

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

This column originally appeared in *The News of Orange County* on June 11, 2014. Reprinted with permission.

At the Library: Summer reading program begins

*By Erin Hils Shepherd
Communications Specialist
Orange County Public Library*

Summer reading has begun at Orange County Public Library.

Bring the whole family to celebrate the launch of this year's program. Join us outside the OCPL Main Library at 137 W. Margaret Lane on Saturday, June 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Register for the summer reading program, enjoy carnival games, activities, crafts and even get the kids' faces painted. A magic show will be held at 11 a.m., Starlite String Band and Judy Woodall will provide live music, and the Orange Community Players will be on hand dressed up as Dr. Seuss characters.

Prize drawings will also be held.

Summer reading runs through July 31 and features events, activities and prizes for kids, teens and adults. Summer reading events are held at both the Main Library and Carrboro Branch locations.

Complete information on summer reading is available at www.orangecountync.gov/library/summerreading2014.asp or by calling the main library at 919-245-2525 or the Carrboro Branch at 919-969-3006.

New art exhibit at Main Library

The Main Library is hosting a 22-piece exhibition by artist Marnie Blum through Aug. 1.

The collection of mixed-media art focuses on the universal human experiences of the desire for connection, the reality of separation and the hope of the human spirit.

Blum believes people are made of layers, and she reflects that in her work, creating symbolic and abstract depictions meant to evoke emotions and conversations from viewers.

"Each piece I create focuses on the complexity of human nature, relationships and emotions," Blum said. "And while each piece has a story built into its making, it is through the lens of the viewer's personal experience that the story truly unfolds."

Blum is an emerging artist who works primarily in water-based media such as acrylics, inks and water-soluble crayons but also incorporates clay, fibers, paper and writings; she uses whatever she has in her studio to achieve the desired effect. She also explores expression through photography, drawing and design. Blum's art, like her life, is driven by instinct and intuition.

Blum lives in Wake Forest.

The Orange County Public Library Main Library is at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough. Free parking is available in the Eno River Parking Deck. The Carrboro Branch is located inside McDougle Middle School at 900 Old Fayetteville Road. For more information, go to www.orangecountync.gov/library.