



**Around the Parish**  
*February 2025*

# Lifelines Poetry Workshop

## Louisiana Poet Laureate

# Alison Pelegrin



Had a fantastic calligraphy expo and workshop! It was wonderful to see attendees from Covington and Pensacola. Many people enjoyed the event and had a great time practicing their own writing. Feeling very blessed to have had the support of friends and the EBR Library. [Yao Zeng East Baton Rouge Parish Library](#)



Calligraphy for Year of the Dragon:  
*Dragon Leaps From the Brush*





**East Baton Rouge  
Pa...**

14h · 🌐



Storyteller Mama SaBa entertained children and adults alike with her African tales and dance moves at the Zachary Library.



**BREAK  
A  
NIB!**

ON COMICS, ZINES,  
& SELF PUBLISHING

WITH PRATIMA PINNEPALLI  
@pratima\_pinnepalli

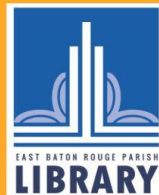
**6<sup>PM</sup>**



**Wednesday, January 29**

**6 p.m.**

*Main Library at Goodwood*



# So Many Stories to Tell!



**LSU College of Science**

1d · 🌐



**Registration Open for ✨  
Geaux Science Explorations:  
STEM & Stories ✨ ... See more**

**LSU**

College of Science

**Geaux Science  
Explorations**

## STEM & Stories

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**

**10:30 AM - 11:45 AM**

**Locations:**

Main Library at Goodwood, Eden Park  
Branch Library, Greenwell Springs Road  
Regional Branch Library



**HALLIBURTON**





MUSIC OF WEST AFRICA  
COMES TO BATON ROUGE

# SEAN GASKELL



ON THE KORA -  
A 21 STRINGED  
WEST AFRICAN  
HARP

**CATCH ONE OF THESE  
FREE PERFORMANCES!**

*Thursday, February 6, at 10 a.m. at Carver Library*

*Thursday, February 6 at 5 p.m. at Main Library at Goodwood*

*Friday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m. at Greenwell Springs Library*

*February 7 at 2 p.m. at Central Library*



EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH  
**LIBRARY**

CREATIVES FOR THE CULTURE  
PRESENTS

## ROOTS OF OUR OWN A LEGACY PROJECT

**BLACK HISTORY # 365**

Celebrating the Cultural Legacy of

**LOUISIANA & GHANA**

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

A Community-Based Cultural Celebration  
Featuring:

Herman Jackson – Master percussionist

Andrew Wiseman (Ghana) – Master percussionist and drummer

Jeremy Thomas – Trumpeter and historian

Gary Washington (The UrbanCellist) - Cello

Summer Hayes – Multidisciplinary artist (dance)

Harry Anderson – Bassist

Quon – Mixed media artist

Devron – Digital artist

Chef Celeste Gill – Culinary artist

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

**3:00 - 6:00 PM**

**EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY**

7711 Goodwood Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806





**CALLING ALL COMIC FANS!**

**ARTS & COMICS MARKET**  
**COSPLAY SHOW & TELL**  
**GAMES FOOD TRUCKS & MORE!**

**SPECIAL GUEST ALEX JENNINGS**

**WORKSHOPS**

**MIDCITY MICRO-CON**

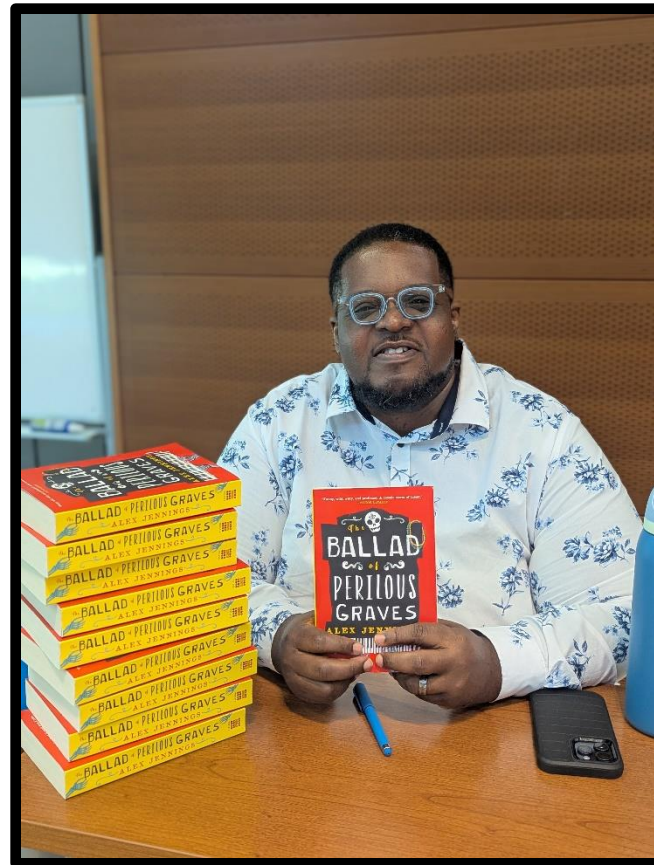
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8** 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

**MAIN LIBRARY AT GOODWOOD**

Find out more at [ebrpl.co/MCMC2025](http://ebrpl.co/MCMC2025)



**EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY**





# The Independent Film Project Presents: The Public Library



# BIKE VESSEL



Knowing his dad miraculously recovered from three open-heart surgeries after discovering a passion for cycling, filmmaker Eric D. Seals proposes an ambitious idea: Bike together from St. Louis to Chicago. 350 miles. 4 days.

This is their journey.

**SNEAK PREVIEW**  
**Save the Date!**  
**Sunday, February 16, 3pm**  
**at The Main Library at Goodwood.**

PRESENTED BY



## The Independent Film Project Presents: Bike Vessel





# Financial Literacy and Taxpayer Assistance at the Library



**Capital Area United  
Way**

Sponsored · 

Join Capital Area United Way for  
their Annual Super Tax... **See more**



**VITA** United  
Way  
A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE

# ***SUPER TAX DAY***

*FREE Income Tax Preparation by Certified Tax Professionals*

**FEB 15, 2025 / 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

EBR Main Library  
7711 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, La. 70806




*Resource Fair, Workshops, & Incentives for Participants!*





# Coming Up Soon...




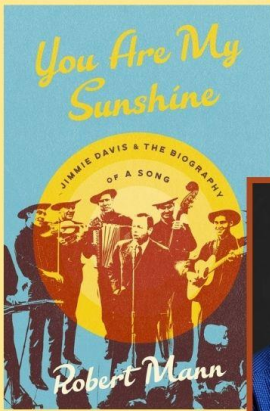

## You Are My Sunshine

Jimmie Davis & The Biography of a Song

**Professor Robert Mann**

Sunday  
February 23  
3 p.m.

Main Library  
at Goodwood



## ~ 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community History Festival ~

### COUNTRY CRAFTS & HOBBIES

Saturday, March 29, 2025 10 am–1:30 pm

#### Pride-Chaneyville Branch Library

**Fun for the Whole Family!**  
music · games · food · crafts · local history & lots more!

 **LIBRARY**  
www.ebrpl.com

13600 Pride-Port Hudson Rd., Pride LA 70770 – 225-658-1540





# TRAIN DAY AT THE LIBRARY

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST FROM 9:00 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM



OPERATING TRAIN LAYOUTS  
& DISPLAYS!  
MODEL & TOY TRAIN VENDORS!  
LEGO DISPLAYS!  
RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHY!  
RAFFLE FOR A TRAIN SET!  
DOOR PRIZES!

MAIN LIBRARY, 7711 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806

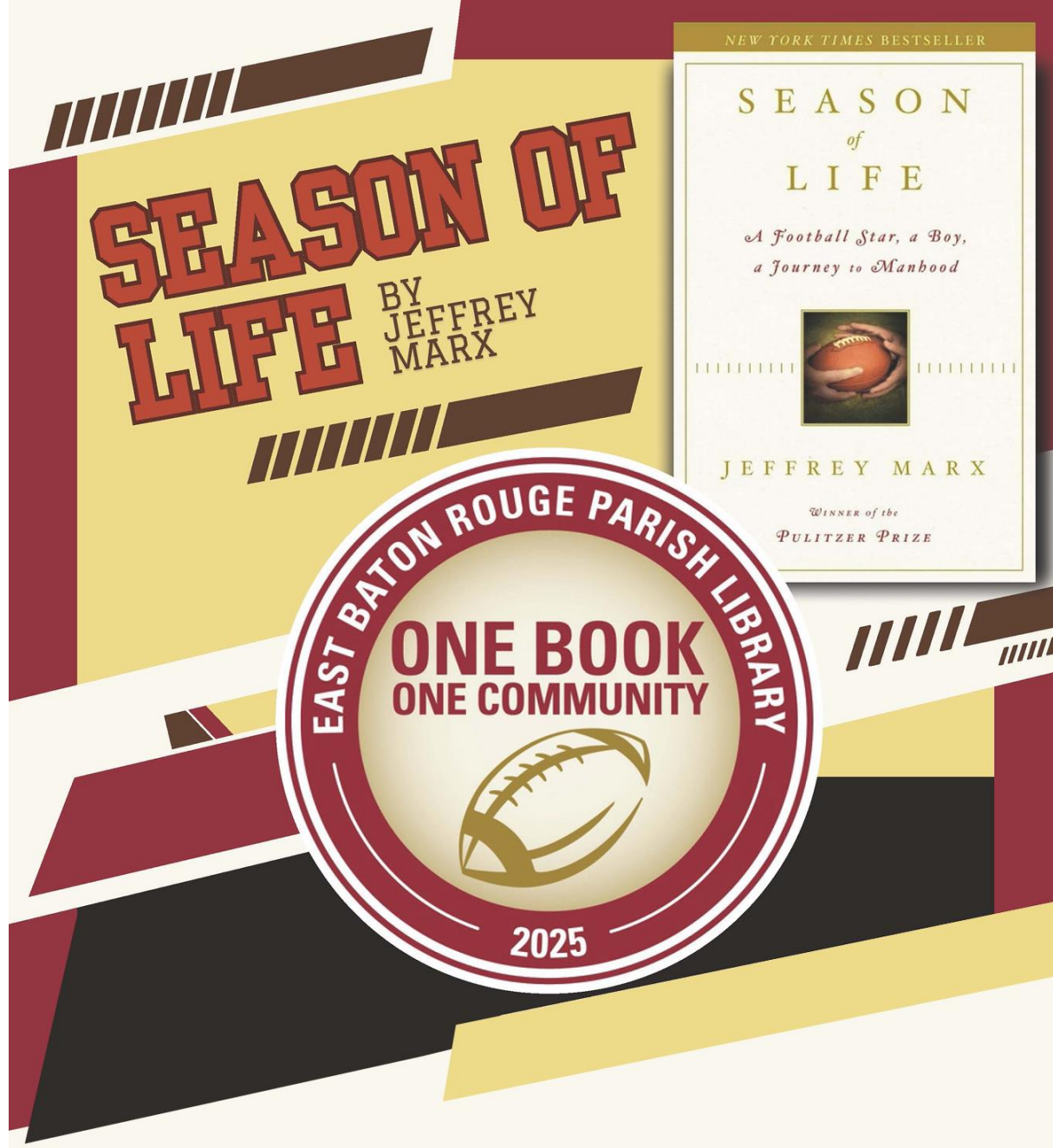


TRAIN COLLECTORS  
ASSOCIATION:  
LOUISIANA  
CHAPTER



## March 1: Start Your Engines!!!!






Are You Ready For Some Football?




# Virtual Author Talk Series

Remember –  
*Author Talks are  
archived at  
[library.org/ebprl](http://library.org/ebprl)*


Recent Author Talk Archive




**Liberating Latin American Genre Fiction: in Conversation with Bestselling Author Silvia Moreno-Garcia**  
*New York Times* Bestselling Author of *Mexican Gothic* and *Gods of Jade and Shadow*  
Wednesday, October 9th 2024 at 6:00 PM CDT




**A Journey into the Hidden World of Tropical Bats with Scientists from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute**  
Presented by Smithsonian Scientists Dr. Rachel Page, Dr. Dina Declmann, and Dr. Teague O'Mara  
Wednesday, October 2nd 2024 at 1:00 PM CDT



**A Deep Dive in Character Development with Global Sensation Liane Moriarty**  
#1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *Big Little Lies*, *The Husband's Secret*, and *Apples Never Fall*  
Saturday, September 21st 2024 at 6:00 PM CDT



**Living with an Expensive Mind in a Distracted World—with Nate Kemp, PhD**  
*New York Times* Bestselling Co-Author of *Start Here: Master the Lifelong Skill of Web-Browsing*  
Wednesday, September 18th 2024 at 1:00 PM CDT



**Capturing the Human Drama of 9/11 and D-Day Through Oral History with Garrett Graff**  
*New York Times* Bestselling Author and Pulitzer Prize Finalist  
Tuesday, September 10th 2024 at 1:00 PM CDT

## Author Talk Series

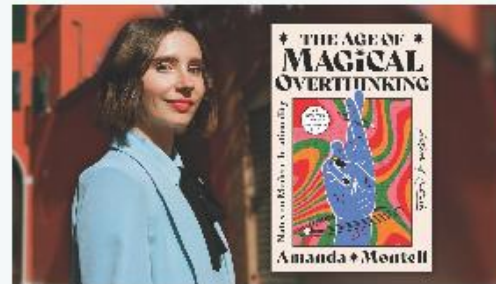
**Don't miss these virtual events!**

**Join us in January for live discussions and Q & A sessions with these bestselling authors!**

**TJ Klune**  
*Cerulean Chronicles*  
Wednesday, January 15 at 6 p.m.



**Amanda Montell**  
*The Age of Magical Overthinking*  
Thursday, January 23 at 1 p.m.



**Seth Fishman**  
Literary Agent, The Gernert Co.  
Tuesday, January 28 at Noon



To register,  
use the QR code  
or visit  
[library.org/ebprl](http://library.org/ebprl)



EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH  
**LIBRARY**

EP.22

JAY  
JOHNSON



strictly  
business

POWERED BY BUSINESS REPORT



MONTHLY WEBCAST  
EPISODE 20  
SEPT 18 | 11AM

SPECIAL GUEST  
BRAD BARBER

CEO AND DIRECTOR,  
H&E EQUIPMENT

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION  
ELEVATING EXECUTIVE  
MENTAL HEALTH

ONE COMPANY'S  
JOURNEY TO  
PRIORITIZING

EP.23

GARRET  
GRAVES



EP.24

JUDE  
MELVILLE



Strictly  
Join us f  
entrepre  
lessons  
organiza

Register Now

## Executives from three Capital Region Inc. 5000 honorees will share their secrets for fast growth on Strictly Business in February

By Business Report Staff



strictly  
business

POWERED BY BUSINESS REPORT

PAOLA  
ALVAREZ

MO VIJ

CRAIG STEVENS



11 AM  
FEBRUARY 19

SECRETS OF  
THE INC. 5000

How did three Louisiana companies make the Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing firms in the nation?

This month, Strictly Business answers that question with a panel of three executives at the helms of those organizations.

Get best practices and insights for financial management from Vanessa Graham on the March episode of Strictly Business

By Business Report Staff



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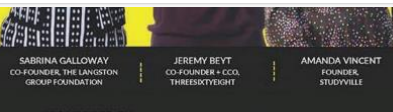


11 AM  
MARCH 20

VANESSA GRAHAM, CPA  
OWNER, V&B

What are hot topics for financial managers right now and what's the best way to navigate them? What technological challenges and opportunities are on the horizon? And what are the best practices for financial contingency planning?

Those are some of the topics Vanessa Graham will tackle in the March episode of Business Reports Strictly Business series with business leaders across the Capital Region.



SPONSORED BY  
LIBRARY

Register for free at  
strictlybusiness.businessreport.com

Get insights into the art of being an entrepreneur from Norisha Kirts Glover on Strictly Business in July

By Business Report Staff



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11 AM  
JULY 19

Moderator JR Ball &  
NRS Construction Founder & Owner  
Norisha Kirts Glover



Ups and downs of being an entrepreneur? How do you secure sufficient capital in phase? And what's the secret to business development?

You've Unlocked a Special Offer!

Claim offer



strictly  
business

stephen touns  
ceo, turner industries

strictly  
business

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Watch an episode!  
Strictly Business  
archive here:



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business

POWERED BY BUSINESS REPORT

How did a Baton Rouge developer known for redefining the Baton Rouge landscape spot opportunities and calculate risks for investment? Mike Wampold shares the...



# Libraries Change Lives

## Features: Crafters and Dulcimers

### Libraries *Change Lives*

Nestled in the Pride-Chaneyville Branch Library is a vibrant group of women transforming yarn into warmth, humor into healing, and camaraderie into community. During our hour-long interview, club members were actively crocheting—some arriving late but seamlessly joining in—and shared with us a series of stories full of humor, heart, and just the right amount of mischief.

a local battered women's shelter. This connection resonated deeply with one member who had survived domestic abuse. From there, the club's generosity expanded globally, including a leprosy hospital in Nepal that requested wool hats to combat the region's harsh winters.

The ladies' work has touched countless lives, but they insist the club has also transformed their own. Half of

community. Linden noted, "We wouldn't function without donated yarn. Sometimes people drop off garbage bags full of yarn at the Library's doorstep when clearing out a relative's house." Sometimes these donations of yarn include "UFOs"—unfinished objects. The club lovingly completes these abandoned projects, often unassembled blankets.

When asked why others should join library groups, the women didn't hesitate. One lady explained that the library is special because it brings people together without a cost barrier. "It's a welcoming space for everyone." Crafting for a Cause is more than a crochet club. It's a community bound by threads of generosity and friendship, proving that libraries aren't just about books—they're about people. Whether making hats for children, blankets for chemotherapy patients, or sharing a laugh with friends, these women show how libraries truly change lives.



*Crafting for a Cause members: Kathy Denham, Linden Langberg, Virginia Forbes, Oneida Jarrell, Glenda Ballard, Kay Halphen, and Susan Dubinski.*

The "Crafting for a Cause" club, formed in 2011, gathers every Thursday to crochet items for those in need. The group started humbly. Library Technician Linden Langberg recalled, "Two patrons saw me crocheting and wanted to learn how to make baby booties. That proved tricky, so I suggested starting with hats." Word spread, and more patrons joined. Before long, their laughter and chatter prompted a move from the Library's main floor to its conference room. "We were too loud and too rowdy," Linden joked.

Their growing enthusiasm turned charitable when one member complained to Linden about the surplus of hats. "My family and friends cringe every time they see me making a hat, because they are so tired of me gifting them hats! Maybe we should be donating them." The suggestion would forever change the direction and purpose of the club. The first recipients were residents of

the members are widows; others have retired husbands. For many, the club is both a creative outlet and a cherished social lifeline. "We call it our therapy session," one member said. "We've got to get out of the house, or we'd murder our husbands!" another joked. "If sarcasm isn't your first language, you might have a problem here," Linden warned with a grin. Each week, the women bring their wit along with food and sweets, sharing tales and teasing one another between stitches.

Despite their laughter, the group takes their mission seriously. Over the years, they've donated hats, scarves, blankets, and more to a variety of causes. In 2019, they crocheted 80 hats for pre-K and kindergarten students at a nearby school. When the older children grew jealous, the club upped their game, creating over 200 hats the following year to ensure no child felt left out.

The group's spirit of giving is also fueled by the generosity of the



### Libraries Change Lives #ebrpl



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**East Baton Rouge Pa...**

1d •

### Libraries Change Lives #ebrpl



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### Libraries *Change Lives*

If you ever find yourself at the Fairwood Branch Library on a Thursday morning, you may just hear dulcet dulcimer melodies drifting through the air. The Red Stick Strummers have been meeting there since 2021 under the leadership of Maylee Samuels, founder of the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society. Maylee's passion for playing the dulcimer began 30 years ago when she and her husband traveled to North Carolina on vacation. "We stopped by an old-timey gas station, and there were dulcimers hanging on the wall. I bought one and brought it home to Louisiana, but I had a hard time finding anyone in Louisiana who knew how to play it." Maylee was undeterred. She journeyed back to North Carolina and attended a week-long dulcimer workshop at Appalachian State University. She took her newfound knowledge and began teaching the dulcimer as an LSU Leisure Class. Maylee adds, "Eventually, I did meet people in the Baton Rouge area who owned dulcimers, but the instruments were mainly hidden away in closets or garages, or maybe hung on the wall for decoration." But she encouraged others to actually learn to play their dulcimers. And they did, to their (and her) delight!

Today, the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society drives as its members practice weekly at the Fairwood Branch and perform at many local venues like nursing homes, retirement centers, churches, festivals, and farmers markets. Red Stick Strummer Linda Frederick remembers her first performance. "I was so nervous! I don't know how I did it!" In hindsight, she is glad she stepped out of her comfort zone and tried something new.

In addition to the sense of accomplishment that the musicians feel, the sense of community is what they appreciate most about the group. Strummer Glynnis Coleman shares a funny story about how she joined the group. "My sister saw in *The Source* that dulcimer classes were being offered at the Library. She convinced me to go with her because 'we needed



*Fairwood Branch Manager Kimberly Reeves and Maylee Samuels*

to get out of the house more." Well, I showed up for the class, but my sister didn't." Glynnis is still strumming at the Library over a year later. The members agreed that playing together beats playing alone for many reasons, such as socialization and expansion of skill set.

Although the group has been together for around 15 years, after Covid they found themselves in need of a new place to practice. Maylee explained, "We had not explored possibilities at the Library pre-Covid, but we soon realized what a gold mine it is! It's quiet, safe, and centrally located for our members." She gives credit to Fairwood Branch Manager Kimberly Reeves for being so helpful

and cooperative as they worked on making meeting room reservations. Maylee also mentioned that members sometimes check out books on music after practice and that the Library offers 20 free copies/prints per day helps when reproducing sheet music for the group.

Not only do they meet for practice, but the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society offers classes at the Library, too. Be on the lookout this spring for four-week courses for beginners. No musical background is necessary, and a dulcimer will be provided with advanced registration. "The dulcimer is easy to play. I always say, 'If you can count to ten, you can play the dulcimer,'" laughs Maylee. "It's easy to handle, too. It just sits on your lap."

With help from people like Maylee, the Library accomplishes its mission of bringing the community together.



*Red Stick Strummers*

In the case of the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society, friends have become family and beautiful music is made.



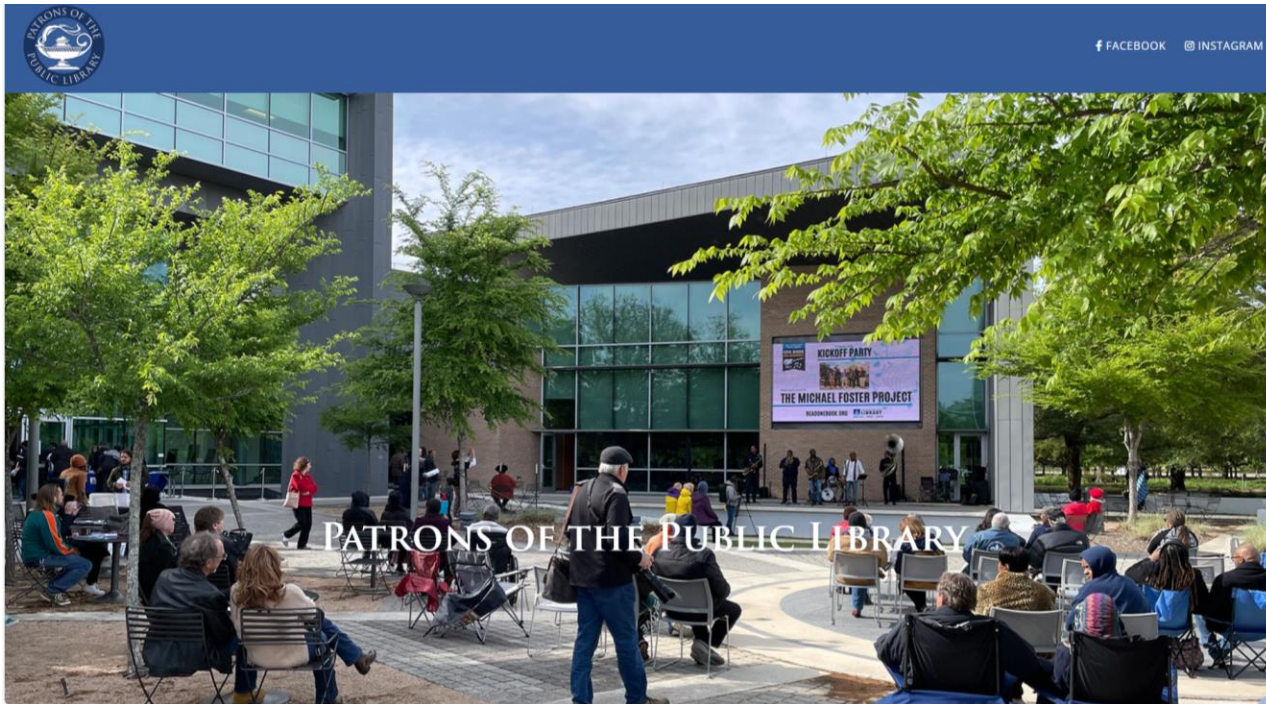
*Dulcimer Class at Jones Creek Regional Branch*



*East Baton Rouge Parish Library*



# Library Friends, the Patrons of the Public Library: <https://PoplEbrpl.org>



Support such projects as:

- One Book One Community
- Summer Reading Programs
- Author Illustrator Workshops
- Home Library Literacy Project
- Recycled Reads
- Advocacy





[illegible]