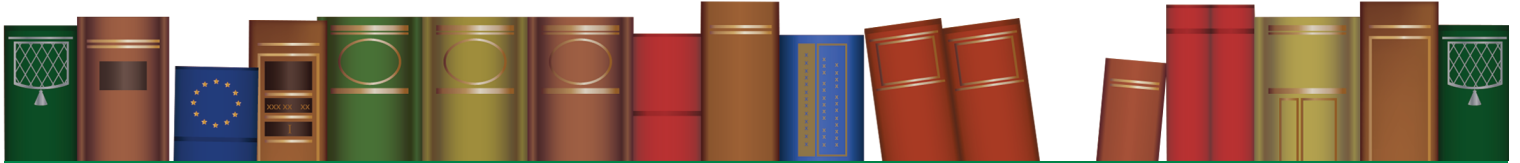




# THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 153 | february 2026

*A monthly publication from your local library!*

## 2026 Community Read Kicks off March 23

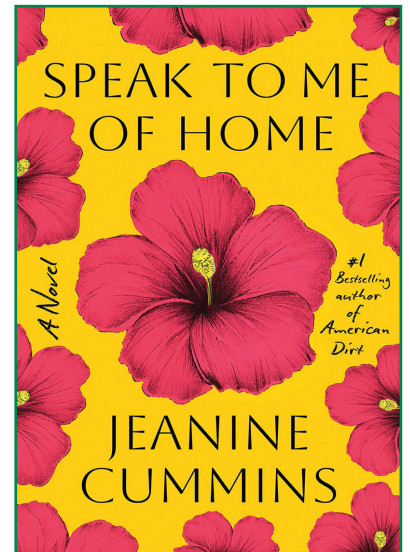


Scenic Regional Library, Washington Public Library, and East Central College will launch their sixth annual community read on Monday, March 23, by distributing free copies of this year's featured book, "Speak to Me of Home" by Jeanine Cummins, best-selling author of "American Dirt".

The novel is a sweeping multigenerational story about marriage, family, and belonging.

In 1968, Rafaela Acuña y Daubón leaves Puerto Rico for the Midwest after her wedding, only to face years of disappointment and dislocation. Her daughter, Ruth, grows up in St. Louis during the 1980s, eager to forget her roots in order to fit in. Decades later, Ruth's daughter Daisy returns to Puerto Rico, where tragedy forces three generations back to confront buried secrets. Moving from San Juan to St. Louis to the storm-ravaged island, this powerful novel explores identity, memory, and the meaning of home.

The library and its partners will host a variety of programs throughout April centered around the themes of the book, including book discussions at every branch. To conclude Community Read, Jeanine Cummins will host a Meet the Author event at the Union branch on April 30 at 6 p.m.



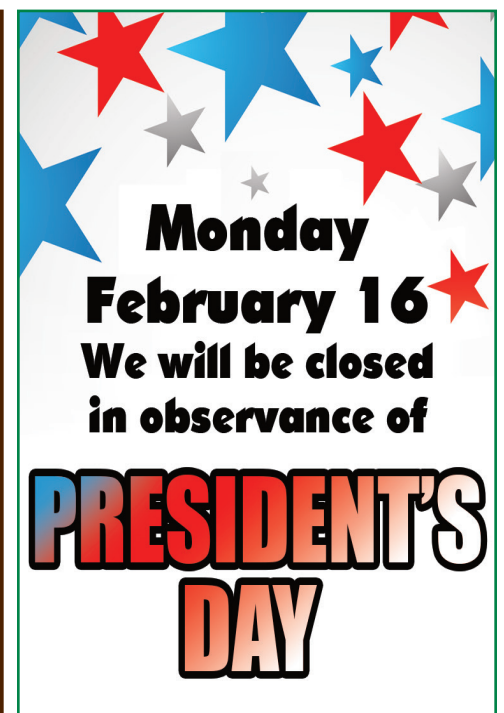
## Create A Bookmark Contest

Be the library's next bookmark star! Starting February 2, stop by any branch to pick up a design sheet and use the blank space to draw and color a bookmark inspired by books or the library. Turn it in at the front desk by Saturday, February 28, for the chance to have your creation printed and given out to other readers. All ages are encouraged to participate.



## All Branches are Warming Stations

As the cold weather approaches, don't forget that all Scenic Regional Library branches are designated warming stations. Everyone is free to visit during regular business hours and warm up. During the summer, all branches are also designated cooling stations.





## Social Worker Available at All Branches

Scenic Regional Library is pleased to welcome Jenny Reynoso, a graduate-level social work practicum student, who will be available at all branches and Washington Public Library through mid-May to assist community members in connecting with local resources and support.

Reynoso can help individuals find resources related to housing, food, childcare, healthcare, employment, and transportation. She can also provide guidance on accessing support services such as mental health care, counseling, domestic violence resources, and substance use treatment. In addition, assistance is available for applying for benefits, including SNAP, Medicaid, unemployment, and disability, as well as for replacing important documents such as IDs and birth certificates.

Reynoso is a graduate student in the social work program at Saint Louis University. She brings 10 years of experience as a 911 Telecommunicator and a B.A. in Education and Social Sciences from New Mexico Highlands University.

Patrons interested in learning more or inquiring about availability can contact [support@scenicregional.org](mailto:support@scenicregional.org).

### The library's social worker is available on the following dates and times:

#### Hermann Branch

Wednesday, February 18, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, April 1, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, April 29, 9am-2pm

#### New Haven Branch

Monday, February 23, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, March 26, 9am-1:30pm  
 Thursday, April 30, 9am-1:30pm

#### Owensville Branch

Wednesday, February 11, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, March 11, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, April 15, 9am-2pm

#### Pacific Branch

Thursday, February 26, 9am-1:30pm  
 Monday, March 16, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, April 2, 9am-1:30pm  
 Thursday, May 14, 9am-1:30pm

#### St. Clair Branch

Thursday, February 12, 9am-1:30pm  
 Thursday, March 12, 9am-1:30pm  
 Monday, March 30, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, April 16, 9am-1:30pm  
 Monday, May 11, 9am-1:30pm

#### Sullivan Branch

Wednesday, February 4, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, March 4, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, March 23, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, April 8, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, April 27, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, May 13, 9am-2pm

#### Union Branch

Wednesday, February 25, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, March 25, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, April 20, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, May 6, 9am-2pm

#### Wright City Branch

Monday, February 9, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, March 9, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, April 13, 9am-2pm

#### Warrenton Branch

Monday, February 2, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, March 2, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, March 18, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, April 6, 9am-2pm  
 Wednesday, April 22, 9am-2pm  
 Monday, May 4, 9am-2pm

#### Washington Public Library

Thursday, February 5, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, February 19, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, March 5, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, March 19, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, April 9, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, April 23, 9am-2pm  
 Thursday, May 7, 9am-2pm





*A monthly publication from your local library!*

## Are You an Artist? Help Support the Gallery at the Library



the  
gallery  
at the library

The Gallery at the Library is inviting artists to create original artwork for its annual fundraiser, taking place Friday, March 27, from 6 to 8 PM.

Participating artists will receive an 8x10 canvas to transform using any medium. Canvases must be picked up and returned to the Hermann Branch of Scenic Regional Library by Friday, March 20. All completed pieces will be sold for \$75 each, with all proceeds supporting The Gallery at the Library and its ongoing programming.

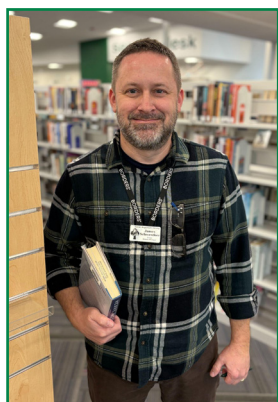
Since opening in August 2022, The Gallery at the Library has hosted 12 successful quarterly exhibits, including Stories, Landscapes, Missouri Masters, and more. The gallery highlights regional artists, featuring a dynamic mix of

established and up-and-coming creatives. Gallery receptions regularly attract more than 100 attendees, averaging 40–60 visitors each week.

The gallery's current exhibit, Bricolage, opened January 9 and runs through March 20. This new all-media exhibit explores where found objects, minimalist compositions, and surrealist photography come together in unexpected harmony. Everyday materials are transformed into compelling pieces, while simplicity and imagination merge to challenge perception and spark wonder.

For more information about the fundraiser or participation, contact The Gallery at the Library at [gallery@scenicregional.org](mailto:gallery@scenicregional.org) or 573-486-2024.

## New Union Branch Manager



The library has hired James Schwenker as the new Union branch manager. Schwenker has a bachelor's degree in business from Southeast

Missouri State University. He previously worked for 15 years as a manager at Borders Books, as well as at The Missourian and in retail management.

Schwenker began his new position on January 5.

## Library Seeks Donations



Scenic Regional Library is always accepting donations of gently-used books, DVDs, music CDs, and books on CD. Most donations will be sold at our semi-annual book sale. Have a lot? Call ahead of time, and we will help you carry them in! Contact your local branch for more details.

## Staff February Anniversary

Thank you for being such an *important* piece of our puzzle!



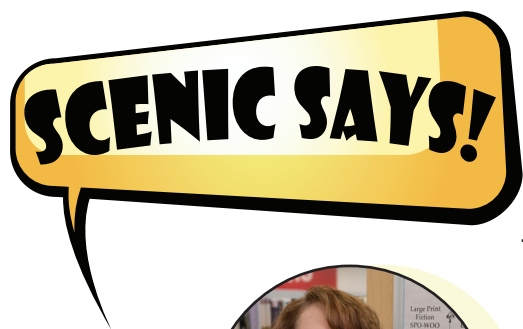
Bekah-Children's  
Programmer/Library  
Assistant, Pacific



*We love seeing moments like this. This reader completed 300 minutes of reading this winter and earned a FREE book through our Winter Reading Program!*



*A monthly publication from your local library!*



What's something cozy you've been enjoying lately?

What's a nonfiction book that taught you something, and what did it teach you?

What's your favorite book display you've helped create in the library?

**Beth**  
Union Branch



"I enjoy sitting outside and watching the campfire."

"I just began reading *Confronting the Presidents*. It is sequenced beginning with Washington up to Biden. I didn't realize George Washington only had one tooth remaining when he became president. His false teeth were made from ivory, animal teeth, and teeth from other people."

"A snowman winter display."

**Alyx**  
Pacific Branch



"Can't Spell Treason without Tea by Rebecca Tea"

"*A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human.*"

"We are strong together," a children's display about the diversity of people."

**Ethan**  
Sullivan Branch



"Doodling on MSPaint."

"*Heraldry: Sources, Symbols, and Meanings*. It has taught me the very intricate rules that comes with heraldry and the coat of arms of Dark Age and early Medieval European nobles."

"The Wild West display."

**Kasey**  
Admin



"I LOVE listening to my audiobooks under my heated blanket that I received from my awesome coworker, Becky!"

"*Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green taught me that tuberculosis has shaped our modern world and because of healthcare inequities, this curable disease is still killing over a million people every year."

"During the month of May, I helped the St. Clair and Hermann branches supply information on Lyme Disease awareness, as I have Neurological Lyme Disease and am an advocate for learning early detection of tick-borne diseases."

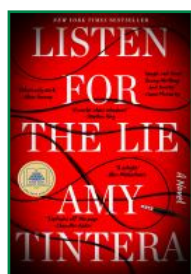




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## Can't Stop Listening? Try Reading It

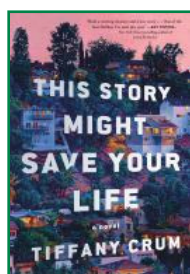
If you're hooked on true-crime or serialized podcasts, these books will feel just like your favorite episodes, full of suspense, twists, and stories that keep you turning the page. From chilling mysteries to layered investigations, these novels bring the energy of a podcast straight to the page. To place a hold on one of these titles, visit us online at [bit.ly/4qwMbJp](http://bit.ly/4qwMbJp).



**Listen for the Lie**  
 by Amy Tintera  
 Genre: Thriller / Suspense

What if you thought you murdered your best friend? And if everyone else thought

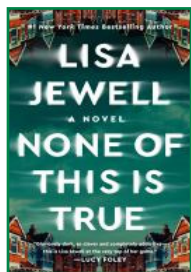
so, too? And what if the truth doesn't matter? This gripping psychological thriller alternates perspectives as it slowly unravels a deadly mystery. The narrative style mirrors serialized podcasts, keeping readers on edge with each new revelation.



**This Story Might Save Your Life**  
 by Tiffany Crum  
 Genre: Mystery / Young Adult Historical Fiction

A teen protagonist investigates a

disappearance while piecing together clues that mimic the investigative storytelling of popular podcasts. Both a riveting mystery and a love story, this novel is fast-moving, suspenseful, and immersive.



**None of This Is True**  
 by Lisa Jewell  
 Genre: Mystery / Thriller

A suspenseful story about secrets, betrayal, and hidden identities. The pacing

and layered clues feel like listening to a true-crime podcast, perfect for readers who love unraveling twists as the story unfolds.



**Kill Show: A True Crime Novel**  
 by Daniel Sweren  
 Genre: Mystery / True Crime

When sixteen-year-old Sara Parcell goes missing, it's

an utter tragedy—and an entertaining national obsession—in this thoughtful and addictively readable novel that offers a fresh and provocative take on whodunits and true crime. This layered crime story unfolds through recorded interviews, testimonies, and media coverage. Readers experience the case as if following a serialized true-crime documentary, with tension and twists at every turn.



*Patrons in Hermann created beautiful natural wreaths for their homes.*



*This little Sullivan patron is working her way toward her 1000 Books Before Kindergarten goal! Keep up the great work!*



*Thanks to everyone who came out for puzzle races at the New Haven branch. Everyone finished within the hour!*



*A monthly publication from your local library!*



Owensville's Book Look Book Club had a lively discussion about, "Mara, Daughter of the Nile", by Eloise Jarvis McGraw.



At Storytime the Pacific branch read books about being brave and using our imaginations. Afterwards, we "worked it out" and created slides for stuffed animals.



Our Eat Smart and Move More series kicked off in January in Warrenton with MU Extension! This is a multi-week program full of tips and recipes for a healthy lifestyle.

## Read Digital Magazines with Flipster

**Flipster**  
 Read what you love

Do you love magazines? The library offers Flipster, a free, easy-to-use digital magazine service that provides instant access to over 55 popular magazine titles! Available titles

include Better Homes & Gardens, Country Living, Discover, National Geographic, Reader's Digest, and more.

Flipster is available via a mobile app or a web browser. To access Flipster, visit <https://scenicregional.org/databases/#magazines>, click "Flipster," and log in with our library card number.



## Magazines Available in Flipster:

AARP: The Magazine  
 All About History  
 American Cake  
 Decorating  
 Antiques to Vintage  
 Astronomy  
 ATV World  
 Better Homes & Gardens  
 Birds & Blooms  
 Bowhunter  
 COINage  
 Comics & Gaming  
 Conde Nast Traveler  
 Consumer Reports  
 Consumer Reports  
 Buying Guide  
 Consumer Reports on Health  
 Cosmopolitan  
 Country Living  
 Cowboys & Indians

Cowgirl  
 Crochet World  
 Dirt Bike  
 Elle  
 Fons & Porter Love of Quilting  
 Guitar World  
 Guns Magazine  
 HGTV Magazine  
 History of War  
 Hobby Farms  
 Horse & Rider  
 Horse Illustrated  
 HOT ROD  
 How It Works  
 K-Zone  
 Midwest Living  
 Missouri Life  
 Motocross Action Magazine  
 National Geographic  
 PC World

People  
 Pioneer Woman  
 Popular Mechanics  
 Popular Woodworking  
 Prevention  
 Reader's Digest  
 Real Simple  
 Rock & Gem  
 Rolling Stone  
 Southern Living  
 Spider  
 Taste of Home  
 Threads  
 Travel, Taste & Tour  
 U.S. Veterans Magazine  
 Wellbeing Astrology  
 Willow & Sage  
 Woman's World



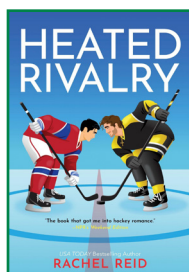


*A monthly publication from your local library!*

## Top eBook and eAudiobooks

**hoopla**

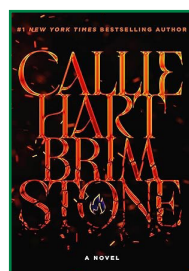
**Libby.**



**Heated Rivalry**  
 by Rachel Reid  
 (eBook)

Nothing interferes with pro hockey star Shane Hollander's game. Now, the newly appointed captain of the Montreal Voyageurs, Shane, is determined to protect everything he's worked for. The last thing he needs is a distraction, especially one in the form of his biggest rival. Boston Bears captain Ilya Rozanov is confident, talented, and impossible to ignore. On the ice, they're fierce competitors. Off the ice, the rivalry becomes far more complicated, blurring the line between rivalry and attraction.

**Genres:** Romance, LGBT, Sports Romance



**Brimstone**  
 by Callie Hart  
 (eAudiobook)

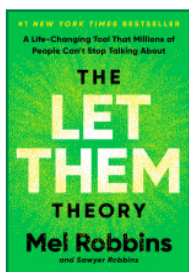
Duty. Blood. Honour. Power.

Saeris Fane doesn't want power. The very last thing she needs is her name whispered on an

entire court's lips, but now that she's been crowned queen of the Blood Court, she's discovering that a queen's life is not her own. A heavy weight rests upon her shoulders.

Covered in blood.

**Genres:** Fantasy, Romance, Fae



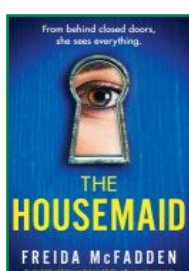
**The Let Them Theory**  
 by Mel Robbins  
 (eBook)

What if the key to happiness, success, and love was as simple as two words?

If you've ever felt stuck, overwhelmed, or frustrated with

where you are, the problem isn't you. The problem is the power you give to other people. Two simple words—Let Them—will set you free. Free from the opinions, drama, and judgments of others. Free from the exhausting cycle of trying to manage everything and everyone around you. The Let Them Theory puts the power to create a life you love back in your hands—and this book will show you exactly how to do it.

**Genres:** Self-Help, Non-Fiction



**The Housemaid**  
 by Freida McFadden  
 (eAudiobook)

"Welcome to the family," Nina Winchester says as I shake her elegant, manicured hand. I smile politely, gazing around the

marble hallway. Working here is my last chance to start fresh. I can pretend to be whoever I like. But I'll soon learn that the Winchesters' secrets are far more dangerous than my own.

**Genres:** Mystery, Thriller, Fiction



*Have you checked out a board game yet? We have games available at all of our branches for all ages!*



*School-age children in St. Clair had a great time playing board games at our last Home school Group meet-up!*

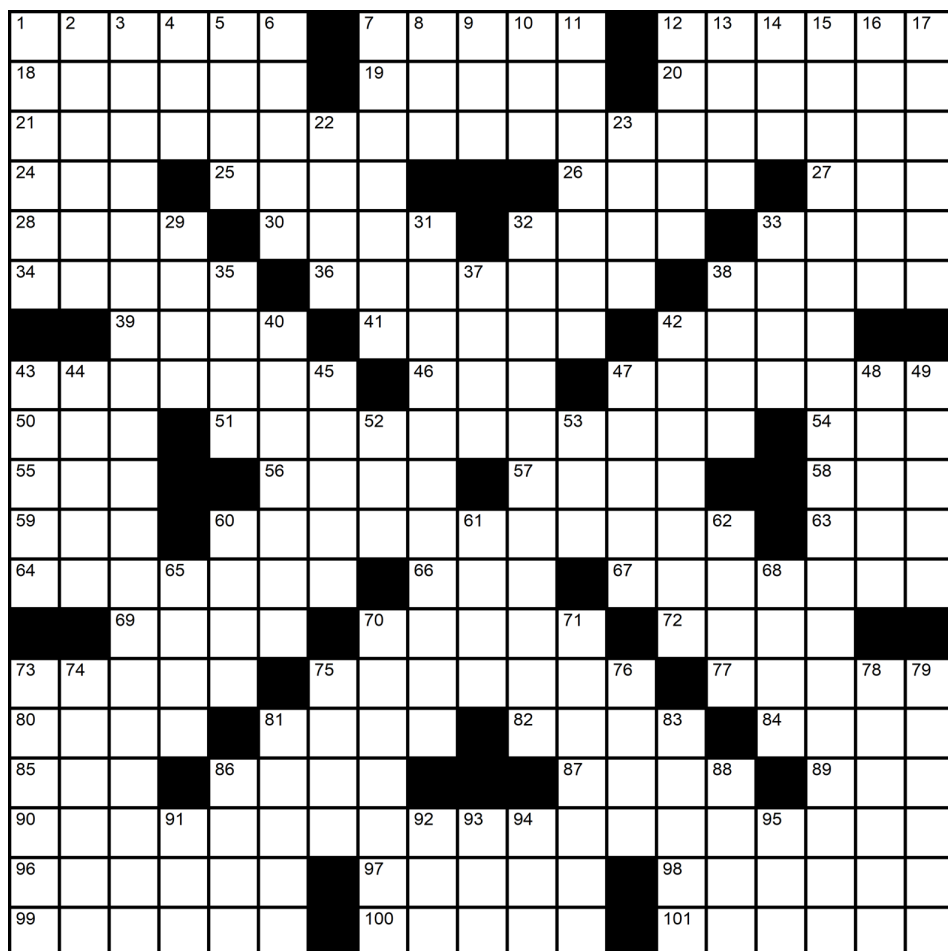


*The donations for "Kindness is Cool" have been added to the Union scarf tree. If you need a little warmth this season, come to the library for a beautiful gift from your community.*



*A monthly publication from your local library!*

## February Crossword Puzzle



### Down:

1. Service bureau or governmental body - 2. West African nation - 3. Battery-powered smoking alternative - 4. Neither's partner - 5. Canine pets - 6. Consumed eagerly - 7. Dubious bit of information - 8. Climbing vine - 9. Short snooze - 10. White wine and cassis cocktail - 11. Splashes about - 12. Work for the stage with arias - 13. Traveled on horseback - 14. Large flightless bird - 15. Kitchen waste grinder - 16. Simple eyes of insects - 17. Snuggle comfortably - 22. Tyrannical Roman emperor - 23. Attending both sexes - 29. Oklahoma city - 31. X-ray viewing device - 32. Wheeled serving carts - 33. Weighted throwing weapon - 35. Minor mistake or garment - 37. German card game - 38. Reduces in brightness - 40. Explorer who found Livingstone - 42. Affected by tremors - 43. Formal agreements - 44. Not suitable - 45. Animal tracks - 47. Cambodian currency units - 48. French farewell - 49. Group of nine - 52. Being, philosophically - 53. Collection of someone's memorable sayings - 60. Happy or pleased - 61. Minor mistake exclamation - 62. Small buffalo of Sulawesi - 65. Partially fused glass material - 68. Short-term worker - 70. Enormous in size - 71. Diplomatic understanding - 73. Arab chieftains - 74. Go to bed or hand over - 75. Queue or cord - 76. Caffeinated soft drink - 78. African expedition - 79. Fur wraps - 81. Close friend - 83. Place in its spot - 86. Arduous journey - 88. Capital of Peru - 91. Greek letter or estimated time - 92. Lyric poem - 93. Adult males - 94. Those currently in office - 95. Military missions, briefly.

### Across:

1. List of items to be discussed at a meeting - 7. Informants or strikebreakers - 12. Pacific Northwest state - 18. Clumsy or awkward fellow - 19. Be of use or advantage - 20. Pulp residue from pressed fruit - 21. Steps to follow in a crisis - 24. Major broadcast network - 25. Hard fat around animal kidneys - 26. Painful or tender - 27. Classic sandwich with bacon and lettuce - 28. Quote as evidence - 30. College instructor, informally - 32. Actress Dench or actress Van Der Pol - 33. Formal dance event - 34. Spun tales or threads - 36. Crop grown for its fatty product - 38. Motherless calf - 39. Lubricates or paints with certain media - 41. French composer of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" - 42. Heap or stack - 43. Expert commentators - 46. Grain in granola - 47. Islamic month of fasting - 50. Tropical blackbird - 51. Documentary evidence of transactions - 54. Esperanto offshoot language - 55. Ozone-depleting compound, for short - 56. Forbidden act - 57. Dollar bills - 58. Transgression - 59. Involuntary twitch - 60. Speaking in tongues - 63. Visit the restroom, informally - 64. One who suppresses - 66. Mountain pass - 67. Dispatched or emitted - 69. 50 shades of - 70. Pith helmet - 72. Female deer - 73. Sedate and respectable - 75. Milli Vanilli scandal - 77. Accumulate - 80. Injured or aching - 81. Snap at with teeth - 82. Cease or halt - 84. Subdivision map - 85. Before, poetically - 86. Popular sushi fish - 87. Hebrew calendar month - 89. Alleged flying saucer - 90. Crossing religious boundaries - 96. Equipped with necessary gear - 97. Station identification, briefly - 98. Baseball official - 99. Underhanded - 100. Perfume with incense - 101. Anise-flavored French aperitif.

### Find the answers at:

[www.scenicregional.org/crossword](http://www.scenicregional.org/crossword).





## Purchase a "Book" for the Donor Wall in Your Community's New Library

The Scenic Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups are selling donor wall "books", which will be placed in the entrance hallway of each new library building.

You can have your name, your family's name, or your business's name become a permanent part of the new library in your community. Donor wall "books" can also serve as a beautiful and long-lasting memorial for a loved one.

The cost of a donor wall "book" is based on the size of the book:

- 8" x 1½" book – \$150
- 10" x 2" book – \$250
- 9" x 3" book – \$350

Visit [www.scenicregional.org/foundation/](http://www.scenicregional.org/foundation/) or complete this form to place your order. The Foundation accepts debit and credit cards (online), checks, and cash (only for forms brought to the library) for donor wall "book" purchases.



Proceeds from the sale of the donor wall books are designated for the local Friends of the Library group and used to assist with the purchase of furnishings and equipment in their new building.

**Purchases are tax deductible.**



SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY  
**FOUNDATION**



## Scenic Regional Library Foundation Donor Wall "Book" Order Form

FIRST NAME		DATE	
MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME		
STREET ADDRESS			
CITY			
STATE	ZIP CODE		
PHONE NUMBER			
EMAIL ADDRESS			
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR ON BOOK			
BRANCH (Please select one)		SIZE OF BOOK	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 8" X 1-1/2" - \$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$250	
<input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$350	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Union Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Warrenton Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wright City Branch			
OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date received: _____			
Amount received: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash			

Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:

Friends of the Library  
251 Union Plaza Drive  
Union, MO 63084




# SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 Membership Year

All information submitted is considered confidential and will never be given or sold to any other individual, company, or organization.

If this membership is for you, please provide your information; if this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide their information:					
FIRST NAME			MIDDLE INITIAL		
LAST NAME					
STREET ADDRESS			CITY		
STATE			ZIP CODE		
PHONE NUMBER			EMAIL ADDRESS		
If this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide <b>your</b> information:					
FIRST NAME		MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME		
STREET ADDRESS			EMAIL ADDRESS		PHONE NUMBER
<b>BRANCH AFFILIATION</b> (Please select one) <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div>Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Wright City Branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> </div>		<b>LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP</b> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div>Silver - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Gold - \$50 <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Platinum - \$100 <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Diamond* - \$500 <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>*Lifetime Membership <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Up to \$10 in book sale volunteer vouchers can be applied toward any level of membership dues. <input type="checkbox"/></div> </div>		<b>MEMBERSHIP GIFTS</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">    </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div> <u>Gold:</u>            12oz. metal            tumbler/            Koozie         </div> <div> <u>Platinum:</u>            bluetooth            speaker/            wireless phone            charger         </div> <div> <u>Diamond:</u>            \$150 donor            wall book         </div> </div>	
<b>WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?</b> (Select all which apply) <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div>Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Volunteer at other events <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Volunteer at my local branch <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Serve on the local Friends of the Library's Governing and Planning Committee <input type="checkbox"/></div> </div>			<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div><input type="checkbox"/> New Application</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Date Received:</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Amount Received:</div> </div>		

Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:  
 Friends of the Library, 251 Union Plaza Dr., Union, MO 63084  
*Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.*