



# read, explore, grow THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER



issue 153 | february 2026

*A monthly publication from your local library!*



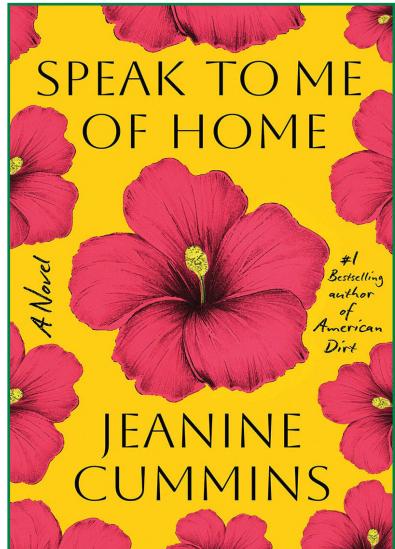
## 2026 Community Read Kicks off March 23

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

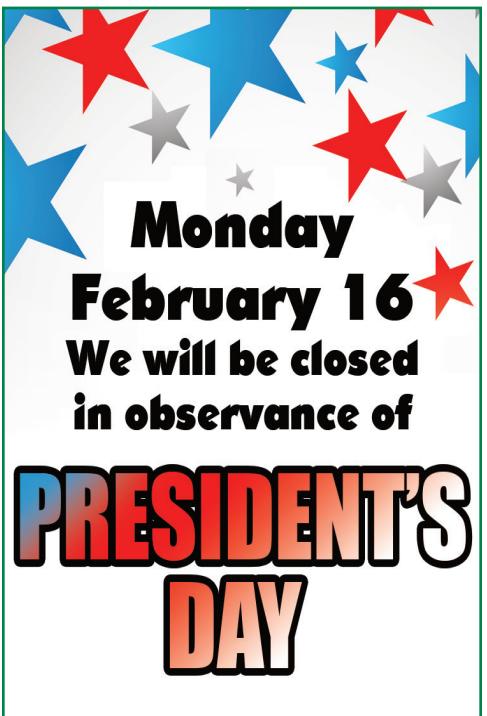
Be the library's next bookmark star!

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.





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## 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



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## 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 [gallerystaff@scenicregional.org](mailto:gallerystaff@scenicregional.org) or 573-486-2024.

## New Union Branch Manager



The library has hired James Schwentker as the new Union branch manager. Schwentker 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.

Schwentker began his new position on January 5.

## Library Seeks Donations



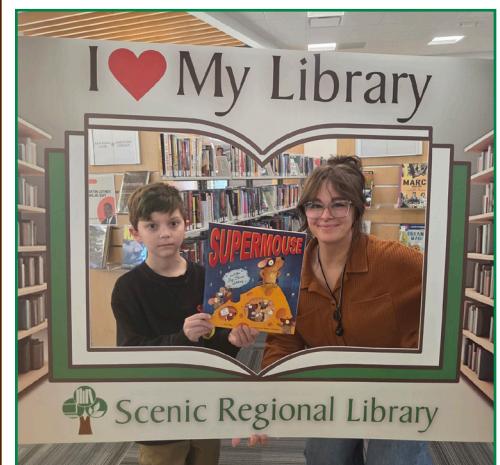
Scenic Regional Library is always accepting donations of gently-used books, DVDs, music CDs, and books on CD. Most donations will be sold at our semi-annual book sale. Have a lot? Call ahead of time, and we will help you carry them in! Contact your local branch for more details.

## Staff February Anniversary

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



Bekah-Children's  
Programmer/Library  
Assistant, Pacific



Scenic Regional Library

*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!*



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## SCENIC SAYS!

**Beth**  
Union  
Branch



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

"I enjoy sitting outside and watching the campfire."

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

"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."

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

"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."

**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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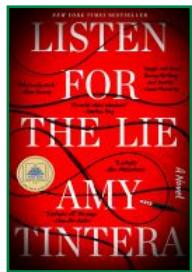
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## Can't Stop Listening? Try Reading It

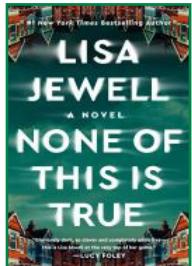
If you're hooked on true-crime or serialized podcasts, these books will feel just like your favorite episodes, full of suspense, twists, and stories that keep you turning the page. From chilling mysteries to layered investigations, these novels bring the energy of a podcast straight to the page. To place 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

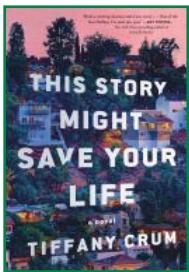
so, too? And what if the truth doesn't matter? This gripping psychological thriller alternates perspectives as it slowly unravels a deadly mystery. The narrative style mirrors serialized podcasts, keeping readers on edge with each new revelation.



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

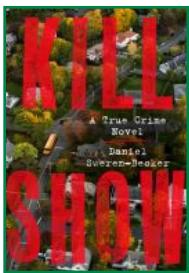
A suspenseful story about secrets, betrayal, and hidden identities. The pacing

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



**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.



**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!*



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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



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



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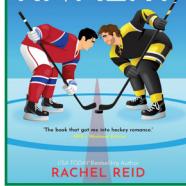


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## Top eBook and eAudiobooks



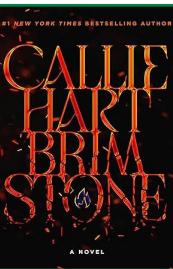
### HEATED RIVALRY



**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.

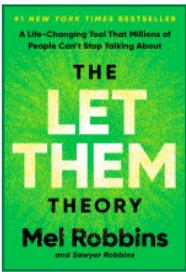
**Genres:** Romance, LGBT, Sports Romance



**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.

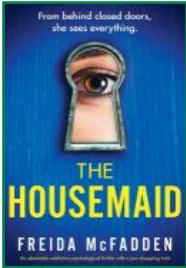
**Genres:** Fantasy, Romance, Fae



**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.*



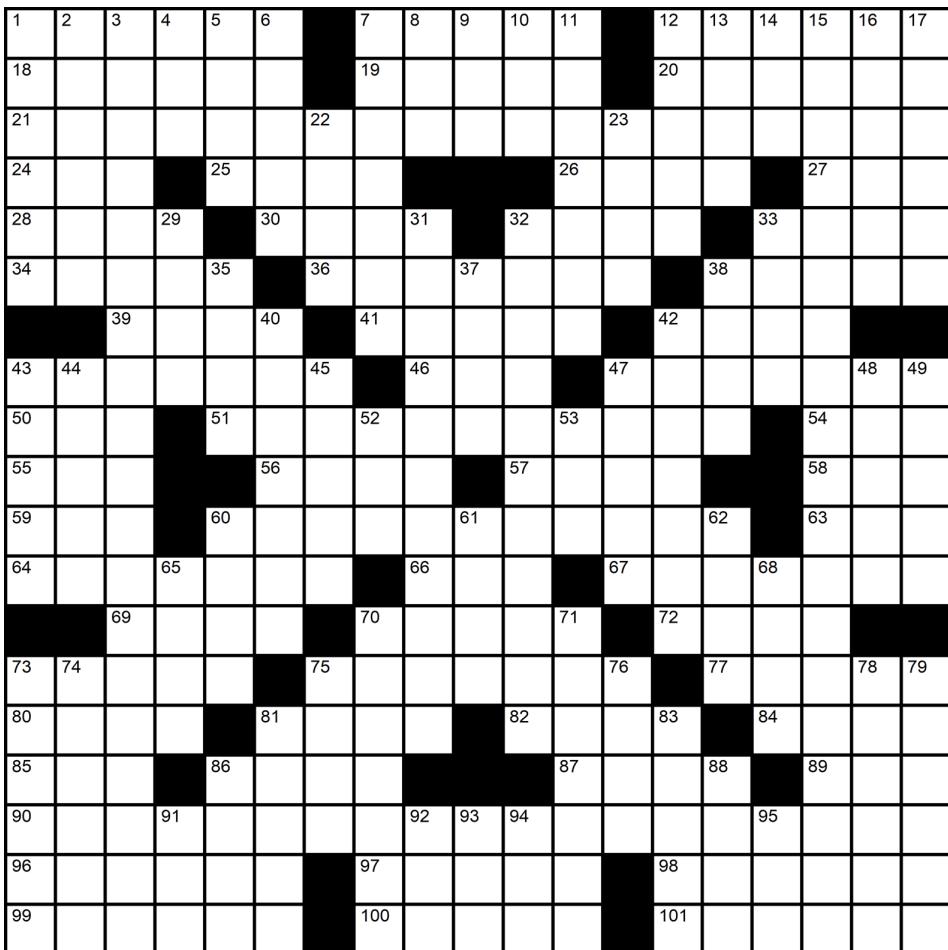
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## February Crossword Puzzle



### 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
96. Underhanded
100. Perfume with incense
101. Anise-flavored French aperitif.

### 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. Pulpy 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 1 1/2" 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.



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

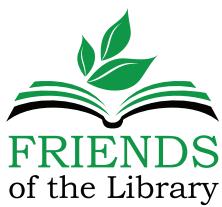
FIRST NAME		DATE
MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY		STATE ZIP CODE
PHONE NUMBER		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR ON BOOK		
BRANCH (Please select one)		SIZE OF BOOK
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch <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		<input type="checkbox"/> 8" X 1-1/2" - \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$350
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  
FOUNDATION



**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 **your** information:

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
STREET ADDRESS		EMAIL ADDRESS
		PHONE NUMBER

<b>BRANCH AFFILIATION</b> (Please select one)	<b>LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Silver - \$25</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gold - \$50</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - \$100</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Diamond* - \$500</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">*Lifetime Membership</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Up to \$10 in book sale volunteer vouchers can be applied toward any level of membership dues.</p>	<b>MEMBERSHIP GIFTS</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Gold:</b>          12oz. metal tumbler/          Koozie       </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Platinum:</b>          bluetooth speaker/          wireless phone charger       </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Diamond:</b>          \$150 donor wall book       </div> </div>
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<b>WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at other events</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at my local branch</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the local Friends of the Library's Governing and Planning Committee</li> </ul>	<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New Application</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Date Received:</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Amount Received:</li> </ul>
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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.*