ADULTS

annual craft & bake SALE
Come check out the unique handmade gifts and delicious baked goods, all while supporting a great cause at the same time! Proceeds benefit the local United Way.

2023 local AUTHORS showcase
Sunday, December 10
1:30-4:00 p.m.
MRRL Art Gallery

winter WORDS
ADULT READING CLUB
DECEMBER 15, 2023 - FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Vision Boards
Tuesday, December 26
1:00-2:45 PM & 6:00-8:00 PM

Happy Holidays
CLOSED ALL DAY

SUNDAY MONDAY
DEC 24 DEC 25
FIRST FRIDAY FILM: THE FAMILY STONE
Friday, December 1
7:00-9:00 p.m. | MRRL Art Gallery
Set in a fictional New England town, the film features a conservative and formal businesswoman who accompanies her boyfriend to his eccentric family’s annual holiday celebration. The all-star cast includes Luke Wilson, Diane Keaton, Sara Jessica Parker, Dermot Mulrney and Craig T. Nelson.

BOB COLVIN ART RECEPTION
Sunday, December 3
2:00-4:00 p.m. | MRRL Art Gallery
For almost 45 years, native Missourian photographer Bob Colvin has captured wildlife, nature, and scenic images. His travels have taken him “tens of thousands of miles” throughout the United States, eastern Russia, and the Netherlands.

PAINT PARTY
Monday, December 4
5:30-7:30 p.m. | MRRL Art Gallery
Tuesday, December 5
1:00-3:00 p.m. | MRRL Art Gallery
Join us for a follow-along style painting as we paint a Snowman Starry Night by Traci Krieman of Stepbysteppainting.net. All supplies will be provided. Beginners welcome!

KNITTING & CROCHETING
Tuesday, December 5
6:00-7:45 p.m. | Truman Room
Come knit or crochet! We provide basic lessons and yarn, but you need to bring your own knitting needles or crochet hook. Ages: 16 and up (teens & adults).

UKULELE JAM SESSION
Thursday, December 7
1:15-2:45 p.m. | Truman Room
Thursday, December 21
6:15-7:45 p.m. | Truman Room
Spend some time having fun and making music. Regardless of your experience, bring a ukulele and join the group!

YOGA
Wednesdays
5:30-6:30 p.m. | MRRL Art Gallery
Thursdays
9:30-10:30 a.m. | MRRL Art Gallery
Rejuvenate your mind and body. All shapes, sizes, and abilities are welcome. Bring a mat (or towel) to class if you have one, but these are not required. Drop-ins welcome.

WINTER WORDS
ADULT READING CLUB
Join MRRL’s winter reading program. It’s easy.
Starting December 15 until February 29, read five books in any format (print, audio, electronic) and enter your titles on ReadSquared or list them on a form available at the Reference Desk. You’ll be eligible for special prizes at the program’s end. All participants in the program will receive a free book.
The deadline for submissions is February 29, 2024.

SHELF INDULGENCE
Book Club
Wednesday, December 6
6:00-7:30 p.m. | Truman Room
Looking for avid readers and stimulating conversation? You’ve found us! A new book will be selected each month to discuss. Librarians at the Information Desk are available to help find a copy for each attendee! Indulge yourself and dig into some great literature with other book lovers. In December we are reading I’ll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson and The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd.

2023 local AUTHORS showcase
Sunday, December 10 | 1:30-4:00 p.m.
MRRL Art Gallery
Meet local authors whose works represent a variety of genres. They will meet with visitors to discuss their work and publishing experience and will have their books available for sale and signing. No registration required!
It’s the perfect time to support local authors and purchase their books for family, friends—or yourself.
Author registration limit has been reached. Thank you!
ADULT ART CLUB
Monday, December 11
7:00-9:00 p.m. | MRRl Art Gallery
Everyone needs some time that is just for them. The new Adult Art Club is for anyone who just wants to enjoy some art projects with others. The library will provide some assorted supplies that everyone is welcome to use. You can also bring your own art project: something new, something relaxing, something to show off, or something that you could use some advice on. The opportunities are endless in this new club created to celebrate everyone’s need to escape into pure enjoyment sometimes! No need to do anything to prepare!

AFTERNOON CREATIVE CLUB
Thursday, December 14
1:30-4:00 p.m. | MRRl Art Gallery
Every now and then an afternoon needs to be dedicated to creative, relaxing endeavors. Join us at the library’s new Afternoon Creative Club where you can meet other gamers and crafters. Enjoy collaborating on jigsaw puzzles, playing Scrabble, or learning a new crafting hobby. The library will provide games and art material, you bring the fun and willingness to try something new!

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
Thursdays December 14 & 28
Ages 12+
6:00-9:00 p.m. | MRRl Art Gallery & Truman Room
Are you an adventurer at heart? Play Dungeons & Dragons with us! The excitement is real and the escapades are never-ending! You might stomp your way through an army of orcs, or go on a noble quest to rescue a whole town. You decide!

Whether you are a long-time adventurer or brand new to the game, you are welcome to join us.

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER BOOK BINGO
Monday, December 18
6:00-7:30 p.m. | MRRl Art Gallery
Get in the holiday spirit and don your best Christmas sweater, and join us to play a riveting game of Bingo where the prizes are books! This event is for adults only.

*Christmas sweaters are optional, but highly recommended!

LU-MRRL LECTURE SERIES
LU-MRRL LECTURE SERIES: AGRICULTURAL LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.: A NETWORK EXCHANGE ANALYSIS
Tuesday, December 12
6:30-8:00 p.m.| MRRl Art Gallery
Labor trafficking occurs when individuals are forced to work by force, fraud, or coercion. In the U.S., agricultural labor trafficking is both widespread and underreported. Often it is carried out by farm labor subcontractors who form transnational criminal organizations (TCIs) to conduct labor trafficking on behalf of U.S. companies. This trafficking continues year after year as trafficked immigrant workers fear being further punished if they attempt to redress their workplace grievances. The H2A Visa system is designed to protect workers from trafficking abuses, but the system is ineffective and in need of reform.

Dr. Gary Kowaluk (criminal justice) and two LU researchers have spent a year and a half researching the visa system as part of a project funded by the Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with the Criminal Investigative and Network Analysis Center at George Mason University. They will discuss the results of their research using network exchange theory and suggest reforms based on their study of federal and civil labor cases from 2017 to 2021.

LOOSELY BOUND BOOK CLUB
Monday, December 19
Ages 18+
6:00-7:30 p.m. | Truman Room
Looking for your next great read? Instead of reading the same book each month, members read a book of their own choice related to the theme of the month. This month’s theme is “it’s a beautiful world.” Feel free to interpret that however you like! We can’t wait to hear what you read! Discussions and recommendations abound! Ages 18 and up.

VISION BOARDS
Tuesday, December 26
1:00-2:45 p.m. & 6:00-8:00 p.m. | MRRl Art Gallery
What do you want your 2024 to look like? Full of health, wealth, and success? Or do you want to travel more? The arrival of a new year marks a time for setting intentions for the year to come. Join us as we make our own vision board, a collage that helps visually set your intentions and goals for the upcoming year.

BLOOD DRIVE
Friday, December 29
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | MRRl Art Gallery
Make a blood donation appointment at the library and give to those in need.