



OFF THE PAGE

November Literary Celebration

Featuring bestselling authors, book signings, writing workshops and more, with every library location participating!



For more information, visit OffthePageFL.org, call 311 or 941-861-1110.

Artist Spotlight:

David C. Gardner

David C. Gardner is an acclaimed illustrator known for his captivating picture books, including "The Harvey Milk Story," "Rettie and the Ragamuffin Parade," "Sarah Gives Thanks," the award-winning "Write On, Irving Berlin!," and "Ticktock Banneker's Clock."



A former artist for Walt Disney Animation Studios, Gardner now shares his creative expertise as an illustration professor at Ringling College of Art and Design while continuing his visual development work for animation. Based in Sarasota, Gardner's artistry continues to inspire across various mediums.

Join the artist for a read and draw inspired by the book "Junia the Mule of Troublesome Creek" at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2, at Jacaranda Library during Off the Page Family Day, and explore more of his work at FlyingDogStudio.com.


SCAN HERE
to learn more.



Join the conversation with #OffThePageFL

Event Schedule

NOV. 1

Writing Workshop Kickoff with Glenn Schudel 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SELBY LIBRARY

Whether you're a seasoned writer or a first-timer, Schudel offers a lively workshop full of hands-on activities, story exercises and tips on avoiding novel-writing pitfalls—bring your passion, a laptop or pen and paper!

Author Talk with Angie Cruz | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

HERMITAGE BEACH, 6660 MANASOTA KEY ROAD, ENGLEWOOD

Enjoy an evening with the acclaimed author of "How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water," as she reads from her work and shares insights into her creative process, presented in partnership with Hermitage Artist Retreat.

NOV. 2

Off the Page Family Day | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FRANCES T. BOURNE JACARANDA LIBRARY

Celebrate Family Day with bestselling author Douglas Wood and award-winning illustrator David C. Gardner, featuring food trucks, story time and crafts—plus free food and ice cream for the first 100 visitors!

- 10:15-10:55 a.m. | Storytime and crafts in the youth activity room.
- 11-11:40 a.m. | Earth Songs & Stories with Douglas Wood
- Noon to 1 p.m. | Visit the food trucks, Creation Station or browse stacks.
- 1-1:40 p.m. | "Junia" Read and Draw with David C. Gardner

NOV. 4

Playwriting Workshop with Elaine Romero | 2-3 p.m.

ELSIE QUIRK LIBRARY

Engage in a creative playwriting workshop with award-winning playwright Elaine Romero, exploring your own stories through interactive exercises.

Teen Writing Workshop | 4-5 p.m.

NORTH PORT LIBRARY Teen Writing Workshop Series

Event Schedule

NOV. 6

Writing Picture Books Workshop with Ryan Van Cleave 2-3:30 p.m.

WILLIAM H. JERVEY JR. VENICE LIBRARY

Experience a workshop with the renowned author and "Picture Book Doctor" as he shares his expertise in writing for both children and adults.

NOV. 7



Author Talk and Book Signing with Soman Chainani | 6-7:30 p.m.

SHANNON STAUB LIBRARY

Hear from the author of The School for Good and Evil series in a discussion and book signing at Suncoast Technical College, connected to Shannon Staub Library. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the program beginning at 6 p.m. Books will be available for purchase through The Island Book Shop.

NOV. 8

Writing/Making Comics Workshop with Rick Dakan and Gary Barker | 10:30 a.m. to noon

BETTY J. JOHNSON NORTH SARASOTA LIBRARY

Discover the art of creating compelling comic books and graphic novels with professors from Ringling College of Art and Design in a hands-on workshop that explores how images and words work together—ideal for all ages and interactive for everyone.



Author Talk and Book Signing with Amor Towles | 7-8:30 p.m.

**VENICE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
1 INDIAN AVE., VENICE**

Enjoy an evening with the bestselling author of "Rules of Civility," "The Lincoln Highway" and "A Gentleman in Moscow," now a series on Paramount+. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the program starting at 7 p.m. Books will be available for sale with signing after the event, courtesy of Cooperfish Books.

NO EVENTS ON VETERANS DAY, NOV. 11.

All Sarasota County libraries will be closed Monday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

NOV. 12



Author Talk and Book Signing with Chef Edward Lee | 6-7:30 p.m.

SHANNON STAUB LIBRARY

Hear from celebrity chef and author of "Buttermilk Graffiti," and "Bourbonland". Doors open at 5 p.m., the program starts at 6 p.m., and Chef Lee will sign books following his presentation—no reservations needed!

NOV. 13

Author Talk and Book Signing with Lisa Unger | 2-3:30 p.m.

WILLIAM H. JERVEY JR. VENICE LIBRARY

Engage with Lisa Unger, the New York Times bestselling thriller author of over 20 novels, including "The New Couple in 5B," renowned for her mastery of suspense and honored with multiple Edgar Award nominations.



Discussion with Social Media Influencer and Motivational Speaker Oliver James

TWO APPEARANCES

3-4 P.M. | BETTY J. JOHNSON NORTH SARASOTA LIBRARY

6-7 P.M. | FRUITVILLE LIBRARY

Hear from James, a TikTok sensation and motivational speaker, whose inspiring story of overcoming literacy challenges has been featured on Good Morning America, NPR and more.


SCAN HERE
to learn more.



Join the conversation with **#OffThePageFL**



Event Schedule

NOV. 14

Author Talk and Book Signing with Sandra Gurvis | 2-3 p.m.

OSPREY LIBRARY AND HISTORY CENTER

Enjoy circus nostalgia with Sandra Gurvis as she unveils her new book "Three Ringling Circus," sharing juicy details about the Ringlings' glamorous yet tumultuous lives.



Author Talk and Book Signing with Rebecca Renner | 6-7:30 p.m.

SELBY LIBRARY

Join National Geographic writer and author of "Gator Country," as she discusses the vibrant and dangerous aspects of her undercover investigation of alligator poaching. Her books will be available for purchase in the Friends of the Selby Library bookstore while supplies last.

NOV. 15

IP and Copyright for Librarians and Writers with Attorney Elena Paul | Noon to 1 p.m.

SELBY LIBRARY

Participate in a comprehensive workshop on copyright and intellectual property, which is designed for librarians, library workers and writers.

NOV. 16



Author Talk and Book Signing with Curtis Sittenfeld | 3-4:30 p.m.

SELBY LIBRARY

Hear from Curtis Sittenfeld, bestselling author of "Prep," "American Wife," "Eligible" and "Romantic Comedy," for an evening filled with insights from her acclaimed work. Books are available in the Friends of the Selby Library bookstore while supplies last.

NOV. 18

Teen Writing Workshop | 3-4 p.m.

NORTH PORT LIBRARY 📖 Teen Writing Workshop Series

Author Talk and Book Signing with Kirsten Hines 6-7:30 p.m.

GULF GATE LIBRARY

Discover the world of nature and wildlife with Kirsten Hines as she shares her insights and stunning photography from her book "Wild Florida: An Animal Odyssey" and more. Books will be available for purchase through The Island Bookshop.

NOV. 19

Author Talk and Book Signing with Rick Kilby | 2-3 p.m.

OSPREY LIBRARY AND HISTORY CENTER

The author of "Florida's Healing Waters: Gilded Age Mineral Springs, Seaside Resorts and Health Spas" offers attendees a glimpse of rare photos and vintage postcards that reveal Florida's historic health era.

Author Talk and Book signing with Dr. Jarod Roselló 7-8 p.m.

ROOM 113, ALFRED R. GOLDSTEIN LIBRARY AT RINGLING COLLEGE, N.E. CORNER OF OLD BRADENTON ROAD AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY, SARASOTA

Hear from the award-winning author and cartoonist as he discusses his acclaimed graphic novels "Red Panda and Moon Bear" and "Super Magic Boy."



NOV. 20

Journaling Workshop with Sylvia Whitman | 2-3:30 p.m.

WILLIAM H. JERVEY JR. VENICE LIBRARY

Explore journaling techniques from the author and certified Journal to the Self® instructor. Bring a pen and paper and get ready to dive deep into your inner self.

Writing Workshop by Roy Peter Clark | 6-7 p.m.

FRUITVILLE LIBRARY

Hear from Roy Peter Clark, America's esteemed writing coach and author of "Tell It Like It Is" and "Murder Your Darlings," as he shares his expertise and passion for the art of writing.

NOV. 21

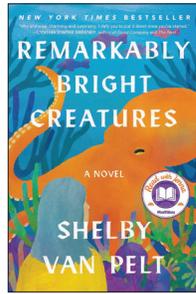
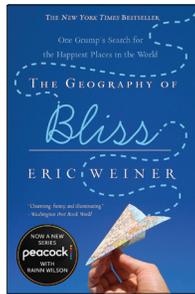
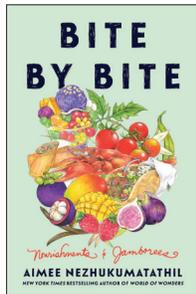
Author Talk and Book Signing with John Fowler | 3-4 p.m.

GULF GATE LIBRARY

Experience the gripping adventure of "A Forest in the Clouds" with John Fowler, who recounts his extraordinary journey at Dian Fossey's mountain gorilla camp.



2025 TOP 3 SELECTIONS



Here are our Top 3 finalists for the 2025 One Book selection to help inspire your next read!



For a list of Sarasota County library locations, please see the back cover.

VENICE FRIENDS



Friends of the Venice Library is the proud Presenting Sponsor of



Formed in 1962, the Friends of Venice Library aim to enhance the community through its library by providing materials, services and programming not funded by the library budget.



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OF Venice Public Library



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one page at a time



The Observer proudly supports the Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources and the Off the Page Literary Celebration. Together, let's nurture our community's love for reading.

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Special Thanks

from the Director of Libraries and Historical Resources Renée Di Pilato



We created Off the Page with the objective of integrating literature into Sarasota County's world-class art scene, to offer all residents the ability to create, celebrate and experience all types of renowned writing. Through our library system and partner organizations, there are immense opportunities for residents to experience enlightening, enriching, inclusive and entertaining programming. Off the Page takes place on different dates, with differing times and locations to provide all residents with ample opportunities to attend.

Thank you to our supporters, the Friends of the Venice Library, Florida Humanities, The Library Foundation of Sarasota County and our partners at Ringling College of Art and Design and The Hermitage Artist Retreat. We're thrilled to host this literary celebration, as planning this event has been a labor of love. It promises to be an exceptionally enjoyable occasion!

Library Locations

Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library

2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234

Elsie Quirk Library

100 W. Dearborn St., Englewood, FL 34223

Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library

4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice, FL 34293

Fruitville Library

100 Apex Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Gulf Gate Library

7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota, FL 34231

Osprey Library and History Center

337 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229

North Port Library

13800 S. Tamiami Trail, North Port, FL 34287

Selby Library

1331 First St., Sarasota, FL 34236

Shannon Staub Library

4675 Career Lane, North Port, FL 34289

William H. Jervey, Jr. Venice Library

300 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285



For more information, visit OffThePageFL.org, call 311 or 941-861-1110.

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at scgov.net/ADA.

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