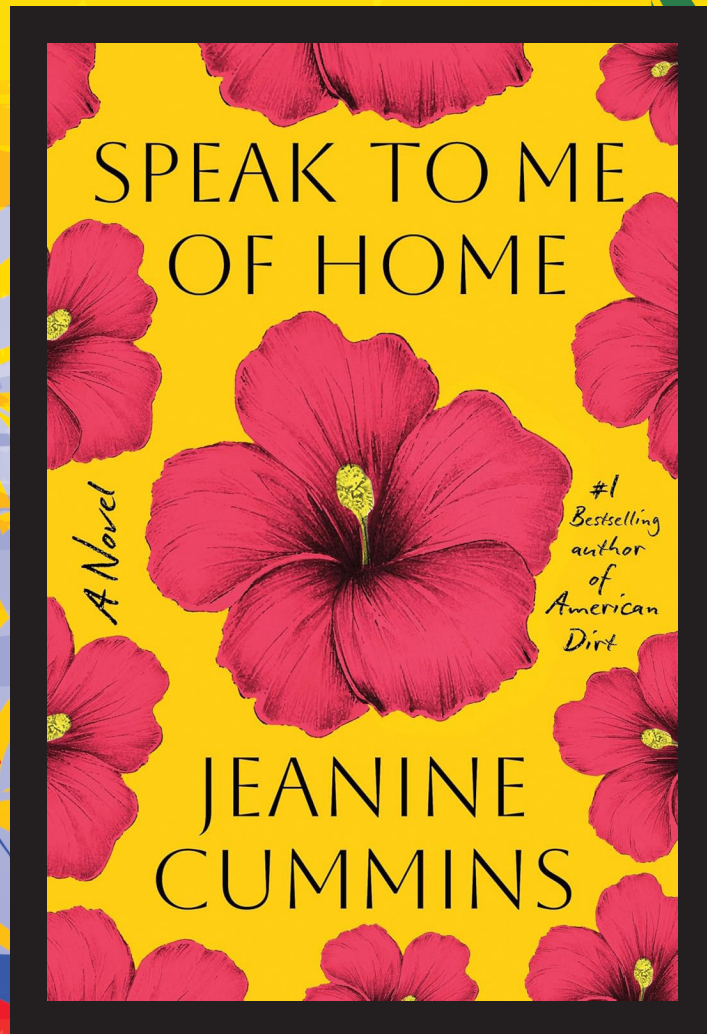


Spring 2026
thiscommunityreads.org



COMMUNITY READ

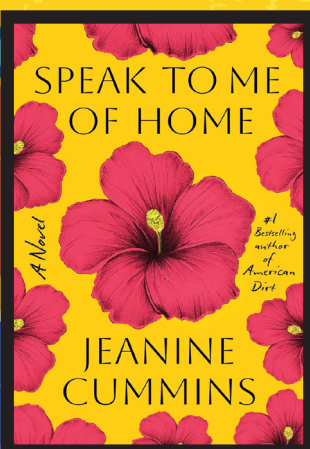
An Entire Community Reading and Discussing One Book



Book Discussions

ADULT

Join in the conversation to discuss the book's themes and ideas with others in your community.



- Wednesday, April 1, 10am | Washington Public Library
- Thursday April 2, 11am | Owensville
- Thursday, April 2, 5:30pm | Warrenton
- Wednesday, April 8, 10am | Pacific
- Tuesday, April 14, 6pm | Pacific
- Wednesday, April 15, 2:30pm | Hermann
- Wednesday, April 15, 2pm and 5:30pm | East Central College Library *
- Wednesday, April 15, 6:30pm | Washington Public Library
- Thursday, April 16, 2pm | St. Clair
- Thursday, April 16, 6pm | New Haven
- Thursday, April 16, 6pm | Union
- Tuesday, April 21, 6pm | Owensville
- Tuesday, April 21, 6pm | Sullivan
- Wednesday, April 22, 2pm | Warrenton
- Tuesday, April 28 at 5pm | Wright City
- Tuesday, April 28, 6pm | Sullivan

Ancestry DNA: Evaluating, Managing, & Analyzing DNA Matches

ADULT

Learn how to interpret DNA matches, organize genetic information, and use AncestryDNA tools to verify known ancestors and uncover new family connections. Presented by Patti Hobbs.

- Thursday, April 16, 6pm | Union

Beginner Spanish: Everyday Basics

ADULT

This introductory Spanish class is designed for true beginners. Participants will learn basic vocabulary, simple phrases, and pronunciation, with an emphasis on everyday communication, led by instructor Adriana Prater.

- Thursday, April 9, 6pm | Sullivan (Limit 24)

Book Bedazzling

ADULT

Bring your own copy of *Speak to Me of Home* or any book you love and make it sparkle! Decorate the cover with gems to create a truly personal keepsake. Supplies provided.

- Thursday, April 2, 6pm | Union
- Tuesday, April 14, 6pm | Hermann
- Tuesday, April 14, 6pm | Washington Public Library
- Tuesday, April 21, 6pm | Wright City

Los colores de la vida de Puerto Rico

ADULT Explore how Puerto Ricans describe their life and culture through the visual arts, a panel presentation presented by ECC's Department of Art; Jenn Higerd, Associate Professor of Art, Beth Martin, Instructor of Art, and Sean Barton Instructor of Graphic Design.

- *Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 PM | East Central College Room HS 100 **

Creative Memory Journal

ADULT Journey with Ravenscourt Creations to create a personalized journal to capture your memories and thoughts, helping you tell your story in a creative and meaningful way.

- *Thursday, April 9, 6pm | St. Clair (Limit 20)*
- *Tuesday, April 14, 6pm | Owensville (Limit 20)*
- *Saturday, April 18, 9:30am | Washington Public Library (Limit 20)*
- *Thursday, April 23, 6pm | Pacific (Limit 20)*
- *Tuesday, April 28, 6pm | Hermann (Limit 20)*

Family Tree 101

ADULT Terry Wilson from Four Rivers Genealogical Society presents an introduction to tracing your family history. Learn the basics of building a family tree, organizing records, and uncovering your ancestors' stories.

- *Tuesday, April, 7, 6pm | Pacific*
- *Tuesday, April, 21, 6pm | Warrenton*
- *Tuesday, April 28, 6pm | Owensville*

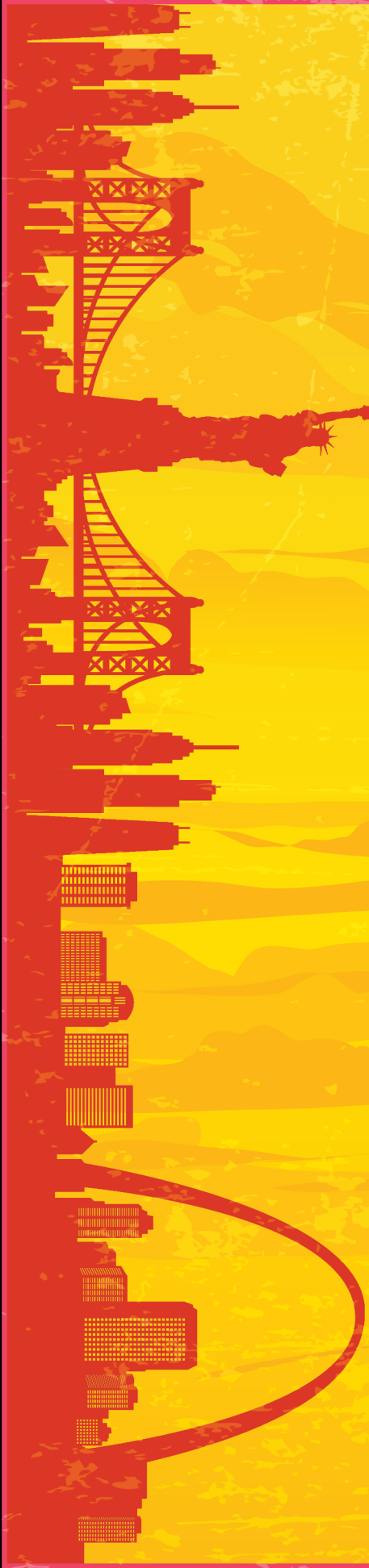
Fashion Through the Decades

ADULT Fashion always comes back around! Take a fun stroll through the decades with Christine Miller and Louise Hermes as they explore how styles from the recent and distant past still influence today's trends.

- *Tuesday, April 7, 6pm | Hermann*
- *Tuesday, April 14, 6pm | Warrenton*
- *Tuesday, April 28, 6pm | Washington Public Library*

**Scan QR code on page 8 for East Central College map.*





Multigenerational Trivia Night

ADULT Bring everyone together and test your knowledge across generations. Questions span multiple decades and a variety of topics, making it fun for older and younger participants alike. Teams of all ages are welcome—learn, laugh, and compete together.

- *Tuesday, April 7, 6pm | Warrenton (Limit 60)*
- *Thursday, April 2, 6pm | St. Clair (Limit 40)*

Paint the Banyan Trees of Puerto Rico

ADULT Create a tropical-inspired painting based on the iconic banyan trees of Puerto Rico in this relaxed, guided art program led by Kaitlin Millender of Art Mill Collective. All supplies are provided.

- *Tuesday, April 7, 6pm | New Haven (Limit 16)*
- *Thursday, April 9, 6pm | Pacific (Limit 24)*
- *Thursday, April 16, 6pm | Sullivan (Limit 24)*
- *Thursday, April 23, 6pm | Warrenton (Limit 30)*

Puerto Rican Cultural and Flavor Experience

ADULT This experience celebrates Puerto Rican food and culture! Including a lively presentation by Mama Pacha, Q&A, and small tasting samples featuring signature Mama Pacha seasonings. Explore the flavors, stories, and traditions behind Puerto Rican cuisine.

- *Tuesday, April 7, 6pm | St. Clair (Limit 50)*
- *Tuesday, April 14, 6pm | Union (Limit 80)*

A Taste of Puerto Rico

ADULT Experience the flavors of Puerto Rico with Jess from Little Lost Kitchen! Discover traditional dishes, ingredients, and cooking techniques while enjoying a delicious, hands-on culinary experience.

- *Thursday, April 2, 6pm | New Haven (Limit 30)*
- *Thursday, April 9, 6pm | Wright City (Limit 30)*
- *Thursday, April 16, 6pm | Washington Public Library (Limit 30)*
- *Thursday, April 23, 6pm | Hermann (Limit 30)*

Tropical Mood of St. Louis

ADULT Tropical Mood of St. Louis blends Plena, Bomba, Salsa, and Latin Jazz to celebrate Puerto Rico's rich musical heritage with vibrant, contemporary energy.

- *Tuesday, April 7, 6pm | Union*

Uncover the Family Secret Escape Room

ADULT Uncover the family secret to claim the inheritance of Trickster Uncle. This game of mystery and logic can be played solo or in teams up to six.

- *Wednesday, April 15, 6:30pm | East Central College Library**

Weather the Storm: Preparing Your Home for Disasters

ADULT Franklin and Warren County EMA present a disaster preparedness program covering home readiness, emergency supplies, family plans, and staying informed during severe weather.

- *Thursday April 2, 6pm | Wright City*
- *Thursday, April 9, 6pm | New Haven*
- *Thursday, April 16, 6pm | Owensville*
- *Tuesday, April 21, 6pm | Pacific*
- *Thursday, April 23, 6pm | Union*
- *Tuesday, April 28, 6pm | Warrenton*

Where Home Lives: Memory, Aging & Belonging

ADULT Home holds comfort and belonging as we age. Learn about memory support, aging resources, and independence with Aging Ahead and Aging Best.

- *Thursday April 2, 6pm | Sullivan*
- *Tuesday April 7, 6pm | Owensville*
- *Thursday, April 9, 6pm | Union*
- *Thursday, April 16, 6pm | Wright City*
- *Thursday, April 16, 6pm | St. Clair*
- *Thursday, April 16, 6pm | Pacific*

**Scan QR code on page 8 for East Central College map.*

Writing Your Own Story

ADULT

Learn Louise Baker's techniques to reflect on your experiences, write your story, and share your life's journey in your own voice.

- Tuesday April 7, at 6pm | Washington Public Library (Limit 30)
- Tuesday, April 14, 6pm | Sullivan (Limit 24)
- Thursday, April 23, 6pm | New Haven (Limit 16)

Meet Author Jeanine Cummins

ADULT

Welcome #1 New York Times bestselling author Jeanine Cummins to the library for an evening of conversation and insight into her writing and newest novel, *Speak to Me of Home*—this year's Community Read selection.



Born on a U.S. Naval Base in Rota, Spain, and raised in Gaithersburg, Maryland, Jeanine experienced a life-changing tragedy at sixteen when visiting family in St. Louis suffered the violent loss of her two cousins. Her brother was the only surviving victim of the attack. She later shares this story in her bestselling memoir, *A Rip in Heaven*.

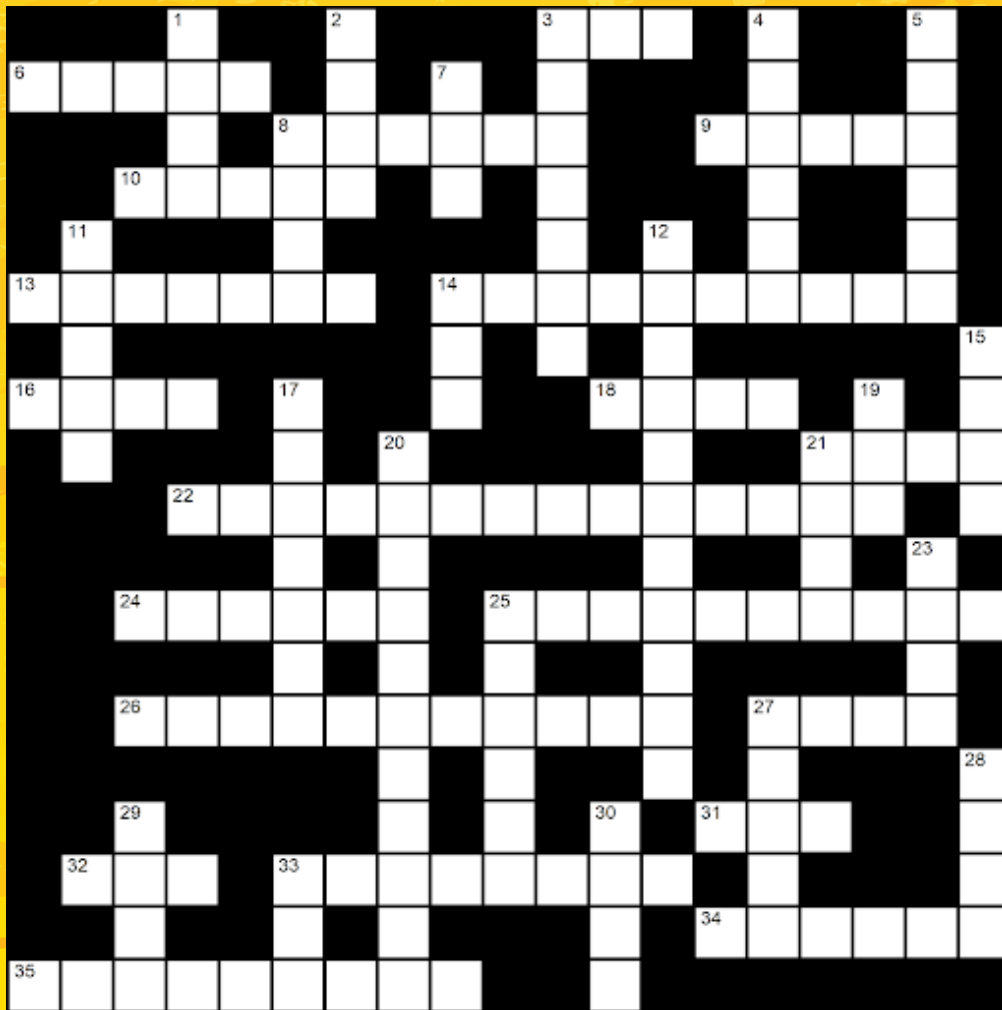
Jeanine Cummins is best known for her #1 New York Times bestseller *American Dirt*, which has sold more than three and a half million copies worldwide.

Her newest novel, *Speak to Me of Home* is set in Puerto Rico and offers a moving, multigenerational exploration of marriage, family, and identity. At its heart, it's a story of mothers and daughters that asks: How can three women who share so much have such different ideas of where they come from and who they are? And can they find their way back to one another?

Jeanine lives in New York with her husband, their two daughters, and their dogs, but she also has deep ties to St. Louis, which have influenced both her life and the fictional worlds she creates. Learn more at jeaninecummins.com.

- Thursday, April 30, 6pm | Union

Community Read Crossword



Scan for solutions to crossword puzzle.

Across

3 Overhead expanse of blue **6** Coming together of separate parts **8** Deep psychological wound **9** Flowing body of water **10** Fluid pumped by the heart **13** Not present or found **14** One who comes from an ancestor **16** Woody plant with trunk and branches **18** Feeling of dread or anxiety **21** Deprivation or bereavement **22** Restoration of friendly relations **24** Husband or wife **25** Ability to recover from adversity **26** Joyful observance of an occasion **27** Word by which someone is called **31** Period of time in history **32** Large body of salt water **33** Treasured family possession passed down **34** Written account of events **35** Feeling of being accepted.

Down

1 Earth's surface layer **2** Unit of length equal to three feet **3** Romance language of Spain **4** Person with whom one shares mutual affection **5** Public road in a city **7** Star at the center of our solar system **8** Small urban settlement **11** Personal journal of daily events **12** Successive age groups in a family **14** Genetic material carrying hereditary information **15** Time that has already occurred **17** Visual representation or photograph **19** Male offspring **20** Process of combining into a whole **21** Deep affection or devotion **23** Dull persistent pain **25** Ceremonial act performed regularly **27** Healthcare professional caring for patients **28** Seat of consciousness and thought **29** Food eaten at a particular time **30** Hard tissue forming skeleton **33** Embrace with arm.



Explore the places the characters call home & key story locations.

Hermann

123-A Bavarian Hills Blvd.
 573-486-2024
 Sun: Closed
 Mon/Wed/Fri: 9am-6pm
 Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f hermannlibrary

New Haven

200 Douglas St.
 573-306-6189
 Sun: Closed
 Mon/Wed/Fri: 9am-6pm
 Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f newhavenlibrary

Owensville

503 S. Olive St.
 573-299-0006
 Sun: Closed
 Mon/Wed/Fri: 9am-6pm
 Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f owensvillebranch

Pacific

111 Lamar Parkway
 636-257-2712
 Sun: Closed
 Mon/Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Wed/Fri: 9am-6pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f pacificbranch

St. Clair

515 E. Springfield Rd.
 636-629-2546
 Sun: Closed
 Mon/Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Wed/Fri: 9am-6pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f stclairbranch

Sullivan

525 Cumberland Way
 573-342-6505
 Sun: Closed
 Mon/Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Wed/Fri: 9am-6pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f sullivanlibrary

Union

251 Union Plaza Dr.
 636-583-3224
 Sun: Closed
 Mon-Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Fri: 9am-6pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f unionlibrary

Warrenton

912 S. Hwy. 47
 636-456-3321
 Sun: Closed
 Mon-Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Fri: 9am-6pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f warrentonbranch

Wright City

60 Wildcat Dr.
 636-384-1136
 Sun: Closed
 Mon/Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm
 Wed/Fri: 9am-6pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f wrightcitybranch

Washington Public Library

410 Lafayette St.
 636-390-1070
 Sun: 12pm-4pm
 Mon-Thurs: 8am-8pm
 Fri: 8am-6pm
 Sat: 9am-5pm
 f washmolib
 x washmolibrary

East Central College

1964 Prairie Dell Rd.
 Union, MO 63084
 636-584-6500
 f falconsatthelib
 f cceatecc
 @ falconsatthelib
 x falconsatthelib



*Scan for map of
 East Central College
 locations.



WASHINGTON
 PUBLIC LIBRARY



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 Regional
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This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

