

# March 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.



## SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 11th at 1:00 we will be welcoming

### Sundance Kids Farm Baby Animal Bunny in a Basket Petting Zoo!

Mike Morton will melt our winter hearts with his adorable baby animals just in time for spring.

There will be crafts, photo ops and tons of cuteness .



## thank you

Thank you to everyone that attended the reception for our February exhibit, "Thank You, Frances Bean O'Connell Endowment by the patrons of the Olean Public Library," in the Art Gallery!

It was a wonderful evening celebrating the positive impact the Frances Bean O'Connell Endowment has on our community and hearing from our patrons how much it means to them.

And a special thank you to Kevin O'Connell for contributing the takeaway crafts. Our patrons were delighted!



The Friends of the Olean Public Library are celebrating the school winners of The Peg Bothner Annual Bookmark Contest through the month of March! Area students from Allegany-Limestone Elementary School, East View Elementary School, Olean Intermediate Middle School, Portville Central Schools, and Washington West Elementary School were asked to create bookmarks with the theme of **Open a world of magic with a book!**

A panel of volunteer judges convened to choose winners across grade levels within and overall winners for each school.

Please visit the gallery to view all the incredible submissions from this year. Awardees will be recognized at the Friends' bookmark contest reception on March 14. The reception for Olean schools will be at 11 a.m. and Portville and Allegany will be at 1 p.m.



## Children/Family Programs

### Story Times & Big Kid Programs run

3/2/26-4/3/26  
&  
4/20/26-5/22/26

Registration is requested and can be completed online in addition to calling or stopping by.

### Stories & More

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

Thursdays at 11:00am

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

### Investigations Stations

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

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 March 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



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

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

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

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!

April 5th through April 10th the Library will be partnering with the Olean Area Charter for Compassion and the City of Olean to celebrate the Community Week of Kindness. This is a week long event being celebrated throughout the city.

Draw a “Picture of Kindness” and bring it to the library. This could be any representation of an act of kindness that you have seen or experienced. Your picture will be on display all week at the library. Treats and giveaways will be available.

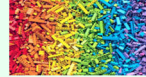


## After School Program (Ages 7-12) 4:00-5:00PM

Pokémon Club  
Monday March 2nd



Lego Club  
Monday March 9th



8-Bit Magnets  
Monday March 30th



Using perler beads to recreate some of our favorite characters as a fun magnet.

## Teen Programs (Ages 13-18)

### Olean Teen Advisory Board (OTAB) Meeting

Tuesday March 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 March 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 Jackbox Games

Fridays, March 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.

## Teen Gaming Club

Wednesday March 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.

## Teen Art Club

Crochet Basics & Cuddly Creatures  
Thursdays, March 12th & 26th  
3:30-4:30pm in the Gallery  
Join librarian Cherish in this two-part art club. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, we'll learn the basics of crochet. Participants will leave this class with basic supplies to practice and the knowledge to make basic stitches like the chain stitch and single crochet. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, we'll take that knowledge to begin making amigurumi, or cute stuffies. Any and all teens are welcome to come to one or both classes, though we strongly encourage you to attend both if you're brand new to crochet or returning to it after a few years away.

### Team B, Teen DnD



Wednesday March 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

### Knit & Crochet Club



Saturday March 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.

### Seed Starting with Stephanie Pikulski

Monday March 9th  
6:00pm in the Gallery  
Join Master Gardener Volunteer Apprentice Stephanie Pikulski and learn the basics of seed starting. Learn how to choose which seeds you should grow, what supplies you will need, and the steps to growing a bountiful garden. This program will be targeted at beginner gardeners, but experienced gardeners may learn useful information, too!

### Adult Dungeons and Dragons



Tuesday March 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.



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

## Adult Programs

### Cooking Club

Thursday March 19th

6:30pm in the Gallery

March's Cooking Club theme will be **Potatoes!** Bring any kind of dish to share made with potatoes, and we'll try each other's dishes and discuss food and cooking. Home cooks of all skill levels are welcome to join us. New members are always welcome!

## Craft Programs

### Artwork ShrinkyDinks with Serenhippity

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Thursday March 5th

6:00pm in the Gallery

Join us for a creative night out where you'll design your own custom artwork — perfect to wear as earrings or carry as a unique keychain. No experience needed, just bring your imagination!

Making a Shrinky Dinks is basically like performing a low-stakes science experiment in your kitchen. It's a DIY classic, first you make your own creative design adding art to simply a piece of plastic, you get to watch the plastic drink and curl up, then turn into hard plastic, then jewelry, it's an amazing process.

**Craft Level:**  
Beginner  
Ages 12 & up.



### Easter Flowers with Scarlet Lily

Monday March 30th

6:00pm in the Gallery

This activity is reserved for patrons who were on the waiting list for February's Flower Arrangement Class.

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

### Pop-IN: Decoupage

March 23rd—March 26th

6:00-8:00pm

Come make a quick and easy Easter craft to display for all your family and friends. This craft only needs a little bit of patience and some glue! A perfect beginner drop in class.



**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.

*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 March 16th

at 12:30pm in the Gallery

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

Join us as we discuss *This is How You Lose the Time War* by Amar E-Mohtar and Max Gladstone.

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

Want to read ahead? For April, we will be discussing *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson.

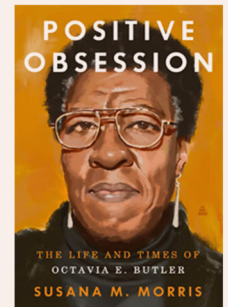


### The Race Unity Circle of Olean Book Club @ the library:

Wednesday March 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.



### March Selection:

*Positive Obsession: The Life and Times of Octavia E. Butler* by Susana M. Morris.

## Outreach

The students in the Dennis R. DePerro School of Health Professions at St. Bonaventure University have partnered with the Olean Public Library to provide outreach to our patrons and help improve the health of local residents. Stop by their lobby table between 12-2:00pm on the following dates to ask questions and pick up resources on the following wellness topics.

- Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>: Nutrition & healthy eating habits
- Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: Brain health
- Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Kidney health & chronic disease
- Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>: Diabetes & obesity prevention

## Outreach

Get in-person tax help and file for free at the Olean Public Library.

**R** Sign-ups begin March 1st.  
Call for an appointment  
(716) 372-0200.

Volunteers, from St. Bonaventure University's VITA Team, will be on hand to walk you through your income tax return. This service is a chair-side assist. You will use on-site computers, or your own laptop, to do your taxes with VITA Volunteers available to assist you through the process. Printing will be free. If you earned \$89,000 or less in 2025, have basic computer skills, and have an active email account that you can access while filing, you qualify for this service.

Documents that will be required:

- a photo ID (driver license or passport)
- state issued ID: required to submit New York State return
- all your income documents (W-2s, 1099s, and so on) and other documents available
- a copy of your 2024 tax return (if you filed)



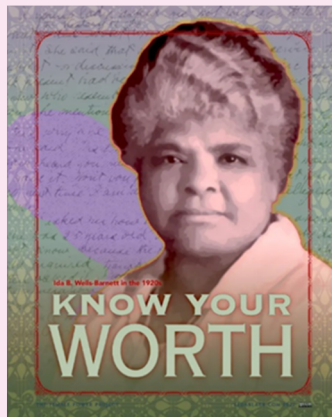
Race Unity Circle invites the community to a special Women's History Month Celebration honoring the life and legacy of Ida B. Wells on **March 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Gallery at the Olean Public Library. This inspiring program will explore the remarkable life of Ida B. Wells—journalist, educator, suffragist, and fearless civil rights advocate. Born into slavery in 1862, Wells rose to become one of the most influential voices against racial injustice in the United States. She courageously led

an international anti-lynching campaign, using investigative journalism to expose the truth about racial violence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Wells was also a co-founder of the NAACP, a strong advocate for women's suffrage, and a lifelong champion for equality, justice, and civil rights.

Through reflection and discussion, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of Wells' enduring impact and the relevance of her work today.

This program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

To register, please call  
(716) 372-0200.



Gallery: March 2026

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

It is once again time for our annual Peg Bothner Bookmark Contest! The schools that participated are Allegany-Limestone Elementary School, East View Elementary School, Olean Intermediate Middle School, Portville Central Schools, and Washington West Elementary School. Judges chose one winner from each school. The public is invited to view all entries in the Art Gallery through the month of March.

Two award ceremonies will be held **Saturday, March 14th** in the Library:

**11:00am: East View Elementary, Washington West Elementary, & Olean Intermediate Middle School winners**

**1:00 pm: Portville Central School & Allegany-Limestone Elementary School winners**



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 February 2026

Honor       Memorialize       Acknowledge

**In Memory of:** Mary Pownall

**In Memory of:** Susan Ofano

**In Memory of:** Milton J. Watson

**In Memory of:** Library materials & services

**In Memory of:** Barbara Galey Compher

**Donation by:** Lanna Waterman

**Donation by:** Ann Marie Sitter-Tompkins

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

**Donation by:** Cindy Kifer

**Donation by:** Gloria Olivia and book club

Anonymous Online Birthday Fundraiser for \$152.62

## Library Programs - March 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 Pokémon Club 4:00pm</p>	<p>3 Investigation Stations 6:30pm OTAB Meeting 3:30pm</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 ShrinkyDinks 6:00pm</p>	<p>6 Teen Jackbox Games 3:30pm</p>	<p>7 Knit &amp; Crochet Club 11:30am</p>
<p>9 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Nutrition &amp; Healthy Eating 12:00-2:00pm Lego Club 4:00pm Seed Starting 6:00pm</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</p>	<p>12 Stories &amp; Stretches 11:00am Lanier Literacy 3:30pm Teen Art Club 3:30pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Peg Bothner Bookmark Award Ceremonies 11:00am &amp; 1:00pm See pg. 5 for details</p>
<p>16 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Brain Health 12:00-2:00pm Brown Bag Book Club 12:30pm</p>	<p>17 Investigation Stations 6:30pm</p>	<p>18 Stories &amp; More 10:00am Investigation Stations &amp; Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Race Unity Book Club 1:00pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Team B DnD 6:00pm</p>	<p>19 Stories &amp; Stretches 11:00am Cooking Club 6:30pm</p>	<p>20 Teen Jackbox Games 3:30pm</p>	<p>21 Race Unity— Women's History Month Celebration 1:00pm</p>
<p>23 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Kidney Health &amp; Chronic Disease 12:00 -2:00pm Pop-IN Decoupage 6:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>24 Investigation Stations 6:30pm Pop-IN Decoupage 6:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>25 Stories &amp; More 10:00am Investigation Stations &amp; Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Pop-IN Decoupage 6:00- 8:00pm</p>	<p>26 Stories &amp; Stretches 11:00am Teen Art Club 3:30pm Pop-IN Decoupage 6:00- 8:00pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Easter WOW 12:00pm</p>
<p>30 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Diabetes &amp; Obesity Prevention 12:00-2:00pm 8-bit Magnets 4:00pm Easter Flowers 6:00pm</p>	<p>31 Investigation Stations 6:30pm</p>				

Adult programs in black  
 Teen programs in blue  
 Children/family programs in red  
 Community outreach programs in purple