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Summer Reading 2023

Let’s read this summer!

The library’s 2023 Summer Reading theme, All Together Now, focuses on kindness, friendship and unity. When you sign up for the library’s Summer Reading Challenge (beginning June 20), you will track your progress through challenge cards for a chance to earn some great prizes. You can also join us for themed programs all summer long. Check out the calendar at bethlehem.librarycalendar.com to see what’s coming up!

Registration for Summer Reading can be done online at bethplny14.readsquared.com.

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. Musical entertainment from 2-3pm with local band GB-Five.

Summer Reading Celebration: Library Mini-Golf
Saturday August 26 • all day
Enjoy teeing off in air-conditioned comfort as the library transforms into an 18-hole miniature golf course free and open to all ages. Traditional library services will be limited. Sponsored by the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library.

All ages

Evenings on the Green

Our Evenings on the Green summer concerts are always free through the generous support of the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library. This year, concerts will take place every Tuesday at 7pm from July 11-August 1. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will take place the following day.

July 11: Christine Spero — “Back to Bacharach”
Singer/pianist performs her tribute to the songs of Burt Bacharach.

July 18: Project H.
Bassist Michael Hurt leads a jazz quartet.

July 25: Phil Casey
An eclectic mix of familiar folk and American tunes performed on guitar, a cigar box guitar and mandolin.

August 1: The Rumble Kings
This trio plays traditional rockabilly and surf music from the 1950s and ’60s.

Open Craft Night
Wednesday July 5 • 6pm
Wednesday August 9 • 6pm
Join us for an evening of crafting and socializing on the Green. BYO craft or start a new project with the supplies provided.

Drag Story Hour
Thursday July 13 • 11am
Stories, songs and fabulousness at a family-friendly and inclusive event with local drag performer Noelle Diamond. This is a chance for people to see others who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish.

continued
All ages (continued)

Traveling Farm with Winterberry Homestead
Monday July 31 • 10am
Meet the animals from Lindsay Sprague’s farm, learn about their contribution to sustainable agriculture, and pet them too.

BookNotes!
Wednesday August 16 • 6:30pm
Join us as we make notes to place in our favorite books from summer reading – using words, drawings and whatever else we can think of.

Camp Nanowrimo in July!
Stop by the library to brainstorm, research, set your own goals and, most importantly, WRITE. We’ll be setting up shop every Friday afternoon in July. Stay for a half hour or the full time. Just bring your own laptop or pen and notebook. Laptops will be available to borrow. Visit bethlehem.librarycalendar.com for hours and more information. For tweens, teens and adults.

Adults

Story Time for Grownups
Monday July 10 • 6pm
Monday August 14 • 6pm
Join us for a relaxing hour of short stories, essays, poetry or excerpts while you unwind with some coloring pages. Not intended for listeners under the age of 18.

Get to Know Libby
Friday July 14 • 1pm
If you are struggling with the transition from Overdrive to Libby, or just want to learn a little more about how Libby works, stop by this in-person session with your questions. Feel free to bring your personal device or use one of the library’s iPads.

Craft & Color for Adults
Monday July 17 • 11am
Monday August 21 • 11am
Choose between coloring or doing an open-ended craft activity. This program is specifically designed for adults of all abilities.

DIY Zines
Monday July 17 • 6pm
Learn about the history of Zines, check out some examples, and craft your own page in the theme of friendship, kindness and libraries. Pages will be copied and compiled into a full Zine, which will be available in our reference collection.

Community Yoga
Wednesday July 19 • 6pm
Wednesday August 23 • 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.

Guide to Digital Content for Kids
Monday July 24 • 7pm
A librarian will discuss all of the digital content available for children through Libby, Kanopy, Hoopla and more.

Trivia Night
Monday July 31 • 7pm
Compete individually or in teams for bragging rights in this general trivia event.

continued

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July/August 2023
Upcoming author talks

Get to know some of your favorite authors and enjoy Q&A opportunities through virtual author talks available exclusively to Bethlehem cardholders. Visit libraryc.org/bethlehempubliclibrary for more information, to register for upcoming talks or to view past discussions.

Coming up in July/August:

**July 15 • 2pm:** Charles Soule, author of “Daredevil” and “She-Hulk”
**July 20 • 1pm:** Ethan Kross, bestselling author of “Chatter”
**July 25 • 4pm:** Erika Sánchez, author of “I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter”
**August 15 • 4pm:** Robert Jones Jr., winner of the 2021 National Book Award for Fiction
**August 23 • 8pm:** Cassandra Clare, bestselling author of The Mortal Instruments Series

Adults (continued)

**Speed-Friending**
Monday August 7 • 6pm
In this low-key social event, pairs will get a few minutes to talk (ice breakers are provided) before moving on to the next person. At the end, make a friendship bracelet for someone you vibed with and connect more with the people you enjoyed talking to.

**Check Out Creativebug**
Friday August 11 • 10am
Learn how to access and navigate the crafting database Creativebug, which offers thousands of online art and craft video classes for all ages and skill levels.

**Seeking Truth in a Fake News World**
Tuesday August 22 • 7pm
Mary Miller, Education Services Director for the NY Newspapers Foundation and NY News Publishers Association, will present on the importance of media literacy and critical thinking skills in the digital age.

**Making Mocktails**
Thursday August 31 • 6:30pm
Join us for a fun evening of mixing up non-alcoholic beverages. We’ll provide the ingredients and you be the mixologist! Use a provided recipe or your creativity.

Tweens and teens

**Anime Club**
Wednesday July 5 • 3pm
Wednesday July 19 • 3pm
Wednesday August 2 • 3pm
Wednesday August 16 • 3pm
Watch anime (and eat snacks) with other teens. Whether you are an anime savvy otaku or a curious newbie, everyone is welcome. Videos shown will be either films rated PG-13 or lower, or shows TV-14 or lower.

**String It All Together**
Tuesday July 11 • 3pm
String summer together with a tropical themed string art craft. Choose from three designs.

**DIY Zines**
Tuesday July 18 • 3pm
Learn about the history of Zines, check out some examples, and craft your own page in the theme of friendship, kindness and libraries. Pages will be copied and compiled into a full Zine, which will be available in our reference collection.

**Rice Krispie Treats and Beyond**
Friday July 21 • 3pm
In the spirit of our summer reading theme “All Together Now,” we’re going to bring all of our favorite cereals together to see how well they combine with marshmallows and butter. For ages 12 and up.

**Teen Escape Room**
Tuesday July 25 • 3pm, 3:30pm OR 4pm
Do you like puzzles and putting clues together? Sign up for one of three sessions to test your problem-solving skills in our escape room. For ages 12 and up.

**Macrame for Teens: Flower Keychains**
Wednesday July 26 • 2pm
Try your hand at creating a macrame keychain with a few simple knots. All supplies and instructions will be provided. For ages 12 and up.

continued
Tweens and teens (continued)

Creative Stitches
Tuesday-Thursday August 1-3 • 9:30am-noon
Embroiderers’ Guild of America members help you learn new stitches and create fun projects. Registration required; must attend all three days. The workshop ends with a celebration and showcase at 11:30am on Thursday. For ages 9-16.

Constellation Cross-Stitch
Wednesday August 2 • 2pm
Make your own starry cross-stitch for the yearly Perseid meteor shower. This is a beginner-level craft, and all supplies will be provided. For ages 12 and up. Adults welcome!

Teen Pop Culture Trivia
Wednesday August 23 • 2pm
Test your pop culture knowledge in this Jeopardy-style trivia game. For ages 12 and up.

Summer’s End Self Care
Thursday August 24 • 6:30pm
Join us for a fun evening of making homemade self-care products. We will be making our own bath bombs and sugar scrubs! Supplies are limited, so please register in advance. For ages 12 and up. Adults welcome!

Kids and families

Reptile Super Show
Thursday July 6 • 2pm
Adam from Unchartered Wild brings his educational show to the library. You can feel, see and learn firsthand why reptiles aren’t as scary as they might seem. For ages 6 and up.

Summer Sing-Along Cinema
Fridays July 7-August 25 • 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 July 7 • 2pm
Friday July 28 • 2pm
Friday August 4 • 2pm
Friday August 25 • 2pm
One of our librarians will read the first couple of chapters of a popular book, with each session featuring a different title. Bring a blanket to get comfortable on the lawn.

STEAM DIY: Kaleidoscopes
Monday July 10 • 11am
Drop in to the Community Room to make your own kaleidoscope! Materials provided.

Paws to Read
Mondays July 10 and 24; August 7, 14 and 28 • 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.

Library Rock Painting
Wednesday July 12 • 2:30pm
Decorate your rock with drawings, abstract art, quotes or a message for the next person who finds it. Once they’re dry, we’ll be putting them all around the library to brighten people’s day. Supplies provided. Tweens and teens welcome!

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July/August 2023
Kids Build Anything
Monday July 17 • 1:30pm
Friday August 18 • 2pm
Drop by for an open play session with multiple stations for building to your heart’s content. For ages 4-11.

DIY Zines
Wednesday July 19 • 10am
Learn about the history of Zines, check out some examples, and craft your own page in the theme of friendship, kindness and libraries. Pages will be copied and compiled into a full Zine, which will be available in our reference collection.

Tell Us a Story: Long-Form Story Time
Thursday July 20 • 11am
Thursday August 31 • 9am
Join us for a slightly more mature story time, where we read a single long-form picture book or short story.

Fun with Fuse Beads
Friday July 21 • 11am
Use colorful plastic beads to make pictures, patterns, and almost anything else you can dream up. Then, we’ll use a hot iron to melt your beads together.

Tie It All Together: DIY Yeti Pillow
Monday August 7 • 3pm
Your own Yeti pillow is waiting for you. All you have to do is tie it together. Tweens and teens welcome!

Spin, Pop, Boom!
Wednesday August 9 • 2pm
Mad Science of the Capital Region will present a gravity-defying, energetic and spectacular special event. Foaming cups and steaming chemical reactions will introduce children to a world of exciting chemistry. For ages 6 and up.

STEAM DIY: Mini Catapults
Monday August 14 • 11am
Launch your inner engineer by creating a fun catapult at the library! All materials will be provided.

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**Thursdays in the Park**

The library has once again teamed up with Bethlehem Town Parks and Recreation to offer a family-friendly series of events every Thursday at 6pm through August 17. Shows will take place at Elm Avenue Park unless noted. This series is co-sponsored by Friends of Bethlehem Public Library and Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation Department. All ages welcome!

**June 15:** Circus on a String  
**June 22:** Jester Jim  
**June 29:** GB-Five (at South Bethlehem Park)  
**July 7:** One Heart Band, rock and reggae  
**July 13:** Magician Ron Cain’s The Magic of Kindness  
**July 20:** Jack and Steve Zucchini interactive concert  
**July 27:** David Engel’s Pirate School: Swashbuckle Together  
**August 3:** BCHS Cabaret Night  
**August 10:** Andy the Music Man (at Henry Hudson Park)  
**August 17:** Red Dirt Highway

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**Kids and families**

Thursdays in the Park:  
Andy the Music Man  
August 10

Fun with Fuse Beads  
July 21

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

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**July/August 2023**
**Squishy Circuits**
Wednesday August 16 • 11am
Use conductive and insulating play dough to learn the basics of electrical circuits through a few different projects and time to work on your own. Sign up as a group.

**DIY Buttons and Stickers**
Tuesday August 22 • 10am
Monday August 28 • 2pm
Tuesday August 29 • 2pm
Get a head start on customizing your bags, binders, laptops and lockers by creating one-of-a-kind buttons and stickers. For ages 9 and up. Tweens and teens welcome!

**READ, White and Blue Story Time**
Monday July 3 • 11am
Celebrate the 4th of July a day early with stories, songs and a fun paper flag craft. For ages 0-6 with caregiver.

**Tiny Tots**
Tuesdays July 11-August 15 • 10am
Stories, songs and fun. For up to age 35 months with caregiver.

**All Together Now Family Story Time**
Tuesday July 11 • 11am
Share stories, sing songs, and just enjoy being together as a family. For ages 0-6 with a caregiver.

**Kindness Matters Family Story Time**
Tuesday July 18 • 11am
Share stories and sing songs that celebrate kindness. For ages 0-6 with a caregiver.

**Friends and Family Story Time**
Tuesday July 25 • 11am
Share stories and sing songs about how to be a good friend. For ages 0-6 with a caregiver.

**Paws Together Now Family Story Time**
Tuesday August 1 • 11am
Share stories and sing songs about our furry best friends: dogs! We will also get to visit with a therapy dog. For ages 0-6 with a caregiver.

**Cookie Story Time**
Thursday August 3 • 10am
Enjoy cookie-themed stories and then put together your own goodie bag of cookies to take home. For ages 0-6 with a caregiver.

**READ Together Now Family Story Time**
Tuesday August 8 • 11am
Share stories and sing songs about our love of books and libraries. For ages 0-6 with a caregiver.

**Pirate Story and Craft**
Thursday August 10 • 11am
Listen sharp, matesys! After our yarns, we’ll be making our own jolly rogers (pirate flags) so you can hoist the colors proud. For ages 3 and up.

**Community Heroes Story Time**
Tuesday August 15 • 11am
Share stories and sing songs about community heroes: police and firefighters. We will also get to meet a surprise guest! For ages 0-6 with a caregiver.

**Cookie Story Time**
Monday August 28 • 2pm
Tuesday August 29 • 2pm
Get a head start on customizing your bags, binders, laptops and lockers by creating one-of-a-kind buttons and stickers. For ages 9 and up. Tweens and teens welcome!

**DIY buttons and stickers**
August 22, 28 and 29

**Squishy Circuits**
August 16

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Budget passes; trustees re-elected

The library would like to thank voters for approving the $4.75 million budget levy for 2023-24 in May.

This spending plan allows the library to continue to invest in physical and electronic resources, while making adjustments for expected increases in energy costs, personnel needs and building maintenance over the coming year.

Voters also re-elected incumbents Mark Kissinger and Caroline Brancatella to five-year terms on the board of trustees. The library’s board meetings take place on the second Monday of the month at 6pm and are always open to the public.

Pop-Up Library at Farmers Market

Look for us out and about at the Delmar Farmers Market Saturdays, July 1, 15 and 29, and August 12, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Stop by our booth to explore some popular new titles, learn more about what we do, or just to say hi.

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