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Orange County Library System Kicks Off 100 Year Celebration

ORLANDO, FL – In 2023, Orange County Library System turns 100 years old. To celebrate, the library will hold a 100 Year Celebration, with events taking place at library branches all year long, beginning with a kickoff at the Orlando Public Library on January 7. The kickoff will feature a rededication of the library to the community, live music and a virtual reality tour of the original Albertson Public Library, as well as storytimes, refreshments and activities throughout the day.

Orange County Library System traces its roots to the donation of more than 12,000 books from the collection of Captain Charles Albertson, a retired police inspector from New York who spent winters in Orlando. Albertson contributed his book collection to the city on the condition that a permanent library be built to house it, and the city complied. Additional materials were provided by the Sorosis of Orlando Women’s Club and the City of Orlando.

On November 8, 1923, the Albertson Public Library, located at the corner of Central Boulevard and Rosalind Avenue, opened its doors for the first time. That single library, with its collection of approximately 20,000 books, evolved to eventually become today's Orange County Library System. The library is now made up of 15 locations, with new branches planned for Lake Nona and Horizon West. It circulates more than 3 million items per year.

The public is invited to join the library in its 100 Year Celebration. Every location will host events throughout the year, and the library is focused on several special events that will bring nationally known speakers to Orlando, including author and *Top Chef* contestant Kwame Onwuachi in February. Additional author events and speakers will be announced in 2023.

As part of the centennial celebration, a new commemorative logo has been created to be featured on library materials and on limited edition merchandise for sale at the Orlando Public Library’s Gifts & Greetings shop. Visit the OCLS Youtube page to view the logo reveal video.

For more information about the 100 Year Celebration, visit ocls.info/100.

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