

Our Farms, Our Future PAGE 4



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

www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org

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footnotes

September/October 2026

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*
Katie McNamara, *trustee*
Sharon Whiting, *board treasurer*

Director

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick

Library board

- Monday September 14 • 6pm
- Tuesday October 13 • 6pm

Friends board

- Monday October 19 • 6:30pm

Library hours

weekdays 9-9 • Saturdays 10-5
Sundays 12-5

Holiday hours

- September 5-7 CLOSED
Labor Day weekend
- Monday October 12 OPEN 9-9
Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
(observed)

Contact us

- 518-439-9314
- information@
bethlehempubliclibrary.org
- trustees2@
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

Fall fun for family and friends

We're looking to foster connection between families and seniors in our community through shared experiences and spaces. In partnership with the Town of Bethlehem Senior Services, we will be hosting an intergenerational story time and craft **Saturday September 26 from 10:30am-12:30pm**. We will start with a story time for families with children 4-7 to enjoy alongside seniors from the community and follow with crafts and Legos for participants of all ages!

Bethlehem Community Appreciation Day

Tuesday September 1 • 4pm

Join us at the library as we show our appreciation for the community with a day of fun featuring Jackie the Magician, crafts, games, tasty treats and giveaways.

Pop-Up Library at the Farmers Market

Saturday September 12 • 9am-1pm

Stop by our table to explore some new titles, check out a book or just say "hi." The market is located at the **Bethlehem Middle School**.

Friends Book Sale Fundraiser

Saturday September 19 • 10am-4:30pm

For sale will be books and other materials that have been removed from the library collection and are in excellent condition. **Pricing will be cash-only by suggested donation; the Friends will not be able to make change.** The Friends will be accepting book donations for the sale **Thursday September 17 from 10:30am-4:30 pm**. 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.

Five Rivers Fall Festival

Saturday September 19 • 10am

Look for us at the Fall Festival at **Five Rivers Environmental Education Center**. We'll have goodies and giveaways and can answer all of your library questions.

Inclusive Gaming

Monday September 28 • 10am

Monday October 19 • 10am

This is an inclusive space for people, regardless of ability or age, to play games with or nearby others.

Competitive Puzzling

Sunday October 4 • 2pm

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

Halloween Hay Day

Sunday October 18 • 1pm

Stop by the library's table at **Elm Avenue Park** during this town-sponsored event. Chat with a librarian, do a craft and get treats.

Join in the Great Give Back

The Great Give Back is an opportunity for library patrons statewide to partake in meaningful, service-oriented experiences. At Bethlehem Public Library, we're helping out by collecting new, unopened household cleaning supplies, toiletries, paper towels, and dog and cat food for the Bethlehem Food Pantry from **October 5-16**. A donation receptacle will be set up in the lobby.

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

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Adults

Spanish Conversation Club

Wednesday September 2 • 3:30pm

Wednesday September 23 • 3:30pm

Wednesday October 7 • 3:30pm

Wednesday October 21 • 3:30pm

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

Get Started with Genealogy at the Library S

Thursday September 3 • 5:30pm

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

Participants are welcome to bring their own phones, tablets or laptops to use.

Life at Ground Zero: A Local Insider's Perspective on the Aftermath S

Tuesday September 8 • 6pm

A few weeks after 9/11, Chris Rosetti, a Slingerlands resident, found himself working at Ground Zero as the rest of the country tried to make sense of the devastation and chaos. You'll hear an insider's unfiltered perspective of this experience.

French Conversation Club

Wednesday September 9 • 3:30pm

Wednesday September 30 • 3:30pm

Wednesday October 14 • 3:30pm

Wednesday October 28 • 3:30pm

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

No-Sew Quilt Block: Fall Leaf S

Wednesday September 9 • 6pm

Create a "quilted" block using fabric and foam, no needle or thread required.

Adult Board Games S

Thursday September 10 • 5:30pm

Board games have come a long way from Candy Land and Chutes & Ladders.

Come chat about games past and play new games with others.

Listen and Learn: The Hudson River Schools of Art and their Ice Age Origins

Friday September 11 • 1pm

During the 19th century, there was something of a cultural Renaissance in the Hudson Valley, with notable achievements in literature, architecture and art. None of this would have happened if the Hudson Valley and Catskills had not been so heavily glaciated, creating the landscapes that so inspired so many.

Visible Mending Workshop S

Sunday September 13 • 1pm

Participants will learn visible mending techniques on scraps of fabric and then mend a piece of clothing they bring in. Sarah Collen from The Troy Sew Shop will lead a discussion about why mending is essential to sustainability.

Joseph Bettys: Revolutionary War Patriot, Traitor and Desperado S

Tuesday September 15 • 7pm

The Revolutionary War's human landscape was populated by the famous, the infamous, and a vast number who have been forgotten. Some like Joseph Bettys were both infamous and largely forgotten. Michael Aikey will discuss Betty's life, military service, and downfall as a British Spy in 1782. This is part of a series of historical talks presented through a partnership with the Town of Bethlehem Historical Association. **All ages welcome!**

One-on-One Tech Help S

Monday September 21 • 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

Book Discussions

Day Books

Mondays at 1:30pm

September 14

Flashlight

by Susan Choi

October 5

Kuni: A Japanese Vision and Practice for Urban-Rural Reconnection

by Richard McCarthy and Tsuyoshi Sekihara

***This selection is part of the Our Farms, Our Future monthlong celebration.**

Dark Corners Book Group S

Wednesdays at 7pm

September 30

Japanese Gothic

by Kylie Lee Baker

October 21

Old Soul

by Susan Barker

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

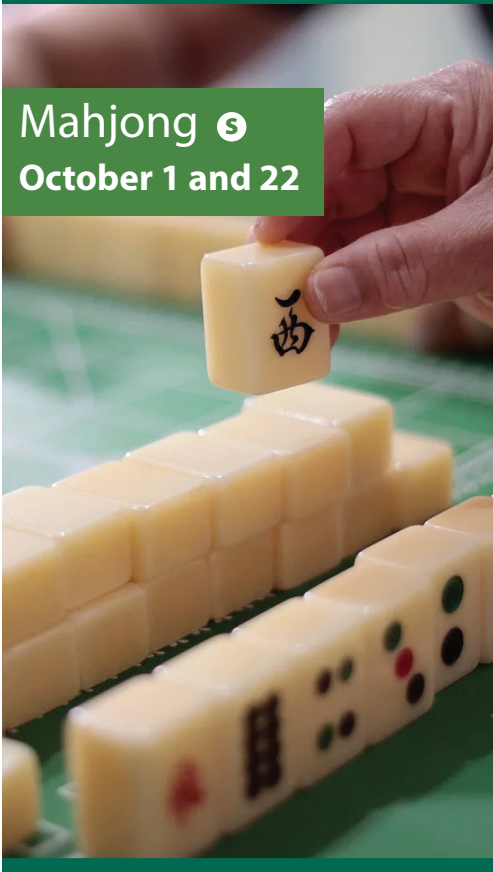


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September/October 2026

Mahjong October 1 and 22



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 library.org/bethlehempubliclibrary for more information, to register for upcoming talks or to view past discussions.

Coming up in September/October:

September 1 • 2pm: David O. Stewart, award-winning author of historical narratives and historical fiction

September 8 • 7pm: Daniel Kraus, bestselling author of "Angel Down" and "Whalefall"

September 17 • 2pm: Yasmine Cheyenne, author, speaker and self-care advocate

September 24 • 7pm: Lucky Diaz, Grammy-winning children's author, speaker and musician (second talk at 8pm in Spanish)

Adults *(continued)*

Our Farms, Our Future

In October, the library will host a series of events sharing thought-provoking stories and encouraging conversation about the future of farming in New York state and the country. Held in partnership with the Town of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Environmental Commons and American Farmland Trust, **Our Farms, Our Future** is a monthlong celebration of New York farmers.

Thursday October 8 • 6pm: Exhibit Opening Reception
View poignant images and written stories of farmers exiting and entering the field.

Thursday October 15 • 7pm: "Common Ground" Film Screening 
Watch and discuss a documentary that explores the vital connections in farming.

Thursday October 22 • 7pm: Farm Transition and Panel Discussion 
Hear first-hand farm transfer stories with a panel of several local area farmers.

Thursday October 29 • 6pm: A Community Conversation 
This conversation offers an opportunity to ask questions, share perspectives and explore how community engagement can strengthen local farming and food systems.

Friday October 30 • 6pm: Future Storytelling Night 
Gather around for an evening of live storytelling from New York farmers.

In Stitches

Wednesday September 23 • 6pm

Wednesday October 14 • 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!***

Listen and Learn: Scam and Identity Theft Prevention

Friday September 25 • 1pm

A representative from the NYS Division of Consumer Protection will identify the latest schemes thieves use to commit identity theft, fraud and other marketplace scams and show us how to protect ourselves against these crimes.

Spice Sharing: Smoked Paprika

Monday September 28 • 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.

Mahjong

Thursday October 1 • 2:30pm

Thursday October 22 • 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.

Listen and Learn: Slow Art and the Fenimore Art Museum

Friday October 2 • 1pm

A representative from the Fenimore will highlight pieces from their collection and host a discussion to help participants more deeply consider and appreciate works of art.

Using Google Drive

Monday October 5 • 6:30pm

In this hands-on workshop, you'll create and upload folders to Drive and organize your files. Bring your Gmail username and password. Windows laptops will be available for use, but participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop, if possible.

Authentic News or Misinformation?

Tuesday October 6 • 7pm

*Mary Miller from the New York Newspapers Foundation will discuss how to find reliable news sources, spot misinformation and understand how news is reported. **Teens welcome!***

continued

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Adults (continued)

Italian Conversation Club

Wednesday October 7 • 2:15pm

Wednesday October 21 • 2:15pm

Practice speaking Italian at our newest conversation club.

Crafternoon: Rope Ghosts

Thursday October 8 • 2pm

Use rope, felt, and hot glue to make a festive spooky friend.

Listen and Learn: Food History

Friday October 16 • 1pm

Join the head of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the New York State Library Elizabeth Jakubowski for a journey through periods of America's culinary history using recipes, cookbooks, manuscripts and other historical materials.

Let's Talk Tech

Monday October 19 • 2pm

Join us for a conversation about technologies where a staff librarian will research and answer questions sent in prior to the event. Questions can be submitted during registration.

Echoes Along the Erie: Canal History through Story and Song

Tuesday October 20 • 7pm

Musician Donna Trunzo will trace the history of the Erie Canal through stories and songs. This is part of a series of historical talks presented through a partnership with the Town of Bethlehem Historical Association. **All ages welcome!**

Author Talk in Person: Alan Via's "The Lostkills"

Wednesday October 28 • 7pm

Join us as local author Alan Via discusses his book, which is a complete guide to hiking and bushwhacking the lesser-known Catskill peaks he refers to as "the Lostkills."



Alan Via's "The Lostkills" 
October 28

Tweens and teens

Wednesday Night Whatsit

Wednesday September 2 • 6pm

Wednesday October 7 • 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.**

Afternoon Gaming

Friday September 25 • 3:30pm

Friday October 9 • 3:30pm

Friday October 23 • 3:30pm

Join your friends to play Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, or one of our other games on the Nintendo Switch. We'll also have space set aside for board games, puzzles and D&D. **For grades 6 and up.**

Pearl Ghost Decor

Friday October 16 • 3:30pm

Create your own glam Halloween decor with us. **For grades 6 and up.**

"Witch Hat Atelier" Palm Quire Workshop

Monday October 19 • 6:30pm

Assemble your own Witch's Palm Quire so you can scribe spells like Coco and the rest of her Atelier apprentices. Please note this activity involves sharp tools and is intended for those with the dexterity and responsibility to handle such implements safely.

For grades 6 and up.

Palm Quire
Workshop 
October 19



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September/October 2026



Chess Club

September 14 and 28
October 12 and 26

Creation Station

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

September 8-13
October 5-11

All supplies provided!



Yarn Monsters

October 12

Kids and families

Museum Story Time Adventures

Wednesday September 2 • 10:30am

Join us at the New York State Museum for an outreach story time. **For kids and families.**

Let Your Yoga Dance

Friday September 4 • 10am

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

Paws to Read

Monday September 14 • 4pm

Monday October 5 • 4pm

Monday October 19 • 4pm

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

Library Scavenger Hunt

Friday September 21 • all day

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month with a scavenger hunt in the Children's Place for one day only! **For kids and families.**

Mario Kart 8

Monday September 28 • 4pm

Monday October 26 • 4pm

Bring your friends, or meet some new ones, at our Mario Kart gaming session!

For grades 1-7.

Curiosity Club: Mini Monster

Tuesday October 6 • 4pm

Create your own mini monster that fits in a tin. You can also add other things your monster needs to be happy because no one wants to carry around an unhappy monster! **For ages 6-11.**

School Break Break-Out

Monday October 12 • all day

Follow the clues to unlock the puzzles needed to break-out of a fun scenario in this self-led program. Come to the Children's Place Information desk for your first clue.

For ages 8-14.

Yarn Monsters

Monday October 12 • 3:30pm

Use cardboard rolls, yarn, pipe cleaners, feathers and googly eyes to make silly, scary and colorful yarn monsters! All abilities welcome. **For kids and families.**

Trick or Treat Park Accessible Story Trail (PAST)

Wednesday October 14 • 4pm

Stroll along the Paved Accessible Story Trail (PAST) and enjoy a self-led Halloween story. In conjunction with the Bethlehem Public Library, Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers will be dressed up along the loop to hand out small giveaways. **For kids and families.**

Trunk or Treat at Elm Avenue Park

Wednesday October 21 • 4pm

How many treats do you get when the library and the Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation department team up to host an awesome Halloween extravaganza? A whole trunkload! The event will feature dozens of creative trick-or-treating stations hosted by local community groups.

Fire Safety for Kids

Saturday October 24 • 2pm

October is Fire Safety Month. Join members of the Delmar Fire Department as they read stories, demonstrate their equipment, and answer questions about how you can be safer. **For kids and families.**

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Story times and more

Family Play Time

Thursday September 3 • 10am

Wednesdays September 9-October 28 • 11am*

Friday September 25 • 10am

Friday October 16 • 10am

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

**except September 16*

Sensory Play Time

Wednesday September 2 • 10am

Friday October 9 • 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.**

Tiny Tots

Tuesdays September 8-October 27 • 10am*

Stories, songs and fingerplays. **For children up to 35 months with caregiver.** **Held in the Children's Place September 15.*

Music and Movement

Tuesdays September 8-October 27 • 11am*

Thursdays September 10-October 29 • 10am

Songs, dancing, learning and fun. **For ages 0-6 with caregiver.** **Held in the Children's Place September 15 and 17.*

Family Story Time

Wednesdays September 9-October 28 • 10am*

Stories, songs and more. **For ages 0-6 with caregiver.** **Held in the Children's Place September 16.*

Preschool Story Time

Thursdays September 10-October 29 • 11am*

Stories, learning and fun. **For ages 2-6 with caregiver.** **Held in the Children's Place September 17.*

Story Time and Play

Friday September 11 • 10am

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

Saturday Story Time

Saturday September 12 • 11am

Saturdays October 3-31 • 11am

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

Sensory Story Time and Play

Monday September 14 • 10am

Friday October 2 • 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 September 14 • 6:30pm

Monday October 12 • 6:30pm

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

Bats in the Library

Monday October 5 • 10am

A representative from the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center will lead us in a bat-themed story time and activities. **For ages 0-6 and families.**

Fall Family Story Time

Friday October 23 • 10am

Join us for fall-themed books, songs and crafts. **For ages 0-6 and families.**

Library Trick or Treat

Friday October 30 • 10-11am

Stop by the Children's Place and trick or treat in a safe, dry place. Costumes are optional, but fun is not! **For ages 0-6 and families.**



Family Play Time September and October

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.



Library Trick or Treat October 31

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

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September/October 2026



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What's new?

HILL's fall classes

The Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning (HILL), has offered inexpensive college-level courses since 1993 and is now an affiliate 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 Fall program begins October 5:

• **Alfred Hitchcock and the Construction of the Thriller**, Jim de Seve, Senior Artist-in-Residence and Director of Film Studies, Union College, Mondays, 1:30-3:30pm.

• **"A Delightful Musick:" Concert Life in Early America**, Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, director and violinist, Musicians of Ma'alwyck, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30pm.

• **"A People's Contest": A Social and Political History of the American Civil War Era**, Melinda Lawson, Senior Lecturer Emeritus, Department of History, Union College, Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm.

Registration opens on or about **September 1**. Classes take place at Delmar Reformed Church. For costs and additional information, please go to www.hillclasses.org.



Tour Fort Ti with the Friends

The Friends of Bethlehem Public Library is sponsoring a bus trip and tour of Fort Ticonderoga on **Saturday October 24**. Experience a dramatic recreation of one of the greatest Continental Army victories of 1776 on its 250th anniversary.

The bus will leave CDTA's Delaware Ave. park-and-ride lot in Elsmere next to The Warbler Brewery at 9am and return at 5pm

The cost is \$55 for members (\$45 for children) and \$60 for nonmembers (\$50 for children) and includes transportation, guided tour and tips. Lunch will be

on your own. Small cafe on site or pack a picnic. 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 New York City
c/o Bethlehem Public Library
451 Delaware Avenue
Delmar NY 12054**

Friends bus trip to Fort Ticonderoga Saturday October 24

name _____

address _____

telephone _____

cell _____ Is texting OK? YES ☐ NO ☐

email _____

Friend—\$55 (\$45 for youth ticket) ☐ nonmember—\$60 (\$50) ☐

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

List names of others in your party:

name _____ ☐ Friend

name _____ ☐ Friend

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____



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