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All ages

Evenings on the Green

Our Evenings on the Green summer concerts are always free through the generous support of the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. This year, concerts will take place every Tuesday at 7pm from July 9-30. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will take place the following day.

July 9: Peter Fletcher
Classical guitarist has played across the globe, including at Carnegie Hall.

July 16: Thee Mr. E Band
A five-piece classic rock group that play music from the ‘60s, ’70s, ’80s and ’90s.

July 23: The Rumble Kings
This trio plays traditional rockabilly and surf music from the ’50s and ’60s.

July 30: As Iz
Otherwise known as Izzy Singer, he is a one-man band extraordinaire.

Beginning Birding Part I
Monday July 1 • 9:30am
Join us for a two-part workshop held by the Audubon Society, and learn basic birding skills. Bring the whole family to learn about this fun pastime.

Beginning Birding Part II: Bird Walk
Wednesday July 3 • 9:30am
Join our Audubon Society presenters and put your new birding skills to use off-site at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.

Adventures in Orienteering
Tuesday July 9 • 10am
Join us at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center where Sue Hawkes-Teeter will introduce us to this sport that combines navigational skills with scavenger hunting.

Cosmic Donut Painting
Thursday July 25 • 3pm
Come paint a cosmic donut or something equally far out from your imagination. We will have a video tutorial on screen to demonstrate.

(Try to) Set a World Record!
Friday August 9 • 2-5pm
Try your hand at setting a real world record at one of our five challenge stations. Can you beat the record for the farthest ping pong ball ever thrown into a cup? How about the quickest lap in Mario Kart? There’s only one way to find out!

Pet Parade
Tuesday August 13 • 6:30pm
Bring your pet for a parade around The Green. There will also be games and a center ring for tricks. Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier and may be walked, carried or in a wagon. You are responsible for cleaning up after your pet.

Saturday matinees

Get ready for our Saturday Adventure Movie Matinees on the following dates in the Community Room. Bring a blanket to get comfy on the floor if you want. Shows start at 2pm.


August 3: “Muppet Treasure Island” (1996, G, 99 min.)

August 17: “The Goonies” (1985, PG, 114 min.)

Bethlehem Walks!

As a companion to our Summer Reading Challenge, we are inviting the community to join us in a collective physical challenge: Bethlehem Walks!

Using a form on our website, submit your walking data to us, and we'll compile it to show how far we've walked together as a town and include some fun information about the places we've "visited." Include minutes walked, distance walked, or steps taken, as well as elevation changes (if you have it). Submit as often as you like. Adventure starts in Bethlehem!

Textured Painting
Wednesday August 14 • 6:30pm
Create a heavily textured painting with acrylic paints using brushes and other tools. Come and have fun painting in thick, textured layers. For ages 10 and up.

End of Summer Movie Night: “School of Rock”
Monday August 26 • 6pm
Join us during the final week of summer for a screening of this family comedy (PG-13, 108 min.) starring Jack Black as a struggling rock guitarist who rallies a group of prep school students to take part in an upcoming Battle of the Bands.

Adults

AniMonday
Monday July 1 • 6pm
Monday July 22 • 6pm
Monday August 5 • 6pm
Monday August 19 • 6pm
Enjoy the best in contemporary and classic Japanese animation. Teens welcome!

Poetry Seminar: The Aesthetics of Ecstasy
Tuesday July 2 • 5pm
Dr. Natalya Sukhonos will discuss how two very different poets, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Wallace Stevens, relied on the aesthetics of ecstasy to be "driven out of their mind and removed from their proper place."

Dungeons and Dragons for Adults
Tuesday July 2 • 6pm
Tuesday August 13 • 6pm
Join us for a night of laughs, critical thinking, improvisation and roleplaying in Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition. All playing materials will be provided, but feel free to BYO dice or character sheet. Beginners welcome.

Day Books: BYO Book
Monday July 8 • 1:30pm
Bring your own book to discuss at this special July meeting of Day Books.

Retro Gaming Night
Monday July 8 • 6pm
Step back in time at the library and play some retro games. We'll have a Nintendo Switch, Wii U, and laptops set up with childhood favorites. Teens ages 13 and older welcome!

Identity Theft Prevention
Tuesday July 9 • 5pm
Join Kim Maercklein with NYS Division of Consumer Protection on a deep dive into how to protect your identity, the importance of staying vigilant with your information, and how to react quickly if you do have your identity stolen.

Summer Reading Kickoff: Jumpin' Jamie
Friday June 28 • 11am (for younger audiences)
and 2pm (for older children)
We’ll be getting the adventure started on the Green with two performances by Jumpin’ Jamie, a “kindie” rock musician whose high-energy shows feature a little bit of everything — music, puppets, magic!

Summer Reading Celebration
Friday August 16 • 10am-noon
Summer is ending, but there’s still one last day of adventure to be found at the library! Join us for lawn games, including chess, bowling, building a time capsule and more. For kids and families.

Let’s read this summer!

The library’s 2024 Summer Reading theme, Adventure Begins at your Library, encourages everyone to see where their library journey will take them. When you sign up for the library’s Summer Reading Challenge (beginning June 24), you will track your progress through challenge cards for a chance to earn some great prizes. You can also join us for themed programs all summer long. Check out the calendar at bethlehem.librarycalendar.com to see what’s coming up!

Registration for Summer Reading can be done online at bethplny14.readsquared.com.

Summer Reading 2024
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E-readers and tablets

July 24

Craft & Color for Adults
Monday July 15 • 11am
Monday August 26 • 11am
Choose between coloring or doing an open-ended craft activity. This program is specifically designed for adults of all abilities.

Crash Course in Graphic Novels
Monday July 15 • 7pm
What are graphic novels? Where do I start? Library staff will take you through the basics, discuss history, demonstrate digital options, and present recommendations.

Embroidered Clothing
Friday July 19 • 3pm
Chloe Whittaker returns to the library to demonstrate how to embroider pre-designed patterns onto an article of clothing you’ve brought from home. Except for the article of clothing, all supplies will be provided. Teens welcome!

3D Painting
Saturday July 20 • 2pm
This program involves painting with acrylic paints and thickening agents. Create a heavily textured painting using brushes and other tools. Teens welcome!

Monday Matinee: “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre”
Monday July 22 • 2pm
Enjoy this 1948 Best Picture nominee and adventure film (PG, 126 min.) that is a treatise on greed and what “gold does to men’s souls.”

Midday Tech: E-Readers and Tablets
Wednesday July 24 • noon
Bring your devices. We will discuss the basics of using these technologies and answer your technology questions.

Monday Night Social Hour
Monday July 29 • 6pm
At this low-key social event for adults, we’ll have board games, refreshments and ice breakers to help folks who are a little out of practice when it comes to socializing.

Community Yoga
Wednesday July 31 • 6pm
Wednesday August 28 • 6pm
Enjoy a class designed for all skill levels. Dan May shares Jai Yoga School’s Bhakti yoga practice, which includes song, cultural information and stories.

Day Books: “Signal Fires”
Monday August 5 • 1:30pm
“Signal Fires” by Dani Shapiro will be discussed at this summer meeting of Day Books.

Growing Mushrooms at Home with Collar City Mushrooms
Tuesday August 6 • 6pm
Are you interested in mycology (the study of fungi) and growing your own mushrooms at home? Then this program is for you.

DIY Pinhole Photography
Wednesday August 7 • 7pm
Astronomer Mindy Townsend will demonstrate how to make a functioning pinhole camera from a soda can. All supplies will be provided. Teens welcome!

Vacation Tile Coasters
Monday August 12 • 6:30pm
Make a keepsake coaster about your travels or dream destinations. Supplies will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own photos, maps, etc.

Growing mushrooms

August 6

You’ve got the whole summer to read this true crime bestseller for September’s Day Books!

September 9
The Art Thief
by Michael Finkel

Growing mushrooms

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Adults (continued)
Monday Matinee: “The Great Escape”
Monday August 19 • 2pm
Enjoy this 1963 classic (PG, 172min.) starring Steve McQueen, James Garner, and Richard Attenborough as a group of Allied officers attempting to tunnel out of a Nazi POW camp in 1942.

Intro to Geocaching
Tuesday August 20 • 6pm
Looking for adventure? Come learn about geocaching. It’s like a scavenger hunt for all ages and skill levels.

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Midday Tech: Chromebooks, Laptops and More
Wednesday August 21 • noon
We will discuss the basics of using Chromebooks, laptops or other mobile tech and answer your technology questions.

Fraud Prevention
Tuesday August 27 • 5pm
A representative from the NYS Division of Consumer Protection will talk about how to spot common scams targeting seniors and what to do if you get caught up in one.

Tweens and teens

Teens Audiobook Club
Thursday July 11 • 2pm (“The Selection” by Kiera Cass; read by Amy Rubinate)
Thursday July 25 • 2pm (“Red Queen” by Victoria Aveyard; read by Amanda Dolan)
Thursday August 8 • 2pm (“Skyhunter” by Marie Lu; read by Natalie Naudus)
Thursday August 22 • 2pm (“A Study in Drowning” by Ava Reid; read by Saskia Maarleveld)
Whether you borrow a PlayAway or download from Hoopla, all you have to do is listen to the book, then come discuss with peers. For grades 6 and up.

Adventures in Writing: Fanfiction
Friday July 12 • 2pm
Fanfiction is not just relegated to “Harry Potter” or “Star Wars” re-imaginings; retellings such as “The Lunar Chronicles,” “Ella Enchanted” and even Percy Jackson can be considered fanfiction. For ages 12-18.

Adventures in Writing: Drama
Thursday July 18 • 2pm
How is a screenplay different from a novel? Learn all about writing for the stage, talk about your favorite movies or plays, and meet other people who like drama. For ages 12-18.

The Power of Poetry and Author Talk with Elizabeth Acevedo
Tuesday July 23 • 1pm

Graphic Novels and Author Talk with Dan Santat
Tuesday July 30 • 1pm
Join us while we work on our own stories, and get ready to hear from author and graphic novelist Dan Santat during a virtual Author Talk at 2pm. For ages 12-18.

Money Matters: Tips and Tricks for Teens
Wednesday August 21 • 2pm
We will look at making a budget and what social media says about money. After, you can set up a personalized appointment to discuss your financial goals in detail. For ages 12-18.

Sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com

Program is virtual
Paws to Read
Monday July 1 • 4-4:45pm
Monday July 15 • 4-4:45pm
Monday July 29 • 4-4:45pm
Monday August 12 • 4-4:45pm
Monday August 26 • 4-4:45pm
Come to the library and practice reading skills with a registered therapy dog who will listen calmly and quietly. For grades K-5.

Make Your Own Adventure Pack
Tuesday July 2 • 2pm
Join us at the library to create your very own adventure pack, including a journal, a compass, and a pouch for treasures. For ages 5-12.

Pirate Treasure Map and Story Time
Wednesday July 3 • 10am
Get ready for adventure and paint your own pirate treasure map using coffee. While your alternative paint dries, listen to some pirate-themed stories. For ages 3 and up.

Tie-Dye T-Shirts
Friday July 5 • 2pm
Come spend a fun afternoon tie-dying on the Green. Please bring your own white, cotton T-shirt to dye. Rain date is Friday August 2. Tweens and teens welcome!

Pokemon Summer Adventure
Monday July 8 • 11am
Unleash your artistic talents and create your very own Poke Balls inside the Community Room to catch Pokemon hiding outside on the Green. Can you “catch ’em all”? Best for children ages 5 and up but all ages are welcome.

Travel Thursdays
Thursdays July 11-August 29 • 10am
Grab your passports and pack your bags for a trip across the globe through story. Best suited for ages 5 and up.

Fun with Fuse Beads
Friday July 12 • 11am
These colorful plastic beads can be used to make pictures, geometric patterns and almost anything else you can dream up. For ages 6 and up.

“Last Kids on Earth” Author Talk with Max Brallier
Tuesday July 16 • 1:30pm
We will kick things off with a book discussion and some fun activities. Then at 2pm, we will watch a live virtual author talk with Max Brallier where he will talk about his post-apocalyptic, and hugely entertaining, graphic novel series. For ages 8 and up.

Robot Dog Demo
Wednesday July 17 • 2pm
Come meet Goku Jr., a real robot dog, and watch him perform cool tricks! His human handlers from UAlbany’s Student Branch of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) will discuss how he can do what he does. For ages 7 and up.

Library Beach Day
Friday July 19 • 10am
We’ll kick things off with a summery story on the Green, and we’ll keep the beach party going all day with activities in the Children’s Place. For ages 6 and up.

Art Adventure: Recycled Art
Monday July 22 • 10am
Let’s transform something old into something new by reusing materials to create a fun and fabulous recycled piece of art. For ages 5 and up.

Adventures With Pond Life
Friday July 26 • 2pm
Dive into a tub of pond water to find out who is who, what do they do, how they grow and where they go. For ages 4 and up.

Lego Adventure
Monday July 29 • 10am
The library’s Lego collection will be out and building challenges will be offered, along with activities and crafts. For ages 3 and up.

Little Spores Club: Intro to Mushrooms
Monday July 29 • 1pm
Collar City Mushrooms will hold an interactive, hands-on adventure into the amazing world of fungi. For ages 6-11.

Sundial Science STEAM Lab
Tuesday July 30 • 11:30am
Help build a sundial on our plaza and learn the science behind it. For ages 6-11.

Jr. Cartographer Workshop
Thursday August 1 • 2pm
Learn about map making, then create your own. For ages 6-11.

Paper Campfire and Marshmallow Craft
Friday August 2 • 10am
Make a cute campfire, complete with a marshmallow on a stick. For ages 3-10.

Little Bird Watchers
Monday August 5 • 11am
BYO binoculars or make your own before seeking out as many “birds” as you can around our plaza and the Green. For ages 2 and up.

Time Jump Tuesday: Ancient Greece
Tuesday August 6 • 3pm
Learn about life in ancient Greece and work on an ancient Greek-themed activity. For ages 7-12. Teens welcome!

Reptile Show with Uncharted Wild
Wednesday August 7 • 10am AND noon
Meet some live reptiles from Uncharted Wild. You can feel, see and learn firsthand why reptiles aren’t as scary as they might seem. Seating is first-come, first serve. For ages 6 and up.
Kids and families (continued)

Dog Man Afternoon
Thursday August 8 • 2pm
Hey, Supa-buddies! Show off your Dog Man smarts during our trivia game, use our button machine to make your very own badge, and practice creating graphic novels like author Dav Pilkey in the writer's corner. For ages 6 and up.

Art Adventure: Paint with Nature
Monday August 12 • 10am
Leave the paintbrushes at home and experiment using natural objects as brushes or stamps to paint creative art projects. For ages 5 and up.

Time Jump Tuesday: Ancient Egypt
Tuesday August 13 • 3pm
Learn about life in ancient Egypt and work on an ancient Egypt-themed activity. For ages 7-12. Teens welcome!

Craft and Play
Monday August 19 • 10am
Come in out of the heat and cool off with some fun indoor play and a craft. There will be different kinds of blocks, sensory toys, puppets and more. For ages 3 and up.

Time Jump Tuesday: Ancient Rome
Tuesday August 20 • 3pm
Learn about life in ancient Rome and work on an ancient Rome-themed activity. For ages 7-12. Teens welcome!

Slime Time
Wednesday August 21 • 7pm
Join us at the library for a fun time making slime, and we will take care of all the mess. For ages 7 and up.

Page-to-Screen Book Club: “House with a Clock in its Walls”
Wednesday August 28 • 2pm
Read the book (copies at the library), come to the library to watch the movie and then join in the group discussion. For ages 8 and up.

Story times and more

Keepy Uppy
Friday July 5 • 11am
How long can you keep a balloon off the grass? This good clean fun is intended for ages 3-7, but older kids who can play well with younger ones are welcome too.

Music and Movement
Tuesdays July 9-August 27 • 10am
Songs, dancing, learning and fun. For ages 0-6 with caregiver.

Story Stomp
Wednesdays July 10-August 14 • 10:30am*
A few stories will be followed by interactive songs and concluded with a free play session. For ages 0-6 with caregiver. *except August 7

Story Walk at Elm Avenue Park
Friday July 26 • 10:30am
Friday August 9 • 10:30am
Friday August 23 • 10:30am
Meet us at Elm Avenue Park to hear some stories and take a walk. Gather under the trees at the head of the Fit Trail to get started. We’ll exercise our minds and bodies. The Fit Trail is not paved; please wear appropriate footwear and be ready to walk. For ages 0-6 with caregiver.

Thursdays in the Park

The library has once again teamed up with Bethlehem Town Parks and Recreation to offer a family-friendly series of events every Thursday at 6pm through August 15. Most shows will take place at Elm Avenue Park in Bethlehem unless otherwise noted. Visit bethlehem.librarycalendar.com for details about the performers. This series is co-sponsored by Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. All ages welcome!

June 27: Jester Jim
This is not your ordinary juggling show! With a trunk full of props and a looping machine, you will be glued to every sight and sound.

July 11: Glass Pony
Stylistic blend of psychedelic and jam-focused rock, to funk, post-punk and even modern indie music.

July 18: Story Laurie
Delightfully participatory performance of stories, sea shanties and maritime lore.

July 25: Northern Comfort
Local band plays rock and blues, originals and covers of Tom Petty, Eric Clapton, Dire Straits and more.

August 1: British Vinyl
Five-piece band performing songs by British groups from the 1960s to early’ 70s.

August 8: Emma Olson Magic*
Interactive magic for the whole family. *at Henry Hudson Park (rain location at the library)

August 15: Finding Nemo Jr. with Park Playhouse
Featuring memorable songs and lovable characters such as Marlin, Nemo, Dory, Crush and more.

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP • BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY • FRIENDS OF BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

518-439-9314 • www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org

July/August 2024

$s sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com

$: program is virtual
News and notes

Budget passes; trustees elected

The library would like to thank voters for approving the $4.6 million budget levy for 2024-25 in May.

Your ongoing support will allow the library to continue providing the highest level of access and service to our community.

Voters also elected Gail Sacco (5-year term), Michelle Walsh (2-year term) and Laura DiBetta (1-year term) to the Board of Trustees. The library’s board meetings take place on the second Monday of the month at 6pm and are always open to the public.

Building project

Learn more about the proposed building project at one of these upcoming events or visit bethpl.org/building-project-updates for details.

Meet the Architects: Ashley McGraw
Wednesday July 31 • 10:30am-noon AND 3-4:30pm
Drop in and talk to the individuals responsible for turning months of community feedback into a design that addresses those needs.

Community Feedback Session
Tuesday August 20 • 2-3:30pm AND 6:30-8pm
Representatives from the architect firm, library staff and board members will be on hand to answer questions.

Williamstown Theater Festival bus trip

The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library are sponsoring a trip to the Williamstown Theater Festival in Williamstown, Mass., on Saturday August 10 for a performance of David Ives’ “Pamela Palmer.”

The bus will leave CDTA’s Delaware Avenue park-and-ride lot in Elsmere next to The Warbler Brewery at 10:30am. Upon arrival, lunch will be on your own before the 3pm performance. Drop off and pick up will take place outside the theater.

Your check is your reservation; there are no refunds unless your seat is sold in advance of the trip.

The cost is $95 for members and $100 for nonmembers and includes a ticket to the performance. For more information, cancellations, or to be added to the waitlist, please call (no texts) Patty Caporta at (518) 439-1328.

Make your check out to Friends of Bethlehem Public Library and send it with the form on this page to:

Friends trip to Williamstown
C/o Bethlehem Public Library
451 Delaware Avenue
Delmar NY 12054

Bus trip to the Williamstown Theater Festival
Saturday August 10

name ____________________________
address ____________________________
telephone ____________________________
cell ____________________________ Is texting OK? YES □ NO
email ____________________________
Friend—$95 □ nonmember—$100 □

Enclosed is my check made out to Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. I understand that my cancelled check is my reservation and my money will be refunded only if my bus seat can be sold.

List names of others in your party:

name ____________________________ □ Friend
name ____________________________ □ Friend

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED ____________________________