

# footnotes

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

May/June 2026



2026-27 budget  
information  
PAGES 2-3

## INSIDE:



The Lost Radio Rounders  
Page 4



Thursdays in the Park  
Page 8



Summer Reading 2026  
Page 10



Friends Book Sale  
Page 12

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

[www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org)



# 2026-27 Budget

	2025-26	2026-27	Comments
<b>Salaries and benefits</b>			
Salaries	\$2,783,914	\$2,928,965	Contractual salary increases
Retirement	376,102	448,656	
Payroll taxes	212,694	223,890	
Health insurance	430,000	562,500	Includes a budget correction for current fiscal year; assumes a 15% increase in January 2027
Other insurance	\$27,500	\$31,500	
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>\$3,830,210</b>	<b>\$4,195,511</b>	
<b>Library materials</b>	<b>\$580,500</b>	<b>\$561,000</b>	Reflects actual spending and patron usage
<b>Operations</b>			
Utilities	\$96,500	\$116,500	Adjusted based on current rates
Office supplies and expenses	55,500	58,000	
Printing and marketing	35,000	39,000	Paper cost increases
Custodial supplies	22,000	23,000	
Insurance	36,000	41,000	
Professional fees, dues and conferences	43,000	26,500	Fewer legal services anticipated
Special programs	45,000	40,000	
Building and equip. maint.	96,500	93,500	Contractual services, building/equipment repairs
Furniture and equipment	30,000	30,000	
IT/hardware and software	55,000	55,000	Upgrades to hardware and replacement as needed
Audit and online accounting services	47,000	48,000	Audit and actuarial and accounting system fees
Online catalog/circ. system	60,000	63,300	Planned increase in library system fees
Other	11,500	11,500	
Capital improvements/contingency	125,000	100,000	
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>\$758,000</b>	<b>\$745,300</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,168,710</b>	<b>\$5,501,811</b>	
<b>Income</b>			
PILOT	\$225,000	\$179,360	
State aid	26,500	26,500	
Interest income	121,500	125,000	Interest for FY 2026 projected at \$135,000, rates anticipated to be slightly lower
Miscellaneous fees	25,800	28,500	
Friends contribution	10,000	10,000	
Gifts and donations	10,000	10,000	
Use of fund balance	38,000	223,000	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$456,800</b>	<b>\$602,360</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,168,710</b>	<b>\$5,501,811</b>	6.44% increase
<b>Minus income</b>	<b>456,800</b>	<b>602,360</b>	
<b>Equals LEVY</b>	<b>\$4,711,910</b>	<b>\$4,899,451</b>	3.98% increase — within the state cap
<b>Fund balance</b>			
		\$1,300,000	Funds operations from July until taxes received in October
		2,333,318	Designated for capital expenditure and building needs and budget shortfalls
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>\$3,633,318</b>	

Proposed levy increase: 3.98%

For additional financial information, please see the audited financial statements of Bethlehem Public Library online at [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/about-us/board-of-trustees](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/about-us/board-of-trustees).



## Focusing on the future

**AS THE LIBRARY PREPARES** for another year of serving the community, we are asking voters to consider the 2026-27 budget, which supports our mission to bring people together and enhance the general welfare and quality of life in our area.

**THE LIBRARY IS NOT ALONE** in facing an uncertain fiscal year in 2026-27, but we have worked hard to come up with a budget that addresses those challenges while maintaining the services and collections that our patrons have come to expect from us. Like other organizations and individuals in our community, we are experiencing unexpected and significant increases in healthcare and retirement costs. We are actively investigating options to mitigate and control those costs in the future, while also addressing our current reality.

**WITH THAT IN MIND**, this budget taps into a small portion of our reserves to keep our levy within the state-mandated tax cap. This still leaves us the needed fund balance for operational expenses between the end of the library's fiscal year in June until tax money is received in the fall, as well as money to address upcoming structural needs identified by our building committee.

**ALTHOUGH INTEREST RATES** are expected to moderate, our invested savings is managed well, and we are projecting about \$125,000 in revenue to offset some of our operational expenses.

**THE 2026-27 BUDGET** maintains support for all of the wonderful events that make us your community hub, including in-house programs focusing on early literacy, the arts, history and more, as well as outreach and bigger collaborations with the Town of Bethlehem, such as the Thursdays in the Park summer concert series and Trunk or Treat.

**WE USE DATA-DRIVEN EVIDENCE** to evaluate how the public uses our collection, and we have adjusted our materials budget to reflect that. As our digital collection grows in popularity, we have added additional copies of popular titles and services, such as access to online news resources like *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Times-Union*, *The Daily Gazette* and more. We will continue to invest in those areas while also supporting the collection of physical materials that bring people into our library every day.

**ON THE BALLOT THIS** year is an ask of \$4.9 million, which is 3.98% higher than last year. This budget, like all past library budgets, comes within the limit specified by New York State.

— Bethlehem Public Library Board of Trustees

### Meet the Candidates

Tuesday May 5 • 6pm

*The candidates seeking the one open seat on the library's Board of Trustees will introduce themselves and talk about why they are running.*

### Budget review

Monday May 11 • 6pm

*An introduction of the 2026-27 library budget will take place prior to the regular board meeting.*

### Budget/trustee vote

Tuesday May 19 • 7am-9pm

*Vote takes place at Bethlehem Central High School.*

## footnotes

May/June 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 May 11 • 6pm

• Monday June 8 • 6pm

### Friends board

• Monday June 15 • 6:30pm

### Library hours

weekdays 9-9 • Saturdays 10-5

Sundays 12-5

### Holiday hours

• May 23-25 CLOSED: *Memorial Day Weekend*

• June 19 CLOSED: *Juneteenth*

• July 3-4 CLOSED: *Independence Day*

### Contact us

• 518-439-9314

• information@  
bethlehempubliclibrary.org

• trustees@  
bethlehempubliclibrary.org

### Visit our website

[bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://bethlehempubliclibrary.org)

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





## Free Comic Book Day May 2



## Chalk Art on the Plaza June 27

All ages

## Celebrate comic books

Free Comic Book Day is all about putting comic books in the hands of people who might not read them. Come see what's so cool about comics **Saturday May 2** as we celebrate the day with freebies and activities from **11am-4pm** in the Children's Place and Teen Area while supplies last.

### Bethlehem Walk and Roll Fest

Saturday May 16 • 10am

Make sure your bike and helmet are ready for summer riding with a bike check and helmet fitting. Located at the rear lot of 250 Delaware Ave., this event will have stations for riding skills and bicycle safety, along with free ice cream provided by Stewart's Shops. Stop by our table to say hello and learn about upcoming summer programs at the library. *This event is sponsored by the Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department, Bethlehem Police Community Services Unit, and the Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.*

### Bee Hydration Stations

Saturday June 6 • 2pm

Spend a fun June afternoon making water stations for our small bee friends.

### Competitive Puzzling

Sunday June 7 • 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 June 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.

### Chalk Art on the Plaza

Saturday June 27 • 11am

Celebrate the start of Summer Reading with chalk art on our plaza featuring this year's theme of *Unearth a Story!* We provide the chalk and you provide the art.

### America 250: Songs & Stories with Lost Radio Rounders

Tuesday June 30 • 7pm

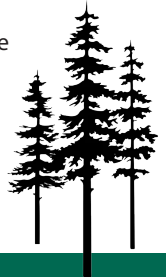
Bethlehem Public Library welcomes back acoustic trio *Lost Radio Rounders* for a musical journey through American history, in honor of the nation's 250th year.

*This program is sponsored by the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library in honor of former librarian, longtime friend and member of the Board of Directors Polly Hartman.*

## Get Outdoors and Get Together

On **Saturday June 13**, the library is joining the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in partnership with the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Veterans Services, at a special event at Five Rivers to connect people to nature and provide increased access to the outdoors.

**From 10am-2pm**, there will be a wide range of activities including accessible nature walks, hiking, birding, archery, art in the outdoors and more. We encourage visitors to enjoy nature safely and sustainably.



 sign up: [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](http://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) |  program is virtual

518-439-9314 • [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org)

# Adults

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

Tuesday May 5 • 10am OR 11am

Monday May 11 • 7:30pm

Tuesday May 12 • 10am OR 11am

Friday May 22 • 2:30pm OR 3:30pm

Thursday June 4 • 10am OR 11am

Tuesday June 9 • 10am OR 11am

Monday June 15 • 7:30pm

Monday June 22 • 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.*

## Spanish Conversation Club

Wednesday May 6 • 3:30pm

Wednesday May 20 • 3:30pm

Wednesday June 3 • 3:30pm

Wednesday June 17 • 3:30pm

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

## French Conversation Club

Thursday May 7 • 3:30pm

Thursday May 21 • 3:30pm

Wednesday June 10 • 3:30pm

Wednesday June 24 • 3:30pm

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

## Listen and Learn: Grant & Twain — Authors & Friends **S**

Friday May 8 • 1pm

*Explore the compelling circumstances and the role of friend Mark Twain in Ulysses S. Grant's short but important career as an author with Mark Hansen, a volunteer with Ulysses S. Grant Cottage Historical site.*

## Trivia at the Library

Sunday May 10 • 2pm

*Our Trivia Night returns — in the afternoon! Teams and singles are welcome to compete. There will be popcorn and prizes.*

## Chigiri-e Paper Collage **S**

Thursday May 21 • 6pm

*Join us for an evening of Chigiri-e- or Japanese paper collage. We'll craft images with tissue paper, creating a watercolor effect. No experience necessary.*

## Listen and Learn: The Confident Inaccuracies of Adriaen van der Donck

Friday May 22 • 1pm

*Journey through Adriaen Cornelissen van der Donck's writings, including his beguiling, if slightly embellished, "A Description of New Netherland." Van der Donck was a 17th century colonist, lawyer, landowner, author and critic of the Dutch West India Company who recorded tales and observations of life in New Netherland.*

## In Stitches

Wednesday May 27 • 6pm

Wednesday June 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.*

## Decoupage Flower Pots **S**

Thursday May 28 • 6pm

*We will transform simple pots by layering colorful paper and patterned napkins, sealing their designs to create a durable, beautiful finish.*

*continued*

# Book Discussions

## Day Books

### Mondays at 1:30pm

May 4

*The Berry Pickers*  
by Amanda Peters

June 1

*Brave the Wild River*  
by Melissa L. Sevigny

### The Short Stack Book Club Thursdays at 6:30pm

May 7

*The Ferryman and His Wife*  
by Frode Grytten;  
translated by Allison McCullough

June 4

*Intimacies* by Katie Kitamura

### Dark Corners Book Group Wednesdays at 7pm

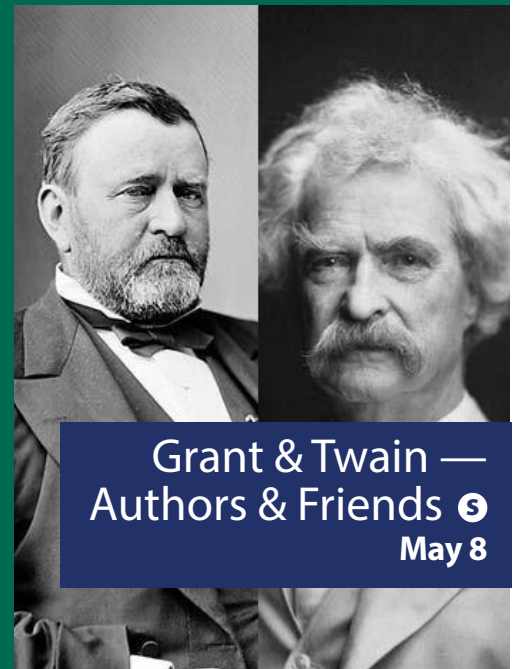
May 20

*Something in the Walls* by Daisy Pearce

June 24

*The Lamb* by Lucy Rose

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



## Grant & Twain — Authors & Friends **S** May 8

**S** sign up: [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](https://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) | **V**: program is virtual

518-439-9314 • [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](https://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org)

May/June 2026



**Spice Sharing:  
Turmeric** **S**  
**June 1**

## Upcoming author talks **S** **V**

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/bethlehempubliibrary](http://libraryc.org/bethlehempubliibrary) for more information, to register for upcoming talks or to view past discussions.

**Coming up in May/June:**

**May 7 • 7pm: Marjan Kamali**, Bestselling and award-winning author of “The Stationary Shop” and “Together Tea”

**May 14 • 2pm: Patrick Porter and Ruchika Sikri**, Restore cognitive clarity and find emotional balance with visionary researchers

**May 19 • 2pm: Nir Eyal**, Bestselling author of “Hooked” and “Indistractable”

**June 3 • 2pm: Mary Savig**, Smithsonian curator

**June 9 • 2pm: Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel**, Award-winning bioethicist, oncologist and chocolatier

**June 11 • 7pm: Matt Dinniman**, New York Times bestselling author and literary Dungeon Master

**June 23 • 2pm: Sana Javeri Kadri and Asha Loupy**, Authors of “The Diaspora Spice Co. Cookbook”

## Adults *(continued)*

**Mahjong** **S**

Thursday May 28 • 2:30pm

Thursday June 11 • 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.*

**Spice Sharing: Turmeric** **S**

Monday June 1 • 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.*

**Father Abraham’s Boys: When We Sent Our Children to War** **S**

Tuesday June 9 • 6pm

*Between 698,000 and 750,000 individuals lost their lives in the American Civil War. Within this death count are an unknown number of children who perished while in uniform. The Union Army alone had an estimated 33,000 children from 8 to 17 years old serving in its ranks. This presentation will offer some insights as to who these children were, why they may have put on a uniform, and what were some of their experiences.*

**DIY Paper Making** **S**

Wednesday June 10 • 6pm

Thursday June 11 • 11am

*We’ll use recycled paper scraps and botanicals to make unique art paper using the “pour method” of papermaking. This process can get wet and messy, so dress accordingly. Please only sign up for one session of this program. **Teens 13 and older welcome!***

**Cotton Swab Painting** **S**

Thursday June 11 • 6pm

Thursday June 18 • 6pm

*Explore painting in a fun and unexpected way using cotton swabs instead of traditional brushes. We will use cotton swabs to apply paint to canvas, experimenting with dots, textures, blending and layering techniques. This method is perfect for creating patterns, landscapes, florals or abstract designs. Please only sign up for one session of this class.*

**Adult Board Games** **S**

Saturday June 13 • 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** **S**

Thursday June 25 • 7pm

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

## Tweens and Teens

**Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Afternoon**

Friday May 1 • 3:30pm

Friday May 8 • 3:30pm

Friday May 29 • 3:30pm

Friday June 12 • 3:30pm

*Join your friends to play Super Smash Bros. Ultimate on the Nintendo Switch!  
**For grades 6-12.***

*continued*

**S** sign up: [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](http://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) | **V**: program is virtual

518-439-9314 • [www.bethlehempubliibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliibrary.org)

## Tweens and Teens *(continued)*

### Wednesday Night Whatsit

Wednesday May 6 • 6pm

*Whatsit? It's what you make it! We'll have the Nintendo Switch with games on the big screen, snacks and drinks, along with tables for games, chatting or hanging out with friends. **For ages 12-18.***

### Teen DIY: Air Plant Terrarium **S**

Thursday May 7 • 6:30pm

*Take a break from exam prep with this relaxing program where we'll create our own air plant terrariums. **For grades 6-12.***

### May I Manga Book Buzz **S**

Monday May 18 • 7pm

*We'll have a Manga Book Buzz discussion followed by a brief rundown of all the ways you can read manga digitally through the library. **For ages 12-18.***

### Teen DIY: Flower Tea Lights

Wednesday May 20 • 3:30pm

*Celebrate spring by making colorful and cozy tea lights. **For grades 6-12.***

### Teen DIY: 3D Paper Star Lanterns **S**

Monday June 29 • 2pm

*With the 4th of July coming, why not make your own light-up decor? A 3D paper star lantern is a great addition to your space no matter what time of year.*

**For grades 6-12.**

## Kids and families

### Paws to Read

Monday May 4 • 4-4:45pm

Monday May 11 • 4-4:45pm

Monday June 1 • 4-4:45pm

Monday June 15 • 4-4:45pm

Monday June 29 • 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.***

### Let Your Yoga Dance **S**

Saturday May 9 • 2:15pm

*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.***

### Chess Club

Monday May 11 • 5:30pm

Monday June 1 • 5:30pm

Monday June 15 • 5:30pm

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

### Curiosity Club: Celebrate Frida Khalo

Tuesday May 12 • 3:30pm

*Learn about the Mexican artist Frida Khalo. Her paintings are colorful and often tell a story about her life. We will celebrate her by making a giant paper flower. **For ages 6-11.***

### Sculpture Saturday: Pinch Pots

Saturday May 30 • 2pm

*Design your own pinch pot using air dry clay, beads, dried flowers and more.*

**For ages 6-11.**

*continued*

## Air Plant Terrarium **S** May 7



## Study hall @ the library May-June 2026

Group-study space  
for AP and Regents exams

Schedule available  
in the library and online at  
[www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org).

**S** sign up: [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](http://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) | **V**: program is virtual

518-439-9314 • [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org)

May/June 2026



## Thursdays in the Park June 11-August 13

## Creation Station

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

May 4-10  
June 1-7

All supplies provided!

## Summer Reading kickoff fun!

**Thursday June 25:**

Andy the Music Man at 11:30am

**Friday June 26:**

Let Your Yoga Dance at 10am  
Party on the Green at 2pm

See Page 10 for details

## Kids and families (continued)

### 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 from June 11-August 13**. Most shows will take place at Elm Avenue Park in Bethlehem unless otherwise noted. Visit [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](http://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) for details about the performers. *This series is co-sponsored by Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. All ages welcome!*

#### June 11: Magician Shaun Robison

Enjoy magic that is a sophisticated blend of sleight of hand, comedy and mind reading.

#### 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

Bounce to the happy beat of the Zydeco Revelators as they play Zydeco and Cajun-inspired dance music from Louisiana.



#### Kids Build

Tuesday June 30 • 2pm

Drop in for a free-play build session featuring Lego, K'nex, snap-circuits and more.

For ages 6-11.

## Storytimes and more

#### Sensory Story Time and Play

Friday May 1 • 10am

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

#### Saturday Story Time

Saturday May 2 and 9 • 11am

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

#### PJ Story Time

Monday May 4 • 6:30pm

Monday June 8 • 6:30pm

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

#### May the Fourth Crafts

Monday May 4 • 10am

Young Jedis are invited to celebrate May the Fourth with Star Wars-themed crafts!

**For ages 0-6 with caregiver.**

#### Tiny Tots

Tuesdays May 5-19 • 10am

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

*continued*

sign up: [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](http://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) | program is virtual

518-439-9314 • [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org)

## Storytimes and more *(continued)*

### Music and Movement

Tuesdays May 5-19 • 11am

Thursdays May 7 and 21 • 10am

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

### Family Story Time

Wednesdays May 6 and 20 • 10am

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

### Family Play Time

Wednesdays May 6 and 20 • 11am

Monday June 29 • 11am

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

### Preschool Story Time

Thursdays May 7 and 21 • 11am

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

### "Get Growing" Story Time and Craft

Friday May 8 • 10am

Come to a story time all about the colorful things growing all around us, then stay for a craft! **For ages 0-6 with caregiver.**

### Royal Tea Party

Monday May 11 • 10am

Come dressed as your favorite princess or prince and enjoy iced tea and cookies while listening to some stories and songs. **For ages 3 and up with a caregiver.**

### Sensory Play Time

Friday May 22 • 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.**

### Story Time and Play

Tuesday May 26 • 10am

Join us for story time, and stick around for open play time! **For up to age 5 with a caregiver.**

### Animal Hospital

Wednesday May 27 • 3pm

Bring in your favorite stuffed friend for a check-up and work on a craft while you wait. With the assistance of the Helping Hands Club from BCMS, children will learn how a visit to a doctor's office or veterinarian's office might go. **For up to age 5 with a caregiver.**

### Butterfly Story Time and Craft

Tuesday June 2 • 10am

This story time is all about caterpillars, bugs and butterflies. You will make a colorful butterfly to fly home with you. **For up to age 5 with a caregiver.**

### Outdoor Dance Party

Monday June 8 • 11am

Join us on the Green for some music, rhymes and dancing! **For up to age 5 with a caregiver.**

### Parachute Storytime and Play

Friday June 12 • 10am

Come for an active story time, then we'll get out the parachute for songs and movement. **For up to age 5 with a caregiver.**

### Toy Story Crafts

Thursday June 18 • 10am

Join us for crafts inspired by the new "Toy Story" movie. **For up to age 5 with a caregiver.**



Animal  
Hospital  
May 27

### 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.



Outdoor Dance Party  
June 8

 sign up: [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](https://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) |  program is virtual

518-439-9314 • [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org](https://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org)

# Summer reading 2026

## Let's read this summer!

The Summer Reading program at Bethlehem Public Library is not only a fun way to explore new stories through activities and cool rewards, it is also a great way to help kids stay on top of the knowledge picked up during the school year so they can hit the ground running in fall. Adults can get in on the fun too with their very own Summer Reading Challenge.



The library's 2026 Summer Reading 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](http://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) to see what's coming up!

**Registration for Summer Reading begins June 22** and can be done online at [bethplyn14.readsquared.com](http://bethplyn14.readsquared.com). Once you sign up, you can start checking off your reading milestones right away!

This year, we'll be kicking things off with TWO days of special events on the Green.

On **Thursday June 25 at 11:30am**, Andy the Music Man will stop by for some singing, dancing and family fun.

The following day, **Friday June 26 at 10am**, we'll be hosting a special kick-off edition of Let Your Yoga Dance with Ania LaRose. This combination of yoga and freestyle dance is tailored for children ages 6-11. Later that day, we'll be gathering again at **2pm** for an afternoon party with crafts, face painting, snacks and more.

All programs are scheduled to take place on the Green. In the event of inclement weather, we'll move inside to the Community Room.

*Our Summer Reading Challenges for all ages are generously supported by the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library.*



Andy the Music Man  
June 25



## We've got an app for that

Have you downloaded the Upper Hudson mobile app yet? We continue to add new features to make it even easier to explore your library in a mobile-friendly way. Manage your account and access our e-content and online research tools on the go. The app lets you store your barcode for easier checkouts and even gives you the option to check out your own items at the library.

Download the app today and discover all the ways you can have your library at your fingertips. Search for "UHLS Libraries" in your app store to get started.

## More news is good news

There's a lot going on in the world these days, and a trusted news source can help you stay on top of it all.

Our digital newspaper collection has expanded to keep you abreast of current events, both locally and nationally. We've recently added cardholder access to *The New York Post*, *The Daily Gazette* and *America's News: New York Edition*. Since first adding the *New York Times* to our online resources in 2024, demand for access to a variety of news sources has steadily grown. Also available online are *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Times Union*.

If you prefer to read your papers in person, we've also got the print editions in our reading room.

## Comics anytime, anywhere

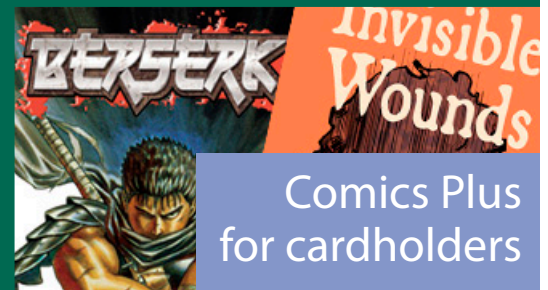
Get ready to read all the comics! Fans of visual storytelling will be thrilled to know that Bethlehem cardholders have free, unlimited access to thousands of in-demand online comics, manga, graphic novels and picture books for all ages through our Comics Plus digital subscription. You can access titles on your computer or by installing the LibraryPass app for iOS or Android. To log in, you will need your library card number and PIN. Once logged in, you can organize your favorites using "My Shelf."

What's available? Each week, new titles are added. The manga collection includes translated Japanese originals from publishers like Dark Horse, Digital Manga, Tokyopop, alongside thousands more manga-inspired titles from Western publishers and creators. The back catalog for popular titles, such as *Attack on Titan* and *Berserk*, are also available so you can start your journey at the beginning or catch up on issues you might have missed. There are no holds and no waitlists. Titles are available instantaneously.

## Greenspace for Growth

This summer, the library-owned house on Borthwick Avenue is slated for removal to make way for a multi-use community greenspace. With feedback from the public, we are looking to create an outdoor space with a garden and seating for patrons to read and relax, along with the potential for staff-led programs.

Enhancements to the property will be made using existing library funds and will be immediately useful, while also allowing for possible future development to address library needs.





451 Delaware Avenue · Delmar, NY 12054  
518-439-9314 · www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org

ECRWSS  
Postal customer

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Albany, NY  
Permit #730



## What's new?

### Friends Book Sale Fundraiser

Make space on your bookshelves and stock up on some new-to-you books and DVDs this spring at the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library's Book Sale fundraiser on the library plaza **Saturday May 16 from 10am-4:30pm**. If raining, the sale will move inside to the Community Room. For sale will be books, CDs, DVDs and audiobooks that have been removed from the library collection and are in excellent condition. Many are duplicate copies of popular titles, and large print titles will be available.

**Pricing is cash-only by suggested donation; the Friends will not be able to make change.**

The Friends Book Sale Committee will be accepting donations from the public on **Thursday May 14 from noon to 4:30pm** outside the library garage. Donations must be undamaged books no older than 10 years. The Friends will not be accepting donations of magazines, periodicals, games, puzzles, VHS or cassette tapes, CDs or DVDs. Any mildewed or defaced books will not be accepted.



### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

