



Summer Reading 2026
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Dig into reading!

The library's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge is open to ALL ages. This year's theme, *Unearth a Story*, focuses on archaeology, paleontology, dinosaurs, and the joy of discovering hidden stories and history. When you sign up for the library's Summer Reading Challenge, you will track your progress through challenge cards for a chance to earn 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. Once you sign up, you can start checking off your reading milestones right away!



All ages

Sen. Patricia Fahy Mobile Office Hours

Monday July 13 • 5pm

Meet with representatives from Sen. Fahy's office, ask questions, share concerns and seek assistance with state-related matters. No appointment necessary.

Competitive Puzzling

Saturday July 18 • 2pm

Work solo or in a group to see who can solve their 500-piece puzzle fastest to become the reigning library puzzle champion.

Inclusive Gaming

Monday July 20 • 10am

Monday August 17 • 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.

Traveling Farm

Wednesday August 5 • 10am

Meet the animals from Lindsay Sprague's Winterberry Farm, learn about their contribution to sustainable agriculture, and pet them too.

Plant Swap

Thursday August 6 • 6pm

Bring a healthy plant, cutting, or seeds to share, and go home with something new. Please make sure plants are healthy, free from pests and in containers.

Pet Parade

Tuesday August 25 • 6:30pm

Bring your pet to the library for a parade around the Green. We welcome unusual pets as well as dogs and cats. There will also be games and a center ring for tricks. Pets must be on a leash or in a container.

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 7-28**. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will take place the following day.

July 7: The Hammerhead Horns

Old-time blues, ragtime, New Orleans, swing, R&B, torch ballads and gospel.

July 14: Arch Stanton Quartet

Bop and post-bop jazz traditions, with angular funk and Latin grooves.

July 21: Zan & the Winterfolk

Upbeat, rootsy spirit with a melodic longing.

July 28: The Lustre Kings

Authentic Rockabilly with a devoted fan base.

Adults

Spanish Conversation Club

Wednesday July 1 • 3:30pm

Wednesday July 15 • 3:30pm

Wednesday August 5 • 3:30pm

Wednesday August 19 • 3:30pm

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

continued

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

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Adults *(continued)*

Collage Night

Thursday July 2 • 6pm

Unwind and get creative at this relaxed, hands-on session where we will use paper, magazines, photos and mixed materials. All supplies are provided.

Prehistoric Pinch Pots

Monday July 6 • 10am

*Pinch pots are one of the most ancient forms of pottery. Try your hand at these beginner-friendly vessels using air-dry clay, carving tools and pigments. **Teens welcome!***

Day Books: **BYO Book**

Monday July 6 • 1:30pm

Bring your own book to discuss at this special July meeting of Day Books.

French Conversation Club

Wednesday July 8 • 3:30pm

Wednesday July 22 • 3:30pm

Wednesday August 12 • 3:30pm

Wednesday August 26 • 3:30pm

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

Adult Board Games

Thursday July 9 • 5:30pm

Board games have come a long way from Candy Land and Chutes & Ladders. Come chat and play new games with others. Choose one of ours or bring your own.

In Stitches

Wednesday July 15 • 6pm

Wednesday August 19 • 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. **Teens welcome!***

America 250: The Haudenosaunee in the American Revolution

Thursday July 16 • 6pm

For more than a century, the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee kept a strong alliance with the people of Colonial New York. However, the tensions of the American Revolution would shatter this relationship. Join us for a Schenectady County Historical Society presentation that explores this dark chapter.

Tech Tuesday: Consumer Reports

Tuesday July 21 • 10am

Join us for an introduction to our popular Consumer Reports database and learn how to access unbiased reviews for all types of products.

Embroidered Dinosaur Bookmarks

Friday July 24 • 2:30pm

Join us for a delightful afternoon of crafting adorable dinosaur bookmarks from thread and felt. New to embroidery? This craft is suitable for beginners.

America 250: The Women of Schuyler Mansion

Saturday July 25 • 2:30pm

Encore presentation! Learn what it was like growing up as a Schuyler with an in-depth look at the history of the Schuyler sisters and the life of their mother, Catharine. This talk also explores the experiences of women enslaved by the Schuylers, as well as a peek at the process of uncovering their untold stories.

One-on-One Tech Help

Monday July 27 • 5:30pm, 6:30pm OR 7:30pm

Monday August 17 • 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.

continued

footnotes

July/August 2026

Kristen Roberts, editor/staff writer

Trustees

Jill Adams

Caroline Brancatella

Laura DiBetta

Mark Kissinger

Katie McNamara

Sarah Patterson

Gail Sacco

Officers to be announced

Sharon Whiting, *board treasurer*

Director

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick

Library board

• Monday July 13 • 6pm

• Monday August 10 • 6pm

Friends board

• Monday August 17 • 6:30pm

Library hours

weekdays 9-9 • Saturdays 10-5

closed Sundays in July and August

Holiday hours

• July 3-4 CLOSED *Independence Day*

• September 5-7 CLOSED

Labor Day Weekend

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.

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July/August 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 July/August:

July 7 • 2pm: Mark Wolynn, Psychologist and pioneer in the field of inherited family trauma

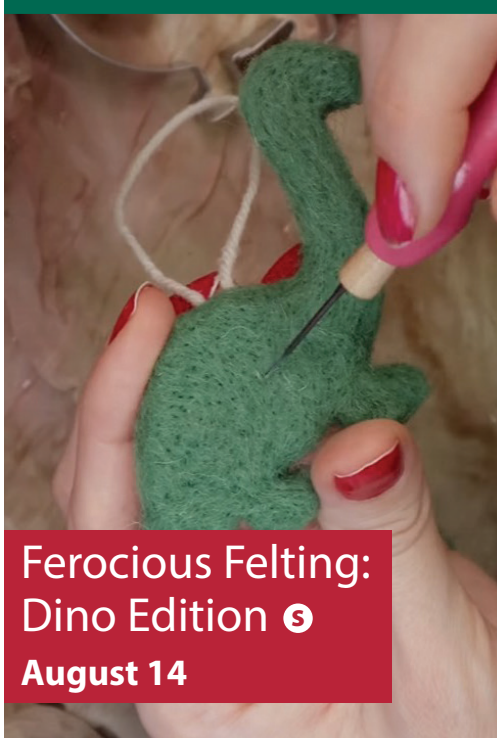
July 14 • 7pm: Karin Slaughter, Bestselling crime writer and author of the North Falls series

July 16 • 2pm: Reyna Grande, Award-winning novelist and memoirist

August 4 • 2pm: Paula J. Johnson, Smithsonian curator and author of "Julia Child's Kitchen"

August 13 • 2pm: Dannah Eve, Bestselling author and safety expert

August 27 • 2pm: Lucy Foley, Bestselling author of contemporary, historical fiction and mystery novels




Ferocious Felting: Dino Edition

August 14

Adults *(continued)*

America at 250

This year, we are celebrating the United States' 250th birthday with a number of programs for all ages highlighting important moments in our history as a nation. Listings with the  icon are all part of this series.

Mahjong

Thursday July 30 • 2:30pm

Monday August 17 • 2:30pm

Join us for an afternoon of Mahjong. Beginners are welcome to come and play, but this is not a structured Mahjong class and there will not be formal instruction.

Chinese Painting

Thursday July 30 • 6pm

Richard Wang of the Chinese Community Center will demonstrate the art of traditional Chinese painting, or guóhuà, using ink and water on Xuan paper.

Day Books: "When the Cranes Fly South"

Monday August 3 • 1:30pm

Swedish author Lisa Ridzén's novel will be discussed.

America 250: A Revolutionary War Gunboat and its 250 Year Journey

Wednesday August 5 • 6pm

Michael Lucas, curator of Historical Archaeology at the New York State Museum, will discuss the history of a recently rediscovered gunboat: from its construction in the 1770s, to its discovery at Ground Zero, to its reconstruction at the museum.

Armchair Travel: Japan

Friday August 7 • 1pm

Hear about the adventures of a local librarian visiting Japan, from attending a fertility festival to thoughts on heated bidets and buckwheat pancakes.

Trivia Night

Tuesday August 11 • 7pm

Join us for a trivia night where teams and singles are welcome to compete. There will be popcorn and prizes!

America 250: Philip Schuyler and the American Revolution

Thursday August 13 • 6pm

Philip Schuyler's path to adopting the cause of American independence was far from direct. Follow his journey from reconciliation to revolution.

Ferocious Felting: Dino Edition!

Friday August 14 • 2pm

Let's use spiky needles to create our own felted dinosaurs. Felting is a beginner-friendly craft, but be mindful that needle felting involves sharp needles used to stab wool.

Dungeons and Dragons One-Shot

Thursday August 20 • 6pm

Come play a D&D one-shot adventure! This will play a bit fast and loose with the rules to get through the adventure in a single session.

Community Paint Night

Thursday August 27 • 7pm

We will have painting supplies, video instructions and beverages. Teens welcome!

A Jurassic summer



Take part in our July/August read-along of the 1990 sci-fi novel "Jurassic Park" by Michael Crichton. Extra copies will be available at the Information Desk. We'll wrap things up **Wednesday August 26 at 6pm** with a discussion and screening of the 1993 film.

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

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Tweens and teens

Teen DIY: Giant Beaded Lizard **S**

Tuesday July 7 • 2pm

Little beaded lizards were everywhere in the '90s, join us to give them a JUMBO update! **For grades 6-12.**

Dinosaur Bookends **S**

Saturday July 11 • 2:30pm

Make your own set of dinosaur bookends. **For grades 5-12.**

Powder Paint Tag **S**

Friday July 31 • 3pm

Have fun playing tag on our Green with powder paint! Consider bringing goggles, sunglasses or protective eyewear. Please be prepared to get messy. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. **For grades 6-12.**

Dinosaur Pop Art **S**

Thursday August 6 • 2:30pm

These dinosaur art pieces really POP! They're fun. They're colorful. And they're a prehistoric good time. **For grades 6-12.**

Ferocious Felting: Dino Edition! **S**

Friday August 14 • 2pm

Let's use spiky needles to create our own felted dinosaurs. Felting is a beginner-friendly craft, but be mindful that needle felting involves sharp needles used to stab wool. **For grades 9-12.**

Melty Bead Dinosaurs & Fossils

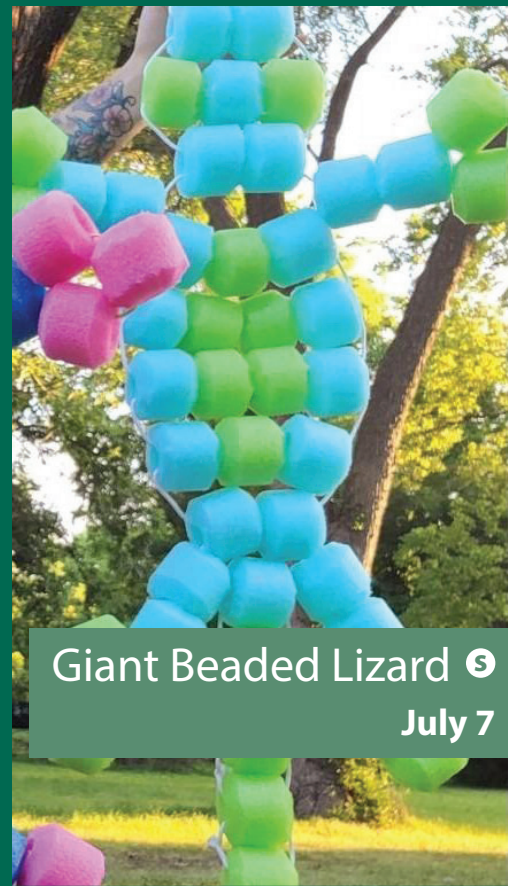
Tuesday August 18 • 2pm

Make dinosaur bookmarks, magnets, keychains and more. **For grades 4-12.**

Gaming Unplugged

Thursday August 27 • 2pm

Unplug for the afternoon. We'll have card games, board games, puzzles, snacks and more. Feel free to bring your own game or puzzle to share as well. **For grades 6-12.**



Giant Beaded Lizard **S**
July 7



Uncharted Wild:
Reptile Show
July 8

continued

Kids and families

Minions Crafts

Wednesday July 1 • 10am

Banana! Join us for Minion-themed crafts in celebration of the new movie.

Uncharted Wild: Reptile Show

Wednesday July 8 • 11am OR 1pm

Get up close and personal with some reptiles while learning about these amazing animals.

Mesozoic Makers

Thursdays July 9-August 20 • 10am

Aspiring young paleontologists are invited to a fact-filled story time and dinosaur-themed craft. **For ages 5-10.**

Summer Cinema: "The Land Before Time"

Thursday July 9 • 2pm

In this 1988 animated classic (G, 69 min.), Littlefoot, a young plant-eating dinosaur, must make his way to the legendary Great Valley, where he will be reunited with others of his kind.

The Dirtmeister Presents: The Great Dinosaur Detectives

Friday July 10 • 10am

Get the scoop on how paleontologists use fossils and other evidence to unlock the mysteries of dinosaurs with storyteller Steve "The Dirtmeister" Tomecek. **Tweens welcome!**

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The Buzz About Bees July 17



So You Want to be a Paleontologist ... July 23

Kids and families *(continued)*

Dinos-Origami

Friday July 10 • 2pm

You can make paper claws, a triceratops bookmark, or other paper folded dinosaur creations. **Tweens and teens welcome!**

Moana Crafts

Monday July 13 • 10am

Join us for Moana-themed crafts in celebration of the new movie.

Paws to Read

Monday July 13 • 4pm

Monday July 27 • 4pm

Saturday August 8 • 10:30am

Monday August 24 • 4pm

Monday August 31 • 4pm

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

No Sew T-Shirt Tote Bags

Tuesday July 14 • 3:30pm

Make a unique tote bag from one of your old favorite T-shirts using an easy cutting and tying technique. Please bring your own T-shirt.

The Buzz About Bees

Friday July 17 • 2pm

Ever wondered what all the buzz is about? Meet Cindy Elsenbeck from the Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association to learn about these small pollinators.

Young Numismatic Guide to Coin Collecting **S**

Monday July 20 • 3pm

Albany Numismatic Society Treasurer Dennis Ryan will discuss coin collecting for beginners.

Let Your Yoga Dance **S**

Wednesday July 22 • 10:30am

Friday August 28 • 11am

Join us for a combination of yoga and free style dance led by Ania LaRose. All abilities welcome. Registration is recommended but not required. **For ages 6-11.**

So You Want to be a Paleontologist ...

Thursday July 23 • 3pm

Come build with large foam dinosaur bones, make a cast from fossils, and other activities as you practice paleontology.

Paw Patrol Crafts

Friday July 24 • 10am

Join us for Paw Patrol-themed crafts in celebration of the new movie.

My Favorite Dinosaur **S**

Wednesday July 29 • 2pm

Discover how scientists know what dinosaurs looked like. We'll do some drawing and some guessing, and then we'll look at some fossils to learn why there are some questions we can't answer about our favorite extinct friends.

Little Dino Watchers

Monday August 3 • 11am

BYO binoculars or make your own before seeking out as many dinosaurs as you can around our plaza and the Green. **For ages 2 and up with caregiver.**

What is a Meteor Shower?

Monday August 10 • 2pm

Dudley Observatory astronomer and instructor Dr. Mindy Townsend will talk about the science behind comets and meteor showers.

continued

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Kids and families (continued)

America 250: Fireworks Spin Art

Tuesday August 11 • 3pm

Learn why America and many other countries around the world celebrate holidays with fireworks while making your own fireworks painting. Please wear clothes that you don't mind getting paint on.

Silent Wings: Birds of Prey

Wednesday August 19 • 11am OR 1pm

Discover the intriguing world of hawks, falcons, eagles and owls. The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York will be here with some feathered friends to teach us all about these birds. **For ages 5 and up.**

America 250: Park Ranger Scavenger Hunt

Friday August 21 • 11am

Celebrate America's 250th birthday with a national parks scavenger hunt. Explore our Green. **For ages 2 and up with caregiver.**

Story times and more

America 250: PJ Story Time

Monday July 6 • 6:30pm

Bring a blanket for family story time with a fireworks theme. Red, white and blue snacks will be served. **For kids and families.**

"Danny the Dinosaur Goes to Camp" Story and Craft

Tuesday July 14 • 10am

Barbara Lukas from WMHT presents an interactive story time followed by dinosaur themed crafts. Children will bring home a copy of the book and a bag of activities. **For kids and families.**

Dino Dance Story Time

Friday July 17 • 11am

Have you ever wanted to dance like a dinosaur? We'll read some books and learn some funky dino dance moves at this interactive story time. **For ages 0-5 with caregiver.**

Sunshine Story Time on the Green

Tuesdays July 21-August 11 • 10am

Come to a story time on the Green, then stay to play! **For kids and families.**

Indoor S'mores PJ Story Time

Monday August 3 • 6:30pm

Bring a blanket to sit on for this camping-themed story time and enjoy a snack of "walking s'mores." **For kids and families.**

Dino PJ and Waffle Party

Tuesday August 18 • 10am

We will have a story time, activities, and of course, dinosaur shaped waffles. You're welcome to come in your PJs or dressed as a dinosaur. **For kids and families.**

Family Play Time

Tuesday August 25 • 10am

Thursday August 27 • 10am

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

Wheels on the Bus Story Time

Friday August 26 • 10am

A brief story time will be followed by a "meet the bus" opportunity with a BC bus driver. This is a chance for kids who will be starting school for the first time to get used to the environment. **For ages 0-5 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 13**. 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 18: Jester Jim

With a trunk full of props and a looping machine, all will be glued to every sight and sound.

June 25: Zydeco Revelators

Zydeco and Cajun-inspired dance music.

July 2: Character Entertainment

Character First Fantasy Entertainment will bring your favorite Disney songs to life.

July 9: Tame the Rooster

A dynamic and irresistible modern country band.

July 16: Andy the Music Man*

Traditional and original songs that will delight kids through sing-a-longs and dancing. ***at Henry Hudson Park**

July 23: High on the Hog String Band

Southern Appalachian fiddle tunes, country standards, and homemade Adirondack originals.

July 30: Glass Pony

From jam-focused rock to funk, post-punk and even modern indie music.

August 6: Playin' with Fire Band*

Blending classic rock, punk, heavy metal, country, blues and pop. ***at South Bethlehem Park**

August 13: Northern Comfort

A six-piece band playing rock and blues.



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July/August 2026



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News and notes

Budget passes; trustee elected

The library would like to thank voters for approving the \$4.9 million levy for 2026-27. Your ongoing support will allow the library to continue the highest level of service to our community while investing in the building and resources that allow us to do so.

Voters also elected write-in candidate Katie McNamara to a five-year seat on 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.

Out and about at the Farmers Market

As the weather warms, look for us out and about this summer at the Delmar Farmers Market. We'll be there **June 27, July 25 and August 22**. In June and July, we'll also be having a **10am** story time on site.

Stop by our table to explore some popular new titles, learn more about what we do, check out a book, ask a question or just to say "hi."

The Farmers Market is held on Saturdays throughout the summer in the parking lot of Bethlehem Central Middle School. For more information about the market, visit delmarmarket.org.

Bus trip to Tanglewood with the Friends

The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library are sponsoring a trip to Tanglewood to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra featuring Joshua Bell on violin **Sunday August 2**.

The bus will leave from CDTA's Delaware Avenue park-and-ride lot in Elsmere next to Warbler's Brewery at 10:30am and return at approximately 6pm.

The cost is \$65 for Friends of Bethlehem Public Library members and \$70 for nonmembers, and includes transportation and tickets in the

Koussevitsky Music Shed. Lunch is on your own. For more information, please call or text **Eileen Coffey at (518) 915-8714**.

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

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

**Friends trip to Tanglewood
c/o Bethlehem Public Library
451 Delaware Avenue
Delmar NY 12054**

Friends bus trip to Tanglewood Sunday August 2

name _____

address _____

telephone _____

cell _____ Is texting OK? YES NO

email _____

Friend—\$65 nonmember—\$70

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 _____

