

CATTAILS

FROM THE
OUACHITA PARISH
PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOP BOOK
PICKS
PROMOTING
DIVERSITY

FOR KIDS, TEENS
& ADULTS

HOMEWORK
LOUISIANA

PRACTICE ACT/SAT
CAREER CENTER
PARENT DROP-OFF
QUESTIONS

FALL BOOK
CLUBS

Sign up for the Census!

Your participation in the Census matters! The count affects funding for our community's public resources, like **roads, hospitals, schools** – and yes – **libraries**.

Get started at census.gov.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Readers,

Welcome to Cattails, Ouachita Parish Public Library's new publication featuring the people, events, resources and happenings at your public Library. More than just a calendar of programs, *Cattails* will hopefully inspire curiosity and entice you, our readers, to explore more of what our Library has to offer you.

Why Cattails as the title? The first and most obvious reason is that cattails are featured prominently in the Library logo, rising gracefully from the pages of an open book, indicative of the many creeks, lakes, bayous and the scenic Ouachita River we are so blessed to have flowing through our parish. Looking beyond the obvious, into the pages of Library lore and history, *Cattails* also takes a chapter from our past, when a white cat named Gardenia made the Library her home. More than just a pet, Gardenia patrolled the stacks of the Library silently

and efficiently, earning her keep by ridding the library of pesky rodents and welcoming patrons of all ages. (Look for further details about Gardenia and her adventures in an upcoming issue.) *Cattails* seemed to me to be the perfect title for the Library's new publication. Like our Library system, it draws from our unique past and our present challenging reality to create a vision for a successful future for our library system and the people we serve. Hopefully, you "get it" and will enjoy what we share with you through these pages in the months and years to come.

The Library's mission is "to advance literacy, to inspire lifelong learning and to strengthen our community." My hope is that *Cattails* encourages you to read new books, learn different ideas and better the community we all call home.

SINCERELY,

Robin Toms
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Take Note

The Library will be closed for the following holidays:

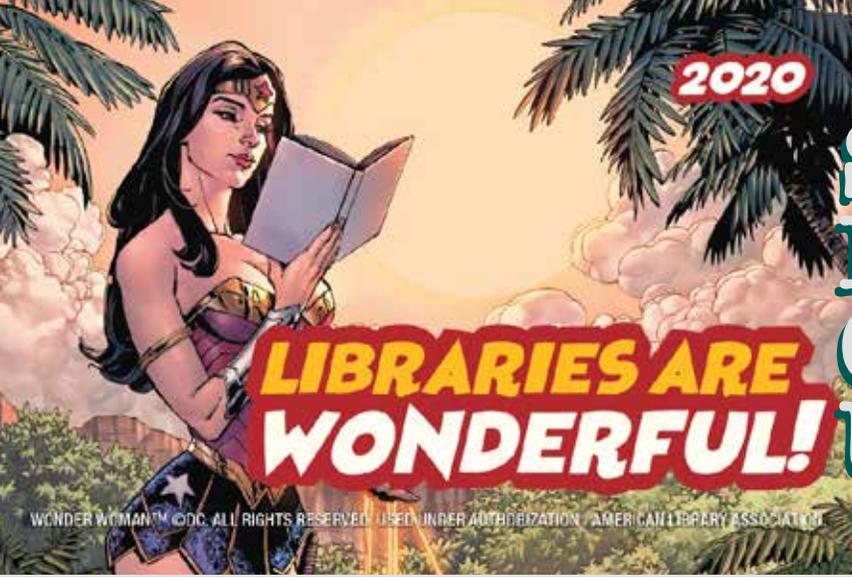
Labor Day: Monday,
September 7

Nearly 700 kids, teens and adults registered for the 2020 Summer Reading Challenge. The theme, "Imagine Your Story," encouraged patrons to celebrate books from the fairy tale, folk tale, fantasy and mythology genres.

Hundreds of patrons participated in virtual programs like story times, trivia and more. Most importantly, patrons read hundreds of thousands of pages of books.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE





SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH

? WHO CAN GET A LIBRARY CARD?

Anyone who lives or works in Ouachita Parish

? WHAT DO I NEED TO GET A LIBRARY CARD?

PROOF OF IDENTITY *(One of the following)*

- Current driver’s license (from any state),
- Current state-issued ID (from any state),
- Current military ID or
- Current passport (from any country)

PROOF OF ADDRESS *(One of the following)*

- Current, postmarked piece of mail addressed to yourself,
- Printed checkbook with both name and current address,
- Auto registration with name and current address,
- Voter registration with name and current address,
- Report card with name and current address or
- Current lease agreement

PROOF OF EMPLOYMENT IN OUACHITA PARISH *(One of the following if you do not live in Ouachita Parish)*

- Recent check stub with your name and company name or
- Photo work ID

Children and teens ages 16 and under can receive a Library card as well! Parents or legal guardians can apply for them.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when Ouachita Parish Public Library joins the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a Library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Did you know that anyone of any age who lives or works in Ouachita Parish can receive a free Library card? This means your child, your elderly parents, your coworkers, your babysitter and your roommate can have their very own Library cards. Encourage them to register today!

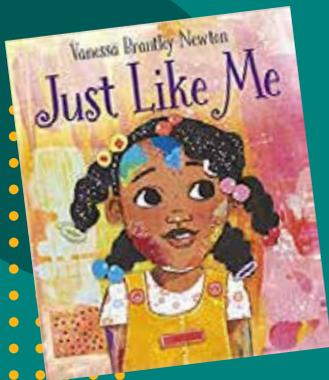
This year, DC’s Wonder Woman is embarking on a mission to champion the power of a library card as Library Card Sign-up Month Honorary Chair. In her new role, Wonder Woman will promote the value of libraries and encourage everyone to get their very own Library card.

READ

TO LEARN.
TO UNDERSTAND.



FOR KIDS (AND ADULTS!)



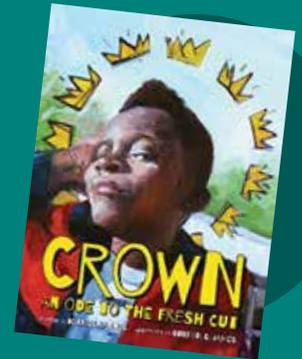
JUST LIKE ME BY VANESSA BRANTLEY-NEWTON

An ode to the girl with scrapes on her knees and lowers in her hair, and ever girl in between, this exquisite treasury will have kids poring over it to find a poem that's just for them. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book*

CROWN: AN ODE TO THE FRESH CUT BY DERRICK BARNES AND GORDON C. JAMES

A fresh cut makes boys fly. This rhythmic, read-aloud title is a celebration of the way boys feel when they leave the barber's chair.

**Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book*



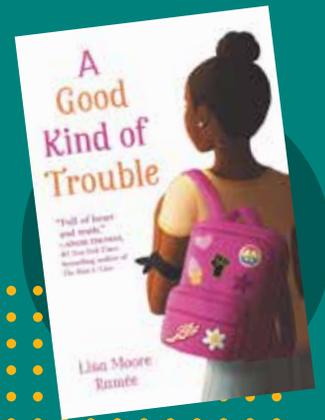
MAGNIFICENT HOMESPUN BROWN

BY SAMARA COLE DOYON AND KAYLANI JUANITA

America, we hear you singing! With vivid illustrations, Magnificent Homespun Brown sings a carol for the plenitude that surrounds us and the self each of us is meant to inhabit. **Available in print, on cloudLibrary as an e-book and on Hoopla as an audiobook and movie*

A GOOD KIND OF TROUBLE BY LISA MOORE RAMEE

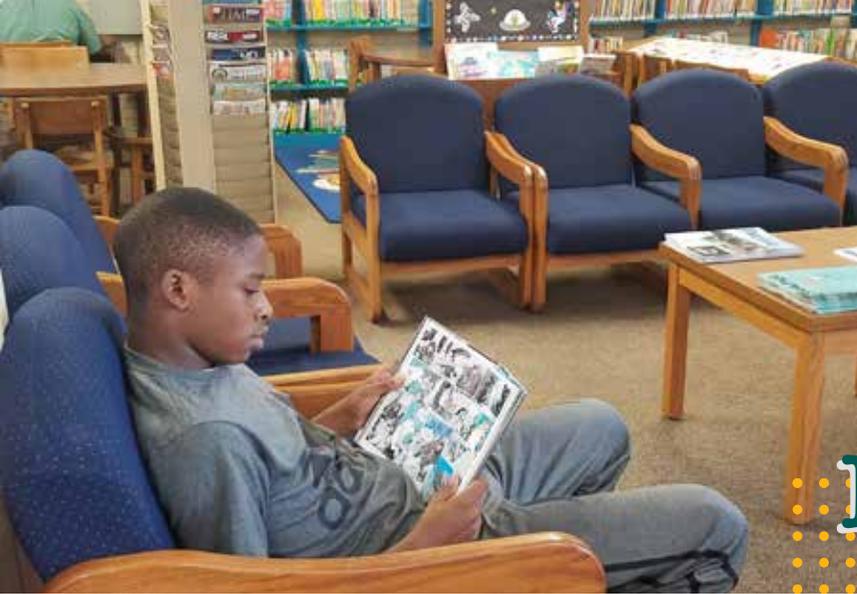
Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Shay is scared to do the wrong thing (and even more scared to do the right thing), but if she doesn't face her fear, she'll be forever tripping over the next hurdle. Now that's trouble, for real. **Available in print, on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook and on Hoopla as an e-audiobook*



THE BIG UMBRELLA

BY AMY JUNE BATES AND JUNIPER BATES

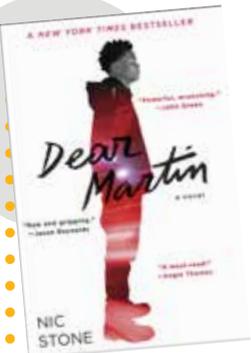
By the door there is an umbrella. It is big. It is so big that when it starts to rain there is room for everyone underneath. It doesn't matter if you are tall. Or plaid. Or hairy. It doesn't matter how many legs you have. **Available in print*



READ

TO GROW.
TO CONNECT.

FOR TEENS (AND ADULTS!)

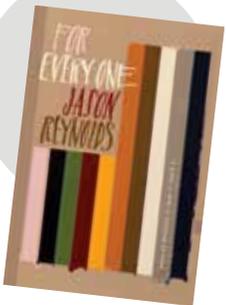
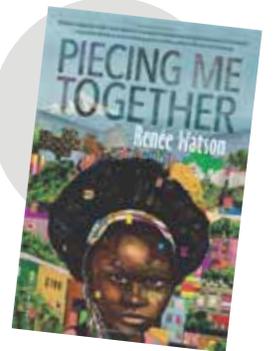


DEAR MARTIN BY NIC STONE

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. **Available in print, book-on-CD, and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

PIECING ME TOGETHER BY RENEE WATSON

Jade believes she must get out of her neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother says she has to take every opportunity. She has. But some opportunities feel more demeaning than helpful. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book*



FOR EVERY ONE BY JASON REYNOLDS

For Every One is just that: for every one. For every one person. For every one dream. But especially for every one kid. This stirring and inspirational poem is a rallying cry to the dreamers of the world. **Available in print and book-on-CD*

PRIDE BY IBI ZOBOI

In a timely update of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, critically acclaimed author Ibi Zoboi skillfully balances cultural identity, class, and gentrification against the heady magic of first love in her vibrant reimagining of this beloved classic. **Available in print, on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook and on Hoopla as an e-audiobook*

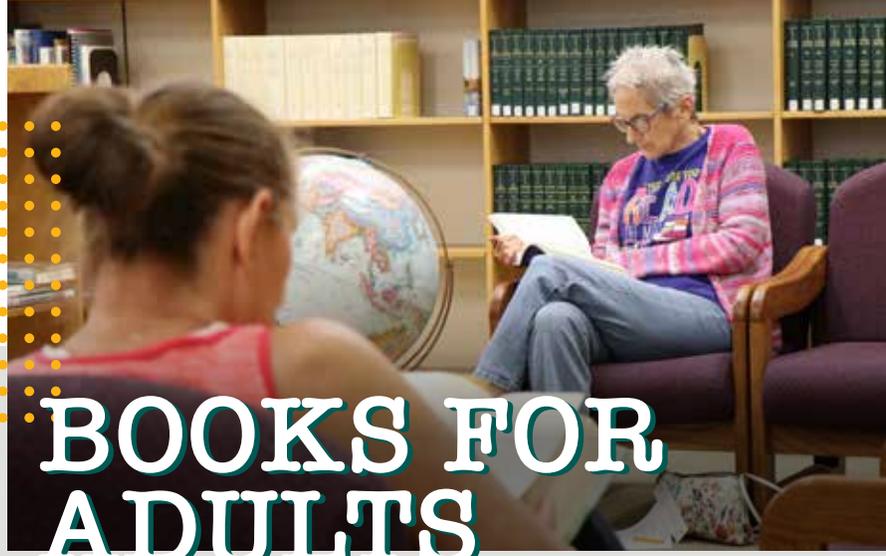


HOW I RESIST: ACTIVISM AND HOPE FOR A NEW GENERATION EDITED BY MAUREEN JOHNSON (CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS)

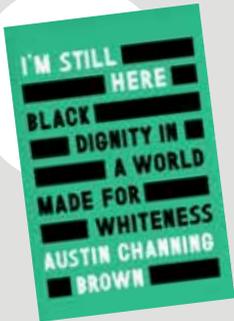
Now, more than ever, young people are motivated to make a difference in a world they're bound to inherit. They're ready to stand up and be heard - but with much to shout about, where they do they begin? A collection of essays, songs, illustrations, and interviews about activism and hope, *How I Resist* features an all-star group of contributors. **Available in print, on cloudLibrary as an e-book and on Hoopla as an e-audiobook*

READ

TO EMPOWER.
TO APPRECIATE.



BOOKS FOR ADULTS

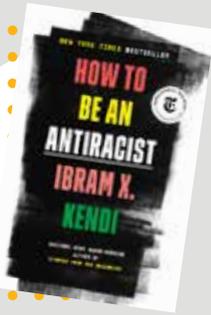
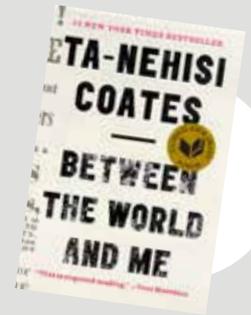


**I'M STILL HERE:
BLACK DIGNITY IN
A WORLD MADE
FOR WHITENESS**
BY AUSTIN CHANNING
BROWN

From a powerful new voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female in middle-class white America. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME BY TA-NEHISI COATES

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. **Available in print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

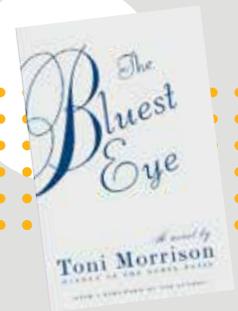


HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST BY IBRAM X. KENDI

How to Be an Antiracist is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society. **Available in print and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*

THE BLUEST EYE BY TONI MORRISON

Set in the author's girlhood hometown of Lorain, Ohio, it tells the story of black, eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove. Pecola prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be as beautiful and beloved as all the blond, blue-eyed children in America. The Bluest Eye remains one of Toni Morrison's most powerful, unforgettable novels- and a significant work of American fiction. **Available in print, book-on-CD and on cloudLibrary as an e-book and e-audiobook*



Register to Vote!

OCTOBER 5 is the deadline to register to vote in the Presidential General and Open Congressional Primary Election on November 3, if registering in person or by mail.

OCTOBER 14 is the deadline to register to vote if registering online.

Register to vote at sos.la.gov.



THE FIRE THIS TIME: A NEW GENERATION TALKS ABOUT RACE EDITED BY JESMYN WARD (CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS)

National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America, *The Fire Next Time*, as a jumping off point for this groundbreaking collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time. **Available in print and book-on-CD*

OUR FIRST READER HAS COMPLETED 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN!



Emilia McGarey is 13 months old. Her parents Alex and Taylor registered her for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Library. This school-readiness program builds reading comprehension, behavioral and social skills for little ones. Plus, it's a great opportunity to bond with your child. Register your little reader at www.oplib.org.

On this page, you'll find a Q&A with Emilia's dad, Alex.

? HOW DID YOU ACCOMPLISH 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN SO QUICKLY?

It all started when I signed her up for the program. I brought home a huge tote bag full of books to try with her. We read some to her and her grandmother read to her even more. She liked it and so we continued. She might get the same 10 books read to her around 10 times before they got returned, so it was easy to rack up to 1,000 over the course of 9 months.

? WHAT ARE EMILIA'S FAVORITE BOOKS?

She seems to really enjoy *Llama Llama* books, but she is not what I'd call picky when it comes to books. Whether it's *Elephant and Piggie*, *Llama Llama*, or anything in between, she seems to really enjoy story time, especially with her grandmother who watches her during the day. That said, Emilia does have her books that she doesn't care for as much. Those don't get read as much. There are times where she may bring you a book and want to be read to, so in a general sense, she enjoys it.

? WHY IS READING WITH EMILIA A PRIORITY IN YOUR FAMILY?

We want to make reading a priority with Emilia because her mother and myself are both avid readers. We love books, love reading, and even love to write. We want to pass that on to Emilia as much as we can. I firmly believe that reading is the gateway to imagination and intelligence, and I would love nothing more than for Emilia to have a vast wealth of intelligence and imagination.

? WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE TO PARENTS WHO WANT TO READ MORE WITH THEIR CHILDREN?

Making time can be hard, I get it. My first tip is to try and make time. If your child brings you a book, read it to them. They'll thank you for it later. My second tip is to enlist help. My mother-in-law watches Emilia during the day and did the majority of reading to Emilia for the challenge. If you have a family member who watches your child, bring them some books to read to the child. It takes a village sometimes and making sure your child is read to is one of those times where it may take more than just you. Thirdly, make sure your child has a relationship with the library. Emilia is still a little young for this, but it is in my plans to make sure that she has a working relationship with the library. Being able to go to story times and programs and check out books to read. Above all, I would say to never neglect reading to your child. Not only is it fun and entertaining, but one day, once they're grown, your child will thank you for the bedtime stories and all the times you gave them the gift of reading.



HOMEWORK LOUISIANA

With your Ouachita Parish Public Library card, you have access to Homework Louisiana powered by Tutor.com. Homework Louisiana features real live, one-on-one tutors in a safe, online environment for more than 60 subjects from kindergarten to college. Plus, Homework Louisiana provides free ACT, ASVAB, AP and GED prep. You can even submit essays, resumes and more for grammar and writing feedback. Tutors are available from 2 p.m. – midnight daily. **Get started at homeworkla.org.**

K-5

- Science, social studies, reading and math help
- Computer literacy
- ESL (English as a Second Language) and Spanish tutors (for English speakers learning Spanish)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Science, social studies, reading and math help
- Computer literacy
- Study skills
- ESL (English as a Second Language) and Spanish tutors (for English speakers learning Spanish)

HIGH SCHOOL

- Science, social studies, reading and math help
- Computer literacy
- Spanish tutors (for English speakers learning Spanish)
- Study skills
- ACT/SAT practice
- AP Test practice
- ASVAB practice
- GED/HiSET practice

COLLEGE

- Submit papers
- Submit math questions
- Computer literacy
- Spanish tutors (for English speakers learning Spanish)
- Connect with a career coach

PARENTS

- Submit math questions
- Computer literacy
- Spanish tutors (for English speakers learning Spanish)

ADULTS

- Submit resumes and cover letters
- Citizenship tests
- Computer literacy
- Spanish tutors (for English speakers learning Spanish)
- Connect with a career coach



BOOK CLUBS



FALL PROGRAMS

VIRTUAL STORY TIME THURSDAYS | 10:30am

Join your favorite children's librarians for virtual story time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. on the Library's Facebook page. We'll make crafts, sing songs and of course, read stories!

TRIVIA TIME

SUMMER TRIVIA: AUG. 28 | 10:30am
BOOKISH TRIVIA: SEPT. 25 | 10:30am

Play along with the librarians during virtual trivia on the Library's Facebook page!

TEEN TUESDAYS

LEGEND OF ZELDA TRIVIA: AUG. 11 | 4 PM
PAPER SUCCULENTS: SEPT. 15 | 4 PM

Test your Zelda knowledge in August, and then pick up your Grab & Go Kit from the Main and Ouachita Valley Branches to make Paper Succulents in September. Both programs will be on the Library's YouTube page.

LOCAL HISTORY

100 YEARS OF LOCAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE: AUG. 18 | NOON

PANDEMICS AND EPIDEMICS IN LOUISIANA: SEPT. 30 | NOON

Library Genealogist Lora Peppers will share the local history of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Library Archivist Cyndy Robertson will teach us about yellow fever, the Spanish flu and other pandemics and epidemics in Louisiana's history. Both programs will be on the Library's Facebook page.

ONLINE BOOK CLUB

Read and discuss a book with more than 100 other Ouachita Parish residents! Join the conversation in the Library's Facebook group. The book is available for download in e-book and e-audiobook format on the Hoopla app.

THIS SIDE OF MURDER BY ANNA LEE HUBER
England, 1919. Verity Kent's grief over the loss of her husband pierces anew when she receives a cryptic letter suggesting her beloved Sidney may have committed treason before his untimely death. Determined to dull her pain with revelry, Verity's first impulse is to dismiss the derogatory claim. But the mystery sender knows too much, including the fact that during the war Verity worked for the Secret Service, something not even Sidney knew.

LOST IN THE STACKS BOOK CLUB

If you love literary fiction, you'll love the Lost in the Stacks Book Club. For details on joining virtually, email bpierce@oplib.org.

WOMAN 99 BY GREER MACALLISTER

A vivid historical thriller about a young woman whose quest to free her sister from an infamous insane asylum risks her sanity, her safety and her life.

RAINBOW READS BOOK CLUB

The Rainbow Reads Book Club is for members of the LGBT community and their allies. For details on joining virtually, email lcunningham@oplib.org.

DRAMA BY RAINA TELGEMEIER

Callie loves theater. She's the set designer for the drama department's stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen. And when two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even crazier!

MOCHA MONDAY BOOK CLUB

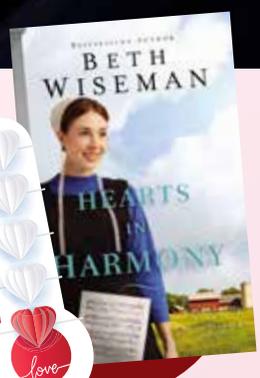
The Mocha Monday Book Club reads books by authors of color. For details on joining virtually, email hpriestley@oplib.org.

REMEMBRANCE BY RITA WOODS

It's a rumor, a whisper passed in the fields and veiled behind sheets of laundry. A hidden stop on the underground road to freedom, a safe haven protected by more than secrecy... if you can make it there.

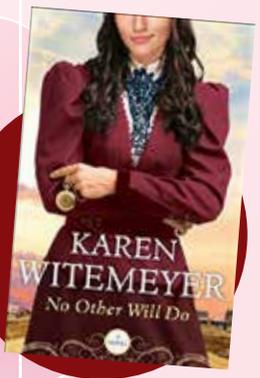


AUGUST IS READ A ROMANCE MONTH



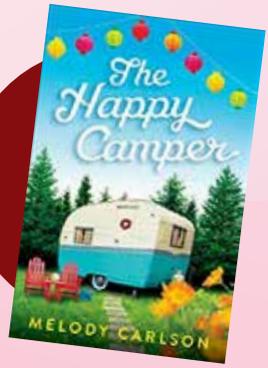
HEARTS IN HARMONY BY BETH WISEMAN

Musical prodigy Levi Shetler hasn't touched a piano since he secretly played one years ago. His strict Amish community forbids instruments or the singing of any music not in their approved songbook. One person knows Levi's talents: Mary Hershberger, the girl who promised years ago to keep his secret.



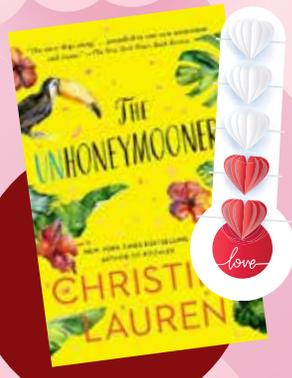
NO OTHER WILL DO BY KAREN WITEMEYER

Men are optional. That's the credo Emma Chandler's suffragette aunts preached and why she started a successful women's colony in Harper's Station, Texas. But when an unknown assailant tries repeatedly to drive them out, Emma admits they might need a man after all. A man who can fight--and she knows just the one.



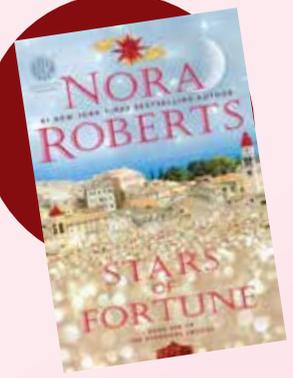
THE HAPPY CAMPER BY MELODY CARLSON

After a few nights sleeping on a sagging sofa, Dillon is ready to give up, until she receives an unlikely gift--her grandfather's run-down vintage camp trailer, which she quickly resolves to restore with the help of Jordan Atwood, the handsome owner of the local hardware store. But just when things are finally beginning to run smoothly, Dillon's noncommittal ex-boyfriend shows up with roses... and a ring.



UNHONEYMOONERS BY CHRISTINA LAUREN

Olive is used to being the unlucky twin: from inexplicable mishaps to a recent layoff, her life seems to be almost comically jinxed. By contrast, her sister Ami is an eternal champion... she even managed to finance her entire wedding by winning a slew of contests. Unfortunately for Olive, the only thing worse than constant bad luck is having to spend the wedding day with the best man (and her nemesis), Ethan. But when the entire wedding party gets food poisoning, the only people who aren't affected are Olive and Ethan. And now there's an all-expenses-paid honeymoon in Hawaii up for grabs.



STARS OF FORTUNE BY NORA ROBERTS

Sasha Riggs is a reclusive artist, haunted by vivid dreams and nightmares that she turns into extraordinary paintings. Desperate to understand her visions, she finds herself drawn to the Greek island of Corfu. She has only just arrived when she encounters Bran Killian, an Irish magician with a warm charisma and secrets dancing in his eyes. Sasha has never met Bran before, but she knows him only too well - because this is the man from her dreams.



REBEL BY BEVERLY JENKINS

Valinda Lacey’s mission in the steamy heart of New Orleans is to help the newly emancipated community survive and flourish. But soon she discovers that here, freedom can also mean danger. When thugs destroy the school she has set up and then target her, Valinda runs for her life—and straight into the arms of Captain Drake LeVeq.

RED, WHITE AND ROYAL BLUE BY CASEY MCQUISTON

When his mother became President, Alex Claremont-Diaz was promptly cast as the American equivalent of a young royal. There’s only one problem: Alex has a beef with the actual prince, Henry, across the pond. And when the tabloids get hold of a photo involving an Alex-Henry altercation, U.S./British relations take a turn for the worse. Handlers devise a plan for damage control: staging a truce between the two rivals. What at first begins as a fake, Instagrammable friendship grows deeper, and more dangerous, than either Alex or Henry could have imagined.

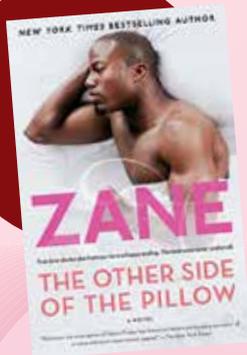
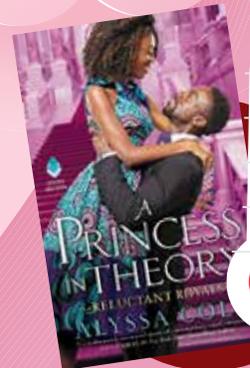


THE KISS QUOTIENT BY HELEN HOANG

Stella Lane thinks math is the only thing that unites the universe. She comes up with algorithms to predict customer purchases—a job that has given her more money than she knows what to do with, and way less experience in the dating department than the average thirty-year-old. Her conclusion: she needs lots of practice—with a professional. Which is why she hires escort Michael Phan. The Vietnamese and Swedish stunner can’t afford to turn down Stella’s offer, and agrees to help her check off all the boxes on her lesson plan.

A PRINCESS IN THEORY BY ALYSSA COLE

Between grad school and multiple jobs, Naledi Smith doesn’t have time for fairy tales...or patience for the constant e-mails claiming she’s betrothed to an African prince. Sure. Right. Delete! But, Prince Thabiso is the sole heir to the throne of Thesolo, shouldering the hopes of his parents and his people. Ever dutiful, he tracks down his missing betrothed. When Naledi mistakes the prince for a pauper, Thabiso can’t resist the chance to experience life—and love—without the burden of his crown.

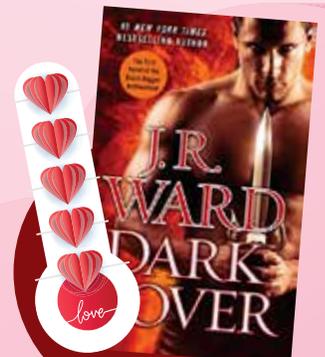


THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PILLOW BY ZANE

Jemistry Daniels is a bitter woman and not trying to hide it. Even though she is beautiful, intelligent, and makes six figures a year as a high school principal in Washington, DC, one man after another has failed her. So she decides to give up and join the party by adapting the entire “friends with benefits” mentality, in fear that she might actually catch feelings. Everything is going according to plan until she meets Dr. Tevin Harris, a prominent vascular surgeon, one night at a poetry slam.

DARK LOVER BY J.R. WARD

The only purebred vampire left on the planet and the leader of the Black Dagger Brotherhood, Wrath has a score to settle with the slayers who killed his parents centuries ago. But when his most trusted fighter is killed—orphaning a half-breed daughter unaware of her heritage or her fate—Wrath must put down his dagger and usher the beautiful female into another world.



1918 OR 2020?

“As the infection is transmitted from one to another, those affected should be isolated in a room away from other members of the family.”¹

“Those who suspect they have the disease should stay away from others.”²

“Tie a handkerchief over nose and mouth.”³

“As in most other catching diseases, a person who has only a mild attack of the disease himself may give a very severe attack to others.”⁴

“Health authorities everywhere recognize the very close relation between its spread and overcrowded homes.”⁵

“Pool rooms, picture shows, theatres, schools, churches, lodges, and all public gatherings will remain closed until further orders.”⁶

“45 new cases were reported Saturday and 22 Sunday from Monroe, West Monroe and immediate vicinity.”⁷



These news clippings are from the Monroe *News-Star*, but they were not written in 2020. These articles were written in 1918.

It has been a little over 100 years since the 1918 influenza pandemic spread worldwide during 1918-1919. The Historic New Orleans Collection suggests an oil tanker, Harold Walker, brought the flu from Boston to New Orleans on September 5, according to information hnoc.org. The flu then spread from New Orleans to other cities in Louisiana.

“Influenza in an epidemic form first made its appearance in Monroe, Louisiana on or about October 1, 1918. By October 10, 1918 it had affected from 15 to 20 percent of the population,” according to the Monroe *News-Star* dated January 10, 1919.

The epidemic was at its height for more than four weeks. The Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Public Health Service and the State Board of Health assisted along with many volunteers who donated time and money towards the relief effort.

Local doctors created a central headquarters at the Elks Club, where at least two physicians were available to answer phone calls at any time, day or night. The Monroe mayor even asked people to limit the use of telephone calls “to only the most urgent indispensable calls” to free up the lines for flu emergencies (*News-Star*, 18 Oct. 1918). Residents who owned automobiles volunteered their cars and time to drive doctors and nurses across town to treat patients.

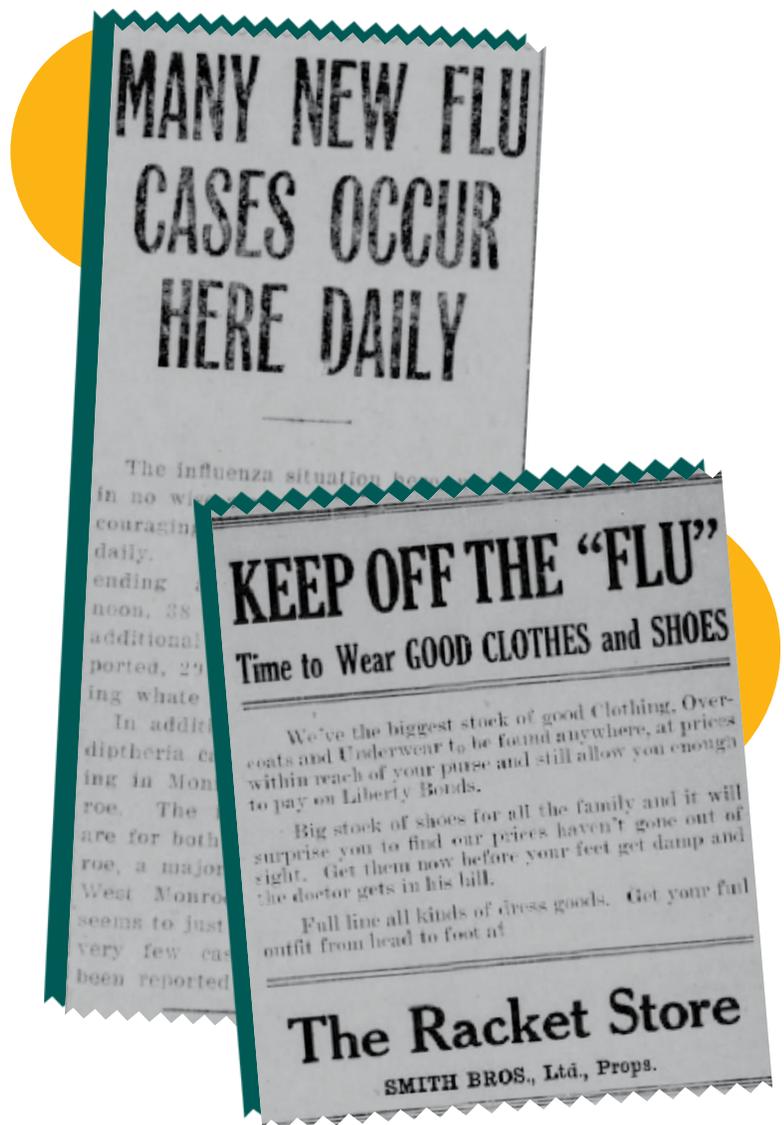
Businesses, churches and more were ordered to close temporarily. St. Francis Sanitarium became overcrowded and many nurses were affected. Emergency hospitals were opened on Adam Street and in the old Wisner School building to assist with overflow patients. Nurses supplied by the Red Cross, as well as local volunteer nurses, assisted until the Sanitarium was able to resume care.

“Restrictions upon the opening and closing of business houses were accepted and complied without complaint. In spite of the fact that their incomes were being cut down, many gave their time and more than \$475 was contributed in amounts up to \$50 toward the relief work at General Headquarters,” the *News-Star* wrote.

Like today, social distancing and masks were highly encouraged.

“It is further recommended that all persons who wait on the public, wear masks. Experience has shown that this simple precaution lessens the chances of infection to a great extent.” (*News-Star*, 21 Oct. 1918)

The Monroe Public Library (which became the Ouachita Parish Public Library in 1924) was one of the many buildings that closed. The Library closed the second week of October and reopened in late November. In the one week the Library was open in October, patrons borrowed 167 books. In the 5 half days and 11 whole days the Library was open in November, just 30 books circulated.



¹ *News-Star*, 12 Oct. 1918 | ² *News-Star*, 12 Oct. 1918 | ³ *News-Star*, 11 Oct. 1918
⁴ *News-Star*, 14 Oct. 1918 | ⁵ *News-Star*, 14 Oct. 1918 | ⁶ *News-Star*, 4 Nov. 1918
⁷ *News-Star*, 4 Nov. 1918 |

COMPARE THEN AND NOW:

THEN (1918)

The Library closed its doors temporarily to help slow the spread.

The Library was a one-room building on Wood Street.

Regular Library hours were 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.

The Library did not charge late fines when its doors were closed, but began charging one cent per day once it opened again.

The Library could not serve the public while it was closed.

NOW (2020)

The Library closed its doors temporarily to help slow the spread.

The Library has 10 branches, plus a bookmobile and digital services.

Regular Library hours vary branch to branch, but are open all day with no break for lunch.

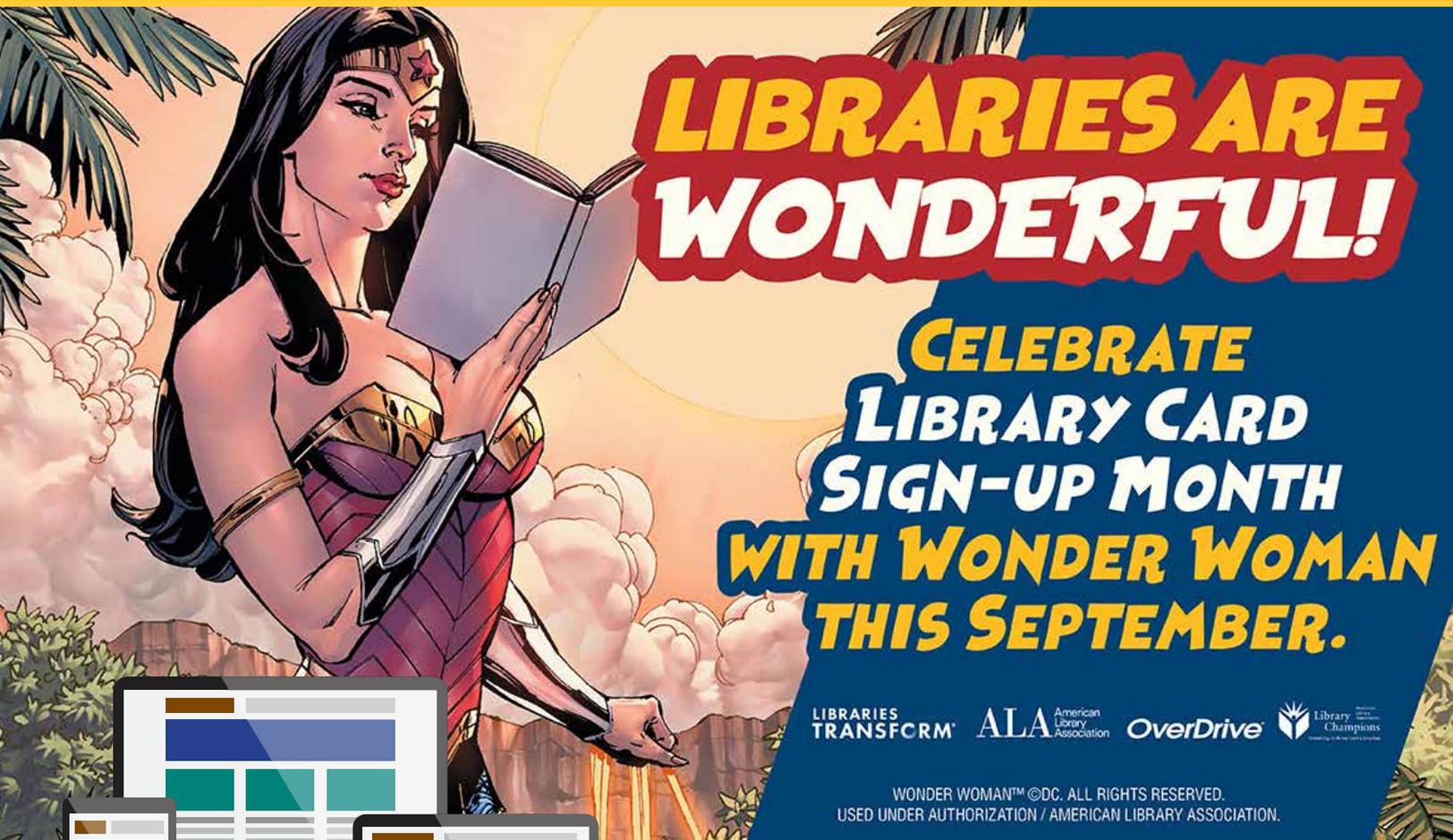
The Library did not charge late fines from March 18-June 30. Late fines are now 25 cents per day.

Patrons can borrow e-books and e-audiobooks, stream music and movies and attend virtual programs online.



Ouachita Parish Public Library
 1800 Stubbs Avenue
 Monroe, LA 71201
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