



For more information, contact:

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Black History Month brings food, film and culture to Orange County libraries in February

On February 1 the Alafaya branch invites you to celebrate it's 20th anniversary. Bring your family and friends and enjoy live music, a special animal storytime presented by the Central Florida Fair, interactive activities, prizes and more. It's our way of saying thank you for allowing us to serve the community these past 20 years.

Then on February 15 the Melrose Center marks it's 6th year with the 2020 Melrose Creative Expo. Participate in fun activities throughout 26,000 square feet of technology studios including the FAB lab, audio and video studios, a simulation lab, interactive media wall and much more. See who will win the top prizes during the Melrose Awards ceremony.

The library honors African-American literature and poetry during the annual African-American Read-In at Orlando Public Library on February 16. Come and listen to local celebrities, writers and community leaders share moving stories and their favorite pieces of literature on the main library stage, including a special performance by Orisirisi African Folklore, a performing art company that uses traditional music and dance to share beautiful stories of African life and culture.

If you have any questions about the information shared below, contact us as 407-835-7323. Check us out online at ocls.info for a complete listing of all library events.

Alafaya Branch 20th Anniversary Celebration

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Saturday, February 1, 10-5 p.m.

Celebrate Alafaya Branch's 20th Anniversary on Saturday, February 1 from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Hear a story and mingle with visiting animals at Animal Storytime Presented by the Central Florida Fair, laugh out loud with the amazing Jiggleman and dance along to the rockin' tunes of Mr. Harley. Throughout the day we will have a variety of activities including face painting, interactive experiences, crafts and more!

AARP Income Tax Assistance

Herndon Branch, 4324 E. Colonial Drive

Mondays, February 3–24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Thursdays, February 6–27, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Southeast Branch, 5575 S. Semoran Blvd.

Mondays, February 3–24, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Thursdays, February 6–27, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Wednesdays, February 5–26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Fridays, February 7–28, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

AARP Volunteers will provide free income tax assistance. Attendees will be seen on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, visit aarp.org/taxaide.

Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms and the Making of America

Herndon Branch, 4324 E. Colonial Drive

Monday, February 3, 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Norman Rockwell's birthday and learn about his Four Freedoms series inspired by Franklin Roosevelt's vision for postwar America. In 2018, Hank Willis Thomas updated these paintings to reflect the circumstances of life in 21st century America. Keri Watson, an assistant professor of art history at the University of Central Florida, will present a comparison of these two takes on the Four Freedoms and discuss ways in which art participates in political

American Sign Language: Level 1A

Southeast Branch, 5575 S. Semoran Blvd.

Wednesday, February 5–26, 6:30 p.m.

During the progressive, four-week course instructors will cover the manual alphabet, numbers and more.

Presented by ASL Services Inc. Registration required.

Chinese New Year Celebration: Year of the Rat

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m.

Celebrate the Chinese New Year! Enjoy Chinese traditions Dragon Dance, folk dances, a musical performance and a demonstration of Chinese calligraphy. Presented by the Chinese School of CAACF Inc.

Family History Fair!

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, February 8, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Explore your roots. Beginners, get started. Experienced genealogists, learn new tips. The Central Florida Genealogical Society, other local societies and library staff will share genealogy information.

Cuisine Corner: Nikki's Place

Orlando Public Library, Cypress Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.

Chefs from local favorite Nikki's Place show you how to prepare delicious southern soul food classics. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

Meet the Author: Caro Carson

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Wednesday, February 12, 7–8:30 p.m.

USA Today best-selling author, Caro Carson, will share how her book, *The Maverick's Holiday Masquerade*, became a TV movie. Receive a copy of the first book in her upcoming Masterson, Texas series! Presented by Lorelei's Lit Lair.

Galentine's Day

Winter Garden Branch, 805 E. Plant St., Winter Garden

Thursday, February 13, 6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Galentine's Day is a time for honoring female friendships ... and breakfast foods. Come celebrate with an evening of waffles, mock mimosas and crafts!

2020 Melrose Creative Expo

Orlando Public Library, Melrose Center, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, February 15, 1–4 p.m.

The 2020 Melrose Creative Expo marks the 6th anniversary of the Melrose Center. Come enjoy family-friendly activities and see the Melrose Awards presentation honoring the year's best works.

African American Read-In

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Sunday, February 16, 2–4 p.m.

Celebrate African American literature in poetry, story, and song, performed by local luminaries in conjunction with the 30th Annual National African American Read-In. For more information, visit ocls.info/readin.

STEAM Exploration Day

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Monday, February 17, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Take a break from the everyday and explore what's new in tech at the library. Try out drones, robotics, and virtual reality headsets in interactive activities great for the whole family.

The Dances of Beyoncé

Fairview Shores Branch, 902 Lee Road, Suite 26.

Tuesday, February 18, 4:30 p.m.

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Wednesday, February 19, 3:30 p.m.

Who run the world? Girls! Embrace your inner Beyoncé through dance and learn the iconic moves from some of Beyoncé's most popular songs. Recommended for tweens and teens.

Music in the Library: Nathi Gcabashe

Alafaya Branch, 12000 E. Colonial Drive

Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m.

Eatonville Branch, 200 E. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville

Tuesday, February 25, 6 p.m.

Southwest Branch, 7255 Della Drive

Saturday, February 29, 11 a.m.

Hear Grammy-nominated musician Nathi Gcabashe. Nathi is a singer, songwriter, guitarist and record producer from Durban, South Africa.

LEARN. GROW. CONNECT.

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