

footnotes

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

November/December 2025

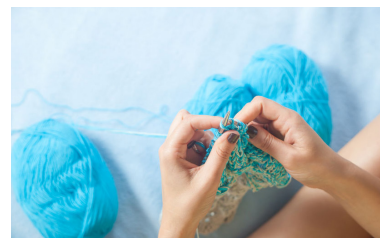


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451 Delaware Ave., Delmar • 518-439-9314

www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org



footnotes

November/December 2025

Kristen Roberts, editor/staff writer

Trustees

Caroline Brancatella, *president*

Sarah Patterson, *vice president*

Laura DiBetta, *secretary*

Mark Kissinger, *UHLS board*

Jill Adams, *Friends' liaison*

Gail Sacco, *trustee*

Michelle Walsh, *trustee*

Sharon Whiting, *board treasurer*

Director

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick

Library board

• Monday November 10 • 6pm

• Monday December 8 • 6pm

Friends board

• Monday December 15 • 6:30pm

Library hours

weekdays 9-9 • Saturdays 10-5

Sundays 12-5

Holiday hours

• November 11: OPEN 9-9

• November 26: OPEN 9-5

• November 27: CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day

• November 28: OPEN 9-5

• December 5: CLOSED

Staff development day

• December 24-25 CLOSED

Christmas holiday

• December 31: OPEN 9-3

• January 1: CLOSED

New Year's Day

Contact us

• 518-439-9314

• information@bethpl.org

The *footnotes* newsletter is published six times a year and mailed to all households in the Bethlehem Central School District.

All ages

Inclusive Gaming

Monday November 10 • 1pm

Monday December 15 • 10am

This is an inclusive space for people, regardless of ability or age, to play games with or nearby others. The most important part of gaming is coming together and having fun.

Animal Crossing Meet Up

Tuesday November 11 • 1:30pm

Calling all Animal Crossing players! Is your island looking a little boring? Need inspiration? Do you have too many of something and want to share? We're having a fun meet up where anyone who enjoys playing can come and play with other fans.

A Little Sunday Music: Musicians Of Ma'alwyck

Sunday November 16 • 2pm

Enjoy music honoring legendary American composer David Amram as he turns 95, including "Native American Portraits for Violin, Piano and Percussion" and "Greenwich Village Portraits for Saxophone and Piano." Sponsored by the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library.

Table Tennis: Open Play

Wednesday November 26 • 2pm

Join us for some friendly competition and maybe meet some new friends! Paddles and balls will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. All skill levels are welcome. Registration is requested, but not required.

Competitive Puzzling

Saturday December 6 • 2:30-4:30pm

Work solo or in a group to see who can solve their puzzle fastest to become the reigning library puzzle champion.

A Little Sunday Music: Arch Stanton Jazz Quartet

Sunday December 7 • 2pm

Listen to a new suite of music inspired by the famous novel "The Sheltering Sky" by Paul Bowles, created with a grant from the Albany County Arts and Culture program. The Day Books discussion group will be reading "The Sheltering Sky" and discussing it at the Dec. 1 meeting. Sponsored by the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library.

DIY Solstice Lanterns

Saturday December 20 • 2pm

Make your own solstice lanterns in this craft program for all ages.

Adults

Making Google Work for You

Monday November 3 • 7pm

Are you having trouble finding what you need when you search online? We'll share some tips and techniques for using Google's search functions more effectively. Laptops will be available, but participants are welcome to bring their own.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday November 4 • noon-6pm

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to www.redcrossblood.org for more information and to schedule an appointment. Use Bethlehemlibrary as the sponsor code. Walk-ins welcome.

continued

 sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com |  program is virtual

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Adults *(continued)*

Beginning Genealogy at the Library **S**

Tuesday November 4 • 5:30pm

Friday November 14 • 3pm

Come learn how to use resources at the library to begin your genealogy journey.

Participants are welcome to bring phones, tablets or laptops to use during the program.

Spanish Conversation Club

Wednesday November 5 • 3:30pm

Wednesday November 19 • 3:30pm

Wednesday December 3 • 3:30pm

Wednesday December 17 • 3:30pm

Join us to practice speaking Spanish. Whether you are just starting out or a fluent speaker, all are welcome.

In Stitches

Wednesday November 5 • 6pm

Wednesday December 17 • 6pm

Knitters, crocheters and fiber artists of all experience levels are welcome. Instruction will not be available but experienced crafters may be able to talk you through the process and recommend resources.

French Conversation Club

Thursday November 6 • 3:30pm

Thursday November 13 • 3:30pm

Thursday December 4 • 3:30pm

Thursday December 18 • 3:30pm

Whether French is your first language or you are an enthusiastic beginner, come practice speaking French at the library.

Mason Jar Bath Soak **S**

Thursday November 6 • 7pm

Make your own relaxing bath soak using Epsom salts, dried botanicals and essential oils. Take home your own personal blend or give as a holiday gift.

Listen and Learn: The American Revolution's Battle of Bennington

Friday November 7 • 1pm

Historian David Pitlyk will discuss how the victory at Bennington paved the way for victory in the Battles of Saratoga and ultimately in the war itself.

Fall Wreath Workshop **S**

Saturday November 8 • 2:30pm

*Make autumn-themed wreaths out of natural materials. All supplies will be provided. Participants may bring their own gloves to handle the materials and tools. **Teens welcome!***

One-on-One Tech Help **S**

Monday November 10 • 7:30pm

Monday November 24 • 5:30pm, 6:30pm OR 7:30pm

Having tech trouble with your cell phone, computer, or tablet? We can provide one-on-one assistance to help work through your tech challenges.

Dungeons and Dragons for Adults **S**

Tuesday November 11 • 6pm

Tuesday December 9 • 6pm

Join us for a night of laughs, critical thinking, improvisation and roleplaying in Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition.

DIY Citrus Garland **S**

Thursday November 13 • 7pm

Celebrate the season and create festive garlands using dried citrus slices, twine, and other natural embellishments. All materials provided.

continued



Red Cross Blood Drive November 4

Book Discussions

Day Books

Mondays at 1:30pm

November 3

Night Watch

by Jayne Anne Phillips

December 1

The Sheltering Sky by Paul Bowles

Dark Corners Book Group **S**

Wednesdays at 7pm

November 12

You Let Me In

by Camilla Bruce

December 10

Manhunt

by Gretchen Felker-Martin

New members welcome. Copies are available at the information desk. Audio, large print and downloadable copies may be available.



One-on-One Tech Help **S** November 10 November 24

S sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com | **V**: program is virtual

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November/December 2025

Paper Bag Snowflakes December 3



Upcoming author talks

Get to know some of your favorite authors and enjoy Q&A opportunities through virtual author talks available exclusively to Bethlehem cardholders. Visit libraryc.org/bethlehempubliclibrary for more information, to register for upcoming talks or to view past discussions.

Coming up in November/December:

November 5 • 2pm: Joseph Lee, Aquinnah Wampanoag journalist and author

November 13 • 7pm: Amanda Peters, award-winning author of "The Berry Pickers"

November 18 • 2pm: Charles Duhigg, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist

December 2 • 2pm: Sue Hincenbergs, former television producer and author of "The Retirement Plan"

December 9 • 2pm: Paula J. Johnson, Smithsonian Collaboration, curator in the Division of Work and Industry at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

Adults *(continued)*

Spice Sharing: Cloves

Monday November 17 • 7pm

Prior to the program, sign up to pick up a sample packet of the spice along with a few recipes that feature it. Then meet to discuss your experience and share recipes.

FDR and the Hudson Valley

Tuesday November 18 • 7pm

The Roosevelt Estate in Hyde Park was a place where Franklin Roosevelt's ideals, ambitions and character were shaped. This session explores the magic the Hudson River Valley held for him. This is part of a series of historical talks presented through a partnership with the Town of Bethlehem Historical Association. All ages welcome!

Library eContent: Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy and More!

Wednesday November 19 • 6pm (in person)

Tuesday December 9 • 10am (virtual)

This introduction to library eContent will include overviews of Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy and Flipster, as well as access to the New York Times and Times Union. Bring your device (smartphone, tablet, or laptop) to learn how to access digital content from your library.

Listen and Learn: Lower Maintenance Perennial Gardening

Friday November 21 • 1pm

This presentation, led by Master Gardener Judith Fetterley, covers the basics of lower-maintenance gardening, including designing a garden, simplifying and editing existing plantings, and suggestions of plants that require less maintenance.

Journey to New York: The Immigrants' Empire and the Erie Canal

Tuesday November 25 • 6pm

Take a journey with an immigrant family as they sail from Liverpool, England to New York, looking for work on the Erie Canal. Learn about the dangers that trans-Atlantic travel posed for passengers in steerage class and why the Erie Canal lured so many to pursue a chance for a better life upstate. Presenter Jeanne Gostling is a retired public-school teacher and adjunct SUNY instructor.

Paper Bag Snowflakes

Wednesday December 3 • 6pm

Warm up your winter with a fun library craft. Drop in to make your own paper bag snowflake. All supplies will be provided and glue guns will be used.

Watercolor Birch Trees

Thursday December 4 • 7pm

Join us for a relaxing evening of painting winter birch trees. We will go over a few different techniques for creating our trees with watercolor paint. This is a beginner friendly craft.

DIY Flower Press

Thursday December 11 • 3pm

Learn how to use simple materials to make a strong, reusable press that you can use to preserve small plants, leaves and flowers. All supplies will be provided.

Nature Inspired Air-Dry Clay Ornaments

Thursday December 11 • 7pm

Celebrate the season and craft unique ornaments using air-dry clay and seasonal foliage like pine sprigs and herbs. Learn simple techniques for shaping, imprinting, and decorating clay with natural textures and patterns.

Listen and Learn: Savvy Shopping

Friday December 12 • 1pm

A representative from New York's Division of Consumer Protection will discuss your consumer rights in the state and share safety tips to help protect your identity and your bank account.

continued

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Adults *(continued)*

Scanning, Storing and Sharing Photos **S**

Sunday December 21 • 2pm

Learn how to digitize your old photos, back them up to the cloud, and easily share them with friends and family.

Emergency Preparedness Course **S**

Monday December 22 • 10am

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. Get the tools and resources to respond to any type of disaster and recover as quickly as possible.

Community Paint Night **S**

Tuesday December 23 • 7pm

Join us for painting at the library. We will have painting supplies and video instructions. Please dress accordingly.

Tweens and teens

Teen Resume Workshop

Tuesday November 4 • 3:30pm

Teens are invited to learn how to create professional resumes for a part-time job, internship, volunteer position or college program. Participants will learn how to highlight their skills, experiences and achievements, even with limited work history.

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Afternoon

Friday November 7 • 3:45pm

Friday November 21 • 3:45pm

Friday December 12 • 3:45pm

Friday December 19 • 3:45pm

Join your friends to play Super Smash Bros. Ultimate on the Nintendo Switch!

For grades 6 and up.

Teen DIY: Folded Book Hedgehog **S**

Friday November 14 • 3:30pm

Make a new friend when you fold a cute little hedgehog out of old paperbacks.

Crafternoon: Fuse Bead Magnets and Keychains **S**

Monday December 15 • 2:45pm

We'll have all the supplies to make magnets or key chains or whatever you want.

Kids and families

Chess Club

Monday November 3 • 5:30pm

Monday November 17 • 5:30pm

Monday December 1 • 5:30pm

Monday December 15 • 5:30pm

*Try your hand at chess with peers or teen volunteers. **For grades K-5.***

Paws to Read

Monday November 3 • 4pm

Saturday November 22 • 3pm

Monday December 1 • 4pm

Monday December 15 • 4pm

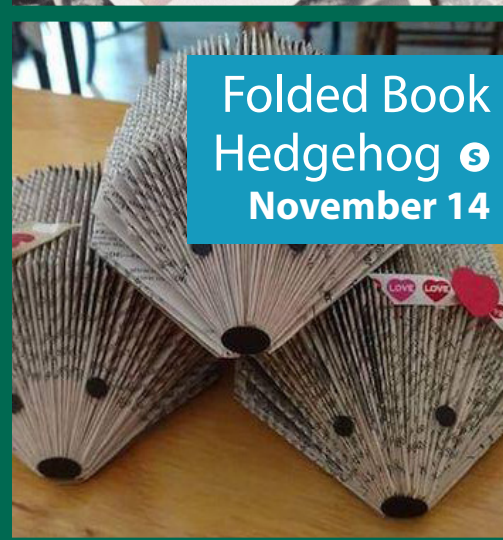
Monday December 29 • 4pm

*Come to the library and practice reading skills with a registered therapy dog who will listen calmly and quietly. **For grades K-5.***

continued



Scanning, Storing and Sharing Photos **S** December 21



Folded Book Hedgehog **S** November 14



Chess Club November-December

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November/December 2025

Sculpture Saturday: Play with Clay November 29



Creation Station

Available 9:30am-8:30pm
in the Children's Place

November 3-9
December 1-7

All supplies provided!

Page-to-Screen Book Club December 30



Kids and families *(continued)*

Dog Man Trivia Party **S**

Wednesday November 5 • 4pm

Join us for a very special Dog Man party with trivia and snacks in celebration of the newest book in the Dog Man series, "Big Jim Believes." **For ages 6-11.**

"How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?" **S**

Tuesday November 11 • 10am

Join Barbara Lukas from WMHT for a story time movie of the book "How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight" by Jane Yolen followed by dinosaur crafts. **For kids and families.**

Let Your Yoga Dance **S**

Wednesday November 12 • 4pm

Saturday December 27 • 11am

Join us for a combination of yoga and free style dance led by Ania LaRose. All abilities welcome. **For ages 6-11.**

Foil Leaf Mosaics

Saturday November 15 • 2pm

Glitter paint is involved, so come prepared to bedazzle these hanging art pieces and display them from your window, on your fridge or wherever you like. **For ages 6-11.**

A "Wicked: For Good" Celebration **S**

Sunday November 23 • 2pm

Join us for "Wicked"-themed crafts and face painting in celebration of the new movie. **For ages 6-11.**

Curiosity Club: Weave a Colorful Yarn Basket

Tuesday November 25 • 3:30pm

Baskets can be practical and beautiful. In this program you will weave your own colorful basket from yarn and beads. **For kids and families.**

Sculpture Saturday: Play with Clay

Saturday November 29 • 2pm

Come play with our colorful clay and bring home your own sculpture. What will you make? **For kids and families.**

"Zootopia" Crafts

Monday December 1 • 10am

Join us for animal-themed crafts in celebration of the new movie! All abilities welcome. **For kids and families.**

MiSci Presents: Just a Phase — the Sun, Earth and Moon **S**

Tuesday December 9 • 3:30pm

Educators from MiSci are here to help us explore lunar phases by creating and observing a scale model of the Earth-Sun-Moon system. **For ages 7-12.**

SpongeBob Craftapalooza

Friday December 19 • 10am

If nautical nonsense be something you wish, then drop on the deck and make some SpongeBob SquarePants-themed crafts! All abilities welcome.

Just Desserts: Hold the Oven **S**

Monday December 22 • 7pm

In this session, we will be making Oatmeal No-Bake Drop Cookies. Please note recipe contains peanut butter and dairy (but is gluten free). **For ages 7-14.**

Pokémon Adventure

Monday December 29 • 2pm

Make your own endless Pokémon cards, and do a scavenger hunt in the Children's Place. Can you "catch 'em all?" If you do, you'll win a Pokémon card to take home! **Best for ages 6 and up.**

Page-to-Screen Book Club: "The One and Only Ivan"

Tuesday December 30 • 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.**

S sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com | **V**: program is virtual

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Story times and more

Family Story Time

Wednesdays November 5-December 17 • 10am*

Stories, songs and more. **For ages 0-6 with caregiver.** *except November 26

Family Play Time

Wednesdays November 5-December 17 • 11am*

Free play and socialization with a variety of toys. **For ages 0-6 with caregiver.** *except November 26

Music and Movement

Thursdays November 6-December 18 • 10am*

Tuesdays November 18-December 16 • 11am

Songs, dancing, learning and fun. **For ages 0-6 with caregiver.** *except November 27

Preschool Story Time

Thursdays November 6-December 18 • 11am*

Join us for stories, learning and fun. **For ages 2-6 with caregiver.** *except November 27

Saturday Story Time

Saturdays November 1-December 20 • 11am*

Stories, songs and more. **For ages 0-6 with caregiver.** *except December 13

Tiny Tots

Tuesdays November 18-December 16 • 10am

Stories, songs and fingerplays. **For children up to 35 months with caregiver.**

Sensory Story Time and Play

Friday November 7 • 10am

Traditional story time components blended with sensory elements for a gentler, more low-key story time. **For ages 2 and up with caregiver.**

PJ Story Time

Monday November 10 • 6:30pm

Monday December 8 • 6:30pm

Come to an early evening story time in your pajamas! **For ages 0-6 and families.**

Family Story Time and Play

Friday November 21 • 10am

Learn new songs and rhymes in this interactive story time. When the story time is over, stay to play! **For ages 0-6 and families.**

Sensory Play Time

Monday November 24 • 10am

Monday December 29 • 10am

Stop by for open-ended play with our various sensory items including Play-Doh, squishy liquid tiles and more. **For ages 2 and up with caregiver.**

Welcome Winter Story Time

Friday December 12 • 10am

Welcome winter with a story time, winter-themed songs and activities. **For ages 0-6 and families.**

Bethlehem Early Readers Club

Saturday December 13 • 11am

Join us for an early literacy event promoting good ready-to-read habits. Snacks provided, along with free books. **For ages 0-6 and families.**

Service Dog Story Time

Tuesday December 30 • 10am

Join us as we talk to library staffer Lizzie and her service dog, Ove! We'll read some stories about service dogs and learn about how they are trained.

For ages 0-6 and families.



Pajama Story Time November 10 December 8

Parents, please note:

All abilities are welcome. No signup is required unless noted, but space is limited and story times begin promptly. There may be a limited capacity for each session. When Bethlehem schools are closed or delayed, all story times are cancelled.



Service Dog Story Time December 30

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What's new?



Who are the Friends?

The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization made up of more than 300 community members who raise money to support library programs and services. The Friends raise funds through membership dues, donations from the public, Better World Books proceeds, book sales, and other cultural and educational events.

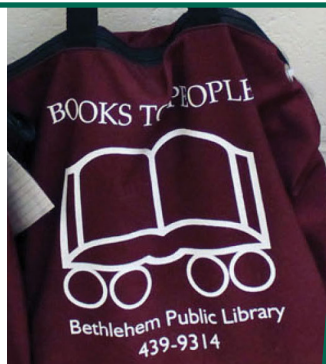
The Friends Board of Directors meet at the library on the third Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December. All meetings are open to the public.

Learn more at friendsofbethpl.org.

Get your books delivered

Free delivery service is available for residents of the Bethlehem Central School District who are unable to visit the library because of a permanent or temporary disability or medical condition. The library van will make deliveries to your home every two weeks and pick up returns.

To request delivery service, call the library at (518) 439-9314 or use the online Books to People request form.



Follow us

Check us out on Facebook (@bethlehempubliclibrary) for information about upcoming events and program highlights, as well as book recommendations and more. You'll also find us on Instagram (@bethlehempubliclibrary) and YouTube (@bethlehempubliclibrary9609).



Storm warning!

In the event of inclement weather, the library's telephone system will provide the latest information on a closing or delayed opening. Please call ahead.