

December 2025 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 December 24th, 25th, & 26th in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Library will close at 6pm on December 31st and will be closed January 1st in observance of New Year's.



As 2025 comes to a close, we are reminded of all of the ways the Friends of the Olean Library has been able to support the library, its patrons, its staff, and its programs. Thanks to the generous support of our members and the many fundraising streams and events, the Friends have contributed over \$24,000 in 2025.

This year, we helped fund new chairs, fresh flowers for the outdoor beds, summer reading activities and carnival prizes, card sleeves for new library card patrons, a teen Friendsgiving, and continued support for circulating materials through the Book Endowment Fund. The Friends are thankful for the opportunity to support the library and look forward to continuing to assist this valuable community resource.



REMINDER!!

Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/57sbdsrm> to give on 12.2.2025.

**GIVING
TUESDAY**
12.2.25



Top Checkouts of 2025



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



On 10/1/2025 two old rooftop HVAC units were removed and replaced with two new units as we begin renovations.

Children/Family Programs

Story Times & Big Kid Programs run

Jan 19th—Feb 20th

Registration begins 1/6/2026 and can be completed online in addition to calling or stopping by.



Stories & More

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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

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Thursdays at 11:00am

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

Investigations Stations

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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

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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.



St. Bonaventure Lanier Literacy

Thursday December 4th 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!



Thank you to our Friends!

The Friends of the Library once again graciously donated cider and donut holes for all our Halloween festivities! Thank you Friends for your constant support of children’s programs!



**Santa is coming!
Santa is coming!**

Saturday, December 20th at 1:00pm

Santa’s last stop before Christmas Eve.

There will be :

- An interactive magic show
- Snow balls from the North Pole
- Reindeer Dust
- Face Painting
- Balloons

Santa will even make magical snow just for us.

Don’t miss this festive event and don’t forget your cameras!



After School Program (Ages 7-12) 4:00-5:00pm

December 1st Craft & a Movie

Come make some cute Christmas tree ornaments to give to family or to hang on your own tree. Craft and watch a movie with your bestie!



December 8th LEGO Club

We will be trying to create Santa's Village with Legos.



After School Club will be on a holiday break. See you next year!

Teen Programs (Ages 13-18)

Teen Art Club Felt Ornaments

Thursday December 4th
3:30-5:30pm in the Gallery
The holidays are here and we are making ornaments! Come join Allison for some fun with felt. Make a gnome with a luscious beard, cute cookies with sprinkles or something more traditional. *Glue guns will be used during this craft.*

Teen Jackbox Games Fridays December 5th & 12th 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.

Olean Teen Advisory Board (OTAB) Meeting

Tuesday December 9th
3:30pm in the Conference Room
Teens ages 13-18 are welcome to attend and join OTAB. For December, we will decide on what projects we would like to do in Art Club in 2026, as well as review opportunities to volunteer in 2026.

Teen Holiday Party

Wednesday December 10th
3:30-5:30pm in the Gallery
The year might almost be over, but we have time for one more fun gathering before we ring in 2026! Come enjoy sandwiches and decorate cookies. If you would also like to participate in a game of White Elephant, please bring a (library appropriate) wrapped gift of no more than \$10 to the party. *Though registration is not required, please reach out to Cherish with any food allergies or dietary needs by December 8.*

The teen room is open
weekdays 3-6pm.

Adult Programs

Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday December 9th
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 welcome, and bringing a snack to share is appreciated but not required. *Scan the QR to create a character ahead of time!*

Adult DnD Campaign



Join here!

Author Talk, Jason Bussman

Thursday December 11th
6:00pm in the Gallery
Join us as we welcome St. Bonaventure University creative writing professor Jason Bussman to speak on his newest book, *Fumble: Just a Dad Trying Not to Drop the Ball*, is a collection of essays about being a Dad. It also takes a reflective look at his childhood – the lessons he learned from his parents that helped shape him into the person he is today. Light refreshments will be served, and Bussman will be available after his talk to answer questions.

Knit & Crochet Club

Saturday December 13th
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.

Jane Austen Watch Party: Pride & Prejudice (2005)

Tuesday December 16th
6:00pm in the Gallery
It is a truth universally acknowledged, that Jane Austen turns 250 this year! To mark the occasion, we will be watching the 2005 *Pride & Prejudice* film starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen. We will have tea, pastries, and Jane Austen themed activities available. Join us and you're sure to have a ball!



Adult Programs

Cooking Club

Thursday December 18th
6:30pm in the Gallery

This month's Cooking Club theme is Cookie Swap! Bring your favorite Christmas cookies, and we'll discuss food and cooking while testing all the different varieties of cookies! We will all get to take home a container of various cookies as well! This laid-back program is great for home cooks of all skill levels, and we always welcome new members.

To register for programs, please call or visit during regular library hours. We cannot take programming registration by voicemail message or messages sent to our social media platforms. Thank you.

Z If interested in virtually attending a program with a virtual option, email programming@oleanlibrary.org

Craft Programs

Pop-In Handmade Holiday Cards

Monday December 1st
5:30-8:30pm

Join us to bring back the art of card sending and what's better than handmade? You bring the stamps and the addresses and we will supply the cards to make! We will have several different stations with different ideas to create something special to share with family and friends. This program does not require registration, you can come to the gallery anytime between 5:30 and 8:30 pm and create holiday cards.

Craft Level:
Beginner
Ages 13 & up.



Interchangeable Holiday Home Sign

LR

Wednesday December 10th
6:00-8:00pm
in the Gallery

Join us to create these beautiful home signs that can be interchanged throughout seasons. The library will provide the wood pieces to paint for the stand, welcome home, Easter, and Christmas inserts.

Craft Level: Intermediate
Ages 18 & 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.

Sewing Class with Martha Thorne

LR

Wednesday December 17th
6:00-8:00pm in the Gallery

Come sew with Martha Thorne as we learn basic straight line sewing and make a Christmas stocking for someone you love. They will be cut out for you and the first ½ hour we will learn to sew on singer sewing machine. Come and enjoy learning how to sew our first project. You will take home your very own handmade stocking at the end of the evening! Happy Holidays!

Craft Level: Beginner
Ages 18 & up.



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.

Book Clubs



Brown Bag Book Club

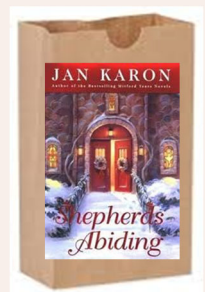
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Monday December 15th
at 12:30pm in the Gallery

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

Join us as we discuss *Shepherds Abiding* by Jan Karon.

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



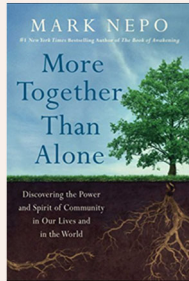
Want to read ahead? Keep an eye on our social media pages for our January 2026 selection.

Book Clubs



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

Wednesday
December 17th
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.

December selection:

More Together Than Alone: Discovering the Power and Spirit of Community in Our Lives and in the World by Mark Nepo

R



Introduction to Nonviolent Communication

Wednesday, December 3rd from 5:00 to 6:30pm

Presented virtually at the Olean Public Library by Gwen Olton author, artist and activist.

Please register by texting: 716-373-2217 or call 716-372-0200

Light refreshments will be offered.

- Step away from the battle of blame
- Build bridges through empathy and connection
- Learn how discovering our and others' sense of aliveness can open hearts and improve communication

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is a philosophy and protocol that helps us discover the unspoken needs behind every action. It is a path to resolve conflict by sharing feelings and making requests rather than accusations. Whether personal, professional, social or political we need courageous people who are willing to learn and share healthy ways to communicate.

Join us for an Introduction to Nonviolent Communication: learn more about leaving blame (those people), guilt (I shouldn't), and shame (I'm bad) behind. We can be nice and not avoid people or conversations.

R

Center for Elder Law & Justice

Tuesday, December 9th at 4:30pm

The presentation will include an overview of the Center for Elder Law

& Justice, with a special focus on the Financial Management Program — a volunteer-based initiative that helps older adults stay independent and secure through one-on-one guidance in budgeting, avoiding scams, accessing resources, and protecting their financial well-being. This program is designed to strengthen the financial security of older adults and support their ability to live independently in the community. It also plays a key role in preventing financial exploitation and connecting individuals with resources that promote long-term financial empowerment. Registration requested. (716) 372-0200.



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Stay healthy. Stay social. Stay inspired. Stay WISE - For adults 60 and up.

Join us anytime for this fun program, where you'll meet new people and:

- Learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Celebrate this exciting stage of life and all the benefits that come with it
- Discuss risk factors and behaviors you should avoid to stay healthy
- Examine how alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect seniors differently and how you can avoid problems
- Learn how to use simple tools to help you feel more empowered about your health and the healthcare you receive

FREE Light snacks and **FREE** incentives at sessions.
Dec 4, 11, 18th 10am to 1130 am
Registration requested.
(716) 372-0200.

Outreach



Please consider donating at the American Red Cross Blood Drive @ the library Friday, December 19th from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Please schedule an appointment today by calling 1-800-Red-Cross, visit redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive or download the blood donor app. Type OPLibrary in the "Find a Drive" search bar.



Registration Required



Limited Registration



Zoom Option Available



Registration Requested 5

Tribute Gift Book Plates November 2025

Honor ✎ Memorialize ✎ Acknowledge

In Memory of: Janice J. Snyder

Donation by: Jeff & Jody Spears

Earmarked for: Children's Dept. Programming

Donation by: Olean Jr. League Coasters

Patron Art Gallery Exhibit

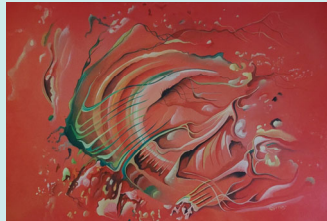


COMING
FEBRUARY
2026

Bring in your art (*that was created during our library's craft or pop in programs*) any time from December 16th- January 30th with a note card with your name, email, phone number and what your favorite thing was about that program. Your art will be displayed in the gallery for the month of February! Pickup for your art will be **March 1st-March 14th**

Gallery: December 2025 The Paintings of Dave Jeffers

Dave's art is rooted in deep emotion. He paints on canvas what feelings look like to him—joy, fear, sorrow—transforming each into a visual form for others to experience. Audiences often say his work evokes powerful sensations, awakening memories and long-forgotten experiences. Dave hopes you'll find comfort in his work, but more than that, he hopes his pieces transform you for the better.



Interested in showcasing your art in our gallery? Contact the library by phone or by emailing 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!

Library Programs - December 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>1 LawNY Medicare and Healthcare Navigator 10:00am-1:00pm Craft & Movie 4:00pm Pop-in Holiday Cards 5:30-8:30pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Introduction to Nonviolent Communication 5:00pm</p>	<p>4 Stay healthy, social, inspired, & wise 10:00am-11:30am Teen Art Club 3:30pm St. Bonaventure Lanier Literacy 3:30pm</p>	<p>5 Jackbox Games 3:30pm</p>	<p>6</p>	
<p>8 LawNY Medicare and Healthcare Navigator 10:00am-1:00pm Lego Club 4:00pm</p>	<p>9 OTAB Meeting 3:30pm Elder Care Law & Justice 4:30pm DnD 6:00pm</p>	<p>10 Teen Holiday Party 3:30pm Interchangeable Holiday Home Sign 6:00pm</p>	<p>11 Stay healthy, social, inspired, & wise 10:00am-11:30am Author Talk Jason Bussman 6:00pm</p>	<p>12 Jackbox Games 3:30pm</p>	<p>13 Knit & Crochet Club 11:30am</p>	
<p>15 LawNY Medicare and Healthcare Navigator 10:00am-1:00pm Brown Bag Book Club 12:30pm</p>	<p>16 Jane Austen Watch Party: Pride & Prejudice 6:00pm</p>	<p>17 LawNY Medicare and Healthcare Navigator 10:00am-1:00pm Race Unity Book Club 1:00pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Sewing Class 6:00pm</p>	<p>18 Stay healthy, social, inspired, & wise 10:00am-11:30am Cooking Club 6:30pm</p>	<p>19 American Red Cross Blood Drive 11:30am-4:30pm</p>	<p>20 Santa WOW 1:00pm</p>	
<p>22 LawNY Medicare and Healthcare Navigator 10:00am-1:00pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 CLOSED</p>	<p>25 CLOSED</p>	<p>26 CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p>	
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 CLOSING EARLY AT 6PM</p> 				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Adult programs in black Teen programs in blue Children/family programs in red Community outreach programs in purple</p> </div>