

footnotes

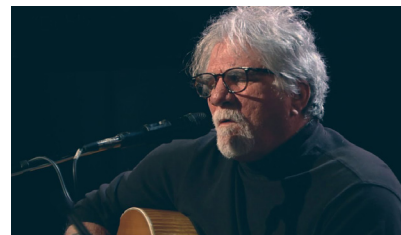
BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

January/February 2026



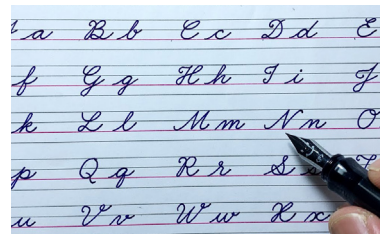
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451 Delaware Ave., Delmar • 518-439-9314

www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org



footnotes

January/February 2026

Kristen Roberts, editor/staff writer

Trustees

Caroline Brancatella, *president*

Sarah Patterson, *vice president*

Laura DiBetta, *secretary*

Mark Kissinger, *UHLS board*

Jill Adams, *trustee*

Gail Sacco, *trustee*

Michelle Walsh, *trustee*

Sharon Whiting, *board treasurer*

Director

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick

Library board

• Monday January 12 • 6pm

• Monday February 9 • 6pm

Friends board

• Monday February 16 • 6:30pm

Library hours

weekdays 9-9 • Saturdays 10-5

Sundays 12-5

Holiday hours

• **January 1:** CLOSED

New Years' Day holiday

• **January 19:** OPEN MLK Jr. Day

• **February 16:** OPEN Presidents Day

Contact us

• 518-439-9314

• information@

bethlehempubliclibrary.org

• trustees@

bethlehempubliclibrary.org

Visit our website

bethlehempubliclibrary.org

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

All ages

Competitive Puzzling

Sunday January 11 • 2:30pm

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

Inclusive Gaming

Monday January 19 • 10am

Monday February 16 • 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.

A Little Sunday Music: Kevin McKrell

Sunday February 15 • 2pm

American Celtic folk artist and Capital Region native Kevin McKrell will perform.

Sponsored by the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library.

Adults

Recommended reading

Ready to start the new year with some new reading recommendations? Beginning **January 2**, you can pick up Vol. 5 of the *Bethlehem Reader* at the Information Desk. Our new reader's advisory publication, written by Bethlehem librarians, just might introduce you to your next favorite thing.

Spanish Conversation Club

Wednesday January 7 • 3:30pm

Wednesday January 21 • 3:30pm

Wednesday February 4 • 3:30pm

Wednesday February 18 • 3:30pm

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

Drop-In Tech Help: Apple Devices

Wednesday January 7 • 6pm

Having trouble with your Apple device? Drop by with your iPhone, iPad, or Macbook and we'll do our best to help get you back on track.

French Conversation Club

Thursday January 8 • 3:30pm

Thursday January 22 • 3:30pm

Thursday February 5 • 3:30pm

Thursday February 19 • 3:30pm

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

Accordion Book with Ruby Silvius

Friday January 9 • noon

Join local artist Ruby Silvius for a painting workshop where participants will learn to create accordion books, exploring the unique structure and its creative possibilities for storytelling, collage and other artistic expressions.

Book Page Wreaths

Saturday January 10 • 2:30pm

Recycle older and unwanted books into beautiful wreaths. Follow along using a book of your own, or make use of some weeded from our collections.

continued

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

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Adults *(continued)*

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

Monday January 19 • 5:30pm, 6:30pm OR 7:30pm

Monday February 23 • 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.

In Stitches

Wednesday January 21 • 6pm

Wednesday February 25 • 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.

Circular Weaving Craft **S**

Thursday January 22 • 6:30pm

This craft is perfect for adults looking to try something new, no experience needed. We'll provide the materials and guide you through the basics. Just bring your curiosity and enjoy the meditative rhythm of weaving in the round.

Spice Sharing: Ginger **S**

Monday January 26 • 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.

Introducing the NYS Talking Book and Braille Library **S V**

Tuesday January 27 • 2pm

Laurenne Teachout, Senior Librarian from the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) will discuss all of the amazing services that TBBL provides. TBBL is a free service for New Yorkers of all ages who are unable to use standard print materials. Take part at the library or join over Zoom.

Mahjong **S**

Thursday January 29 • 2:30pm

Wednesday February 25 • 2:30pm

Whether you are an experienced player looking for a group, or a beginner who wants to learn how to play — all are welcome!

Trivia Night

Tuesday February 3 • 7pm

Join us for the return of Trivia Night. Teams and singles are welcome to compete. There will be popcorn and prizes!

Needle Felting: Heart Garland **S**

Wednesday February 4 • 6pm

Make felt heart shapes using cookie cutters to create a festive garland. Felting is a beginner-friendly craft, but does involve sharp needles used to stab wool.

Teens 14 and older welcome!

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop **S**

Saturday February 7 • 2pm

Instructor Richard Wang of the Chinese Community Center of The Capital District will demonstrate this ancient traditional art form, and participants will create our own works.

Women in World War II **S**

Tuesday February 10 • 7pm

Retired history teacher Richard Muggeo will provide an overview of the roles women played in the war. This is part of a series of historical talks presented through a partnership with the Town of Bethlehem Historical Association. All ages welcome!

continued



Spice Sharing: Ginger **S** January 26

Book Discussions

Day Books

Mondays at 1:30pm

January 5

BYO Book

February 2

All the Beauty in the World
by Patrick Bringley

The Short Stack Book Club

Thursday at 6:30pm

January 8

Orbital by Samantha Harvey

Dark Corners Book Group

Wednesdays at 7pm

January 14

The Queen by Nick Cutter

February 18

Her Body and Other Parties
by Carmen Maria Machado

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

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January/February 2026

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 January/February:

January 13 • 2pm: David Brooks, Prominent cultural writer and bestselling author

January 20 • 2pm: Julia Hotz, Journalist and award-winning author of "The Connection Cure"

January 28 • 7pm: Liz Moore, New York Times bestselling and award-winning author of "The God of the Woods"

February 5 • 7pm: Vanessa Riley, award-winning author of "Island Queen" and "Murder in Westminster"

February 12 • 2pm: Dr. Lindsey Stewart, award-winning author and professor of philosophy

February 24 • 2pm: Tom Crouch, Smithsonian curator emeritus



**Blacklight
Glow Party
January 2**

Adults *(continued)*

Watercolor Valentines

Thursday February 12 • 6pm

Send a little love to someone by creating your own watercolor Valentines. We'll have some examples of old-school Valentine designs for inspiration or use your imagination to create something unique.

Love & Tea Collage with Ruby Silvius

Friday February 13 • 1pm

Artist Ruby Silvius will lead a special workshop where participants will create a mixed media piece using dried emptied-out used tea bags as a base to add collage elements, heart-shaped cutouts and watercolor backgrounds.

Book and Chocolate Pairings

Saturday February 14 • 3:30pm

Enjoy Valentine's Day at the library with a sampling of staff-recommended books and chocolates that match their "vibe." If you're interested in reading one of the books, we'll put it on hold for you!

Emergency Preparedness for Everyone

Friday February 20 • 2pm

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.

Adult Board Games

Saturday February 21 • 1pm

Board games have come a long way from Candy Land and Chutes & Ladders. Come chat about games past and play new games with others. We will have several games to choose from or you may bring your own.

Community Paint Night

Tuesday February 24 • 7pm

Join us for painting at the library. We will have painting supplies, video instructions and beverages.

AI and the Environment

Thursday February 26 • 6pm

AI is in our search engines, messaging apps, and even our weather models, but what exactly is it? Join us for a discussion with Elena Fernandez, a SUNY Albany PhD Candidate in Atmospheric Science, whose research focuses on AI applications to weather forecasting.

Tweens and teens

Blacklight Glow Party

Friday January 2 • 6:30pm

Kick off the new year at our blacklight glow party! We'll have glow ping pong, painting, a puzzle and tattoos. And what's a party without snacks? We'll have a few of those too.

For grades 6-12.

Crash Course in Cursive

Tuesday January 6 • 3:30pm

*Think cursive is old-school? Think again! Join us for a chill, hands-on program where you'll learn how to read and write in cursive. Whether you've never learned cursive or just want to make yours smoother and more stylish, this is your space to practice, improve and learn something new. By the end of this crash course, you'll be able to sign your name, giving it your very own flourish and style. **For ages 12-18.***

continued

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Tweens and teens *(continued)*

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Afternoon

Friday January 9 • 3:30pm

Friday January 23 • 3:30pm

Friday February 6 • 3:30pm

Friday February 20 • 2:30pm

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

For grades 6 and up.

Teen Book Club: "The Hate U Give"

Monday January 19 • 2pm

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives, and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. Her careful balance between these spaces unravels when she witnesses the loss of her childhood friend Khalil during an encounter with a police officer. **For ages 12-18.**

Painting Winter Flowers

Sunday January 25 • 2pm

Winter isn't just about evergreens — there are plenty of flowers and shrubs that bloom in the coldest months of the year. Join us to paint some winter flowers and enjoy some chill vibes.

DIY Watercolor Pillowcase

Tuesday February 17 • 2:30pm

We'll use sharpies and rubbing alcohol to make a cool watercolor effect on a pillowcase that is yours to take home. Supplies provided. **For grades 6-12.**

Upcycled Jewelry Making

Wednesday February 18 • 2:30pm

Turn circuit-boards and other electronic components into one-of-a-kind jewelry. This craft utilizes sharp tools and supplies. **For ages 12-18.**



Study hall @ the library January 2026

Group-study space
for Regents exams

Schedule available
in the library and online at
www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org.

Kids and families

Sculpture Saturday: Wiry Winter Sculpture

Saturday January 3 • 3pm

Make a winter-themed sculpture using pipe cleaners and winter decorations. **For kids and families.**

Paws to Read

Monday January 12 • 4pm

Monday January 26 • 4pm

Monday February 9 • 4pm

Monday February 23 • 4pm

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

Chess Club

Monday January 12 • 5:30pm

Monday January 26 • 5:30pm

Monday February 9 • 5:30pm

Monday February 23 • 5:30pm

Try your hand at chess with peers or teen volunteers. All experience levels welcome.

For grades K-5.

Curiosity Club: Sock Snowman

Tuesday January 13 • 3:30pm

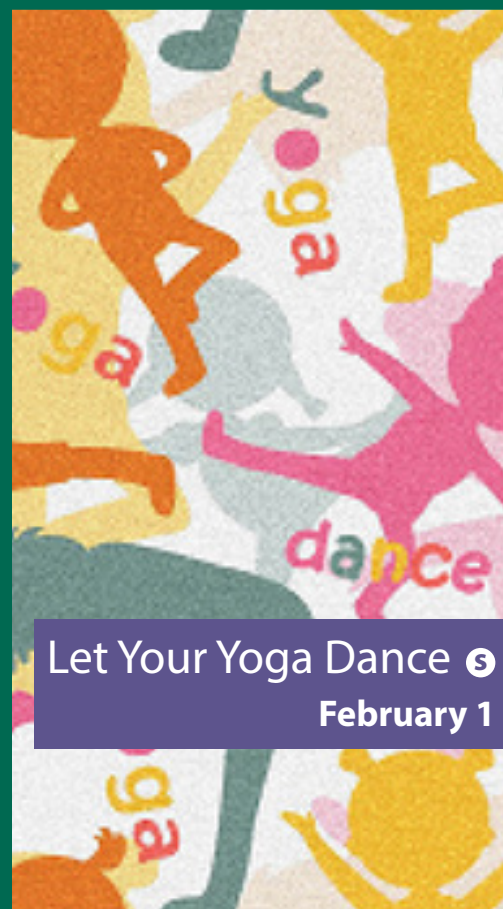
Too cold outside? Make a sock snowman, a cozy friend you can bring inside. **For ages 6-11.**

Let Your Yoga Dance

Sunday February 1 • 2pm

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

continued



Let Your Yoga Dance 
February 1

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January/February 2026



Drumming, Dance and Storytelling February 18

Creation Station

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

January 5-11

February 2-8

All supplies provided!



Sing, Dance and Play with Mr. Erik February 20

Kids and families *(continued)*

Curiosity Club: Make a Snowy Owl

Tuesday February 10 • 3:30pm

Some animals change their coats in the winter, just like you! Learn about how some animals adapt to the winter, then make a pinecone snowy owl. **For ages 6-11.**

Page-to-Screen Book Club: "How to Train Your Dragon"

Monday February 16 • 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 9 and up.**

Mo Willems Celebration

Tuesday February 17 • 10am

Celebrate beloved author Mo Willems with a story time performance starring *Elephant and Piggie*, followed by crafts and activities, and concluding with a special screening of Mo Willems' stories. **For kids and families.**

Jordan Taylor Hill: Drumming, Dance and Storytelling

Wednesday February 18 • 10:30am

This interactive workshop invites everyone to experience the rhythms and movements of the African diaspora. Participants will gain hands-on experience with percussion instruments and learn about rhythm as a cultural language and tool for connection. **For kids and families. Tweens and teens welcome!**

Horse Crafts

Thursday February 19 • 10am

Celebrate the Year of the Horse with paper crafts. All abilities welcome. **For ages 3 and up.**

Sing, Dance and Play with Mr. Erik

Friday February 20 • 10am

Join Mr. Erik for a fun-filled bilingual music class. Enjoy lively songs in English and Spanish, plus shakers, dancing, scarves and puppets that spark joy and early learning. Come move, sing and make memories together. **For kids and families.**

Stay Safe! A Class for Kids

Friday February 20 • 2pm

Safety is important for people of all ages. Join us for a special class run by professionals from the Delmar Fire Company, to learn all kinds of safety tips. **For kids and families.**

Story times and more

Family Play Time

Friday January 2 • 10am

Wednesdays January 7-February 25 • 11am*

Free play and socialization with a variety of toys.

For ages 0-6 with caregiver. *except February 18

Saturday Story Time

Saturdays January 3-February 28 • 11am*

Stories, songs and more. **For ages 0-6 with caregiver. *except February 21**

Tiny Tots

Tuesdays January 6-February 24 • 10am*

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

**except February 17*

continued

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Story times and more *(continued)*

Music and Movement

Tuesdays January 6-February 24 • 11am*

Thursdays January 8-February 26 • 10am*

*Songs, dancing, learning and fun. For ages 0-6 with caregiver. *except February 17 and 19*

Family Story Time

Wednesdays January 7-February 25 • 10am*

*Stories, songs and more. For ages 0-6 with caregiver. *except February 18*

Preschool Story Time

Thursdays January 8-February 26 • 11am*

*Join us for stories, learning and fun. For ages 2-6 with caregiver. *except February 19*

PJ Story Time

Monday January 12 • 6:30pm

Monday February 9 • 6:30pm

Come to an early evening story time in your pajamas!

For ages 0-6 and families.

Sensory Play Time

Friday January 23 • 10am

Friday February 27 • 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.

Sensory Story Time and Play

Friday January 9 • 10am

Friday February 6 • 10am

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

Family Story Time and Parachute Play

Friday January 16 • 10am

After story time, we'll get out the big parachute for songs and parachute rhymes.

For ages 0-5 with caregiver.

Winter Paper Crafts

Monday January 26 • 10am

Drop by and make some 3D paper snowmen ornaments or chill out and decorate some paper hats and mittens. For ages 0-5 with caregiver.

Story and Play: "Not A Box"

Friday January 30 • 10am

After story time, including "Not a Box" by Antoinette Portis, we will have a variety of boxes and cardboard bricks for free play. For ages 0-5 with caregiver.

Afternoon Family Play Time

Tuesday February 3 • 2:30pm

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

My Messy Art Valentine

Friday February 13 • 10am

Create a Valentine (or two) as unique as you! This process art program will include paint, fancy paper and more. Prepare to get a little messy. For ages 0-5 with caregiver.

Royal Tea Party

Monday February 23 • 10am

Come dressed as your favorite princess or prince and enjoy iced tea and cookies while listening to some stories and songs. Then make your way to the Children's Place where you can design your own crown. For ages 0-5 with caregiver.

Literacy tip

Take turns. Children are just beginning to learn to have a conversation. It is important for parents to ask questions and listen to what children say in response.

Music and Movement Tuesdays and Thursdays



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.



Royal Tea Party February 23

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

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January/February 2026



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What's new?

HILL Courses for Spring 2026

The Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning (HILL), located in the Town of Bethlehem, has offered inexpensive college-level courses since 1993 and is now a committee of Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. Twice a year, HILL programs present a diverse array of topics in history, literature, music, art history, politics and more. Each six-week course meets once a week for two hours, combining lectures with question-and-answer periods.

HILL's Spring program begins March 16:

- **Mama Africa: The Life of Miriam Makeba**, Seton Hawkins, Director, Public Programs, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Mondays, 1:30-3:30pm.
- **Shakespeare's Poetic Language in Plays and Sonnets**, Christi Spain-Savage, Associate Professor of English, Siena College, Tuesdays, 10am-noon.
- **Erosion of Democracy in 21st Century**, Robert Turner, Kate Graney, and Beau Breslin, Professors of Political Science, Skidmore College, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30pm.

Registration opens on or about **February 2**. Classes take place at Delmar Reformed Church. For costs and additional information, please go to www.hillclasses.org.



Bus trip to Boston with the Friends

The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library are sponsoring a trip to Boston on **Saturday April 25**.

The bus will leave from CDTA's Delaware Avenue park-and-ride lot in Elsmere next to Warbler's Brewery at 7:30am. Boarding will begin at 7am.

The bus will depart Boston promptly at 6pm. The Aquarium on Milk Street is the arrival and departure point in Boston.

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

Cost is \$55 for Friends of Bethlehem Public Library members and \$60 for nonmembers. 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 Boston
c/o Bethlehem Public Library
451 Delaware Avenue
Delmar NY 12054**

Friends bus trip to Boston Saturday April 25

name _____

address _____

telephone _____

cell _____ Is texting OK? YES ☐ NO ☐

email _____

Friend—\$55 ☐ nonmember—\$60 ☐

Enclosed is my check made out to *Friends of Bethlehem Public Library*.

**I understand that my canceled 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 _____



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