November 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

The Library will be closed November 26th & 27th in observance of Thanksgiving.
Curbside service available by appointment.

BIG NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY!



From Left to Right: Olean Public Library Director Michelle LaVoie, Olean Public Library Board President Lanna Waterman, Community Bank VP District Manager Shavonne Henderson, Community Bank VP Commercial Banking Gretchen Copella, & VP Senior Retail Regional Banking Manager Lisa Allenson

We are absolutely thrilled to announce a generous donation of $25,000 from Community Bank to the Olean Public Library's Capital Campaign!

This incredible gift brings us one step closer to transforming our library space, expanding our resources, and better serving everyone in the Olean area.

Community Bank continues to prove their deep dedication to the local communities they serve. By investing in our library, they are investing in the education, connection, and future of Olean.

Please join us in sending a massive THANK YOU to Community Bank for their outstanding corporate citizenship and support!

Friends of the Olean Public Library



From Left to Right: Front Row—Darlene Connelly Friends of the Library President, Olean Public Library Director Michelle LaVoie, Olean Public Library Board President Lanna Waterman
From Left to Right: Back Row— Friends of the Library Board of Directors
Riley Eike, Tom Jacobs, Mary Giardini, Cathy Lemon, Jammie Carapellatti, Jan Comstock, Lauren Schifley, & Amanda Hulbert

A Heartfelt Thank You to the Friends of the Olean Public Library!

The Olean Public Library is honored to announce a donation of **$110,000** from the Friends of the Library group!

This extraordinary gift will directly support our upcoming facility enhancement and expanded community programming. We are profoundly grateful for the dedication, hard work, and endless generosity of the Friends. Their tireless advocacy ensures that our library remains a vibrant, welcoming, and well-resourced hub for everyone in the Olean community.

If you are interested in becoming a Friends of the Library member visit: https://oleanlibrary.org/friends-of-the-library/

Please pay attention to program locations as some programs are being held at locations other than the Olean Public Library. The need to hold programs in other locations is due to the start of construction. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this exciting chapter.

Homemade for the holidays

See pg. 3 & 4 for information on the "Homemade for the Holidays" craft series.

R Registration Required | LR Limited Registration | Z Zoom Option Available | R Registration Requested

Children/Family Programs



Fall 2026
Oct 19th—Nov 20th
Registration Begins September 28th.

Registration is requested. You can register in person, online, or by calling 716-372-0200 ext. 2023.

Stories & More
R

Wednesdays at 10:00am

There is nothing like story time to capture the imagination and attention of young ones and inspire a lifelong love of books and reading. Join us for our different story times, complete with songs, rhymes, flannel boards, and instruments. Our programs are specially designed for babies and toddlers from birth through preschool. We incorporate early literacy tips and practices to promote reading readiness.

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.



St. Bonaventure Lanier Literacy Project

Thursday, November 19th at 3:30pm



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

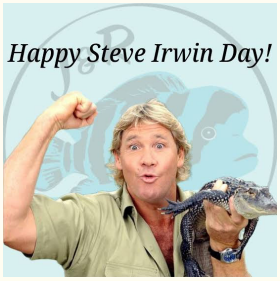
REPCO Wildlife Celebrating Steve Irwin Day



Saturday, November 7th 2:00pm in the children's area

Join the folks from REPCO Wildlife on Saturday, November 7th at 2:00PM to celebrate Steve Irwin Day, a day to honor the Crocodile Hunter whose passion for animal conservation is known worldwide!

Celebrate the life and legacy of Steve Irwin by meeting some of the amazing animals he worked with, including Steve's friend, a 28 year old lizard from the Australia Zoo!



Balloon Twisting Workshop
Wonder Twist Entertainment
R

Saturday, November 21st 12:00-1:00pm in the children's area

Wonder Twist Entertainment will present an absolutely Funtastic beginner balloon twisting workshop.

This workshop is for kids 9 and up interested in learning the exciting art of balloon twisting.

Registration is required and all the supplies will be provided!

Register ASAP as this event will fill up quickly!



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

No After School Program in November.

Teen Programs
(Ages 13-18)

Please pay attention to locations as some programs have moved. Follow signage at the First Presbyterian Church (212 Laurens Street, Olean, NY 14760) for any programs held there. IF YOUR PROGRAM IS HELD IN THE OLD INTERFAITH OFFICE, please follow the signs to the Fellowship Hall at the church. A member of OPL staff will guide you from there.

Rainbow Alliance

Wednesday, November 4th 3:30pm in the Rainbow Room (Presbyterian Church)

Rainbow Alliance is open to LGBTQIA+ individuals ages 13-18, and to supporting allies, friends, and relatives in the same age group. Join us as we gather as allies and friends, enjoying snacks and company. Got ideas for things we could do? Come share them!

OTAB Meeting

Tuesday, November 10th 3:30pm in the Rainbow Room (Presbyterian Church)

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.

Friendsgiving Party

Wednesday, November 18th 4:00-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall (Presbyterian Church)

Join our teen programming staff and OTAB as we welcome the holiday season through a Friendsgiving gathering. We'll provide main dishes like pizza as well as some treats, so there will be more than enough for all to enjoy. Bring yourself, your appetite, and (if you want) a treat to share. We will have small prizes for everyone who brings a friend.

R Registration Required | LR Limited Registration | Z Zoom Option Available | R Registration Requested

Teen Dungeons & Dragons

Tuesday, November 24th
6:00-8:30pm in the Old Interfaith Office (Presbyterian Church)

R

Both groups are together this month! 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 they assist the Flaming Fist in their quest to protect Baldur's Gate.
Email programming@oleanlibrary.org or scan QR code below if interested.



The Teen Room has moved to the Rainbow Room of the Olean Presbyterian Church. We are open in our new location Monday-Thursday 3-6 pm. Please follow all signs outside and within the church to help you find our new location, and thank you for your patience as we settle into our temporary home.

Adult Programs

Please pay attention to locations as some programs have moved. Follow signage at the Presbyterian Church for any programs held there. IF YOUR PROGRAM IS HELD IN THE OLD INTERFAITH OFFICE, please follow the signs to the Fellowship Hall at the church. A member of OPL staff will guide you from there.

ACOTAR Book Release Pop In

Tuesday, November 3rd
5:00-8:00pm in the Olean Public Library

Join us while we celebrate our love for ACOTAR, A Court of Thorns & Roses. We will have a drawing for those who want to check out the NEW BOOK (A Court of Splintered Harmony) and some other fun prizes for attending.

We will make fairy charm bracelets, have henna, fairy hair, a photo-op, & more! Pop-in and vote for your favorite Prythian character, check out some books, play a Prythian game and more!
Want to enjoy this program but have never read this series? Join us anyways! We will have several books from the series to borrow!

Knit, Crochet, & Crafting Club

Saturday, November 7th
11:30am in the Fellowship Hall (Presbyterian Church)

Z

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.

Quilting Past and Present

Saturday, November 7th
2:30pm at the Presbyterian Church

Linda Hunter, quilting teacher, lecturer and certified quilt appraiser with the American Quilters Society for many years, will show a variety of quilts, both antique and contemporary, which will take us on a journey through the history of our country. Historical facts, names of quilt patterns and more will be included with a variety of patchwork and appliqué quilts.



Adult Dungeons and Dragons

Z
R

Tuesday, November 10th
6:30-8:30pm in the Old Interfaith Office (Presbyterian Church)

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. If possible, have a level 4 character prepared to play. *Email programming@oleanlibrary.org for details prior to the program.*

Family Photos

Monday, November 23rd
Tuesday, November 24th
4:00-6:00pm in the Olean Public Library

R

Join us while we create simple family memories as we take family photos for your family. This year, we will be emailing access to edited photos which may take up to two weeks.

Craft Programs

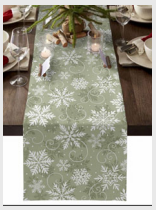


Sewing Class with Martha Thorne

LR

Wednesday, November 11th
6:00pm in the Olean Public Library

Join Martha Thorne as part of our Homemade for the Holiday Craft Series. Martha will work with attendees on a step-by-step process to create beautiful Christmas table runners and centerpieces. Colors will be a variety of Christmas fabrics. The centerpiece will include a canning jar with candle and decorations.
Ages 13 & up.



Handmade Cards with DeDee Crouse

LR

Wednesday, December 2nd
6:00pm in the Olean Public Library

Join DeDee Crouse to make tailored homemade Christmas Cards as part of our Homemade for the Holidays craft series. DeDee will walk participants through a step-by-step process to make fantastic cards to send to family & friends for the holiday season!
Ages 13 & up.

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

R Registration Required LR Limited Registration Z Zoom Option Available R Registration Requested

Craft Programs



Pop-in Crafts

6:00-8:00pm in the Olean Public Library

There will be a table set out for you, with materials & directions!

All pop-in programs are while supplies last.

Thursday, November 19th

Mini Christmas Globes

Thursday, December 3rd

Old Christmas Card Bookmarks

Bring in your old Christmas Cards & upcycle them into handmade bookmarks. We will have scrapbook paper for those who do not have saved Christmas Cards.

Thursday, December 10th

Sugar Scrub Jars

Thursday, December 17th

Ornaments

Ages 13 & up.

Instructed Paint with Serenhippity LR

Tuesday, November 17th

5:45pm at the Presbyterian Church

Serenhippity is coming to you with an instructed paint. Paint your family pumpkin patch plate. We will be using a special paint on the plates and letting the design air-dry. All participants will be required to take the plate home to bake in their home oven to make the design permanent and dishwasher-resistant. We can't wait to get crafty with you!

Please arrive between 5:30pm-5:55pm as we gather in the fellowship room for friendly conversation. The program will then start at 6:00pm.

Ages 13 & up.



Programs labeled with LR are crafting programs with limited seating available. 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. If you have registered for one of these programs and CANNOT attend, you MUST contact the library before the day of the program to cancel your reservation. Repeat violations of this rule can, at the discretion of the programming staff, result in being placed automatically on the wait list for future programs. Please reach out to programming@oleanlibrary.org with any questions.

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.

Book Clubs



Brown Bag Book Club

Monday, November 16th at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall (Presbyterian Church)

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

Join us as we discuss Maud's Line by Margaret Verble.

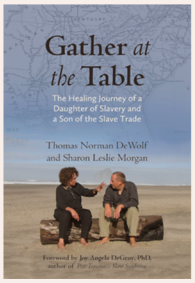


Multiple copies of the book are available physically and digitally throughout the library system.

Want to read ahead? For December, we will be reading The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year by Ally Carter.

The Race Unity Circle of Olean Book Club

Wednesday, November 18th at 1:00pm at the Enchanted Mountains Village Meeting Room 301 N. Union St Olean, NY 14760



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

November Selection:

Gather at the Table: The Healing Journey of a Daughter of Slavery and a Son of the Slave Trade by Thomas Norman DeWolf

Outreach

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Saturday, November 14th 12:00-2:00pm at the Olean High School (Enter at the 4th St. ramp)

Our friends at the Olean School District are throwing their 33rd Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 14th! That Saturday, stop down to the Olean High School Cafeteria between Noon and 2 pm for a wonderfully delicious plate of food, activities, and information from community partners. The dinner is completely free and open to the public, so anybody can attend! Stop by the library's outreach table to say hello.



R Registration Required LR Limited Registration Z Zoom Option Available R Registration Requested

Outreach

R Our Role in Creating a Culture of Dignity

Tuesday, November 10th
5:15-8:15pm
Location: St. Joseph's Church
1102 Walnut St., Olean, NY 14760

Dinner Provided. Free but registration is required.
Call 716-372-0200 to register.
Relationships are key to our health and happiness. In fact, humans are wired for connection, so the polarization that permeates our airwaves, newspapers, social media, and sometimes even our families takes a toll. Surveys show that between 70% and 87% of Americans admit to being "exhausted by division."

There is widespread dissatisfaction with the tone, hostility, and social consequences of polarization. Over half of us also report that political divisions create strain within our own families. No wonder we are struggling. If you are in this majority and would like to discover ways to personally bring more dignity into how we think, speak, and act, Love in Action Cattaraugus County is sponsoring an interactive workshop tailored to this moment. "Our Role in Creating a Culture of Dignity" will be led by Love in Action steward Darlene Goetzman. She plans an evening that will give participants the insights and tools to implement actions that can make a meaningful difference, even in situations where we disagree. The event is free and open to the public.



Gallery: October 2026

The Library is pausing applications for our Gallery in preparation for our Capital Projects as of August 2026. We will announce when the new Gallery is open for submissions. Thank you for your understanding.

Buy the Book

Support the Olean Public Library Expansion

Donors will be recognized on a special bookshelf-style donor wall in the new library lobby, with a name and/or honoree/memorial engraved on a simulated book.
Each "buy the book" donor may choose to have their own name or an honoree/memorial placed on their "book" - a meaningful opportunity to become a visible part of Olean Public Library's next chapter. Qualifying donors will be contacted by Library staff near completion of the capital project to finalize wording and allow for donors to maximize their level of giving.



Donations can be given in person at the library or mailed to:
Attention: Capital Project
134 N. 2nd Street, Olean, NY 14760

Tribute Gift Book Plates October 2026

Honor ☙ Memorialize ☙ Acknowledge

In Memory of: Frances Bielecki	**Donation by:** Jerome Bielecki
In Memory of: Carole Dwaileebe	**Donation by:** Carol & John Pickwell
In Memory of: Carole Dwaileebe	**Donation by:** Rick & Katie Barber
In Memory of: Carole Dwaileebe	**Donation by:** Robert & Shirley Caligiuri

Library Programs - November 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 ACOTAR Book Release Pop-in 5:00-8:00pm Investigation Stations 6:30pm	4 Stories & More 10:00am Investigation Stations & Reading can be Ruff 3:30pm Rainbow Alliance 3:30pm PC	5	6	7 Knit, Crochet, & Crafting Club 11:30am PC Repco Wildlife Celebrating Steve Irwin Day 2:00pm Quilting Past & Present 2:30pm PC
9	10 OTAB Meeting 3:30pm PC Our Role in Creating a Culture of Dignity 5:15-8:15pm (St. Joseph's Church) Investigation Stations 6:30pm DnD 6:30pm PC	11 Stories & More 10:00am Investigation Stations & Reading can be Ruff 3:30pm Sewing Class 6:00pm	12	13	14 Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner 12:00-2:00pm (Olean High School)
16 Brown Bag Book Club 12:30pm PC	17 Instructed Paint 5:45pm PC Investigation Stations 6:30pm	18 Stories & More 10:00am Race Unity Book Club 1:00pm (Enchanted Mountains Village Meeting Room) Investigation Stations & Reading can be Ruff 3:30pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Friendsgiving 4:00-6:00pm PC	19 Lanier Literacy Project 3:30pm Pop-in Mini Christmas Globes 6:00-8:00pm	20	21 Balloon Twisting Workshop 12:00-1:00pm
23 Family Photos 4:00-6:00pm	24 Family Photos 4:00-6:00pm Teen DnD 6:30pm PC	25	26 **CLOSED** 	27	28
30					

Adult programs in black
Teen programs in blue
Children/family programs in red
Community outreach programs in purple
PC—Held at Presbyterian Church