

footnotes

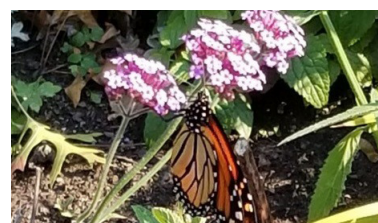
BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

May/June 2021

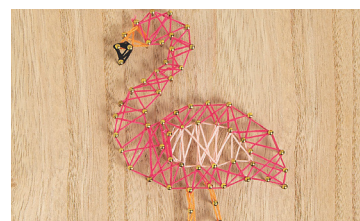
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451 Delaware Ave., Delmar • 518-439-9314

www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org • www.bplteens.org • www.bplkids.org



footnotes

May/June 2021

Kristen Roberts, editor/staff writer

Trustees

Mark Kissinger, *president*

Michelle Walsh, *vice president*

Caroline Brancatella, *secretary*

Lisa Scoons, *trustee, UHLS board*

Harmeet Narang, *trustee*

Mary Redmond, *trustee*

Charmaine Wijeyesinghe, *trustee*

Sharon Whiting, *board treasurer*

Director

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick

Library board

• Monday May 10 • 6pm

• Monday June 14 • 6pm

Friends board

Monday June 21 • 6:30pm

Library hours

Please visit the website for up-to-date in-person hours/services and curbside pickup.

Holiday hours

• May 29-31 CLOSED: *Memorial Day Weekend*

• June 19 CLOSED: *Juneteenth*

• July 4-5 CLOSED *Independence 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.

2021-22 budget

Looking ahead

THE PAST FEW MONTHS have brought much uncertainty and change to our community, and as we begin to cautiously plan for a return to the vibrant library experience of recent years, we remain mindful of the need to provide these services to you without an added tax burden.

WITH OUR 2021-22 BUDGET, we recognize that a return to “normal” won’t take place overnight, and that our community needs time to recover from the financial impact of pandemic closures and stay-at-home orders. That is why we are presenting a zero percent increase to our tax levy, keeping it at the same amount approved in 2020.

WE EXPECT TO SEE some savings over the next few months as we temporarily reduce the number of large-scale in-person programs in an effort to maintain community health and safety. Your librarians are still planning a bunch of great events that will allow you to gather virtually and, in nicer weather, outdoors.

ELECTRICITY EXPENSES have gone down since the recent overhaul of our energy system, and we are planning to spend less on some materials as more people shift to streaming and other electronic formats. Some of these savings will likely be offset by increased spending in COVID-related office and cleaning supplies, as well as a projected reduction in income due to lower interest rates and fewer fines collected.

IN OUR 2021-22 BUDGET, we continue to invest in the important resources you look to for entertainment, lifelong learning opportunities, resilience during difficult times, and community connection. Our in-house and online services provide access to research and investing tools, as well as career and educational support, and so much more. We are also maintaining our spending on new releases and multiple copies of high-demand items, including e-materials, so that we can get them into your hands quicker.

THERE IS NO DOUBT the pandemic has been difficult, but it has also inspired us to find creative new ways to serve you, leading to innovations like our book and media bundles, e-newsletter and curbside pickup. These services, born of necessity, have quickly become essential. As we work toward a future that combines these new services with those that have long been part of what we do, we are thankful for the generosity of those in our community who have made major gifts earmarked for their continuation.

THROUGH ALL OF THIS, we are keeping an eye on the future with our long-range planning efforts, which will identify a short list of building improvements to consider based on public input we’ve received. Overall, we feel this year’s zero percent levy increase is a good plan for where we are now.

— Bethlehem Public Library Board of Trustees

Meet the Candidates **V**

Wednesday May 5 • 6pm

The candidates seeking a 5-year term on the library’s Board of Trustees will introduce themselves and talk about why they are running.

Budget review **V**

Monday May 10 • 6pm

An introduction of the 2021-22 library budget will take place prior to the regular board meeting.

Budget/trustee vote

Tuesday May 18 • 7am-9pm

Vote takes place at Bethlehem Central High School.



sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com

Summer Reading for all ages

Let's read together!

Are you up for the 2021 Summer Reading Challenge? This year's theme, **Tails and Tales**, explores animals and the stories inspired by them. Sign-up for adults, teens and children begins online **June 21** at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. Once you sign up, you can start checking off your reading milestones right away!



Open to all ages —
children, teens and adults!

Bookmark Contest

Entries accepted June 21-August 31.
Forms available at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org.

Summer Reading Kickoff: Shake your Tailfeathers S V

Friday June 25 • 2pm

Join us on The Green, weather permitting, to get your summer started right and shake your tailfeathers. Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge, make your own crafty tail, and learn a new line dance or two.

Adults

Evening Qi Gong S V

Tuesday May 4 • 7pm

Pandemic Health and Wellness Series. Explore gentle postures that incorporate movement, visualization and breathing in this class is taught by librarian Cathy Brenner, who is a certified tai chi instructor. **All ages welcome.**

Staying Motivated to Eat Healthy S V

Thursday May 6 • 7pm

Pandemic Health and Wellness Series. Bounce back from a tumultuous year by learning mindful ways to choose nutritious, plant-forward foods and move more with Karen Roberts Mort from the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Learn to Meditate S V

Monday May 10 • 7pm

Pandemic Health and Wellness Series. Join the Shambhala Center of Albany to learn to meditate, to cultivate stability, clarity, and strength. For beginners and those who would like to refresh their skills.

Zentangle S V

Wednesday May 12 • 6:30pm

Pandemic Health and Wellness Series. Join certified Zentangle Instructor Lisa Lehman for an intro to the Zentangle Method and practice some basic tangles.

Virtual Escape Room: Zombie Apocalypse S V

Monday May 17 • 7pm

In this Escape Room-like adventure, you will need to open all the locks before the zombies take over.

Bringing Nature Home S V

Wednesday May 19 • 7pm

Where have all the birds and insects gone and why do we care? Learn the importance of native plants and why they are critical to sustain food webs throughout the United States and the entire planet with Cornell Master Gardeners Mary Monaco and Connie Metcalf.

Trivia Night: The 80s & 90s S V

Thursday May 27 • 7pm

Join other trivia buffs on Zoom and compete for bragging rights as you dig deep into your knowledge of the 1980s and '90s.

continued

Program reminders

1. Events with a "V" are taking place virtually. Visit our online calendar to sign up.
2. Outdoor programs will not move inside in inclement weather.

Evening Qi Gong S V May 4



Book Discussions S V

Check 'Em Out Books Mondays at 7pm

May 3

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

DayBooks

Mondays at 1:30pm

May 10

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

June 7

Eight Perfect Murders by Peter Swanson

BYOB (Bring Your Own Books — and Beverage)

Thursday May 13 • 7pm

A relaxed discussion of what you're reading.
Share opinions and recommendations.

Antiracist Book Group Wednesdays at 6:30pm

May 26

Never Caught by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

June 23

When No One Is Watching by Alyssa Cole

AfterDinner Books Tuesdays at 7pm

June 8

Uncommon Valor by Martha MacCallum

New members welcome. Continue the discussion on Goodreads. Audio, large print and downloadable copies may be available.

S sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com



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May/June 2021

Listening Parties

Thursdays at 2pm

May 20

Beatles vs. Stones

A light-hearted exploration of the "rivalry" between the two bands, with a side by side comparison of their famous tracks.

June 17

Be the DJ

You choose what will be listened to.
See details when you sign up.



DIY Avocado Pillow  
May 20

Family STEAM Kits

With our take-home STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) kits for families, you can explore your world together as a family. Sign up through our online calendar to pick up your kit. **For kids and families.**

MAY: Gravity, Balance and Aerodynamics

JUNE: Crystal Gardens



Adults (continued)

Mason Jar Luminary Garden Ornament

Wednesday June 2 • 7pm

Create a mason jar luminary to display in your garden or on your porch. Supplies can be picked up at the library in advance of the program.

The 1827 Cherry Hill Murder

Friday June 11 • 1pm

In 1827, a murder occurred at the Cherry Hill farm, home of the well-known Van Rensselaer family. Decide who you think was innocent and guilty after learning about the crime and the trial, and how it put a spotlight on women's roles and legal rights, social class and slavery in New York.

Virtual Sew It Yourself: Market Tote

Monday June 14 • 7pm

Sew along with us to make a cute, versatile market tote. You will need 1/2 yard each of two different fabrics and 1 yard for the lining; the library will provide the rest of the supplies. You will be notified when they're ready for pickup.

Trivia Night

Thursday June 24 • 7pm

Enjoy a Zoom general trivia night as you compete for bragging rights.

Kids, tweens and teens

Flamingo String Art

Wednesday May 5 • 3:45pm

Pick up a string art craft kit from the library, then join us on Zoom to craft a string art flamingo together. **For grades 6-12.**

DIY Avocado Pillow

Thursday May 20 • 7pm

Snuggle up with a tied fleece avocado pillow. We'll get together on Zoom to make the pillows, chat and relax. **For kids, tweens and teens.**

Dungeons and Dragons

Friday June 4 • 3:30pm

Use your imagination and problem-solving skills in a virtual role-playing adventure. **For grades 6-12.**

Storytimes and more

No-Sew Caterpillar

Friday May 14 • 10:30am

Enjoy some stories and learn more about caterpillars before we show you how to work together to make a no-sew stuffed caterpillar. Supplies provided for pickup at the library. **For up to age 6 and caregiver.**

Music and Movement Outdoors

Tuesday June 8 • 2pm

Thursday June 17 • 10am

Join us on The Green, weather permitting, with something to use for a scarf song and something that makes noise when you shake it.

Spring Potpourri

Bring your baby, toddler or preschooler and join us for **stories, music and activities** over Zoom. Some programs will even have crafts or activities to do together that you can pick up at the library in advance!

Connect with all your library friends virtually! **Visit our online calendar for upcoming dates and times.**



 sign up: bethlehem.librarycalendar.com

2021-22 Budget

	2020-21	2021-22	Comments
Library materials			
Books/audiobooks/ebooks	\$447,000	\$444,000	————— Maintains core collection and reflects shift to
Online services	28,000	28,000	downloadable audiobooks
Periodicals	24,000	18,000	————— Shift to electronic format
Movies and music	65,000	53,000	————— Decreased demand due to streaming
Special collections	22,500	18,000	————— Purchasing for the Library of Things
Total materials	\$586,500	\$561,000	
Salaries and benefits	\$3,166,300	\$3,184,903	————— Negotiated salary increases and estimated health-care costs
Operations			
Utilities	\$80,700	\$71,000	————— Reduction in electricity costs due to new HVAC
Photocopiers	20,000	18,000	
Office and custodial supplies	36,000	46,000	————— Increases due to COVID impact
Equipment and furniture	50,000	40,000	————— Reduction based on past experience
Postage	20,000	20,000	
Insurance	29,000	29,000	
Taxes (water and sewer)	3,700	3,400	
Conference and travel	8,000	3,000	————— Reduced travel to conferences
Memberships	3,000	3,000	
Special programs	43,000	35,000	————— Reduced in-person programming for the public
Building and equip. maint.	84,000	84,000	
Van operation	4,000	4,000	
Financial services and auditing	39,000	39,000	
Printing and marketing	35,000	38,000	————— Expanded marketing efforts
Professional services	30,000	30,000	————— Attorney's fees for contract negotiations
Miscellaneous	3,500	4,000	
Online catalog/circ. system	51,000	52,000	————— Planned increase in library system fees
IT/hardware and software	42,000	42,000	
Refund of real property taxes	20,000	10,000	————— Expected fewer tax refunds
Capital improvements/contingency	125,000	135,000	————— For building updates and other needs
Total operations	\$726,900	\$706,400	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,479,700	\$4,452,303	
Income			
Fines and fees	28,000	15,000	————— Decrease due to COVID impact
Interest	30,000	7,500	————— Projected interest rates much lower
Book sale	5,000	5,000	
Gifts and donations	1,000	2,000	
Photocopiers	7,500	7,500	
State aid	24,000	23,170	
PILOT	211,637	219,570	————— Estimated revenue received from BCSD
TOTAL INCOME	\$307,137	\$279,740	
BUDGET	\$4,479,700	\$4,452,303	
Minus income	307,137	279,740	
Equals LEVY	\$4,172,563	\$4,172,563	————— 0% increase

**Proposed levy
increase: 0%**

Fund balance

	\$1,400,000	————— Funds operations from July until taxes received in October
	1,942,000	————— Designated for capital expenditure and building needs in conjunction with the library's Long Range Plan
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$3,342,000	

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





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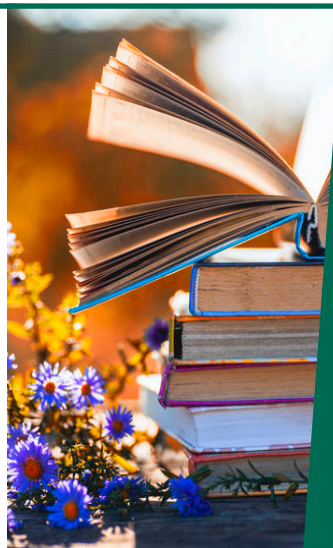


Friends Book Sale

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 Pop-Up Book Sale on the library plaza the **weekend of May 15**. For sale will be books and other materials 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. Visitors are required to wear a mask that covers their nose and chin, and hand sanitizer will be available. The book sale is weather-permitting, and a rain date of May 22 has been scheduled.

Stay tuned for hours and additional details.



Get growing with our seed library

Our seed library is back and ready to put down some roots with a variety of open-pollinated vegetables, herbs and some flowers. New this year is an online "shopping" portal that makes it easy for you select your seeds for pickup.

On our seed library webpage, you'll be able to browse different categories and learn more about the varieties through links to the Hudson Valley Seed Co., where our seeds are sourced from. You can choose up to 10 seed packets per household, and when you check out, you'll be asked for your name, contact information and library card number. We'll get in touch with you when your seeds are ready to be picked up. Visit www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org to get started.

Seed libraries like ours support sustainability and food security by allowing the community free access to the means of growing their own food.



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