



Osprey Library Newsletter – February, 2019

February is short, but packed with excellence! Black History, Valentine's Day, warmer weather, a Fairy House Festival, and exciting new programs at your very own Osprey Library!

“If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive.” -Audre Lorde

February Display

On display this month are the lovely and lively “Nouveau Ladies” of Arline Flourney. These unique ladies are keeping me wonderful company, and will surely beguile one and all.

“You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive.” -James Baldwin

Book & Tea

Book & Tea, a monthly enhanced book discussion group, starts this Wednesday, February 13th from 1-2:30. We will be discussing the One Book Sarasota selection *Killers of the Flower Moon*. There is still room if you would like to sign up—register by e-mail, by calling the library, or in person.

"Every day, you have the power to choose our better history—by opening your hearts and minds, by speaking up for what you know is right."

-Michelle Obama

6 Conversations at the Osprey Library

I am very excited to announce another new program at Osprey! *6 Conversations* is an opportunity to grapple with timely issues in a calm, thoughtful environment. Gently moderated, and open to all. The dates and topics are:

1

Wednesday, February 27, 2-4

Bridging the Divide - A conversation on what contributes to social divisiveness and what individuals can do to promote understanding and reconciliation.

2

Saturday, March 23, 2-4 p.m. -In conjunction with One Book Sarasota-
Structural Atonement - What form of redress, if any, is reasonable when harm is done to a people not through the actions of an individual, but through the policies and laws of governments, corporations, or institutions?

3

Saturday, April 6, 2-4 p.m.

The Language of Difference - One person's "politically correct" is another person's "common courtesy." How can common ground be cultivated between people who feel language-policed and people who feel devalued?

4

Wednesday, September 18, 2-4 p.m.

Need, Deserve, Desire - A broad conversation about how we see needs, how we interpret desire, and how we judge who deserves to have their needs and desires met.

5

Saturday, October 12, 2-4 p.m.

Whose Land is This Land? - How do we prioritize who gets to live, own, and inherit (and where) in our nation? How do we navigate immigration, tribal sovereignty, eminent domain, in the context of our past, present, and future?

6

Wednesday, Nov 20, 2-4 p.m.

But What Can I Do? - After all of this informative, provocative conversation, how can an individual affect change, or put expanded perspective into action?

For a printable flyer of the series, [click here](#).

“I don’t want a Black History Month. Black history is American history.” - Morgan Freeman

“I am America. I am the part you won’t recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me.” -Muhammad Ali

Infinite Conversations at the Osprey Library

In many ways, I see the library as a conversation in itself. The books on the shelves creating a conversation with readers; newspapers sparking conversation among those sitting and reading them; patrons seeking information and getting serendipitous input from a quiet laptop user who happened to overhear; people who never meet but have an ethereal conversation of sorts by each frequently borrowing the movies the other has returned; or even via the interaction of quotes in the monthly newsletter, as if the thoughts of prominent people are engaged in a nuanced discussion. And of course there are the straightforward conversations that take place in the library every day, about favorite books, current events, life circumstances, or intriguing research. While I am enthusiastic about enriching this exchange of thoughts, experiences, and insights through conversation-based programming, I hope also to find ways for the community to participate in wider and broader ways, for those who cannot (or do not wish to) attend programs to have a voice, and to have the opportunity to contemplate the voices of others.

“But surely to tell these tall tales and others like them would be to spread the myth, the wicked lie, that the past is always tense and the future, perfect.”

-Zadie Smith

“This is what I’ve come to know: Our past is never passed and there is no such thing as moving on. But there is this telling and there is such a thing as passing through.” -Tayari Jones

Fairy House Festival

Historic Spanish Point will be holding its 6th annual Fairy House Festival on February 23rd and 24th. This is an amazing, joyful event. The Osprey Library will be hosting a fairy story tent within the festival, and a Make A Wish/Take A Wish activity. For admission fees and other information, [click here](#).

“I was raised to believe that excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism. And that's how I operate my life.” -Oprah Winfrey

“I feel myself becoming the fearless person I have dreamt of being. Have I arrived? No. But I'm constantly evolving and challenging myself to be unafraid to make mistakes.” -Janelle Monae

Be A Library Valentine by Being Kind To The Books

A reminder that when you are reading a book and a sentence strikes you as delicious, or a paragraph sets your neurons off in a fevered frenzy, or an entire section feels life-changing, that is fabulous, that is what librarians dream of... please don't turn that dream into a nightmare by underlining, writing in the margins, or (gasp!) attacking the page with highlighter. There are all manner of sticky notes to mark places you would like to go back to before returning the book. If you have a cell phone, you can take a quick photo of a moving passage or profound point. Please. Please. Please. Refrain from making marks (even in pencil) in library books.

“In order to change, you have to be able to agitate people at times. And I think that's something that's very necessary for us to improve as a country.”

-Colin Kaepernick

“As long as we are engaged in storytelling that moves the culture forward, it doesn't matter what format it is.” -LeVar Burton

(Quotes are included as food for thought, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of your librarian, the library system, or Sarasota County.)