

# LUNCH WITH BOOKS & LWB LIVESTREAM!

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facebook.com/lunchwithbooks; LWB YouTube Channel (tiny.cc/LWB-YouTube)  
OR ohiocountylibrary.org (search Livestream)

## Sept. 9: Jeff Davis: A Warning From Navassa



Dennis Halpin, Associate Professor of History at Virginia Tech, will discuss his research on Navassa, an uninhabited island off the coast of Haiti. Beginning in the mid-19th century, a US-based company stole the island using a recently passed law known as the Guano Islands Act. For the next 40 years the company lured young, Black men to mine the island's phosphatic reserves in slave-like conditions. One of these men was Jeff Davis (born Frederick Davis) of Wheeling. The experience scarred Davis. He risked his life to escape and resolved to warn others about the island and the abuses he endured.

## Sept. 16: Rehabbing Our Bridges

In 1806, President Thomas Jefferson authorized the construction of the Cumberland Road (later the National Road), linking Cumberland, MD, to Wheeling, Virginia (now WV). The Road spurred a regional economic boom and helped Wheeling become the gateway to the West. The Monument Place Bridge (constructed in 1817) is the oldest bridge in WV, and (along with the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, constructed in 1849), one of two extant bridges in the state from the National Road. For over two centuries, these bridges have served the needs of the local community, the region, and the nation. To help preserve them, the WV Div. of Highways carried out two recent rehab projects. Matthew Bunner, the engineering consultant who worked with the WVDOH on these projects, will talk about the historic and structural considerations involved.

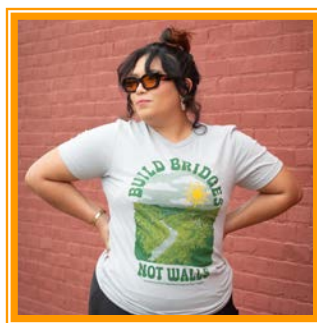


**Sept. 23: Driftwood with Jessica Whitehead** Artist, writer, and sustainability pioneer Harlan Hubbard (1900-1988) lived an unassuming life. While some may know of Hubbard's shantyboat sojourn on the Ohio and Mississippi

pi Rivers with his wife, Anna, or of the Hubbards' shared quest for the simple life at their hand-built home of Payne Hollow, few will know the full, fitful, fascinating story. After four long decades of transformation, Hubbard emerged into middle age as the rightful heir to the Transcendentalist ethos, ready to, like his revered predecessor Henry David Thoreau, envision a unique American life of simplicity, sustainability, and wild beauty. In this comprehensive bio Wheeling's own Jessica K. Whitehead reveals why Hubbard can serve as an inspiration for all readers interested in the history of American landscape painting, literature, adventure, and environmentalism.

## Sept. 30: Beacon Light : A History of OVGH-OVMC

The alma mater for the OVGH School of Nursing referred to the iconic neon letters on the hospital's tower as a "beacon light." It symbolized the effort of every individual who worked at the hospital to care for the people of the Ohio Valley. This documentary was made to illustrate the impact this historic institution made, and to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary staff who made the OVGH and OVMC a cornerstone of compassion and care for over a century. The surprising closure and demolition of the complex left the surrounding area heartbroken. Although the buildings are no longer standing, its legacy continues on in the families of those it served, and those who served within it. "Beacon Light" is a tribute to those people. This screening will be hosted by Mary McKinley and Betty Jo Sprull.



## Oct 2 (Thurs.) Our Lifeline: Immigration in West Virginia

In celebration of **National Hispanic Heritage Month** (Sep 15 - Oct 15, 2025) and in partnership with YWCA Wheeling, Jackie Lozano will explore the role of immigration in West Virginia's past,

present, and future. From the coal miners of Italian, Polish, and Irish descent who helped build the state's economy, to today's immigrant workers in poultry plants, healthcare, and small businesses, immigrants have always been part of West Virginia's story. At the same time, national debates on border security and immigration policy are shaping West Virginia's politics, fueling both fear and resilience in local communities. By examining history, culture, economics, and current events, this presentation argues that immigration is not a threat to

West Virginia but a lifeline for its future survival.

**(Español)** Esta presentación analiza el papel de la inmigración en el pasado, presente y futuro de Virginia Occidental. Desde los mineros de carbón de origen italiano, polaco e irlandés que ayudaron a construir la economía del estado, hasta los trabajadores inmigrantes de hoy en día en las plantas avícolas, el sector de salud y los pequeños negocios, los inmigrantes siempre han sido parte de la historia de Virginia Occidental. Al mismo tiempo, los debates nacionales sobre la seguridad fronteriza y la política migratoria están influyendo en la política estatal, generando tanto miedo como resiliencia en las comunidades locales. Al examinar la historia, la cultura, la economía y los eventos actuales, esta presentación sostiene que la inmigración no es una amenaza para Virginia Occidental, sino una fuente vital para su futuro.

**Speaker BIO: Jackie Lozano** is a DACA recipient and a passionate community organizer with the ACLU, where they lead advocacy efforts focused on immigrants' rights. With lived experience at the heart of their work, Jackie mobilizes communities, builds grassroots power, and pushes for bold policy change to protect undocumented families. Their work centers justice, dignity, and a future where all immigrants are free to live without fear.

## Oct. 7: The West African Kora Harp

Sean Gaskell performs songs on the kora, a 21 stringed West African harp. He studied under the extensive instruction of Moriba Kuyateh and the late Malamini Jobarteh in Gambia, and both Youssoupha Cissokho and Mamadou Cissokho in Senegal. The kora is traditionally played by oral historians known as Griots. Many songs featured on the kora preserve an 800-year history dating back to the founding of the Mande empire. Visit:

[www.seangaskell.com](http://www.seangaskell.com).



**Oct. 14: Porch Poems** What happens when four poets, friends for years, gather in a beautiful place to sit on a porch to talk, live, breathe, and create poetry for days at a time? These friends are well-known and well respected practitioners and teachers of their craft. But these poetry days were different. They offered the poets a chance to take a deep, reflective dive into their own approach to the art, at their own pace, with sharp, insightful input from the others. Not only were their skills examined, but also their relationships to the work, to the landscape around them,

to the poems that seemed to spring from the mountain air as they laughed, cooked, mused on the porch swing, and absorbed the creative juices surrounding them in that special place. The result is this remarkable chapbook containing some of the output of those sessions over a period of several years. A lovely and intriguing book. The Porch Poets are: Susanna Connelly Holstein, Sherrell Runnion Wigal, Cheryl Denise, and Kirk Judd.



## Oct. 21: Wheeling Poetry Series presents Richard Hague

Richard Hague is author or editor of 23 volumes, including, with Sherry Cook Stanforth, *Riparian: Poetry, Short Prose, and Photographs Inspired by the Ohio River* (Dos Madres Press 2019). He is a northern Appalachian from Steubenville. After teaching school in Cincinnati for 45 years, he served as Writer-in-Residence and Artist-in-Residence at Thomas More Univ. from 2015-2022. 1985 Ohio Co-Poet of the Year, winner of the Appalachian Writers Assoc.'s Poetry Book of the Year in 2003, and Winner of the 2013 Weatherford Award in Poetry from the Appalachian Studies Assoc., he now writes for and hosts an online Writers Table sponsored by Originary Arts Initiative. He was 2021-2022 President of the Literary Club of Cincinnati, the oldest continuously operating organization of its kind in the US. He is currently helping edit *Tributaria*, an anthology of prose, poetry, and photography about the tributaries within the Ohio River's more than 200,000 square mile watershed.

## Oct. 28: Frankenstein, or Lunch With the Modern Prometheus: A Radio Show

Or-Seán Welles and the OCPL Players return to the airwaves with this long-anticipated production based on the Shelley novel and adapted from the play by Peggy Webling that became the beloved film starring Boris Karloff. Join us as we revisit the parable of the Modern Prometheus and reflect on the folly of humans who would usurp the power of gods, with horrifying consequences!



## Oct. 29 (Wed at 6 PM) The Human Library!

Community members will act as human "Books" that you can select and have a one-on-one conversation with. Witness and participate in the art of conversation while connecting with your community!



## What is Lunch With Books?

"Lunch With Books" is the library's flagship program for adult patrons. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy presentations by authors, poets, musicians & more. Complimentary beverages are provided.

Yes, FREE. Programs usually start at noon on Tuesdays in the Harold E. Vitalie Auditorium on the lower level.

### Feedback from our guests:

"Such a great program at Lunch With Books today! It was as though Charles Schulz himself were there in person speaking about his Peanuts characters that we all know and love."

James Froemel is a master presenter who captivated his audience and sent all of us home with smiles on our faces.

This program was very special!"

~R.M. Warren, May 2025

"That was one of the best crowds I have performed for. Really enjoyed getting to spend the afternoon with them." - James Froemel, WV History Alive's Charles Schulz

## Interested in local history?

[www.archivingwheeling.org](http://www.archivingwheeling.org)

[www.flickr.com/photos/ohiocountypubliclibrary/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohiocountypubliclibrary/)



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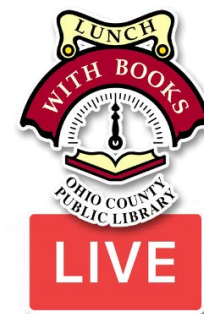
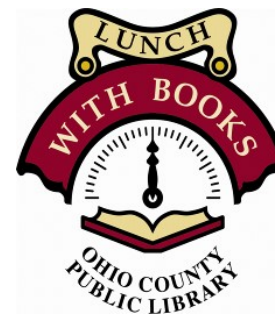
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Sept. - Oct.  
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Harold E. Vitalie Auditorium