

# February 2026 Newsletter



**OLEAN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

134 N. 2nd Street  
Olean, NY 14760  
(716) 372-0200  
Oleanlibrary.org

Hours:  
M-Th 9am-9pm  
Fri 9am-6pm  
Sat 10am-5pm



Curbside service available by appointment.

The Library will be closed February 16th in observance of Presidents Day & close at 5:00pm on February 27th for FeBREWary.



Join us as **FeBREWary** returns this year on **February 27th from 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

marking the 6th annual beer tasting hosted by the Friends. Highlights for the evening will consist of great beer selections from local breweries/distributors, a basket raffle, a 50/50 raffle, live music, and light snacks. All proceeds from the event benefit programs and services at the Olean Public Library.

Tickets are now available at the library or online:  
<https://bit.ly/2026BREW>

1 Ticket - \$25

2 Tickets - \$45

Designated Driver Tickets- \$15

Please note that no one under 21 will be admitted to the event. If you're interested in volunteering or donating an item to the success of the event, please reach out to the Friends at [friendsofoleanlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoleanlibrary@gmail.com)



This January we asked our staff members and patrons to tell us what brings them joy. With a difficult 2025 behind us and a harsh winter before us, we wanted to encourage each other to remember the things that bring us joy and to spend time enjoying them because even the smallest, simplest of comforts can make life worth living. Thank you to everyone who participated and be sure to check out the ends of our shelves to see what patrons wrote!

## Children/Family Programs

### Story Times & Big Kid Programs run

Jan 20th—Feb 13th

Registration begins 1/5/2026 and can be completed online in addition to calling or stopping by.



### Stories & More

R

Wednesdays at 10:00am

Story time captures the imagination and attention of young ones to inspire a lifelong love of books and reading. Our story times include songs, rhymes, flannel boards, and instruments. This program is specially designed for birth through preschool. We incorporate early literacy tips and practices to promote reading readiness.

### Stories & Stretches

R

Thursdays at 11:00am

Children ages 2 to 5. A fun, movement-oriented program with stories, songs, stretches, and movement.

### Investigations Stations

R

Tuesdays at 6:30pm or  
Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Kids ages 3 and up participate in directed group activities, including longer stories, music, and instruments, followed by exploration of creative art and STEM stations.

### Reading Can Be Ruff Club

R

Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Practice reading with our favorite therapy dogs. These guys are great listeners and never judge! They make reading fun. Bring a book or choose one here. Explore the Investigation Stations and enjoy some “pupcorn” while you wait.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS WILL BE A 4 WEEK SESSION**



### St. Bonaventure Lanier Literacy

Thursday February 12th at 3:30pm



Student athletes from the St. Bonaventure Lanier Literacy Project will be here to read to kids, have fun and promote literacy! There will be crafts, snacks and giveaways!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, March 28th  
at 12:00PM**

Join us for a **Magical Easter Celebration!**

There will be a magic show by the **Marvelous Mr. J!**

**An Eggs-cellent Easter Egg Hunt!**  
**Baby chicks and ducks!**

**A visit from the Easter Bunny himself!**

**Don't miss this fun event!**

### After School Program

(Ages 7-12)

4:00-5:00PM

### Will You Be My Valentine?

Monday February 2nd

Join us for a fun stem project for Valentine's Day. Make your bestie handmade slime!



### Lego Club

Monday February 9th

Join us at Lego Club where the challenge will be using ONLY Valentine's Day colored Legos to make your project.



### Pokémon Club

Monday February 23rd

Bring your Pokémon cards to play or trade.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Peg Bothner Bookmark Contest sponsored by the Olean Friends of the Library**

It is once again time for the annual Peg Bothner Bookmark Contest! The public is invited to view all entries during the month of March in the Art Gallery.

The award ceremony will be held March 14th, 2026. Watch the Facebook page and the March Newsletter for additional information.

## Teen Programs (Ages 13-18)

### Olean Teen Advisory Board (OTAB) Meeting

Tuesday February 3rd  
3:30pm in the Conference Room  
Want a say in what happens in our teen programs? Teens ages 13-18 are welcome to join OTAB, where OPL teens work with the programming librarian to brainstorm new programs and reflect on any challenges or concerns from previous ones.

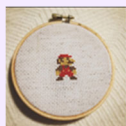
### Team A DnD



Wednesday February 4th  
6:00-8:30pm in the Gallery  
A city has disappeared from the material plane, and it's up to our new group of heroic adventures to make things right. Join us as our new group of adventurers embark on their new adventure! Email [programming@oleanlibrary.org](mailto:programming@oleanlibrary.org) or scan the QR code to join.

### Teen Art Club—8bit Cross Stitch

Thursday, February 5th  
3:30pm in the Gallery  
Come join us for some 8bit cross stitching fun. We will be making some of your favorite and old school characters.



### Teen Jackbox Games

Fridays, February 6th & 20th  
3:30-4:30pm in the Gallery  
We have every party pack available to play! Bring a device and your thinking caps to compete with other teens. The family filter is kept on throughout, and your screen names and your answers must remain library appropriate throughout the program.

If interested in virtually attending a program with a virtual option, email [programming@oleanlibrary.org](mailto:programming@oleanlibrary.org)



### Teen Gaming Club

Wednesday February 11th  
3:30-4:45 in the Gallery  
We'll bring our Nintendo Switch and some games: you come prepared to play! We also have space ready and available to play board games or card games like Sushi Go. Any and all teens are welcome to join, and you can bring a game to play if you want.

### Team B, Teen DnD



Wednesday February 18th  
6:00-8:30pm in the Gallery  
The threats on the high seas were no match for our adventurers, but land is not proving to be any safer. They descend into their enemy's cliffside lair, where unknown horrors await. Email [programming@oleanlibrary.org](mailto:programming@oleanlibrary.org) or scan the QR code to join.



**The teen room is open weekdays 3—6pm.**

## Adult Programs

### Beginning Genealogy Skills

Saturdays January 31st & February 28th  
10:00am-12:00pm in the Conference Room  
These sessions are for researchers new to genealogy and to online research. Participants are welcome to use library laptop computers or bring their own. Staff will be available to work one-on-one with researchers to provide tutoring in the use of Ancestry Library Edition and microfilm readers.

### Knit & Crochet Club



Saturday February 7th  
11:30am in the Gallery  
Knitters, crocheters, and other fiber artists of all levels are welcome to attend. Bring your current craft (or one you need a bit of help with), and

we'll provide the space and company of fellow crafters. Interested but don't have a project to start? We'll have some free patterns, yarn, and some basic crochet hooks and knitting needles available to take home.

### Couples Legos



Saturdays February 7th  
3:00-4:00pm in the Gallery  
Join us for our second annual Couples Legos Program. Each couple will make a Lego set together.



### Dungeons and Dragons



Tuesday February 10th  
6:00-8:30pm in the Conference Room  
Interested in playing Dungeons and Dragons with other adults? Come join Cherish, our library's resident game master, and try it out. Players of all experience levels are welcome. Bringing a snack to share, though not required, is appreciated. Email [programming@oleanlibrary.org](mailto:programming@oleanlibrary.org) for any details prior to the program.

### PFAS: The Pollutant We All Have to Deal With

Wednesday February 11th  
5:30pm in the Gallery  
Join us as we welcome Scott Simpson, chemistry department chair and professor at St. Bonaventure University, as he presents on his research into PFAS. PFAS, often called "forever chemicals," are man-made chemicals that do not break down easily and can be harmful to people, animals, and the environment.

-Continued on next page-

## Adult Programs

### PFAS: The Pollutant We All Have to Deal With

Wednesday February 11th  
5:30pm in the Gallery

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PFAS have been used in everyday products like non-stick pans, waterproof clothing, and firefighting foam, and they are now found in water, soil, and living things all over the world. There are thousands of different PFAS, but only a few have been carefully studied because lab testing takes a long time and costs a lot of money. He will present on how his research was conducted and how it helps scientists determine which will first affect water, wildlife, and human health.

### Advanced Genealogy Roundtable: Census & Vital Records

Saturday February 14th  
10:00am-12:00pm in the Conference Room

This session is for experienced researchers looking to brainstorm and share with other experienced researchers. We will discuss our research projects and challenges, and delve into focused research strategies. Participants are welcome to use library laptop computers or bring their own.

### Cooking Club

Thursday February 19th  
6:30pm in the Gallery

February's Cooking Club theme will be Valentine's Day! Bring a Valentine-themed dish (red, pink, heart-shaped, get creative!) and we'll try each other's dishes and discuss food and cooking. This program is for home cooks of all skill levels, and new members are always welcome!

**LR** = To allow access to as many interested patrons as possible for these programs, patrons may sign up for one and go on the wait list for others.

### "Hidden Figures"

#### Watch Party

Wednesday February 25th  
5:30pm in the Gallery

In honor of Black History Month, we'll be closing out February with a watch party for the movie Hidden Figures. Light refreshments like popcorn and cookies will be served, and simple activities like coloring sheets will also be available for those who would like to craft while they watch.

## Craft Programs

### Flower Arrangements with Scarlet Lily

**LR**

Tuesday February 3rd  
6:00pm in the Gallery

Join the Scarlet Lily to make a beautiful flower bouquet. Please note for those with allergies or sensitivities that this program uses live flowers. The photo is not the exact bouquet that will be made. Please bring stem cutters if you have them!

**Warning: Live flowers used.**  
**Craft Level: Beginner**  
**Ages 18 & up.**



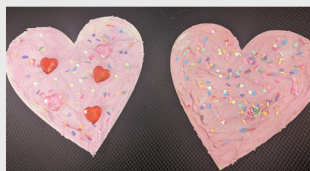
### Faux Sugar Cookie Valentine

**LR**

Monday February 9th  
6:30pm in the Gallery

Come join us to make a larger-than-life realistic looking Valentine's Day cookie!

**Warning: Spackle and acrylic paints are being used.**  
**Craft Level: Beginner**  
**Ages 13 & up.**



*This month's arts and crafts programs are made possible by the **Frances Bean O'Connell Arts Grant**.*

*If you are interested in donating to the Frances Bean O'Connell Art Program Fund, please contact Keely Doyle, Director of Philanthropic Services at the Erie Community Foundation at 814-454-0843, ext. 101, or by email at [kdoyle@eriecommunityfoundation.org](mailto:kdoyle@eriecommunityfoundation.org).*

## Book Clubs



### Brown Bag Book Club

**Z**

Monday February 23rd  
at 12:30pm in the Gallery

You bring your lunch, and we'll supply some treats and good company!

Join us as we discuss *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera.

Multiple copies of the book are available physically and digitally throughout the library system.

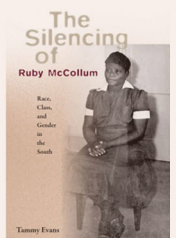


Want to read ahead? In March, we will be discussing *This is How You Lose the Time War* by Amar E-Mohtar and Max Gladstone.

### The Race Unity Circle of Olean Book Club @ the library:

Wednesday February 18th  
at 1:00pm in the Conference Room

Race Unity Circle Book Club is free and open to the public. Multiple copies are available via the library.



**February Selection:**  
*The Silencing of Ruby McCollum* by Tammy Evans

**R** Registration Required

**LR** Limited Registration

**Z** Zoom Option Available

**R** Registration Requested 4

## Outreach

### Race Unity Circle's Black History Month Celebration

Saturday February 21st  
1:00pm in the Gallery

Focusing on the lives of four African Americans who have made a difference: Maya Angelou, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Jasmine Crockett and Langston Hughes. We will have readings from their work and speeches as well as a brief biography of their lives. Attendees are welcome to bring their own historical figures and readings. There will be time for discussion and light refreshments will be served. Registration requested at 716-372-0200.



### LawNY Medicare, Elder Care Law Assistance, & Healthcare Navigator



available in-library  
on the following  
days from  
10:00am—1:00pm

- Monday February 2nd
- Monday February 9th
- Tuesday February 17th
- Monday February 23rd

## Gallery: February 2026

Thank You, Frances Bean O'Connell Endowment by the patrons of the Olean Public Library

Every month, we thank the Frances Bean O'Connell Endowment for the Arts for making our popular arts and crafts programs possible in the pages of our newsletter and through a plaque displayed in our Gallery. This month, we want to show our love for this Endowment by showcasing the work made by members of our community using the funds from this endowment. Information on the program and Frances Bean O'Connell will be displayed in the Gallery throughout the month of February.

To celebrate this wonderful resource in our community and all the wonderful art it allows us to create, a reception will be held on **Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30**. All are welcome to attend, and small take-away art kits will be available to take with you from the reception or to complete while you mingle.



*Interested in showcasing your art in our gallery? Contact the library by phone or by emailing [programming@oleanlibrary.org](mailto:programming@oleanlibrary.org) to learn more. Please remember: artwork must be appropriate for a general library audience (i.e.: suitable if children see), and you must be able to fill the entire gallery with your pieces. Any 2D medium is welcome to submit!*

# Tribute Gift Book Plates January 2026

Honor        Memorialize        Acknowledge

**In Memory of:** Rhonda Sue Dieter

**In Memory of:** Mr. & Mrs. Victor Stebbins

**In Memory of:** Charles White

**In Memory of:** Phillip Bernstein

**In Memory of:** Diane E. Elliott

**In Memory of:** Marshall L. Dieteman

**In Memory of:** Susan Ofano

**Donation by:** Pulaski Club Ladies Auxiliary

**Donation by:** Nickey Nichoson

**Donation by:** Ann Marie & Fred Tompkins



**Donation by:** Rosalie Dieteman

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**Donation by:** Ann Marie & Fred Tompkins

## Library Programs - February 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Will You Be My Valentine 4:00pm</p>	<p>3 Investigation Stations 6:30pm OTAB Meeting 3:30pm Flower Arrangements 6:00pm</p>	<p>4 Stories &amp; More 10:00am Investigation Stations &amp; Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Team A DnD 6:00pm</p>	<p>5 Stories &amp; Stretches 11:00am Teen Art Club 3:30pm</p>	<p>6 Teen Jackbox Games 3:30pm</p>	<p>7 Knit &amp; Crochet Club 11:30am Couples Legos 3:00pm</p>
<p>9 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Lego Club 4:00pm Faux Sugar Cookie 6:30pm</p>	<p>10 DnD 6:00pm Investigation Stations 6:30pm</p>	<p>11 Stories &amp; More 10:00am Investigation Stations &amp; Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Teen Gaming Club 3:30pm PFAS 5:30pm</p>	<p>12 Stories &amp; Stretches 11:00am Lanier Literacy 3:30pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Advanced Genealogy 10:00am</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>16 <b>CLOSED</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>17 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Frances Bean O'Connell Gallery Reception 5:30-7:30pm</b></p>	<p>18 Race Unity Book Club 1:00pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Team B DnD 6:00pm</p>	<p>19 Cooking Club 6:30pm</p>	<p>20 Teen Jackbox Games 3:30pm</p>	<p>21 Race Unity's Black History Month Celebration 1:00pm</p>
<p>23 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Brown Bag Book Club 12:30pm Pokémon Club 4:00pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Hidden Figures Watch Party 5:30pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 <b>Closing at 5:00pm for FeBREWary</b></p>	<p>28 Beginner Genealogy Skills 10:00am</p>
<p>Adult programs in black Teen programs in blue Children/family programs in red Community outreach programs in purple</p>					