

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

This column originally appeared in *The News of Orange County* on October 8, 2014. Reprinted with permission.

At the Library: Celebrate national reading group at OCPL

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Libraries have long hosted book clubs and discussion groups. With so many compelling books out there, passionate conversations are bound to ensue. And what better place to have these discussions than at the library?

Orange County Public Library loves passionate discussions, and we offer several book club opportunities.

Participating in a book club offers a multitude of benefits, including an opportunity to socialize, meet new people and hear different perspectives on a given book.

“I find that being a member of the Orange County Public Library book club has been a tremendously enriching experience,” Hillsborough resident Sara Levinson said. “One of the joys of belonging to a book club is that you get to read things that you probably would not have chosen otherwise. It’s a great way to broaden your horizons and step outside your comfort zone. Of course, you aren’t always going to like everything that the group reads, but that’s OK, too. That can make for some interesting discussions.”

Book clubs help challenge individuals to think outside the box.

“As we all come from different backgrounds and have lived different experiences, we bring different points of view to the things that we read,” Levinson said. “It’s always interesting to me that other members of the book club have often come away with a very different experience from mine when we read the same books. In a very real way, they are not the same books. Our discussions make it plain to me that we each experience the same text through our own eyes, and having someone share their vision with me is a wonderful learning experience.”

With October being National Reading Group Month, consider checking out these book clubs.

The Evening Book Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the OCPL main library. New members are always welcome, and the meetings are open to all. Join us Oct. 14 for a discussion of Doris Kearns Goodwin’s “The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and the Golden Age of Journalism.”

This title earned the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction earlier this year. Goodwin is a historian, Pulitzer Prize winner and presidential biographer. Steven Spielberg’s Academy Award-winning film, “Lincoln,” was based in part on her biography of Abraham Lincoln.

The Carrboro Branch Book Club meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. These librarian-led discussions often center on novels, and copies of the selections are usually available. The October selection is New York Times bestseller “The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane” by Katherine Howe.

Join a book discussion like no other at First Monday Classics. These discussions, led by local writers, present fresh perspectives on classics you’ve read and loved—or always meant to read. They are held at the main library on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. On Oct. 6, Edmund Schubert, editor of “Orson Scott Card’s Intergalactic Medicine Show,” and local authors Ariel Djaniken and James Maxey discuss the seasonal classics “Dracula” and “Frankenstein.”

Our newest book club, What Are You Reading?, is for tweens ages 9 to 12. Held the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the main library, kids eat pizza and talk about what they’re reading. There is no assigned reading; just come prepared to share. To ensure there’s enough food for all, stop by the library or call 919-245-2532 to register.

Come and join us Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 4 p.m. for the dedication of our first Little Free Library, which will be located at Cedar Grove Park in northern Orange. “Take a Book, Leave a Book” is the motto of this nationwide movement to get books to communities where they live and play. Through the coordination of Commissioner Renee Price, local resident, Arthrell Dupree Sanders, donated the 20-by-27-by-13-inch box to the community project. The Orange County Public Library and the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Parks and Recreation will maintain the library box and keep the materials current.

Orange County Public Library serves the community from three locations. The Main Library at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough is open seven days a week and can be reached at 919-245-2525. The Carrboro Branch Library inside McDougle Middle School, 900 Old Fayetteville Road in Chapel Hill, and the Cybrary inside The Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St. in Carrboro, offer complementary hours to serve southern Orange County. Call the Carrboro Branch at 919-969-3006 and the Cybrary at 919-918-7387. For more information, go to <http://www.orangecountync.gov/library> or <http://www.facebook.com/ocnclibrary>.