

words

RED

Literature & Life



CALENDAR • BOOK REVIEW • BOOKMARKS • PROFILE

words

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Public Library

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MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Ocala, FL 34470

352-671-8551



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ON THE COVER

The color red — and its symbolism of love, power, courage, danger and sacrifice — draws a scarlet thread through life and literature.



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a word from the director



Julie Sieg

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY SYSTEM DIRECTOR

Turn the Page

It is with great honor that I write this letter of recognition. Patsy Mills Marsee, Assistant Library Director with the Marion County Public Library System, has retired. Patsy has served our Marion County community with great distinction and professionalism, demonstrating a strong love of community, commitment to continuous quality improvement and always with a dedication to ideals such as free speech, honesty and providing equal service to all. After over 36 years of service, Patsy retired October 29, 2021. It seems impossible to try to summarize her career in a few short sentences.

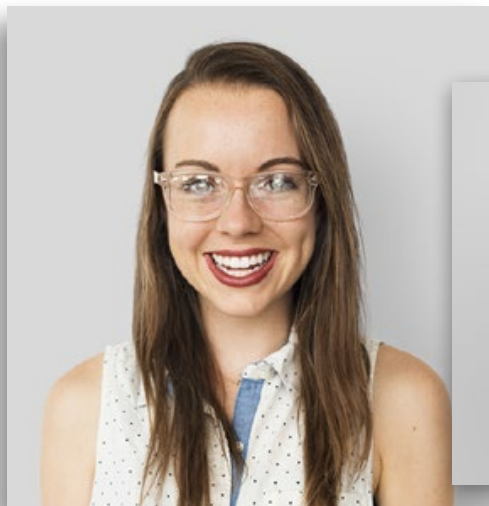
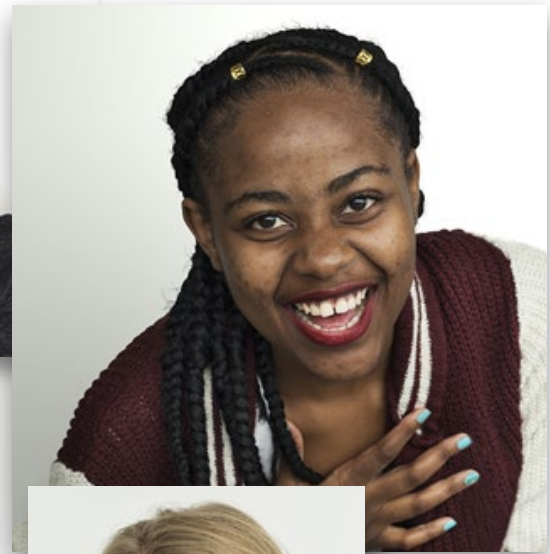
Patsy is a native Marion Countian and worked as a library page in her younger years. After her stint as a middle-school math teacher and pursuit of a Master's of Divinity, Patsy returned to the public library setting. During her tenure with the library Patsy has worn many hats, from librarian to branch library supervisor to division manager and assistant director. Patsy has also been an integral part of many projects such as automating library functions to designing our Belleview, Dunnellon, Forest and Headquarters libraries, to long-range planning and the never-ending process of hiring the right person for the right position. While these are projects and positions, it doesn't speak to the critical impact Patsy has had on our department as she served as a mentor to others, set high standards for herself and others, took time to talk through personal and professional issues with employees and developed departmental policy and procedures. Her touch is pervasive throughout the library system. I speak for myself in this as well. Over the past 36 years, Patsy has been a mentor to me, served as an example and been my counsel. But more than this, Patsy has been my friend. Patsy leaves a legacy of library service of the highest caliber.

Julie Sieg

THE MANY FACES OF

The Color Red

BY KAREN M. JENSEN



Whether we associate it with love, courage, sacrifice, power, danger or even anger, one thing is certain; the color red arouses a wide range of human emotions. One of the primary colors, red triggers more opposing emotions than any other color in the spectrum.

A red heart shape is pretty much the universal symbol of loving, affectionate feelings. Red is also associated with sacrifice and is used in conjunction with certain religious beliefs. The red poppy flower is symbolic of the honor paid on Veterans Day to those courageous

Armed Forces veterans who have served their country.


Red grabs our attention. Its use in stop lights, as well as fire and emergency vehicles, generates an immediate response. Idioms that include such phrases as “seeing red” or “caught red-handed” initiate a particular emotional association to possible danger or a warning.

A flushed, red face typically signifies anger. Cartoon and graphic novel characters, and even emojis depicted with a red face, are quickly identified, and there is little confusion about the emotion being portrayed. Conversely,

happy, healthy people are often associated with rosy red cheeks.

Advertising efforts frequently use the color to promote a variety of products, as studies indicate it has an energizing effect on the viewer. An automobile advertisement using a sleek red car might make the viewer consider taking a test drive. And one look at an ad with a luscious red velvet cake might result in us contemplating our next meal.

Red is also a color often associated with power. The traditional red “power tie” has long been an image that conjures up a powerful figure. And the term “rolling out the red carpet” denotes an action where celebrities and dignitaries are on display for all to see and revere.

Like many other colors, our response to red is often shaped by our own personal likes or dislikes, and life experiences. Like it or not, bold, exhilarating red will continue to garner lots of attention in whatever manner it’s displayed. 



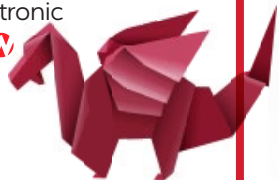
Crafting in Crimson

BY ROBIN WAYNE

Do you love to craft? My craft room is full of craft projects in varying degrees of completion. So much so that I feel like I could actually save money by shopping there instead of at the craft store! Winter celebrations make me think of creating something in warm colors, like red. A soft red knitted or crocheted sweater or blanket would be lovely, but I don't knit or crochet. I *do* have a huge variety of paper in many shades of red, though. I can't seem to resist scrapbook paper, origami paper, handmade paper, even beautiful scraps of paper salvaged from the recycle bin!

Marion County Public Library System is a great source of ideas for papercrafts. When you visit your local library, look in the non-fiction section under the Dewey Decimal Classification number 745, or use the library's online catalog, and search for "papercrafts." The library's selection of origami books is terrific! An origami poinsettia would be great fun to make in December! Or, how about an origami dragon for Chinese New Year in February?

Speaking of February, remember to make cards for all of your valentines! Get inspiration not only from our print books, but from our free database, "Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center." Simply visit library.marionfl.org, select the "Research" tab, then "Databases," choose "Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center," click "Scrapbooking & Paper Crafts," then "Card Making." I love how you can combine different papercrafts for one project. Your Valentine's Day card could include handmade paper, quilling, origami, rubber-stamping and more! The library's e-book platform, Freading, contains a treasure trove of electronic craft books, with an amazing number of books about quilling, a way of making beautiful art out of curled strips of colored paper. Check the listings in WORDS for craft programs, including a quilling class at our Ocala location!

You may want to listen to an audiobook while you craft! The library has a large selection of audiobooks on CD as well as electronic audiobooks on our OverDrive platform. Happy crafting! 

"The Color Red and Its Cultural Significance"

BY ROBERT GRISSOM

Long before the days of modern civilization, the color red made its dramatic appearance. Its use can be traced back to the Stone Age when hunters used red clay as the base for body paint. Prehistoric man used red ochre to paint cave walls, often depicting animals and people in various stages of battle.

In many Western cultures, red is the color of war, blood and courage. The young soldier in Stephen Crane's classic Civil War novel, "The Red Badge of Courage," is ashamed of being a coward and wants to be wounded so that his "red badge" will prove his bravery. Perhaps this is why President Ronald Reagan said that the red stripes of the flag stand for valor and readiness to sacrifice.

The Japanese have 23 different names for shades of red. Temples and torii gates are painted vermilion, which protects against evil, and brides in Shinto weddings wear white kimonos with red hems for good fortune. But red objects should never



RED RECIPES

STRAWBERRY WATERMELON CRUSH

by Amber Grissom

- 1 pint strawberries
- 2 cups watermelon
- 1/3 cup sugar
- ½ cup your favorite clear beverage
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 2 cups ice cubes

Combine all ingredients, except ice, in the blender. Blend well. Gradually add ice, blending until smooth. Serve and enjoy!

be given as housewarming gifts in Japan. Red might be lucky, but it's also the color of fire!

In Russian culture, the word for "red" and the word for "beauty" have similar linguistic roots. This is why many of the famous city squares in Russia, including the famous Red Square in Moscow, are also known as the Beautiful Square.

Red has permeated human culture since the first human gazed into the crimson heart of a campfire or washed the blood of the hunt from their hands. While its symbolism may differ from culture to culture, its primal meaning draws a scarlet thread of life, death, passion and protection through the human experience all across the globe. 🍷

RED VELVET WHOOPIE PIES

YIELD: 14

by Kathy Abrams

CAKES:

- 1 box Red Velvet cake mix
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs

FOR CAKES (makes 28 cakes):

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Line baking sheets with parchment; set aside.
3. In medium bowl, mix together cake mix, oil and eggs.
4. Spoon batter in 1- or 2-inch diameter rounds, about 1/2-inch high onto prepared baking sheets, allowing 1 inch between each round; or use small scoop (#50 disher).
5. Roll into balls and flatten with the ball of the thumb.
6. Bake 7 to 9 minutes or until tops are set.
7. Cool on baking sheets on wire rack, then remove to rack to cool completely.

FILLING:

- 3 tbs. unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 3 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 c powdered sugar

FOR FILLING:

In a medium bowl, beat the butter until smooth with no visible lumps. Add the cream cheese and beat until combined. Add the powdered sugar and vanilla and beat until smooth. Be careful not to overbeat the filling, or it will lose structure.

ASSEMBLY:

1. Turn over half of the cakes so that the flat side is up and place 1-2 tablespoons (OR, using small scoop, place 1 scoopful) of filling on the flat side of the cakes.
2. Top with remaining plain cakes, flat sides down, and press gently to spread filling to the edges.
3. Store whoopie pies in fridge until ready to serve. Allow whoopie pies to sit at room temperature for 10 minutes before serving.



“Roses are red...”

BY SUZANNE BROWN

Red is my favorite color. Therefore, I might be a tiny bit biased, but I am glad red exists in all its glorious hues: crimson, scarlet, ruby, vermilion, wine...a shade of rose by any name is always an extraordinary color! We see red, wave red flags, chase red herrings, get caught red-handed, celebrate red letter days, paint the town red, and roll out the red carpet. Reds surround us, including within the visual, literary, and performing arts: Jane Eyre’s red room, Hester Prynne’s scarlet A, and Chris de Burgh’s lady in red showcase but a few facets of this complex color.

“His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!”

“A Visit from St. Nicholas” by Clement Clarke Moore

Red decorations are everywhere you go these days. In December, we see the red and green decorations celebrating Christmas festivities. By February, those decorations will be exchanged for hearts and cupids as we celebrate Library Lovers’ Month and, of course, Valentine’s Day. From holly berries to hearts, lively red is a bright spark that brings joy to otherwise bleak winter days.

“When I am an old woman I shall wear purple/With a red hat which doesn’t go, and doesn’t suit me.”

“Warning” by Jenny Joseph

Can a color be described as an extrovert? Outgoing, vibrant red certainly refuses to be overlooked. Could there be any better hue for the bold and adventurous, fun-loving folk ready to seize the day? When you want to be daring, attract attention or just show off your fun side, red is the color for you!

“When Susanna Jones wears red/a queen from some time-dead Egyptian night/Walks once again.”

“When Sue Wears Red” by Langston Hughes

Red confers authority and the allure of risk. Whether that risk is to the lives—or hearts—of the characters themselves or that of those around them is rarely certain, but one should always take heed. Red demands (and deserves) respect!

“The apple pulses like a red bird in her hand...”

“I Watch Her Eat the Apple” by Natalie Diaz

Love, lust, and desire all embrace humanity in swirling shades of red. Envision a sliding scale for love's intensity: Gentle romance's first flush exists in rosy hues, whereas full-blown passions burn in scarlet waves. Red, like fire, has the power to warm or burn depending on its intensity.

"...his broad brow, with all the features of the face, was besprinkled with the scarlet horror."

"The Masque of the Red Death"
by Edgar Allan Poe

Sharing the color of our lifeblood, red can warn of danger, risk or death. Do you remember the movie *The Sixth Sense*? Every pop of red forewarned a convergence of realities. And you certainly should never grow attached to any minor Star Trek character who wears a red shirt!

"I see grass of green—red roses, too—I see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself what a wonderful world."

"What a Wonderful World"
by Louis Armstrong, composed by Bob Thiele (George Douglas) and George David Weiss

Complex and sometimes contradictory, red is life, love, passion, excitement, vitality, courage, rage, danger, fear, and even death. The next time you're listening to the radio, reading a book or watching TV, keep your eyes and ears open to what the colors are telling you. They all have something to say in this beautiful, complex, colorful, wonderful world!

SONG PLAYLIST

Juvenile:

- "Mary Wore Her Red Dress"
— Raffi
- "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" — Various
- "Toot Toot, Chugga Chugga, Big Red Car!" — The Wiggles

Adult:

- "Red" — Sara Bareilles
- "The Red Strokes"
— Garth Brooks
- "Red Dirt Road"
— Brooks & Dunn
- "Lady in Red" — Chris de Burgh
- "Red" — Cher
- "Red House" — Jimi Hendrix
- "Like Red on a Rose"
— Alan Jackson
- "Red Ragtop" — Tim McGraw
- "99 Red Balloons" — Nena
- "La Vie en Rose" — Edith Piaf
- "Little Red Corvette" — Prince
- "Snoopy vs. the Red Baron"
— The Royal Guardsmen
- "Red" — Taylor Swift
- "Red Red Wine" — UB40

POETRY

- "Red is the Color of Blood"
— Conrad Aiken
(from *The Charnel Rose*)
- "Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal"
— Alfred, Lord Tennyson
- "My Luve is Like a Red, Red Rose"
— Robert Burns
(in *The Classic Poems*)
- "The Red Blues" — Natalie Diaz
(from *When My Brother Was an Aztec*)
- "A Lady, red—amid the Hill"
— Emily Dickinson
(in *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*)
- "The Red Poppy"
— Louise Gluck
(from *The Wild Iris*)

- "The White Ships and the Red"
— Joyce Kilmer
(in *Complete Poems*)
- "The Red Wheelbarrow"
— William Carlos Williams

TO CHECK OUT

Picture Books:

- "Clifford, the Big Red Dog"
by Norman Bridwell
- "Red Shoes" by Karen English
- "Little Red's Christmas Story"
by Sarah Ferguson
- "Elmer's Christmas"
by David McKee
- "Little Red Reading Hood and The Misread Wolf"
by Troy Wilson

Beginning Readers:

- "Ned, Ted, and the Red Shed"
by Marv Alinas
- "Red Bunny & Yellow Bunny"
by Claire Garralon
- "The Big Red Detective"
by Gail Herman
- "A House for Little Red"
by Margaret Hillert
- "Cat Likes Red"
by Christopher Russo

Juvenile Music CDs:

- "Cranberry Red Balloon"
— Tab Laven
- "Rockin' Red"
— Mr. Eric & Mr. Michael

Juvenile DVDs:

- "Clifford the Big Red Dog: Celebrate with Clifford"
- "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
- "Where the Red Fern Grows"
- "The Wiggles: Here Comes the Big Red Car"

Juvenile Fiction:

- "We're Red, Weird, and Blue! What Can We Do?"
By Dan Gutman
- "Red Moon Rising"
by Erin Hunter

- "The Red Slippers"
by Carolyn Keene
- "Where the Red Fern Grows"
by Wilson Rawls

- "Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood" by Liesl Shurtliff

Young Adult Fiction:

- "Red Hood" by Elana K. Arnold
- "Red Queen"
by Victoria Aveyard
- "The Red Scrolls of Magic"
by Cassandra Clare and Wesley Chu
- "Ruby Red" by Kerstin Gier
- "Blood Red Snow White"
by Marcus Sedgwick

Adult Fiction:

- "The Red Badge of Courage"
by Stephen Crane
- "A Redbird Christmas"
by Fannie Flagg
- "The Woman in Red"
by Diana Giovinazzo
- "The Red Book"
by James Patterson
- "The Red, Red Snow"
by Caro Ramsay
- "Red Letter Days"
by Sara Stratford
- "Red at the Bone"
by Jacqueline Woodson
- "The Red Gloves" series
by Karen Kingsbury
- "Gideon's Gift"
 - "Maggie's Miracle"
 - "Sarah's Song"
 - "Hannah's Hope"

Music CDs:

- "Something in Red"
— Lorrie Morgan
- "Red Hot Ballroom"
— Alex Naar
- "Red Hot and Rhythm Blues"
— Diana Ross
- "Live at Red Rocks"
— John Tesh

Adult DVDs:

- "The Hunt for Red October"
- "The Red Badge of Courage"

A STUDY IN

SCARLET

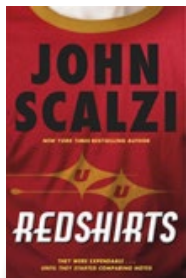
Brighten this winter with colorful reads! This roundup offers a full spectrum of rosy titles to ignite your interest.

BY ASA DRAKE

NOVELS



“Red Island House” by Andrea Lee
Traversing lush cities from Milan to Madagascar, Shay finds herself in the midst of paradise, but “people do mysterious things when they think they have found paradise.” Fans of Isabel Allende will love this simmering mystery steeped in island history, inheritance and uneasy love.



“Redshirts” by John Scalzi
Starfleet junior officers are well aware of the perils that await them on a planet’s surface. The result? Pure comedy! Ensign Andrew Dahl is determined to beat the odds in a universe filled with improbable confrontations. Star Trek fans will enjoy this witty, action-packed novel that’s quick to break the fourth wall.

YOUNG ADULT

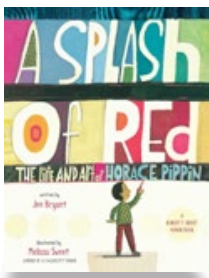


“Red Queen” by Victoria Aveyard
In a world divided by lineage and magic, young Mare must disguise herself to live in the Silver world or become the symbol of rebellion. Fans of Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games” and Leigh Bardugo’s “Shadow and Bone” will love Aveyard’s award-winning “Red Queen” quartet.



“Blanca & Roja” by Anna-Marie McLemore
The Del Cisnes sisters have always known their fate, but they aren’t ready to accept it. In this swoon-worthy retelling of Swan Lake with elements of Latino folklore, coming of age means coming to terms with a family curse that will leave one sister a swan forever.

CHILDREN’S



“A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin” by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
This vibrant portrait of

self-taught African American artist Horace Pippin emphasizes the importance of art as a tool for observing and interpreting the world.



“The Red Book” by Barbara Lehman
Sometimes pictures can tell the whole story.

Such is the case in this Caldecott Honor-winning tale of two young readers and a book which allows them to share their very different lives.



“The Red Pencil” by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Shane W. Evans
Told through 12-year-old Amira’s distinctive voice and drawings,

this stunning novel in verse illustrates rural life in Southern Darfur and Amira’s search for opportunity as the region is changed by war.

program spotlight

READ-A-PALOOZA!

Feb. 7-Mar. 5 at all library locations.

Join in on the reading fun! Pick up a reading log and track your daily reading activity. Grand prize drawings will be held in March.

Co-sponsored by Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

CELEBRATE KINDNESS MONTH

Kindness Kits distributed beginning Feb. 1, while supplies last. All library locations.

Kindness and consideration are so important in today's world. If you have a young child at home, visit any Marion County library location and pick up a Kindness Kit, full of do-at-home activities for celebrating kindness and being a good and caring neighbor.

In partnership with WUCF and PBS Kids.

• PBS Kids Time Kindness Day Watch Party!

Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.

Headquarters-Ocala

Learn about kindness as we all enjoy a breakfast snack and a special PBS show.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, WUCF and PBS Kids.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African American Read-In

Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.


All library locations

Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21
Call your local library to register.

Celebrate a rich heritage of literature, film, music and art at the 32nd National African American Read-In. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome! Contact any Marion County Public Library if you are interested in participating in this online and in person event.

Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire, Inc.

Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in-person.

If there is a  symbol shown next to a program or group of programs, you may attend virtually or in-person. Contact the listed Marion County Public Library to receive your virtual invitation to those programs.

FAMILY HOLIDAY EVENTS

Arctic Blast

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2 p.m.

Forest Public Library

Have a cool day at the library with stories, games, crafts and that delicious frozen treat—ice cream!

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Public Library and Publix Supermarkets.

Polar Express

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m.

Jenkins Open Air Amphitheater at
Tusawilla Park, 500 NE 9 St., Ocala

Ring in the holidays with a magical reading of Chris Van Allsburg's "Polar Express" presented under the night sky. Bring your chairs and blankets and enjoy a night of stories, musical entertainment by Shana Banana and more!

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, Heart of Florida Health Center, City of Ocala, Reilly Arts Center, and Appleton Museum of Art, College of Central Florida.

Polar Paradise Sails the Seven

Seas: A Drive-Thru Event

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.

Belleview Public Library

Seatbelts on! We are heading to the islands! Don your festive duds and motor on in for a holiday in paradise, complete with music, crafts, games and giveaways.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Belleview Public Library and Early Learning Coalition of Marion County.

Reindeer Romp Gift Giveaway:

A Drive-Thru Event

Saturday, Dec. 18, noon-3 p.m.

Reddick Public Library

Registration begins Dec. 1. Supplies are limited. Call 352-438-2566 to register. Children and teens must be present to receive gifts. Each child or teen registration includes a drawing entry for a special prize!

Enjoy our favorite winter event from your car! Bring the kids (required), drive to the library and pick up books and other holiday gifts. Entertainer and rockin' deejay, Elio Piedra, brings his Latin rhythms to the holiday fiesta, as other local agencies join in the fun with take-home offerings. Plus, there's a drive-thru opportunity to say "hi" to that bearded jolly old elf!

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, War Horse Harley-Davidson of Ocala, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Fire Rescue, His Compassion, Inc., Tyrone Goodson Youth and Sports Programs, Inc. and United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

MEET THE AUTHORS

Dylan Newton

"How Sweet It Is"

Thursday, Jan. 20, 3:30 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

A happy accident takes Kate Sweet from planning someone else's happily-ever-after to finding her own. Break out the chocolate covered strawberries for a Q&A with contemporary romance author Dylan Newton on her latest work!

Joe Ponds, Ph.D.

"The 600 m.o.l.: Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam"
Saturday, Feb. 5, 2 p.m. Dunnellon Public Library

Only 2 percent of army helicopter pilots in Vietnam were African Americans and they struggled to attain this distinctive role. These are their stories of courage and sacrifice, as told by Dr. Joe Ponds, secretary and chaplain of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida.

BOOK CLUBS

Make new friends and talk about books! Join in person or call to join via Zoom. Call the listed library for more information. You are welcome to attend one or all!

Monday Books and Coffee

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Fort McCoy Public Library

Dec. 6 "The Giver of Stars"
by Jojo Moyes

Jan. 3 "The Tattooist of
Auschwitz"
by Heather Morris

Feb. 7 "The Secret Life of Bees"
by Sue Monk Kidd

As the Page Turns Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Freedom Public Library

Dec. 7 "The Invisible Life of Addie
LaRue" by V.E. Schwab

Jan. 4 Reader's Choice

Feb. 1 "The Wife Upstairs"
by Rachel Hawkins

Forest Readers Book Club

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Forest Public Library

Dec. 8 "Alaskan Holiday"
by Debbie Macomber

Jan. 12 "In Pieces" by Sally Field

Jan. 26 "Nine Perfect Strangers"
by Liane Moriarty

Feb. 9 "The Red Queen"
by Philippa Gregory

Feb. 23 "The Vanishing Half"
by Brit Bennett

Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon

Marion Oaks Public Library

Dec. 15 Bring your own book

Jan. 19 "Big Little Lies"
by Liane Moriarty

Feb. 16 "Woman in Red"
by Eileen Goudge

TEEN BOOK CLUB

Bound for the Red Planet

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Dunnellon Public Library

Lost in space? On the lookout for UFOs? Teen fans of Sci-Fi gather to explore these Mars-based classics.

Novels at Night

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Dec. 14 "The Woman with the Blue
Star" by Pam Jenoff

Jan. 11 "Dark Matter"
by Blake Crouch

Feb. 8 "Red at the Bone"
by Jacqueline Woodson

Novels at Night

Thursdays, 5 p.m.

Dunnellon Public Library

Dec. 16 "Red at the Bone"
by Jacqueline Woodson

Jan. 13 "I Wish I Had a Red Dress"
by Pearl Cleage

Feb. 10 "Red Grass River:
A Legend"
by James Carlos Blake

Power Hour Book Club

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Belleview Public Library

Dec. 28 Reader's Choice

Jan. 25 "The Book Thief"
by Markus Zusak

Feb. 22 "March: Book One"
by Andrew Aydin and
John Lewis

Let's Talk Books

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Reddick Public Library

Jan. 10 "Hillbilly Elegy"
by J.D. Vance

Feb. 14 "All the Light We Cannot
See" by Anthony Doerr

Dec. 14 "The Sky So Big and Black"
by John Barnes

Jan. 11 "The Martian Race"
by Gregory Benford

Feb. 8 "Black Hole Sun"
by David Macinnis Gill

HEADQUARTERS- OCALA

2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470

352-671-8551

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Ocala Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a 🏠 symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

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SPECIAL FAMILY PROGRAM

PBS Kids Time Kindness Day

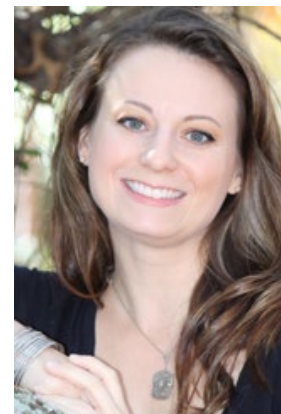
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MEET THE AUTHOR



Dylan Newton

"How Sweet It Is"
Thursday, Jan. 20,
3:30 p.m.

A happy accident takes Kate Sweet from planning someone else's happily-ever-after to finding her own.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

ADULTS**Crafternoons***Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.*

Get in touch with the right side of your brain!

*Dec. 1 Basic Quilling**Jan. 5 New Year Lucky Red Envelopes**Feb. 2 Duct Tape Rose Bouquet***The Monday Matinée***Mondays, 2 p.m.*

Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

*Jan. 3**Jan. 24**Jan. 31**Feb. 7**Feb. 14* **Redshirt's Log,****Stardate 99631.78***Wednesday, Jan. 12, 4 p.m.*

In the original *Star Trek* series, "redshirts" were unlucky, expendable characters. Join us to craft your own story of redshirt woe.

 **Color: The Emotion Influencer***Wednesday, Feb. 16, 3 p.m.*

Discover how colors and emotions are intertwined across cultures!

 **Central Florida****Sky Watching***Wednesday, Feb. 23, 3 p.m.*

Explore the night sky and the solar system with astronomy enthusiast and librarian Taylor Benson.

 **BOOK CLUB**

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

Novels at Night*Tuesdays, 5 p.m.**Dec. 14 "The Woman with the Blue Star" by Pam Jenoff**Jan. 11 "Dark Matter" by Blake Crouch**Feb. 8 "Red at the Bone" by Jacqueline Woodson***TEENS****MANGAlicious Teen Club!***Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.**Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3*

Anime and manga fans, unite!

YALLA!*Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.**Dec. 28, Jan. 25, Feb. 22*

Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

CHILDREN**Corrugation Station***Tuesdays, 4 p.m.**Jan. 18-Feb. 1**Ages 5-12 with caregivers.*

Old cardboard takes on new life with a little help from YOUR imagination! Call 352-671-8551 to register.

We ♥ Crafts*Saturday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-noon**Ages 5-12 with caregivers.*


If you ♥ crafts, join us in making something to keep and something to give away.

STORY TIMES*Jan. 18-Feb. 17*

A variety of stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

Bouncing Babies*Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.**Infants-23 months.***Toddling Twos***Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.***Preschool Story Time***Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.**Ages 3-5.***BELLEVUE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

13145 SE Highway 484,
Bellevue, FL 34420
352-438-2500

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Bellevue Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a  symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

FAMILY HOLIDAY EVENT**Polar Paradise Sails the Seven Seas: A Drive-Thru Event***Saturday, Dec. 11, 2 p.m.*

Don your festive duds and motor on in for a holiday in paradise.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH**African American Read-In***Event: Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.**Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21**Call 352-438-2500 to register.*

See Program Spotlight for more information. Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., The 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire, Inc.

ADULTS**Master Gardener Plant Clinic***Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**Dec. 3, 17, Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, 18*

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

 **Writer's Studio***Wednesdays, 2 p.m.**Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9*

Writers of all levels share information and encouragement.

Tech Help Center*Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., Jan. 6-Feb.24*

Bring your device and drop in.

Community Job Fair*Wednesday, Jan. 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.*

Looking for a career opportunity?

Co-sponsored by the City of Bellevue.

Community Conversation*Tuesday, Feb. 1, 10:30 a.m.*

Come together with others for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas.

Topic: The Red Balloon: Talk about your favorite childhood memory.

Keep Your Heart in Check

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 10:30 a.m.

Learn about heart healthy living, and discover small steps you can take to maintain or improve your heart health.

Co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Health in Marion County.

BOOK CLUB

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

Power Hour Book Club

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 28 *Reader's Choice*

Jan. 25 *"The Book Thief"* by Markus Zusak

Feb. 22 *"March: Book One"* by John Lewis

TEENS

YALLA South!

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3

Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17

Anime and manga fans, unite!

Mystery Theater:

Caught Red-Handed

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 4 p.m.

Can you connect the clues and solve the crime in this exciting mystery theater?

FAMILIES

Knights of the Chess Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., Jan. 4-Feb. 22

Learn and play chess!

Games on a Table

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., Jan. 4-Feb. 22

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

STORY TIMES

Jan. 5-Feb. 24

A variety of stories, songs and activities for young children with caregivers.

Preschool Adventures

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

For ages 3-5.


Toddler Time

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

For infants-age 2.

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

20351 Robinson Road,
Dunnellon, FL 34431
352-438-2520

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a  symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Let It Snow!

Monday, Jan. 3, 2 p.m.

Have some chilly fun in the new year!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African American Read-In

Event: Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21

Call 352-438-2520 to register.

See Program Spotlight for more information. Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., The 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Joe Ponds, Ph. D

"The 600 m.o.l.: Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam"

Saturday, Feb. 5, 2 p.m.

The courage of African American Vietnam helicopter pilots is remembered by Dr. Joe Ponds, secretary and chaplain of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

ADULTS

Fly Tyers

Mondays, 10 a.m., Jan. 3-Feb. 28

Learn the art of luring fish!

Yarn Lovers

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Jan. 5-Feb. 23

Make new friends and keep each other in stitches.



Senior Education Series

Thursdays, noon

Learn how to cope with dementia with Debbie Selsavage

Jan. 6 *The ABC's of Dementia Part 1*

Feb. 3 *The ABC's of Dementia Part 2*

Community Conversation

Saturday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.

Come together with others for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas.

Topic: *The Red Balloon: Talk about your favorite childhood memory.*

BOOK CLUB

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

Novels at Night

Thursdays, 5 p.m.

Dec. 16 *"Red at the Bone"*

by Jacqueline Woodson

Jan. 13 *"I Wish I Had a Red Dress"*

by Pearl Cleage

Feb. 10 *"Red Grass River"*

by James Carlos Blake

TEENS

YALLA West

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., Jan. 27, Feb. 24

Be a part of the library experience. Earn volunteer service hours.

TEEN BOOK CLUB

Bound for the Red Planet

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Lost in space? On the lookout for UFOs? Fans of Sci-Fi gather to explore these Mars-based classics.

Dec. 14 *"The Sky So Big and Black"*

by John Barnes

Jan. 11 *"The Martian Race"*

by Gregory Benford

Feb. 8 *"Black Hole Sun"*

by David Macinnis Gill

FAMILIES

The Slime Society

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Join the Slime Society and make a slimy stash of your very own!

Dec. 4 *Glow in the Dark Slime*

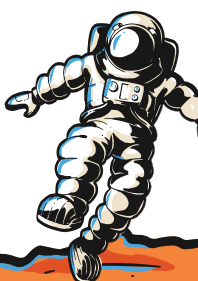
Dec. 18 *Buttery Slime*

Jan. 8 *Soapy Slime*

Jan. 22 *Magnetic Slime*

Feb. 12 *Blackboard Slime*

Feb. 26 *Glittery Glossy Slime*



Marvelous Marbles Matches*Saturdays, 11 a.m.**Dec. 11, Jan. 15, Feb. 12*

Knock our marbles out of the ring and win the match!

Shake Your Sillies Out Story Time!*Wednesdays, 11 a.m.**Jan. 5-Feb. 23*


High energy and great times abound with this perfect remedy for the "there's nothing-to-do" blues.

Jammies Jamboree*Fridays, 5 p.m.**Jan. 7-Feb. 25*

Don your PJs and end the week with some relaxing bedtime tales.

FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

905 S. Highway 314A, Ocklawaha, FL 32179
352-438-2540

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Forest Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a  symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

FAMILY HOLIDAY EVENT**Arctic Blast***Saturday, Dec. 4, 2 p.m.*

Have a cool day at the library with stories, games, crafts and that delicious frozen treat—ice cream!

See Program Spotlight for other family holiday events. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Public Library and Publix Supermarkets.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH** African American Read-In***Event: Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.**Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21*

Call 352-438-2540 to register.

See Program Spotlight for more information. Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., The 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire.

ADULTS**Color to Calm***Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3*

Seek serenity through coloring!

 Writers Studio*Thursdays, 4 p.m., Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10*

Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

DIY Art*Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.*

Express yourself through art!

*Jan. 5 New Year, New You!**Feb. 2 Build a Mini Loom***Yearning for Yarn***Tuesdays, 2 p.m., Jan. 11-Feb. 22*

Learn to knit or crochet or bring your own project in progress. It's more fun with friends!

Tech Help Center*Thursdays, 2-3 p.m., Jan. 13-Feb. 24*

Bring your device and drop in.

Community Conversation*Saturday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m.*

Come together with others for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas.

Topic: Share your memory of your most romantic or special Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day Creations*Saturday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m.*

Make something special for someone special.

Nature Walk*Thursday, Feb. 24, 10:30 a.m.*

Don your sneaks for a stroll through the local environment with our own botanical enthusiast.

 BOOK CLUB

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

Forest Readers Book Club*Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.**Dec. 8 "Alaskan Holiday"**by Debbie Macomber**Jan. 12 "In Pieces" by Sally Field**Jan. 26 "Nine Perfect Strangers"**by Liane Moriarty**Feb. 9 "The Red Queen"**by Philippa Gregory**Feb. 23 "The Vanishing Half"**by Brit Bennett***TEENS****YALLA East!***Thursdays, 5 p.m.**Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17*

Be part of the library experience. Teens, earn volunteer service hours.

FAMILIES**FUNtasmagoria!***Wednesdays, 4 p.m.*

Explore the world through science, stories and activities! It's FUNtastic!

*Jan. 12 Fractured Fairy Tales**Jan. 19 Say What?**Feb. 2 Extreme Science**Feb. 9 Add It Up!**Feb. 16 Give Me Some Space!**Feb. 23 Toy Lab***Family Story Time***Fridays, 10:30 a.m.**Jan. 14-Feb. 25 *No program Feb. 11*

A variety of stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

Rock Art! Paint On!*Saturdays, 2 p.m.**Jan. 15, Feb. 19*


With a rock as your canvas, a masterpiece is inevitable.

Birdhouse Bonanza*Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2:30 p.m.*

Prepare for spring by decorating your own birdhouse.

**FORT M^cCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

14660 NE Hwy 315, Fort M^cCoy, FL 32134
352-438-2560

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Ocala Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a  symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH** African American Read-In***Event: Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.**Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21**Call 352-438-2560 to register.*

See Program Spotlight for more information. Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., The 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire, Inc.

ADULTS**Tech Help**

Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jan. 4-Feb. 22

Bring your device and drop in.

Diabetes Self-Management Class

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 19-Feb. 23

Registration required. Lunch provided

Speaker: Jessie Driggers, Health Education Consultant

Learn to manage your diabetes risk by making small changes, such as improving food choices, increasing physical activity, meal planning, preventing complications and medicine and medical care.

Co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Health in Marion County and Marion County Hospital District.

**Monday Matinée**

Mondays, 3 p.m.

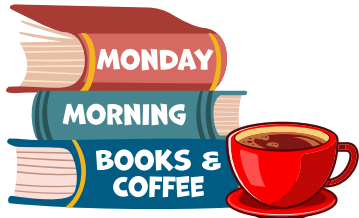
Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Feb. 7

Feb. 21

BOOK CLUB

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

**Monday Books and Coffee**

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 6 "The Giver of Stars"
by Jojo Moyes

Jan. 3 "The Tattooist of Auschwitz"
by Heather Morris

Feb. 7 "The Secret Life of Bees"
by Sue Monk Kidd

TEENS**YALLA Northeast!**

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Be part of the library experience. Earn volunteer service hours and share pizza and ideas each month!

Dec. 11 Create a Holiday Card

Jan. 8 Cupcake Wars

Feb. 12 Valentines!

FAMILIES**Family Story Time**

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., Jan. 5-Feb. 23

A variety of stories, songs and activities for young children with caregivers.


STREAM Dreams

Saturdays, 11 a.m., Jan. 8, Feb. 12

Science + art = fun for the whole family!

FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

5870 SW 95th St., Ocala, FL 34476
352-438-2580

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of Freedom Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a  symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH**African American Read-In**

Event: Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21

Call 352-438-2580 to register.

See Program Spotlight for more information. Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., The 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire, Inc.

ALL AGES**Blind Date with a Book**

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2:30 p.m.

Go on an adventure and check out a book with a covered cover! It's such a fun way to discover new friends.

ADULTS**Community Conversation:****Kindness Counts**

Wednesdays, Feb. 16, 3 p.m.

Come together with others for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas.



Topic: It's random acts of kindness week! Have you ever experienced or performed a random act of kindness?

BOOK CLUB

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

As the Page Turns Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Join the club and turn the page!

Dec. 7 "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V.E. Schwab

Jan. 4 Reader's Choice

Feb. 1 "The Wife Upstairs"
by Rachel Hawkins

TEENS**YALLA Free!**

Thursdays, 5 p.m., Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10

Be part of the library experience. Teens, earn volunteer service hours.

MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8

Anime and manga fans, unite!


FAMILIES**Family Outdoor Story Time**

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., Jan. 12 – Feb. 23

Bring a blanket and enjoy a variety of stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

MARION OAKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala, FL 34473
352-438-2570

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a  symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH**African American Read-In**

Event: Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21

Call 352-438-2570 to register.

See Program Spotlight for more information. Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., The 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire, Inc.

ALL AGES

Herb Hour with Sheldon!
Saturday, Jan. 15, 2 p.m.

Grow the yummiest herbs for your favorite recipes with tips from our very own Master Gardener, featuring herb-tasting and a gardening craft for all ages.

Sweets For Your Sweetie
Saturday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m.

Learn cupcake-decorating techniques to surprise your Valentine.

ADULTS

BOOK CLUB

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

Novels at Noon
Wednesdays, noon

Make new friends and talk about books!

- Dec. 15 Bring your own book*
- Jan. 19 "Big Little Lies" by Liane Moriarty*
- Feb. 16 "Woman in Red" by Eileen Goudge*

TEENS

YALLA OAKS!
Saturdays, noon
Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12

Be part of the library experience. Teens, earn volunteer service hours.

MANGALicious Teen Club!
Tuesdays, 4 p.m.
Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15

Anime and manga fans, unite!

FAMILIES


FUNtasmagoria!
Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Explore the world through science, stories and activities! It's FUNtastic!

- Jan. 5 Magic Tricks Revealed!*
- Jan. 12 Poetically Speaking*
- Jan. 19 Don't Make Me Laugh*
- Jan. 26 Pirates!*
- Feb. 2 Exploring Explorers*
- Feb. 9 Ancient Civilizations*
- Feb. 16 Passport to Europe*
- Feb. 23 Passport to Asia*

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

15150 NW Gainesville Road,
 Reddick, FL 32686
 352-438-2566

Programs are made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Ocala Public Library. Facial coverings are highly encouraged for those attending our programs in person. If there is a  symbol shown next to a program, you may attend in person or virtually. Contact the library to receive your virtual invitation.

FAMILY HOLIDAY EVENT

**Reindeer Romp Gift Giveaway:
 A Drive-Thru Event**

Saturday, Dec. 18, noon-3 p.m.
Registration begins Dec. 1. Supplies are limited. Call 352-438-2566 to register. Children and teens must be present to receive gifts. Each child or teen registration includes a drawing entry for a special prize!

Enjoy our favorite winter event from your car! Bring the kids (required), drive to the library and pick up books and other holiday gifts. See Program Spotlight for more family holiday events. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, War Horse Harley-Davidson of Ocala, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Fire Rescue, His Compassion, Inc., Tyrone Goodson Youth and Sports Programs, Inc. and United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African American Read-In

Event: Monday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.
Deadline for video submission: Friday, Jan. 21
Call 352-438-2566 to register.
See Program Spotlight for more information. Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc., The 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire, Inc.

ADULTS

Basic Computing
Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Learn about computers and what the library has to offer. Space is limited.

- Dec. 7 Surfing the Koha Catalog*
- Jan. 4 E-Books and mobile devices*
- Feb. 1 Resume and cover letter help*

Watercolors 101
Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1 p.m.

Paint something red for Valentine's Day with local artist Susan Starling. Materials provided.

Marion County Veterans Services
Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.

Free veterans' benefits briefing. Reservations recommended. Contact the library if you are planning on attending.

BOOK CLUB

Make new friends and talk about books! Our system-wide book club offerings are listed under Program Spotlight. Attend one or all!

Let's Talk Books With Jim!
Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

- Jan. 10 "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance*
- Feb. 14 "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr*

TEENS

YALLA North!
Saturday, Feb. 5, 1 p.m.

Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

FAMILIES

FUNtasmagoria!
Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4 p.m.
Jan. 4-Feb. 23

Explore the world through science, stories and activities! It's FUNtastic!

Saturday Game Day
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.
Jan. 29, Feb. 26

Play classic and contemporary board games with friends.

STORY TIMES

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Jan. 4-Feb. 23
A variety of stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.



Toddler Time
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Story Time
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Dec. *International Plastic Modelers Society*
 Jan. *Ocala Rocks*
 Feb. *Kingdom of the Sun Doll Club*

Bellevue Public Library

Dec. *Classic Children's Toys from John Menges*
 Jan. *Clay Sculptures from Stacey Moye*
 Feb. *NASCAR collectibles from Lynda Smith*

Dunnellon Public Library

Dec. *The Greatest Gnome on Earth*
 Jan. *Lovely Landscapes*
 Feb. *Hearts Afire!*

Forest Public Library

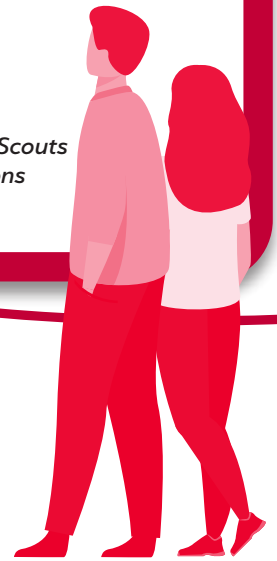
Dec. *Holiday Village*
 Jan. *Cardboard and Papier-Mâché Creations by Jerry Shaner*
 Feb. *Photos by Nancy MacFarland*

Freedom Public Library

Dec. *Vintage Cookbooks and Kitchenware by Rebecca Melton*
 Jan. *Alaska by Dori Sullivan*
 Feb. *Fabulous Feathered Friends by Marion County Audubon Society*

Reddick Public Library

Dec. *Girl Scouting by Marion County Girl Scouts*
 Jan. *Watercolor Display by Reddick Patrons*
 Feb. *Love is in the Air by Reddick Patrons*



LIBRARY CLOSED DAYS & HOLIDAYS

Parade Day

Saturday, Dec. 11
 HQ-Ocala Library
 closes at 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Friday, Dec. 24
 All Marion County Public Library
 System locations closed.

Christmas Day

Saturday, Dec. 25
 All Marion County Public Library
 System locations closed.

New Year's Eve

Friday, Dec. 31
 All Marion County Public Library
 System locations closed.

New Year's Day

Saturday, Jan. 1
 All Marion County Public Library
 System locations closed.

Martin Luther

King Jr. Day
Monday, Jan. 17
 All Marion County Public Library
 System locations closed.

Staff Training Day

Friday, Feb. 11
 All Marion County Public Library
 System locations closed.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETINGS

Friends of the Bellevue Public Library

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Jan. 18, Feb. 15

Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

Friends of the Forest Public Library

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16

BOOK SALE:

Friday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friends of Freedom Public Library

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7

Friends of the Marion

Oaks Public Library
Fridays, 10 a.m.
Jan. 21, Feb. 18

Friends of the Ocala Public Library

Thursdays, 4 p.m.
Jan. 20, Feb. 17

AT YOUR SERVICE

Access Florida Assistance

Help provided with filing for various government assistance programs.

Forest Public Library
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Visit www.uscis.gov or call 1-800-375-5283 to schedule an appointment at your local library with an official from the USCIS Orlando Field Office.

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System

Free screenings for children birth through age 5 who may have difficulty with learning, speaking, playing, seeing, walking and hearing. Screening appointments may be held at your local library. Contact ChildFind at 352-671-6051 to schedule.

Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE)

Obtain free Medicare counseling through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Contact Headquarters-Ocala, Bellevue, Dunnellon and Forest Public Libraries for times.

IMAGES

Freedom Public Library
new digital sign



Wildflower Walk at
Forest Public Library



Lego engineers



Cupcake decorating at
Marion Oaks Public Library



Fort McCoy Public Library
STREAM Dreams program



Stories Under the Stars- Fort King Historical landmark



BOOK DONOR

Dr. Thomas C. Marks

BY KAREN M. JENSEN

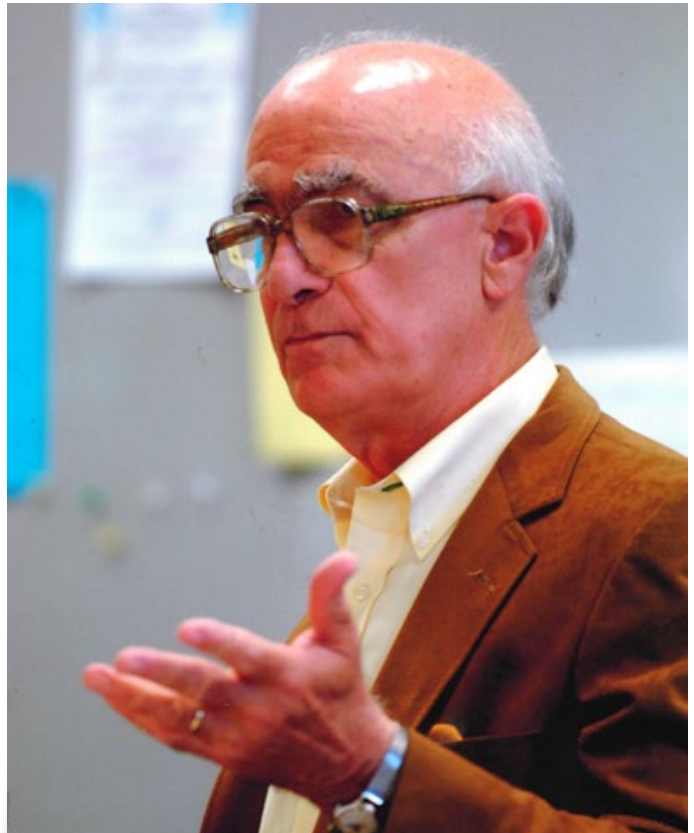
Book donations have long been a staple funding source for the various Friends of the Library groups. Depending upon the donation, as well as the individual group, some donations find themselves on the shelves of their library or Friends book store, while others are accessible in library lobby areas. Each Friends group engages its team of volunteers to sort through the donations to be processed for book sales that occur on-site and, in some instances, online.

A recent book donation to the Friends of the Ocala Public Library emphasizes the significance of these contributions. The importance is two-fold; not only for the proceeds they provide to the Friends and subsequently the Marion County Public Library System, but also as they relate to the donors themselves, providing insight into their lives as readers and lovers of the written word. The donor in reference was the late Dr. Thomas C. Marks.

Marks earned a bachelor's degree from Florida State University and then his Juris Doctor from Stetson in 1963. He went into active duty in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and was sent to Vietnam. When Marks returned home, he remained in the reserves for another nine years, leaving the military as a Major.

Dr. Marks completed his doctorate in political science from the University of Florida and taught political science and criminal justice at the University of South Alabama. In 1973, he returned to Stetson where he taught U.S. and Florida constitutional law until his retirement in December 2007. Beloved by both faculty and his students, he was known for mentoring his students and helping them develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the law.

I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Marks' wife Nancy and talk about his life and the positive impact he had on those with whom he came in contact. An adorable "4-legged" family of special needs dogs greeted me at their home and Nancy shared how their canine rescue efforts were part of his interest in giving back to society. Members of St. John's United Methodist Church, where the Marks attended and Dr. Marks taught Sunday school, describe the couple as "... their lives have always been about service."



Nancy shared that Dr. Marks' parents helped to instill a love of reading in him as a child. He was a voracious reader throughout his life, interested in many different topics, including history, World Wars, railroads and biographies, especially those pertaining to actor John Wayne. Dr. Marks' donation to the Friends of the Ocala Public Library included a collection of many of his favorite fiction and non-fiction books.

Nancy Marks would describe her late husband as "one in a billion. They don't make them like him anymore." For readers who love finding that gently used book, Dr. Marks left a legacy of personal favorites for others to enjoy. These donations, and others, are available at the Friends of the Ocala Public Library Book Market, or on amazon.com, by searching "Friends of the Ocala Public Library." 📖



BOOKMARKS

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Welcome to our new board member!



Meet Martha Cromwell, our newest board member. She will be representing Reddick while serving on the Friends of the Ocala Library Board. Martha has lived in Reddick all of her life, and she was President of the

Friends of the Reddick Public Library for many years, until it became necessary to dissolve the group. Retired now, Martha spent most of her career as a Child Find Specialist with the Marion County Public Schools. This program provided educational assistance to families with Special Needs preschool children. We look forward to having Martha on the Board.

A Sweet Book Sale For Your Sweet!



You can help the library and also treat yourself to some joy! Join us at our February Book Sale to find books on all of your favorite topics! The prices are great: 50¢ for hard covers and 25¢ for paperbacks. We'll be located in Meeting Rooms B and C in the Headquarters- Ocala Public Library.

Friday, Feb. 4, 1-3 p.m. – Friends Members only

Saturday, Feb. 5, 10-2 p.m. – Open to the public

Thank you, Book Market Volunteers!



Supervisors Marie FERENCE, left; and Virginia OLESAK, right; with volunteer Anne BERRA, center. (Not pictured, Supervisor JACKY KACHLINE.)

Visiting the Book Market is an amazing experience. In that small room you will find many wonderful books, all donated by generous members of our community. Those books are for sale at reasonable prices, with all proceeds going to our library. The people who run this marvelous Book Market are volunteers who spend many hours working to make it run smoothly. The supervisors are Marie FERENCE, Virginia OLESAK and Jacky KACHLINE and they assist the many other volunteers in sorting, pricing, shelving, and selling the donations. Some of these books are sold online, a very time-consuming job that involves posting online and shipping. For all of the volunteers who give their time and efforts to help make our Book Market the stellar store that it is, we give you a giant THANK YOU! The following people are volunteers in the Book Market:

- Anne Berra
- Mel Carter
- Martha DeLong
- Kendra Emerson
- Marie FERENCE
- Dick Gray
- Karin Harper
- Pam Hettinger
- Pauline Jane
- Rachel Johns
- Jacky KACHLINE
- Doug Langlois
- Rena Langlois
- Amy Lemire
- Tom Lewis
- Janet Maidment
- Carmen Maines
- Nancy Mitchell
- Vicky Nelson
- Shirley Nolen
- Virginia Olesak
- Connie Phillips
- Nan Porter
- Daphne Pratt
- Ellen Prosser
- Mary Ralph
- Mary Ann Reilly
- Jan Schorfhaar
- Barbara West
- Patricia Withem

The Book Market is always in need of more hands to help move books to the shelves and box them for the Book Sales. Stop by the Book Market, and fill out an application to join this devoted and talented group.

profile

FIRST SERGEANT (USMC, RETIRED) **Allen Harrison**

BY CATE O'BRIEN

Red, a beautiful primary color, is one that many associate with love, life, health and vigor. Yet, among those who serve our country in the military, the color red has a much deeper meaning. For retired First Sergeant Allen Harrison, the first image red brings to mind is the American flag and the stars and stripes that he dedicated his life to serve. His second reflection prompted by the color pertains to the R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) initiative that encourages everyone to wear red on Fridays to show support for those serving far away from home.

As a Vietnam War era veteran, retired First Sergeant Harrison served our nation on many fronts, both foreign and domestic. Following his retirement in 1992, he moved to Marion County where he worked with the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs before assuming his current position with Marion County Veterans Services. According to Sergeant Harrison, working to help improve the quality of life for veterans, their widows and their families feels natural and rewarding. "It's all about teamwork, improving the quality of life for one veteran at a time, or one family member at a time", he said, describing the work he and his colleagues try to accomplish every day.

"We hold regular team meetings because it helps create a smooth operation as we assist one another, and it helps us keep up our own strength," he explains. "Our team is proactive. We work with a variety of community leaders and partners, like Hospice, all helping make sure our veterans are taken care of." Retired First Sergeant Harrison enjoys



all the aspects of his work, knowing that times change, but soldiers and their families share a multigenerational connection in their purpose and commitment to do what they do for our country.

A part of his and his colleagues' personal mission is the commitment to make certain that no service member is ever forgotten, underserved or unappreciated. When asked what his favorite book is, he cited a number of authors, saying books have always been important in his life. How fitting is it that "The Hunt for Red October" by Tom Clancy is among those books Retired First Sergeant Harrison most enjoys. 📖