



**For more information, contact:**

Erin Sullivan, Public Relations Administrator

407-835-7480

[sullivan.erin@ocls.info](mailto:sullivan.erin@ocls.info)

## **Celebrate Black History Month, Valentine's Events and the Conclusion to NEA Big Read: *The Call of the Wild***

As part of Black History Month, Orange County Library System invites customers to celebrate African American literature in poetry, story, and song, performed by local luminaries in conjunction with the 32nd Annual National African American Read-In. OCLS also welcomes award-winning violinist and author Pilar Winter Hill as she reads aloud from her first children's book, *A Neighborhood Walk, A Musical Journey*. For a full listing of Black History Month events, visit [ocls.info/blackhistorymonth](https://ocls.info/blackhistorymonth).

Spend time with the ones you love at the library. Bring your little ones in to create a craft or make a handmade gift for a special someone in our sewing classes. For a complete listing of Valentine's Day events at the library, visit [ocls.info/valentinesday](https://ocls.info/valentinesday).

Orange County Library System, in partnership with Valencia College, celebrates *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London as part of NEA Big Read. Join us for a livestream with our closing keynote speaker *Survivorman* Les Stroud as he discusses his experiences in the wild and shares his new children's book. For more information, visit [ocls.info/bigread](https://ocls.info/bigread). NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Registration is strongly recommended for all in-person events due to limited capacity. If you have any questions about the information shared below, call 407-835-7323. Visit us online at [ocls.info](https://ocls.info) to register, or to view a complete listing of both virtual and in-person library events.

### **Youth Events:**

#### **In-Person: Countdown to Kindergarten**

Southwest Branch

*Tuesdays, February 1–15, 10:30 a.m.*

Hiawassee Branch

*Mondays, February 7–28, 11 a.m.*

Explore families and feelings through stories, rhymes and activities designed to help preschoolers develop skills to become readers and succeed in kindergarten. Recommended for ages 4–5.

**In-Person: Science of Love**

Southwest Branch

*Wednesday, February 2, 3 p.m.*

Windermere Branch

*Monday, February 7, 4 p.m.*

West Oaks Branch

*Wednesday, February 9, 4 p.m.*

South Creek Branch

*Saturday, February 12, 2 p.m.*

Hiawassee Branch

*Monday, February 14, 4:30 p.m.*

We may not be making love potions, but this event is sure to get your heart beating with fun science experiments and STEM challenges. Recommended for ages 6–12.

**In-Person: To Be a Drum Celebration**

16150 Pebble Bluff Loop, Winter Garden, FL 34787

*Saturday, February 5, 10:30 a.m.*

Chickasaw Branch

*Monday, February 14, 11 a.m.*

West Oaks Branch

*Friday, February 18, 1:30 p.m.*

Eatonville Branch

*Saturday, February 19, 3 p.m.*

Be inspired by dancing and drumming as we hear the rhythm of the Earth through a storytelling performance of *To Be a Drum* by Evelyn Coleman. Recommended for families.

**In-Person: Alma Thomas Art**

Southeast Branch

*Saturday, February 5, 11 a.m.*

Hiawassee Branch

*Wednesday, February 9, 4:30 p.m.*

Southwest Branch

*Wednesday, February 16, 3 p.m.*

Winter Garden Branch

*Wednesday, February 16, 3:30 p.m.*

Washington Park Branch

*Wednesday, February 16, 4 p.m.*

South Creek Branch

*Saturday, February 26, 2 p.m.*

Honor African American artist Alma Thomas and create your own colorful abstract work of art. Recommended for families with children ages 6 and up.

**In-Person: Preschool Yoga with PLAYologist Yolonda**

Chickasaw Branch

*Monday, February 7, 11 a.m.*

Preschool yoga classes with Yolonda Deon are fun-filled yoga, meditation and mindfulness sessions with a twist that uses a trauma-informed PLAY-based yoga curriculum.

**In-Person: Baby's First Valentine's Day**

Southeast Branch

*Monday, February 7, 11 a.m.*

Southwest Branch

*Monday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.*

Explore sensory activities made with love and help baby develop fine and gross motor skills.

Recommended for ages 0–18 months and caregivers.

**In-Person: Children's Author Storytime featuring Pilar Winter Hill**

Orlando Public Library

*Wednesday, February 16, 11–11:30 a.m.*

Celebrate Black History Month with award-winning violinist, Pilar Winter Hill. Listen as she reads her first children's book, *A Neighborhood Walk, A Musical Journey*.

**Virtual: Hip-Hop Artist Fyütch**

*Saturday, February 19, 4:30 p.m.*

Music and social justice artist Fyütch presents a high-energy hip-hop concert for Black History Month, full of joy, dance moves and facts about Black pioneers past and present.

**General Events:**

**Virtual: Woven Record – Chilkat Textile as Historical Documents**

*Tuesday, February 1, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.*

Indigenous artists of Alaska and Canada's Northwest coasts create intricate finger-twined textiles which take years to complete. Renowned Tlingit artist Lily Hope shares her philosophy on the craft. NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Arts Midwest.

**In-Person: Sewing – Heart Pillow**

West Oaks Branch

*Friday, February 4, 10 a.m.–Noon*

We're celebrating love by making a heart pillow. You'll need basic sewing skills to create this project.

**In-Person: Livestream Keynote with *Survivorman* Les Stroud**

Chickasaw Branch

*Saturday, February 5, 2–3 p.m.*

Join us at the Chickasaw branch for a Livestream of the NEA Big Read Keynote with Les Stroud, creator and star of Discovery Channel's *Survivorman*.

**Virtual: NEA Big Read Keynote with *Survivorman* Les Stroud**

*Saturday, February 5, 2–3 p.m.*

Les Stroud, creator of the survival TV genre and world explorer, tells of his experiences in the wild and shares his new children's book.

**In-Person: Family History Fair**

West Oaks Branch

*Saturday, February 12, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.*

Connect with some of the many resources, societies and organizations available to help with your family

history research journey.

**In-Person: George Burns Alive Again and in Concert**

Orlando Public Library, Library Central

*Sunday, February 13, 2 p.m.*

Everyone loves George Burns! Join Broadway and film actor Duffy Hudson as he takes you on a stroll along nostalgia lane. George Burns sings, dances and tells stories like only George Burns can.

**In-Person: Music in the Library: Nathi Gcabashe**

Fairview Shores Branch

*Saturday, February 19, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.*

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

**In-Person: African American Read-In**

Orlando Public Library, Library Central

*Sunday, February 20, 2–3:30 p.m.*

Celebrate African American literature in poetry, story, and song, performed by local luminaries in conjunction with the 32nd Annual National African American Read-In.

**In-Person: Rock the Wrap: Headwrap Styling Workshop**

Hiawasse Branch

*Tuesday, February 22, 4 p.m.*

This educational and interactive experience provides step-by-step instruction of headwrap styling techniques. Learn about the significance and history of headwrapping. Registration required.

Recommended for ages 18 and up.

**In-Person: Music in the Library: Wassalou**

Orlando Public Library, Library Central

*Saturday, February 26, 11 a.m.–Noon*

Wassalou is an Afropop band that presents a unique talent to the North American cultural landscape. Bringing language, colorful traditional costuming and dance straight out of Africa.

**LEARN. GROW. CONNECT.**

####