

Celebrate National Library Week with a Book Aurora Ropp and Kris Wiley for The News Review

Roseburg Public Library joins libraries all across the country in celebrating the 65th anniversary of National Library Week from April 7 through 13. We can think of no better way to honor this milestone than by recommending great reads about libraries and librarians.

Picture Book

“Dear Librarian” written by Lydia M. Sigwarth and illustrated by Romina Galotta is a sweet story about the impact a librarian can have on a patron.

This picture book is based on author Lydia’s experience as a child when her family had to move from Colorado to Iowa. The family didn’t have a home and didn’t quite fit in at the different relatives’ homes where they stayed.

One day the family went to the library, and the little girl found a space she fit in. She befriended the librarian, who always made her feel welcome and helped her fit in. In the end, that inspired the little girl to become a librarian herself.

This story shows the library has a place for everyone, and you never know how your actions might influence another person’s life. A sweet read for ages 3 and older.

Nonfiction

“Go Forth and Tell: The Life of Augusta Baker, Librarian and Master Storyteller” is the inspirational story of the first Black person to hold the position of coordinator of children’s services in all of the New York Public Library branches.

Baker’s biography is told in picture book format by Breanna J. McDaniel with vibrant illustrations from April Harrison.

Baker, who was born in 1911 in Baltimore, was the first Black person to earn a library degree from the State University of New York at Albany in 1934. She spent her professional career advocating for accurate representations of Black life in America and connecting with authors such as Audre Lorde and James Baldwin.

Baker, who spent the last part of her career as Storyteller-in-Residence at the University of South Carolina, died in 1998.

“Go Forth and Tell” is a wonderful read-aloud book for library lovers of all ages.

Young Adults

I reached deep into my backlist and picked up “Ink and Bone,” the first book in the Great Library series by Rachel Caine.

Published in 2015, “Ink and Bone” is a fantasy in which the great library of Alexandria serves as the keeper of all the world’s books. The idea is that one physical copy of every book ever published exists, and digital copies are available to people who access them on an electronic reader.

There is an extensive bootleg market for print copies as a status symbol for the rich, and that’s where our protagonist, Jess Brightwell, comes in. The Brightwell family makes their living smuggling books, and Jess is sent to Alexandria ostensibly to train as a librarian but really to serve as a spy.

Jess and his fellow students get caught up in a literal war over the printed word, and the plot races to an electrifying cliffhanger.

The book has made me think a lot about our increasingly digital world and the implications of a few companies retaining proprietary rights to so much of our online access. I look forward to learning how Jess and his friends navigate these issues in the next four books in the series.

All of these books are available at the library. Place holds at roseburg.bibliionix.com, or contact library staff at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 for assistance.

Youth Programming Break

The spring schedule of children’s and teen programs will conclude in April. Library staff will spend the month of May preparing for the Summer Reading Program, which begins June 1.

Visit the library’s website at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org, call 541-492-7050 or email library@cityofroseburg.org for more information.

This Month’s Youth Programs

10:15 a.m. every Wednesday (except 11:15 a.m. April 10) through April 17– Storytime with Aurora

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3-5 p.m. Tuesday, April 9 – Maker space time for all ages

4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 - Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 4th through 8th graders

3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, April 11 – Building & Legos for all ages

10 a.m. Tuesday, April 16 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

3-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 17 – STEAM program for elementary students

3-5 p.m. Thursday, April 18 – Teen volunteer hours

4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 24 - Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 4th through 8th graders

10 a.m. Tuesday, April 30 – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last