



## Locations

- Campbell, 404 W. Grand  
573-246-2112
- Cardwell, 113 N. Main  
573-654-3366
- Clarkton, 205 W Hwy 162  
573-448-3803
- Holcomb, 105 W Main St  
573-792-3268
- Hornersville, 502 School  
573-737-2728
- Kennett, 209 N. Main  
573-888-3561
- Malden, 1203 Stokelan  
573-276-3674
- Senath, 108 N. Main  
573-738-2363

## February Events

**Presidents' Day:** All locations will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025

**Bootheel Writers:** Thursday, February 6 at 4 pm in Kennett

**Spring Gardening** in Kennett on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 4 pm

**Book Signing with Susan Baker:** Saturday, February 22 in Kennett, 1 pm to 3 pm

Tuesday, February 25 at 6 pm in Kennett: **Story Time**

Tuesday, February 25 at 7 pm in Kennett: **Ennis Book Discussion**

Wednesday, February 26 at 4 pm in Campbell: **Story Time**

Thursday, February 27 at 4 pm in Malden & Senath: **Story Time**

# Dunklin County Library

February 2025

Jo Nell Minton, Director

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans, and Labor", focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work. Considering Black people's work through the widest perspectives provides versatile and insightful platforms for examining Black life and culture through time and space. In Dunklin County, a strong history exists of Black people creating opportunity, shaping lives, and helping others.

Charles and Bettie Birthright were former slaves with little education, and they built a life of momentous impact on the Clarkton community through their business, generosity, and close family ties. Charles was the only barber in town, and Bettie was an esteemed cook, tailor, and seamstress. They purchased acreage, built a home, rented farmland to others, and owned stock in a local bank. They made personal loans to others and taught skills for people to earn a living. This amazing couple were major contributors to the new school building in Clarkton and helped start the music program. The Birthright Auditorium and Athletic Center stands on the campus of Stillman College as an honor to the contributions from the Birthright couple.

In 1953, Alford's Bar-B-Q started after George and Margaret Alford scraped together enough money to purchase a building and merchant's license. But word spread quickly of the delights of this hometown barbecue so the kitchen and the restaurant space grew. Never forgetting his fellow man, he contributed generously to help crippled children. George became an outstanding

community leader with the slogan, "Kennett Can"!

Mr. Leonard Younger had a heart for charity. He sponsored an annual barbecue at St. John Church each year inviting the whole community, and he was a faithful member of the United Way cooking for the Wing Ding each year. He was recognized by the mayor of Kennett in 1993 and in 2002 for work in numerous charitable organizations and the Community Safety Advisory Committee. Mention his name and one also thinks of Virgie Lee Younger. Virgie held 4-H classes after school in Bragg City and drive all over Pemiscot and Dunklin County taking children home. She worked diligently for the consolidation of Bragg City schools and Kennett Schools. She worked along her husband at the annual St. John barbecue although she attended another church. Virgie helped others, visited sick people and shut-ins, prepared food for others, and so many other things. She earned the name of community helper.

Mr. Sylvester Pulley devoted his life to work, education, and good works. He worked on a river boat, as a shipping clerk, and various other jobs. Since his education was interrupted and knowing the value of education, he took adult education classes. He was the founder of the Malden NAACP which opened the job market for many young black men and women in the Bootheel. He served on numerous boards in the area and he was a deacon of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Being an avid gardener growing vegetables, he earned the nickname "Mr. Peanut" for his love of sharing his goods with friends and the community.

Taught by example, Beverly Alford Thomas has devoted her life to helping others. Her parents, the Youngers, helped her develop her motto "When you divide love, it will multiply." She founded Virgie's Place a non-profit agency in Kennett that helps with clothing, household items, school supplies, and more with no price tag. Through the years, her vocation has been to make someone's life easier. She says that life is not measured by what we get, but by what we give to others.



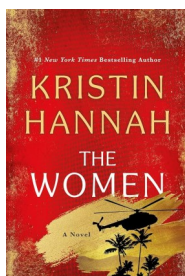
**Meet Libby**  
The One-Tap  
Reading App

## Ennis Book Discussion For February

Ennis Book Discussion will be held on Tuesday, February 25 at 7 pm in Kennett. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah is the chosen novel. Books are available in Kennett. This selection is not available on Libby.

*The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism.

*The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.



## Story Time

Story Time for February will focus on kindness. Children will learn about kindness and how it can come back to you on Tuesday, February 25, at 6 pm in Kennett; Wednesday, February 26, at 4 pm in Campbell; and Thursday, February 27, at 4 pm in Malden and Senath. *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller will be featured.



## Spring Gardening

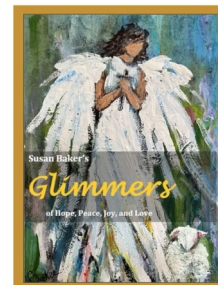
Dr. Mike Milam of the University of Missouri Extension Office will present Spring Gardening on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 4 pm in Kennett. Bring questions about preparing garden and flower beds, fertilizer, seeds, and planting.



## Book Signing with Susan Baker

On Saturday, February 22, in Kennett from 1 pm to 3 pm, the Dunklin County Library is hosting a book signing in honor of Susan Baker and the release of her book, *Glimmers of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*.

Susan will have books available for purchase, and she will be happy to sign books if desired. Her book is also available for purchase on Amazon in a hardcover edition and a softback edition.



*Glimmers of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* is a heartfelt collection of art and scripture, created to inspire and uplift. Rooted in faith and guided by prayer, this book combines deeply personal paintings and drawings with Bible verses that have profoundly shaped the artist's life and spiritual journey.

With a focus on spiritual themes, the artwork reflects moments of divine inspiration and seeks to provide viewers with a sense of solace, happiness, and connection. Each piece has been thoughtfully crafted to share glimmers of hope, peace, joy, and love, offering a sanctuary for the soul amidst the pages.

Whether you are seeking spiritual encouragement, artistic beauty, or simply a quiet moment of reflection, this collection invites you to experience the emotions and faith that guided its creation. *Glimmers of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* is more than an art book—it is a testament to the power of faith and creativity to illuminate our lives.

## No Waiting on Libby

The newest, hottest and buzziest books usually have some kind of waitlist. Luckily, your Dunklin County Library has something good to read while you wait in the form of a skip-the-line book.

Kiley Reid's *Such a Fun Age* is a page-turning and big-hearted story about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

*Pitch by Pitch: My View of One Unforgettable Game* gets inside the head of Bob Gibson on October 2, 1968, when he took the mound for game one of the World Series against the Detroit Tigers and struck out a record seventeen batters. Written by Bob Gibson and Lonnie Wheeler.

In her heralded first novel, Gloria Naylor weaves together the stories of seven women living in Brewster Place, a bleak-inner city sanctuary, creating a powerful, moving portrait of the strengths, struggles, and hopes of black women in America. *The Women of Brewster Place* is well-written and continues to interest generations of readers.

This young adult selection by Elizabeth Acevedo entitled, *With the Fire on High*, is a dazzling novel about a girl with talent, pride, and a drive to feed the soul that keeps her fire burning bright. This selection is chosen for those readers under the age of 18.