* (PG).

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Feb. 17 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Let's make pipe cleaner snails!

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Feb. 24 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Make your very own popsicle stick stamp art.

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Mar. 3 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Make your own paper butterflies!

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Mar. 10 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create a cool rainbow tube blower craft.

POPCORN AND A MOVIE

Sat., Mar. 14 | 2-3:30 p.m. | FAMILY
Join us for a movie screening of Disney's live-action *Lilo & Stitch* (PG).

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Mar. 17 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Let's make a 3-D shamrock craft!

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Mar. 24 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create cool artwork with aluminum!

CRAFTY TUESDAYS

Tues., Mar. 31 | 4-5 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Come out and paint a wooden flower craft.

SEARCY MEMORIAL

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Feb. 3 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 4-8
Enjoy a reading of *The Day It Rained Hearts* by Felicia Bond while creating a craft based on the book.

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Feb. 10 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create a cool robot Valentine craft.

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Feb. 17 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Make a Chinese Dragon Craft in honor of the Chinese New Year.

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Feb. 24 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
We will create a Flag Day Craft.

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Mar. 3 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 4-8
Create a groovy green collage.

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Mar. 10 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Create a 3-D Spring Meadow Craft.

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Mar. 17 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 6-12
Build a Leprechaun House for St. Patrick's Day!

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Mar. 24 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 4-8
Make a mommy swallow and baby bird's nest.

CRAFTING WITH MRS. AMY

Tues., Mar. 31 | 3:45-4:30 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Create your own Flower Fairy.

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL

LEGO CLUB

Mon., Feb. 2 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Build a cool lego set, complete a fun lego challenge card, or free build with legos.

DECORATE A MINI VALENTINE CAKE

Fri., Feb. 13 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Decorate a mini Valentine cake. Call 318-327-1382 to register.

YOGA STORYTIME

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!

PAPER SCULPTURE

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.

LEGO CLUB

Mon., Mar. 2 | 4-5 p.m. | FAMILY
Build a cool lego set, complete a fun lego challenge card, or free build with legos!

POLKA DOT MUSHROOM ART

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.

YOGA STORYTIME

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!

GARDEN GNOME PLANTER

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

KID'S WORLD CRAFT

Tues., Feb. 3 | 3-4:30 p.m. | AGES 4-8
Come join us for a Valentine's Day DIY Craft.

ICE CREAM FOR BREAKFAST DAY

Sat., Feb. 7 | 9-11 a.m. | FAMILY
Come enjoy Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day.

TWEEN'S CLUB

Tues., Feb. 10 | 3-4:30 p.m. | AGES 9-12
Come join us and make your own butterfly.

<h3

TEEN PROGRAMS



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

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 CEREALOUS?

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.

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TAB MEETING

Thurs., Mar. 26 | 4-5 p.m.

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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.

MARSHMALLOW 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.

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

OLIE BURNS

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 sci-fi and fantasy books with others that enjoy them too!

Sat., Mar. 28 at 2-3 p.m.

Sat., Mar. 28 at 2-3 p.m.

The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu

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

MAIN BRANCH

O - X

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.

ANNA MEYER BRANCH

O - X

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.

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.

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.

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.

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



ADULT PROGRAMS



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.

OLIE 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.

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.





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.

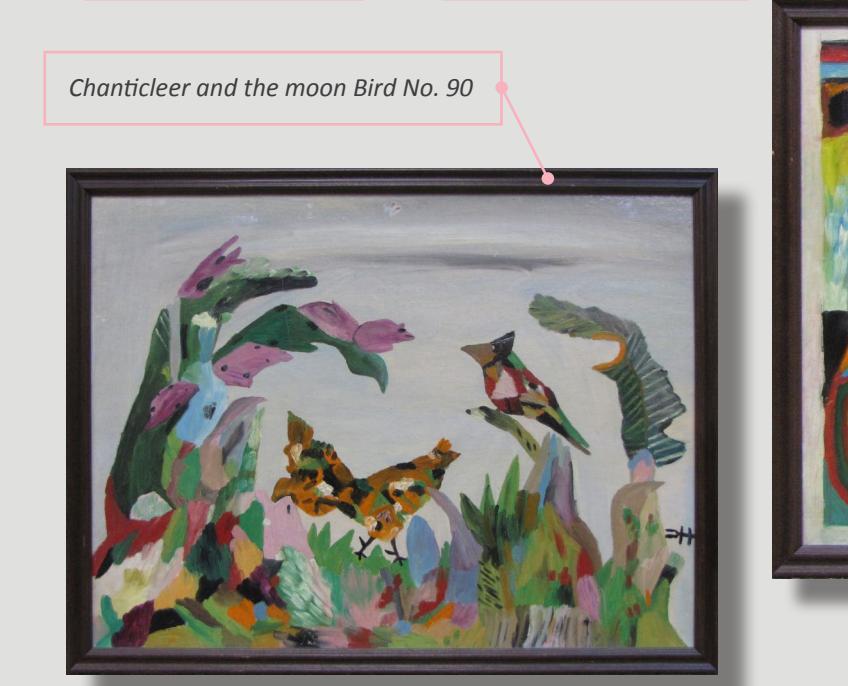
Hunter preferred to give away her art but Register and Mignon encouraged her to market it. By the late 1940's



Porte Bouquet No. 15



In The Garden No. 3



Chanticleer and the moon Bird No. 90



Birds and Flowers No. 7



In The Garden No. 1

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

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Hot cocoa with white chocolate, mocha and cinnamon
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READ.
SIP.
REPEAT.



HEY!

Would you like to receive Cattails, the library's bimonthly newsletter, in your inbox or mailbox? Email hneeley@oplib.org to be added to the list.



VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH!

ANNA MEYER
1808 US Hwy 165 S.
Monroe, LA 71202
(318) 327-1351

CARVER-MCDONALD
2941 Renwick St.
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 327-1477

LOUISE WILLIAMS
140 Bayou Oaks Dr.
Monroe, LA 71203
(318) 327-5422

MAIN BRANCH
1800 Stubbs Ave.
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 327-1490

OLIE BURNS
5601 Hwy. 165 By-Pass
Richwood, LA 71202
(318) 327-1235

OUACHITA VALLEY
601 McMillan Rd.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 327-1470

SEARCY MEMORIAL
5775 Jonesboro Rd.
West Monroe, LA 71292
(318) 327-1240

STERLINGTON MEMORIAL
305 Keystone Rd.
Monroe, LA 71203
(318) 327-1382

WEST MONROE
315 Cypress St.
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 327-1365

WEST OUACHITA
188 Hwy 546
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 327-5414

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