

footnotes

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

May/June 2023

INSIDE:



The Photographs of
Brendan Fahy Bequette
Page 3



Summer Reading 2023
Page 5



Comic Book Day
Page 6



Library Expedition
Page 8

2023-24 budget
information
PAGES 2-3

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

www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org



2023-24 Budget

	2022-23	2023-24	Comments
Salaries and benefits			
Salaries	\$2,444,929	\$2,506,226	————— Negotiated salary increases
Retirement	237,333	280,440	
Payroll taxes	187,038	191,726	
Health insurance	364,700	399,300	————— Estimated health care contribution
Other insurance	\$32,500	\$32,500	
Total salaries and benefits	\$3,266,500	\$3,410,192	
Library materials	\$586,000	\$575,000	————— Usage not yet back to pre-pandemic levels
Operations			
Utilities	\$85,400	\$105,400	————— Increased costs for electricity and gas and expansion of community WiFi
Office supplies and expenses	56,400	58,400	
Printing and marketing	35,000	35,000	
Custodial supplies	26,000	20,000	————— Estimate based on prior year
Insurance	29,000	30,000	
Professional fees, dues and conferences	36,000	36,500	
Special programs	32,000	35,000	
Building and equip. maint.	91,000	96,000	————— Increased operational costs
Furniture and equipment	40,000	30,000	————— Estimate based on prior year
IT/hardware and software	42,000	50,000	————— Upgrades to hardware and replacement as needed
Audit and online accounting services	54,000	44,000	————— Prior year one-time cost for upgrade to financial services system
Online catalog/circ. system	53,000	54,000	
Other	13,500	11,500	
Capital improvements/contingency	135,000	135,000	
Total operations	\$728,300	\$740,800	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,580,800	\$4,725,992	
Income			
PILOT	\$227,724	\$241,523	
State aid	24,500	26,000	
Interest income	6,000	35,000	
Miscellaneous fees	11,500	17,500	
Gifts and donations	3,500	4,000	
TOTAL INCOME	\$272,724	\$324,023	
			————— Taking advantage of higher interest rates
			————— Estimated increase for fines and lost book payments
BUDGET	\$4,580,800	\$4,725,992	————— 3.17% increase
Minus income	272,724	324,023	
Equals LEVY	\$4,308,076	\$4,401,969	————— 2.18% increase — under the state tax cap
Fund balance			
		\$1,400,000	————— Funds operations from July until taxes received in October
		2,731,276	————— Designated for capital expenditure and building needs in conjunction with the library's Long Range Plan
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		\$4,131,276	

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Wednesday May 3 • 6pm
Learn more about the candidates.

BUDGET REVIEW

Monday May 8 • 6pm
Regular board meeting to follow.

BUDGET/TRUSTEE VOTE

Tuesday May 16 • 7am-9pm
Bethlehem Central High School

**Proposed levy
increase: 2.18%**

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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All ages

The Photographs of Brendan Fahy Bequette

Thursday May 11 • 7pm

Brendan Fahy Bequette was a gifted filmmaker and photographer whose life was tragically cut short at 25 by a rare form of cancer. A book of his photographs was published in 2022 with proceeds dedicated to supporting young artistic talent in all disciplines. His parents, Pat Fahy and Wayne Bequette, along with the book's curators, will discuss his life and work.

Pop-Up Library at the Farmers Market

Saturday June 3 • 9am-1pm

Saturday June 17 • 9am-1pm

Find us at the Delmar Farmer's Market where you can check out new titles and learn more about the library.

Sharing Family Recipes

Thursday June 8 • 6-8pm

Whether it's from a cookbook, the back of a soup can, or something you invented, come prepared to share at least one family recipe with your fellow cooking enthusiasts.

Paper Bookshelf

Saturday June 17 • 2:30pm

In this workshop, you will create an artistic bookshelf collage you can use to track your reading, or just fill with your favorite titles.

Bethlehem Senior Vocal Ensemble: Goodnight, My Angel

Tuesday June 20 • 11am

Enjoy a musical morning on the Green with this off-shoot of the Bethlehem Senior Chorus performing best-loved songs from decades past.

Adults

Coffee & Conversation: Tea With Freud

Friday May 5 • 1pm

Dr. Steven Sandler will be discussing his book "Tea with Freud: An Imaginary Conversation about How Psychotherapy Really Works." Hear an imaginary but illuminating debate about what helps people to make changes and recover their psychological health. Co-sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.

Revenge of the Fifth

Friday May 5 • 6pm

Follow up May the Fourth with a look at the Dark Side as we screen "Revenge of the Sith" (2005, PG-13, 146 min.) in the Community Room.

Spring Flower Shadowbox

Wednesday May 10 • 6:30pm

Stop by and create a cute spring shadowbox. All materials provided.

Get to Know Hoopla

Friday May 12 • 10am

Learn about Hoopla, a digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows with your library card. This is a virtual program; participants will be e-mailed a Zoom link prior to the event.

Craft & Color for Adults

Monday May 15 • 11am

Monday June 26 • 11am

Choose between coloring or doing an open-ended craft activity. This program is specifically designed for adults of all abilities.

continued

Supporting services both new and old

THE BIGGEST FOCUS of the 2023-24 budget is maintaining a robust and exciting collection, in addition to increasing programming and outreach, to keep up with a post-pandemic demand that has been steadily growing. This year's budget, which is under the state-mandated tax cap, allows us to do just that and still weather any potential economic uncertainties from inflation and increasing energy costs.

THIS PAST YEAR has seen circulation gains that put the number of checkouts near the level we saw in 2019. As library use comes roaring back, we have moved quickly to meet the needs of this community by bringing back popular programs like multiple story times, Paws to Read, a Little Sunday Music and more. We've also worked hard to expand volunteer opportunities for all ages as more people ask for ways to give their time and energy to the library. With all that's going on, the library is definitely the place to be in the coming months.

THE 2023-24 BUDGET allows us to maintain the best of those traditional offerings while continuing to provide many of the innovative services that came about during the pandemic, such as curbside pickup and access to virtual programming and enhanced e-materials. It also supports the staffing level needed to provide these services.

WE'VE BUDGETED for some increases in operational expenses and utilities for 2023-24, but we also expect to see an increase in interest income as we take advantage of higher rates. Spending on materials continues to be among the highest of the libraries in the area as we add high-demand items to our physical and electronic collections to keep wait times down. The budget also represents our commitment to investing in the technology and cutting-edge equipment our patrons expect from us as we replace older public-use computers well before they become obsolete.

ON THE BALLOT this year is a budget of \$4.7 million, an amount that we believe balances responsible spending with providing the high level of services and materials this community is accustomed. It represents a levy 2.18% higher than last year and is within the limit specified by New York State.

— Bethlehem Public Library Board of Trustees



Adults (continued)

Listening Parties

Thursdays at 7pm

May 18

Burt Bacharach

Bacharach's sophisticated songwriting has captivated listeners since the 1960s.

June 15

Be the DJ

This is your chance to choose what to listen to tonight. Send an email to michael@bethpl.org with up to four selections in any genre.

*** This is a hybrid presentation. You may attend in person or over Zoom.**

Listen to great music, discuss and share your opinions.

Book Discussions

DayBooks

Mondays at 1:30pm

May 1

Deacon King Kong by James McBride

June 5

The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn

Own Voices Book Group 

Wednesdays at 7pm

May 24

Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner

Dark Corners Book Group 

Wednesdays at 7pm

June 21

The Broken Girls by Simone St. James

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

Community Yoga

Wednesday May 17 • 6pm

Wednesday June 7 • 6pm

Enjoy a class designed for all skill levels. Dan May shares Jai Yoga School's Bhakti yoga practice, which includes song, cultural information and stories.

Archive.org: Our Digital Memory

Monday May 22 • 10am

Learn about this vast and growing online library that collects eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, video, historic Web content, and software — all free and available to the public.

Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday May 23 • 6pm

Tuesday June 13 • 6pm

All playing materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own dice or D&D 5th Edition Character Sheet. Beginners welcome.

Lunchtime Documentaries: 'Echo in the Canyon'

Thursday May 25 • 1pm

This documentary (2018, PG-13, 82 min.) celebrates the explosion of popular music that came out of Laurel Canyon in the mid-60s as folk went electric giving birth to the California Sound.

NYS Boater Safety Course

Thursday May 25 • 5pm

Friday May 26 • 5pm

*A safe day on the water is a fun day! To help ensure our waterways remain safe, New York State will require all motorized boaters to take a safe boating course and earn their safe boating certificate by 2025. **Tweens and teens welcome!***

Masterpiece Quilts at the DAR Museum

Friday May 26 • 1pm

Join correspondent docent Julie Johnson for an overview of the masterpiece quilts in the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Museum's collection and the women who made them. The quilt collection is focused on quilts of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Cypress Resume Workshop

Thursday June 1 • 6:30pm

Learn the ins and outs of the library's online resume builder available to cardholders.

Intro to eMagazines

Friday June 16 • 10am

Many of our favorite magazines have moved to a digital format. Join us on Zoom as we learn about the three different services you can use to access them.

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 May/June:

May 3 • 1pm: Britt Hawthorne, author of "Raising Anti-Racist Children"

May 10 • 8pm: Academy Award-nominated Jena Friedman

May 20 • 2pm: New York Times Bestselling YA author Courtney Summers

June 7 • 4pm: Psychologist Mike Rucker will discuss "The Fun Habit"

June 15 • 2pm: Award-winning photographer Jamie Beck

June 28 • 8pm: Tales of Wakanda contributing author Tananarive Due

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

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Summer Reading 2023

A summer of reading and unity

Are you ready for the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge? This year's theme, **All Together Now**, focuses on kindness, friendship and unity.

Sign-up for adults, teens and children begins online **June 20** at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org. Once you sign up, you can start checking off your reading milestones right away!

Summer Reading Kickoff: All Together Now

Friday June 23 • 2-4pm

Join us on the Green for crafts, snacks and music, and sign up the whole family for Summer Reading 2023 while you're here. Musical entertainment from 2-3pm with local rock band GB-Five.

Tweens and teens

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Afternoon

Friday May 5 • 3:45pm

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

For grades 6 and up.

Comic Book Day

Saturday May 6

Stop by the Teen Space for a "Create Your Own Comic" creation station, comic-related activities, and free comics, while supplies last. **For tweens and teens.**

Jumpstart Your Writing

Monday May 15 • 3:30pm

Author Coleen Murtagh Paratore will lead a creative writing workshop for teens. Her 2022 book, "Dear Writer, Inspiration and Advice on Writing," is all about kick starting creativity if it has gone dormant for a while. **For ages 12-18.**

Comic Collage

Wednesday May 17 • 3:30pm

Wednesday May 24 • 3:30pm

Use old comics, graphic novels, and manga to create a collaborative work of art that will hang in the Teen Space. **For tweens and teens.**

Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday May 23 • 3:45pm

Tuesday May 30 • 3:45pm

Use your imagination and problem-solving skills while socializing with others who enjoy role-playing games. Playing materials provided. **For grades 6 and up.**

Kids and families

Paws to Read

Mondays May 1, 8, 22 and June 5, 12, 26 • 4-5pm

Come to the library and practice reading skills with a gentle, furry friend! A registered therapy dog will listen calmly and quietly, creating a safe space for children to practice reading skills without fear or judgment. **For grades K-5.**

continued



**Study hall
@ the library
June 2023**

**Group-study space
for Regents exams**

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



**Paws to Read
May and June**

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

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May/June 2023

Thursdays in the Park June-August



Chess Club May 1-June 12



Legos at the Library May 24

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 15-August 17**. Most shows will take place at Elm Avenue Park in Bethlehem. Visit bethlehem.librarycalendar.com for details about the performers. This series is co-sponsored by Friends of Bethlehem Public Library, Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department. **All ages welcome!**

June 15: Circus on a String

The Robert Rogers Puppet Company will showcase incredible feats by acrobats, clowns and animals.

June 22: Jester Jim

This is not your ordinary juggling show! With a trunk full of props and a looping machine, you will be glued to every sight and sound.

June 29: GB-Five (at South Bethlehem Park)

Home-grown rock 'n' roll with local musicians.



Chess Club

Mondays May 1-June 12* • 5:30pm OR 6:30pm

Sign up for one session per night and try your hand at chess with peers or teen volunteers. All experience levels welcome. *No session May 29. **For grades K-5.**

May the Fourth

Thursday May 4 • 4pm

In a library not so far away, we're celebrating Star Wars Day! Jedi of all ages can make their very own light sabers (using pool noodles) and battle it out with each other on the Green. Costumes encouraged but not required. **All ages welcome!**

Superhero Saturday

Saturday May 6 • 11am

Come join us for superhero-themed stories and a craft. **Best for ages 4 and up with caregiver.**

Comic Book Day

Saturday May 6

Join us for free comics (while supplies last) and activity sheets in the Children's Place.

Legos at the Library

Wednesday May 24 • 4pm

Build something awesome with the library's Lego collection. We provide the Legos, you provide the imagination.

Afterschool Story Time: Juneteenth!

Wednesday May 31 • 4pm

Listen to a story honoring Juneteenth followed by a craft where we will make our very own Juneteenth flags. **For ages 6-11.**

Afternoon Art: Buddy the Dinosaur

Wednesday June 28 • 2pm

Create and decorate your own cardboard dinosaur buddy.

continued

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Kids and families (continued)

Summer Sing-Along

Friday June 30 • 10am

Come in to cool off and sing-along with a popular Disney movie every Friday morning, all summer long. **All ages welcome!**

First Chapter Fridays

Friday June 30 • 2pm

One of our fabulous librarians will read the first couple of chapters of a popular book, with each session featuring a different title. Bring a blanket or cushion to get comfortable on the lawn.

Storytimes and more

Animal Hospital

Wednesday May 3 • 3pm

Bring in your favorite stuffed friend for a check-up. 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 caregiver.**

Baby Bounce & Books

Tuesdays May 2-23 • 10am AND 11am

Stories, songs and baby bounces. **For up to age 35 months with caregiver.**

Family Story Time

Wednesdays May 3-24 • 10am AND 11am

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

Music and Movement

Thursdays May 4-25 • 10am AND 11am

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

Saturday Story Time

Saturday May 13 • 11am

Saturday May 20 • 11am

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

Teddy Bear Time

Tuesday May 30 • 10am

Grab your teddy bear (or other favorite stuffed animal) and join us on the Green for a variety of fun bear-themed stories, songs and a "teddy" bear hunt.

For up to age 5 with caregiver.

All Kinds of Families Story Time

Tuesday June 27 • 10am

Join us for this special story time where we will celebrate all different kinds of families with stories, songs, and an art activity you can create together with your family. **For up to age 5 with caregiver.**

Mother Goose on the Loose

Thursday June 29 • 10am

Meet us on the Green for this fun, early-literacy program that incorporates nursery rhymes, songs, movement, parachute play and even bubbles.

For up to age 5 with caregiver.

Parents, please note:

All abilities are welcome. No signup is required unless noted, but space is limited and storytimes begin promptly. There may be a limited capacity for each session. When Bethlehem schools are closed or delayed, all storytimes are cancelled.

Literacy tip

It does not matter if your child is four days old or four years old, we have books, music, programs, and services to help your child learn language and pre-reading skills.

Creation Station

Monday-Friday 9:30am-8:30pm

May 1-5 — Butterflies

June 5-9 — Create Your Own Puzzle

All supplies provided!

Animal Hospital May 3



Music and Movement May 4-25



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

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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 Pop-Up Book Sale on the library plaza **Saturday May 20 from 10am-4pm**. 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.

Enjoy some live music while you shop with the following performers:

- **11am-noon:** The Leslie Barkman Trio
- **1-2pm:** Duo Rick and Marilyn



footnotes

May/June 2023

Trustees

Mark Kissinger, *president*
Michelle Walsh, *vice president*
Charmaine Wijeyesinghe, *vice president*
Caroline Brancatella, *secretary*
Lisa Scoons, *trustee, UHLS board*
Harmeet Narang, *trustee*
Sarah Patterson, *trustee*
Sharon Whiting, *board treasurer*

Director

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick

Library board

- Monday May 8 • 6pm
- Monday June 12 • 6pm

Friends board

- Tuesday June 20 • 6:30pm

Library hours

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

Holiday hours

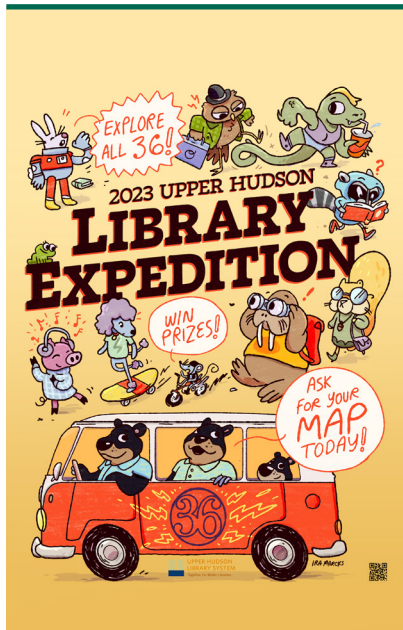
- May 27-29 CLOSED: *Memorial Day Weekend*
- June 19 CLOSED: *Juneteenth*
- July 4 CLOSED: *Independence Day*

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

Library road trip!

This spring and summer, the Upper Hudson Library System has brought back the popular Library Expedition. Grab your friends and get ready for an epic road trip as you make your way to all 36 libraries in the system and learn about what makes each one so special. Get your map stamped at each location and earn prizes like stickers, car magnets, enamel pins and more when you reach certain milestones. We've even got something special for second-time 36ers.

The expedition lasts through the end of July. Maps will be available at all Upper Hudson libraries. Do you have what it takes to be a Library 36er? Don't forget to use the hashtag #Library36er to share your adventure on social media.



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