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More NEA Big Read, Hispanic Heritage Month and more free virtual events this September

Orange County Library System continues this year's NEA Big Read featuring Kelly Link's short story collection *Pretty Monsters*. Join a panel of local influencers on September 5 as they discuss their favorite local places in the community during Hidden Orlando: Secret Spots and Local Haunts.

September 15 kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month, a time where we highlight the accomplishments and culture of Hispanics around the world. Every Wednesday, library staff will lead Practica Spanish Conversation, a Spanish-learning class where you can practice and learn Spanish. A Zoom account will be needed in order to participate. Then on September 16, Chef Yamira Lee Johnson hosts a special Cuisine Corner: Tostones where she will demonstrate how to prepare delicious tostones live on the library's Instagram account, @OCLS.

These virtual events and more are available to you online for free with your Orange County Library card. If you have any questions about the information shared below, contact us as 407-835-7323. Check us out online at ocls.info for a complete listing of all library events.

Virtual Event: Practica Spanish Conversation

Wednesdays, September 2–30, 4 p.m.

Practica tu español! Develop your Spanish language skills through conversation.

<https://www.ocls.info/classes-events-Practica-Spanish-Conversation>

Virtual Event: Art 101 – Funerary Art

Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 p.m.

For thousands of years people have been burying their dead with artistic expressions of love, mourning, and hope. Learn how this art form has evolved throughout history and create a work of art from the comfort of your own home. Registration Required. This program is intended for an audience 15 years of age and older.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4265800>

Virtual Event: The Wrong Grave and Real Cemeteries

Thursday, September 3, 7 p.m.

Join us as we discuss the story "The Wrong Grave" from Kelly Link's collection *Pretty Monsters* and learn the real stories behind Orlando's Greenwood Cemetery.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4319784>

Virtual Event: Florida's Haunted Love Stories

Thursday, September 3, 9 p.m.

Part history lesson, part folklore, and part ghost story, author Christopher Balzano takes you on a spooky journey through Florida's haunted love stories.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4404988>

Virtual Event: Hidden Orlando: Secret Spots and Local Haunts

Saturday, September 5, 2 p.m.

Join a panel of local influencers as they discuss their top eats, shops, and haunts. Dive in and discover your new nearby favorites...they were right there all along.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4264325>

Virtual Event: Learning from Home with the Library

Thursday, September 10, 11 a.m.

Whether you are just getting started or you would like to add to your K-12 teaching toolkit, find out everything the library has to offer for learning at home and homeschooling. Information for parents and caregivers will be shared including homeschool and homework help resources. Recommended for Adults.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4519161>

Virtual Event: Florida's Ghostly Curses

Thursday, September 10, 9 p.m.

Do you believe in curses? Real or imaginary, many of the ghost stories in the state center around them. From scorned witches to desecrated mounds, there is more than one reason a ghost may be lurking.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4316200>

Virtual Event: Cuisine Corner – Tostones

Wednesday, September 16, 6 p.m.

Watch live as Yamira Lee Johnson, head chef and founder of Breaking Bread with Mira and certified holistic life coach, shows you how to make tasty tostones.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4465470>

Virtual Event: From Idea to Completed Novel

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.

Do you have an idea for a novel, but aren't sure how to develop that into a manuscript? Brandon Goode, author of *Unorthodox Remedies*, will provide strategies on expanding your idea into a full novel.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4412252>

Virtual Event: A Conversation Between Police & Protesters

Wednesday, September 23, 10:30 a.m.

The Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College leads a conversation with local law enforcement and protesters in order to understand the complexities of racial injustices in our community.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4522781>

Virtual Event: Japanese Book Binging: The Hemp Leaf Stitch

Friday, September 25, 10:30 a.m.

Practice bookbinding and create your own books using traditional Japanese stab stitching techniques. This month we are learning the Hemp Leaf stitch.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4505784>

Virtual Event: Book Launch for *Florida's Healing Waters*

Saturday, September 26, 3 p.m.

Celebrate the release of *Florida's Healing Waters*, about a time in history when tourists poured into Florida in search of good health. Author Rick Kilby will be in conversation with Dr. Peggy McDonald.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4463350>

Virtual Event: Create Art with Pen and Ink

Wednesday, September 30, 2 p.m.

Learn to create art using only pen and ink. Attendees will learn basic drawing techniques and be introduced to the materials that can be used to create them. Materials: pen, pencil, and paper.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4512020>

Virtual Event: Starting a Family Garden

Wednesday, September 30, 7:30 p.m.

Fleet Farming invites you to a class all about gardening. Discuss the basics of setting up a family garden, interactive ideas for youth involvement, and how to keep your garden growing this Fall.

<https://attend.ocls.info/event/4504286>

LEARN. GROW. CONNECT.

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