

LUNCH WITH BOOKS & LWB *LIVESTREAM!*

MOST PROGRAMS BEGIN AT NOON IN THE HAROLD E. VITALIE AUDITORIUM ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE LIBRARY

Attend in-person OR tune in to watch live:
facebook.com/lunchwithbooks; LWB YouTube Channel (tiny.cc/LWB-YouTube)
OR ohiocountylibrary.org (search Livestream)

July 7: A Visit from Phillis Wheatley



As a part of our America 250 observation, LWB will welcome **Founding Mother Phillis Wheatley**, who has been called “the poet laureate of the American Revolution.” An enslaved person, she was also the first published African American poet and writer.

After she dedicated a poem to George Washington, the general was impressed enough to visit her in Boston. Phillis died at 31 in poverty in a boarding house with little heat. The world would be less beautiful, less inspired, without Phillis Wheatley. **Dr. Daisy Century**, also a published author, portrays this talented poet with respect and flair (www.daisycentury.com).

July 14: The Singing Sisters of Mount St. Joseph

Dr. Charles Julian will present “From Bach To Broad-way: Harmonically Exploring The Singing Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph.” During 1964 and 1965, a group of talented women religious from the



Sisters of Saint Joseph (in Wheeling) shared their musical gifts by touring in concerts throughout the State of West Virginia and Wheeling Diocese to raise much needed funds for their Order. Hear some of the music that was presented, explore some of the talents that were shared, and meet in person some of the remaining Singing Sisters during this fascinating musical exploration of our musical past.

July 21: Wheeling Poetry Series with



Zeina Azzam Zeina Azzam is a Palestinian American poet, writer, editor, community activist, and former Poet Laureate of the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Her full-length poetry collection, *Some Things Never Leave You*, was published in 2023 by Tiger Bark Press. Zeina’s poetry

appears in a number of literary journals and anthologies, such as *Enemy of the Sun: Poems of Palestinian Resistance*. Zeina serves as a mentor for We Are Not Numbers, a writing program for youth in Gaza. She volunteers for humanitarian organizations that support Palestinian development. Her educational background includes an M.A. in Arabic language and literature from Georgetown Univ., an M.A. in sociology from George Mason Univ., and a B.A. in psychology from Vassar College. The WPS is curated by WV Poet Laureate Marc Harshman.

July 28: Wheel Vegas Week Pt. 1:



Frank Sinatra

The Vitalie auditorium will be transformed into a mid-century Wheel Vegas casino as we step back into the swingin’ sound of Ol’ Blue Eyes. Pianist and vocalist **Jay Daniels** will pay tribute to The Chairman of the Board in

“That’s Life: Sinatra in 1966.” This concert will feature unforgettable selections from Frank Sinatra’s iconic albums, *That’s Life* and *Strangers in the Night*, including hits like “Summer Wind,” “All or Nothing at All,” and, of course, “That’s Life.” Journey back six decades to enjoy mocktails, table games, candy cigarettes, and free snacks with Jay and the Wheel Vegas Rat Pack!

Aug. 4: Wheel Vegas Week, Pt. 2: Neil Diamond

Our old friend **The Troubadour** (Bob Gaudio), returns triumphantly to LWB to play selections from **Neil Diamond’s** muscular, hit-packed, musical catalogue for Part 2 of Wheel Vegas Week! The Vitalie audi-



torium will be transformed into the Aladdin Hotel circa 1976 as Bob regales us with foot stomping favorites like “Cracklin’ Rosie” (1970) and “Song Sung Blue” (1972), “Longfellow Serenade” (1974), and, of course, the timeless, “Sweet Caroline! (1969)” Break out your bell-bottoms and enjoy more mocktails, table games, and free snacks with Bob and the Wheel Vegas Diamond Heads!

Aug. 11: Founding Women



For America 250, **Dr. Anne Marie Lofaso**, Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she teaches labor law and constitutional law, will introduce some of the many women whose work and courage

helped shape the American Revolution but rarely appear in our textbooks. From printers and spies to business owners, soldiers, and political thinkers, these “Founding Mothers” kept households and communities running, carried ideas across networks, and pushed against the limits placed on them. The lecture will discuss how women such as Abigail Adams, Mary Katherine Goddard, and Deborah Sampson influenced our nation’s beginnings, and why their stories matter for a fuller understanding of our founding today.

Aug. 18: *tHe* (A Novel)

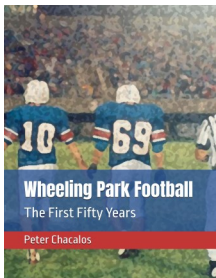
Looking through the wrong end of a telescope, the reader sees an eye looking up. An orphan raised in the Michigan foster care system fulfills his childhood desire of melting into the ocean of human companionship—sailing into a future of family, loss, and love. A reader will accompany tHe’s narrator through the ripples, layers, and echoes of a journey to the end of his road. **David Weimer** is a local author and philosopher, originally from Michigan.



Continued



Aug. 25: Wheeling Park Football



Longtime educator Pete Chacalos will discuss his new coffee table book, *Wheeling Park Football: The First Fifty Years*, which chronicles the football history of Wheeling Park High School from its inception in 1976 through the 2025 season. Arranged by decades, the book calls on the recollections of players, coaches, and support staff to tell the story of Wheeling Park Football: the rivalries, the All-State players, the opponents, the most significant victories and plays, and the school records (both team and individual).

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, historians, musicians & more. Complimentary beverages are provided. Programs usually start at noon on Tuesdays in the Harold E. Vitalie Auditorium on the lower level of the library.

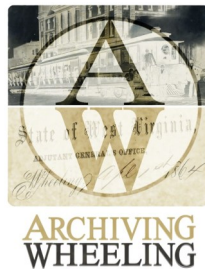
Feedback from our guests:

"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 Fromel 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 Fromel, WV History Alive's Charles Schulz

"Libraries are special places where the community comes together in ways it can't (or doesn't) anywhere else. They are resources for people in all walks of life, of all ages, of all backgrounds. The OCPL in downtown Wheeling was a refuge, a hangout, a treasure trove, for me growing up. I heard my parents lecture there, at Lunch with Books..." ~Jessica Whitehead, author of *Driftwood: The Life of Harlan Hubbard*

Interested in local history?



www.archivingwheeling.org

Electrical Workers Local 141, 1930s. Photograph taken in front of the Wheeling Elks Lodge No. 28 at 32 15th Street, Wheeling, WV. OCPL Archives. Visit: www.flickr.com/photos/ohiocountypubliclibrary/



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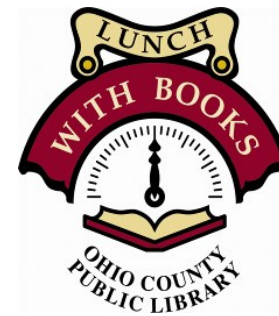
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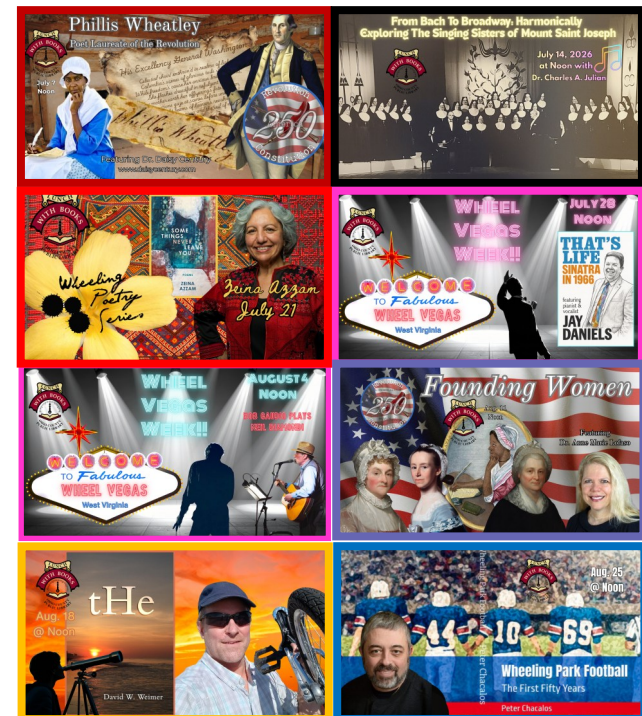
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The purpose of Ohio County Public Library-sponsored programs is to provide education, information, and entertainment for library patrons. The Library reserves the right to exercise sole discretion in selecting and inviting presenters for its programs. In selecting presenters, the Library does not discriminate on account of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, religion, ancestry or national origin, and the views expressed by presenters of Library-sponsored programs, or by any person in attendance at the programs, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Library, its staff, and /or its representatives.



LIVE

**July - August
2026**



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Harold E. Vitalie Auditorium