



For more information, contact:

Erin Sullivan, 407-835-7480

sullivan.erin@ocls.info

February at the library: The 29th Annual African-American Read-In, Valentine's Day celebrations and more

This February, you can celebrate Valentine's Day at various library branches hosting love-themed events. Visit the Orlando Public Library on February 4, or the Winter Garden branch on February 6, for a Cuisine Corner featuring Four Perfectly Quick Valentine's Entrees. Chef Warren Caterson will share some simple meals to prepare for you and a loved one in the comfort of your own home.

The Orlando Public Library is proud once again to host the 29th Annual National African-American Read-In on February 24. Local celebrities will read some of their favorite pieces of literature, from poetry and stories to songs and performances. For a full list of speakers visit ocls.info/readin.

The library also has multiple events recognizing Black History Month, including a Local Authors Fair at the downtown library on February 17. The Herndon branch presents Echoes of My Sister's Voice on February 12, which uses music and storytelling to recount the lives of several women who lived in slavery.

If you have any questions about the events or information shared below, contact the library at 407-835-7323. Visit the website at www.ocls.info for a complete listing of library events.

Chinese New Year Celebration: Year of the Pig

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, February 2, 10 a.m.

Celebrate the Chinese New Year! Enjoy a few Chinese traditions with a dragon dance, folk dances, a musical performance and a demonstration of Chinese calligraphy. Presented by the Chinese School of CAACF, Inc.

Let's Knit Scarves – Beginner Level

Orlando Public Library , 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturdays, February 2–March 9, 1 p.m.

Build your knitting skills each month with a sampler scarf. Starting this month, knit a stylish scarf composed of six sections, each featuring a popular stitch pattern.

***Race: The Power of an Illusion* PBS Documentary Screening and Discussion**

Edgewater Branch, 5049 Edgewater Drive

Mondays, February 4, 11 & 25, 6 p.m.

How valid are your beliefs about the human species? *Race: The Power of an Illusion* is a three-part PBS documentary series that investigates and challenges the concept of race in society, science and history. Following each screening, join the discussion with Dr. Ada Crosby and Deacon Tommy Tate as they confront the myths associated with race. They will deconstruct the word “race” which created and continues to foster social inequalities.

Cuisine Corner: Four Perfectly Quick Valentines Entrees

Orlando Public Library, Cypress Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Monday, February 4, 6:15 p.m.

Winter Garden Branch

Wednesday, February 6, 6 p.m.

Why spend a fortune dining out when you and your loved one can prepare a delightfully romantic meal in the time it takes to drive to your favorite restaurant? Join Chef Warren Caterson as he demonstrates Valentine’s Day meals you can make at home. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

Family History Fair!

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, February 9, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Celebrate the four-year anniversary of the grand re-opening of the West Oaks Branch Library and Genealogy Center at our Family History Fair. Explore your roots! If you are a beginner, this event can help you get started researching your family history. Experienced genealogists can learn tips about additional resources to aid in your research. The Central Florida Genealogical Society, local lineage and family history societies, and library staff will be available to share information on how to research and document your family history in the 21st century.

Craft Club for Adults: Painting Wine Glasses

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, February 9, 2–3:30 p.m.

Enjoy craft therapy by painting wine glasses. All supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own wine glass. Seating is limited. Registration required.

Valentine’s Day Pop-up Cards

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Sunday, February 10, 2 p.m.

Join us for some paper crafting as we make Valentine’s Day pop-up cards that your special someone is sure to love. Registration required.

Echoes of My Sister’s Voices

Hiawasse Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Drive

Tuesday, February 12, 6 p.m.

Dr. Naima Johnston Bush explores the lives of women trapped by the bondage of slavery. Using music, poetry, storytelling and narrative, Dr. Bush weaves a masterful historical offering that brings these women’s voices to life. The stories include: Anna Kingsley’s *From Slave to Plantation Mistress*, Sojourner Truth’s *Ain’t She a Woman?* and Mariah of Carnton Plantation’s *Caring for the Enemy Dead*.

Nature Walk and Book Talk

Southwest Branch, 7255 Della Drive

Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m.–Noon

Do you enjoy taking a walk and love to discuss books? Join the Southwest Branch for a casual walk followed by a lively discussion of the book *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance. Enjoy the benefits of exercising your mind and body! Meet at the Southwest Branch to carpool to a local park walking trail. Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Attendees are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Light refreshments will be provided.

Free Clothing Giveaway by Out of the Closet

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Saturday, February 16, 2–3 p.m.

Out of the Closet (OOTC) is a free traveling clothing boutique sponsored by Zebra Coalition. Come for free, fashionable clothing and hygiene products.

Everyone Has Good Hair: Curls for Days

Hiawasse Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Drive

Saturday, February 16, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

Join Naturalista Kayla Davis for this two-part series on the history and benefits of maintaining natural Afro-textured hair. Whether kinky or curly, you can fully embrace your hair in its natural state. Learn tips for maintaining curls and moisture with a healthy, all-natural hair care routine.

5th Annual Melrose Creative Expo

Orlando Public Library, Melrose Center, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, February 16, 1-4 p.m.

The 2019 Melrose Creative Expo marks the fifth anniversary of the Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center for Technology, Innovation and Creativity. Join us for an afternoon of family-friendly activities throughout the Melrose Center, including virtual reality and video green screen demonstrations, live audio recording sessions, short film screenings, theatre performances, photo studio portraits and vehicle simulator experiences. Visit with a host of exhibitors from the tech and creative communities, and help us celebrate the best audio, video, photo and digital design projects created during the past year at the Melrose Awards presentation.

Local Authors Festival: In Celebration of Black History Month

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Sunday, February 17, 2–4 p.m.

Celebrate Black History Month with this meet and greet event featuring area writers. Authors from a variety of genres will share their experiences and books. Each author will have books available for purchase and signing.

Cuisine Corner: Cake Pops!

Washington Park Branch, 5151 Raleigh St., Suite A.

Tuesday, February 19, 4 p.m.

Learn to make your own scrumptious cake pops. Library staff will demonstrate cake pop construction and attendees will decorate the delightful confections.

I am an Author: Social Media Presence and Putting Yourself Out There

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m.

You wrote a book (or you'll finish soon) and you want to let people know, but imposter syndrome can make you timid and shy about your status as an author. Author LE Perez will show you how to let everyone know you're an author using social media, networking and publicity.

African-American Read-In

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m.

Celebrate African-American literature in poetry, story and song, performed by local luminaries in conjunction with the 29th Annual National African-American Read-In. Among the notable readers this year are Paralympic athlete April Holmes, Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, Emmy Award-winning journalist and WESH 2 anchor Jazmin Bailey, Nerd Nite's Ricardo Williams, and more. Find out more at ocls.info/readin_.

#####