

The Bookmark

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF B.F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

This Issue

Holidays at BFJ P. 1
 A Note from the Editor P. 2
 New Partnerships P. 2
 New Year's Reading Resolutions P. 3

Coming Soon: Youth-Led Humanities

The popular teen-oriented program will make its return to BFJ this February!

Formerly called "Teen Reading Lounge," this twice-yearly program is a great way to get the younger members of our Library family involved. YHL aims to teach teens and tweens the importance of representation and diverse perspectives, as well as community service, through a focused literary theme. The theme of Summer 2023 was Food as Culture and Identity, which allowed them to learn about different cultures and the roles that food plays in those cultures; they

also learned how to make mooncakes, boba tea, and other tasty treats! For the Winter 2024 cycle, they'll be tackling some of the most prevalent issues facing our society, from racism (and intolerance of all kinds) to the suppression of "Own Voices" literature and book-banning, among others. We are proud to be able to foster an open and safe space where our tweens and teens can develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and social awareness. We look forward



to seeing the amazing projects they'll take on this cycle with Miss Casey and Miss Tiffany.

We don't doubt that we'll be able to learn something from them along the way: these young folks, and their desire to do good in their community, are an inspiration.



On behalf of Kristen Janci, the Library Director, the Board of Directors, and the Staff of B.F. Jones Memorial Library, we wish all of you a happy, healthy 2024 full of good books and good times with friends and family.

We look forward to seeing all of you throughout the year; we have a lot of excellent programs on the docket for all ages, including the beloved traditions everyone has come to expect, so make sure to stay up to date with what's going on at your friendly neighborhood library!



Are you looking for a special way to keep someone's memory alive, or to continue their legacy?

Consider a donation to B.F. Jones Memorial Library.

Contact the Library at 724.375.2900 to discuss the different ways in which you can donate in honor of your loved one.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BEAVER, PA
 PERMIT NO. 25

There's No Place Like BFJ for the Holidays!

From Polar Express Night to the inaugural Holiday Market, the Library's halls were decked and the bells a-jingling this holiday season.

It's always a good time to hang out here at the Library, but there's something especially magical about BFJ during the holidays. We saw the return of Dewey, the Library Elf and her accompanying mischief, and the annual tradition of Polar Express Night (which filled up in perhaps record time on the day registration opened). Not to mention: we hosted our first Holiday Market!

Featuring local vendors and small businesses, including Lock & Key Pottery (our very own Miss Tiffany!), Mason's Delectable Delights, YarnLeigh, Poppy & Loom, and The Charming Wreaths (who created the beautiful arrangements adorning the Library's doors this Christmas!), the day also included musical entertainment from Vintage Debbie, cookie tables that would have made Santa jump for joy, and hot cocoa and tea bars.

Speaking of the Library's decorations, we were thrilled when this year's official BFJ Christmas tree from Buchanan Farms in Hookstown made its appearance at the Library on the Monday after Thanksgiving. The behemoth, which stood at nearly fifteen feet, was literally a dream tree. (It was beautiful even before it was decorated! It was *that perfect*.)

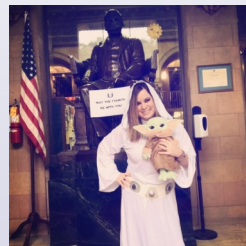
But it wouldn't be Christmas at BFJ without the presence of the Christmas Train, which graces the Reference Room every year. This elaborate village is lovingly curated and set up by the Murphy Family, and sometimes, it's hard to tell who gets the most excited about it: the little ones, or the grown-ups for whom it's a hearty dose of childhood nostalgia.

We hope you all had a beautiful holiday season filled with the love of your nearest and dearest; know that our wishes for you, as the Eat 'n Park Christmas Tree commercial says, are that the special lift you get from the holiday season may last the whole year long.

Here's to 2024.



A Note from Your Editor



BFJ Announces Exciting New Partnerships for 2024!

The Library looks forward to building new relationships with organizations like the Heinz History Center and the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden to expand access to living history in Beaver and Allegheny Counties.

Hi, BFJ Faithful! This is just a quick note to kick off the New Year, imparting the knowledge that I, your friendly neighborhood librarian (newly-minted with my MLIS as of December!) am also your intrepid journalist and editor of *The Bookmark*.

I'd love to dedicate a piece of real estate to the things you're all reading and loving, and make it a regular part of the newsletter, so please feel free to email your current faves to me, and I'll make sure to get them in here. :) I'm also more than willing to share some recommendations with you, so if you're looking for some bookish advice, I'm here for that, too— again, just send an email!

You can count on *The Bookmark* being published in January, March, June, September, and December; there is *so much* coming up that we look forward to sharing with you.

Can't wait to hear from you, and wishing you the best year ahead,

Megan

BFJ Patron Services Librarian
moneill@beaverlibraries.org

One of the most important things to remember about libraries is that they are not solitary beings; they work best when they are a vital part of the communities they serve.

We are so excited to announce that beginning in 2024, B.F. Jones Memorial Library is going to be partnering with the Heinz History Center as part of their History Center Affiliates Program: this new relationship will allow our patrons to access the HCAP's "Experience Kit," which provides passes to museums and living history sites in Allegheny, Washington, Butler, Beaver, and Westmoreland counties. The specific sites will be announced soon.

There are typically passes for 6-8 museums and sites. These passes are reusable and can be checked out to patrons for one week at a time. We will receive a pass for each partnering museum/site and each pass will be checked out separately. Each pass allows two adults and six children to visit the specific

museum/site for free, throughout the week that they have the pass checked out.

Having partnered with the HHC during Summer 2023 for events like the "Winning the War in the Skies" discussion at the Beaver County Airport and Aviation Museum, we're looking forward to expanding our collaboration.

The Sisters of St. Joseph have had a presence in Aliquippa for decades through their service at St. Titus Church and School; last summer, they also provided one of the grants that allowed the Library to build and maintain the new Courtyard Garden.

On January 10, Kristen and Megan had the chance to visit the Sisters' Motherhouse in Baden, and tour the beautiful facility under the guidance of CSJ Archivist Kathleen Washy and Sister Sally Witt. The afternoon was full of wonderful conversation about the vital need for the maintenance of archives, especially as the populations of smaller communities age, the sharing of memories of Aliquippa, and some great discussion



about ways in which the Library and the Sisters can continue to partner in order to fulfill our very similar missions: to serve, to educate, and to care for the communities who hold us in their hearts.

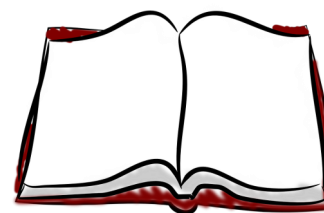
We are grateful to our "Dear Neighbors," the Sisters, for their hospitality in welcoming us to their home - including their adorable library, pictured above! -, and we can't wait to return the favor!



New Year's Reading Resolutions

Enjoy a bit of wit and wisdom from your Library Staff! **dates to know!**

"I like to set a goal on Goodreads: this year, I set it at 130 books."
- Carla



"I'd like to read more juvenile and young adult literature this year. I love authors like Sharon Draper, Jacqueline Woodson, Rex Ogle, Jane Yolen, and Karma Wilson, so I want to read more of their work. I also want to experience more of the recently published picture books! So many titles have such an amazing depth - between the illustrations and poignant text they truly have multigenerational appeal - but they are often overlooked because of the 'recommended reading level.' Picture books are my jam!"
- Kristen

"To read enough murder mysteries to become qualified as an amateur sleuth...Nancy Drew in training!"
- Casey



"I'd like to read more juvenile and young adult literature this year. I love authors like Sharon Draper, Jacqueline Woodson, Rex Ogle, Jane Yolen, and Karma Wilson, so I want to read more of their work. I also want to experience more of the recently published picture books! So many titles have such an amazing depth - between the illustrations and poignant text they truly have multigenerational appeal - but they are often overlooked because of the 'recommended reading level.' Picture books are my jam!"
- Kristen



"I'm promising myself that I'm going to actually read books I've bought! To make myself stick to it, I've planned out my reading list for 2024 with two reading challenges and filled out the prompts with books from my personal library."
- Megan

"I'm very, very old and very forgetful. My goal for 2024 is to record each book in Goodreads as soon as I borrow it- if I don't do it immediately I'll definitely forget, and Goodreads is the best way for me to be able to recommend books to others at a moment's notice."
- Cheryl

"Read more short story collections. I always hesitate to pick up short stories instead of a novel, since I love getting to know characters and getting lost in the story of a book. But I have come to realize some of the books I think back to most often have been short story collections. And almost any time I read one I love them! So, this year, I will read more short stories!"
- Jenni

"I plan on reading some classics I've never read, like *Lord of the Rings*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Atlas Shrugged*. I'm embarrassed to admit that I've never read these!"
- Cindy



"I want to read one book from every year starting with the year I was born until now!"
- Marianne



"I want to read 30 books this year, and do some reading outside of my usual go-to genres!"
- Tiffany

WEDNESDAY, JAN 17:
Tech2Elevate will begin a weekly program that offers technological assistance to patrons, free of charge! They'll be here every Wednesday, from 12:00pm-4:00pm.

MONDAY, JAN 22:
Come play BINGO with Miss Jenni and the Library Gang from 5:00-6:30pm! Where else can you play BINGO and win books?

THURSDAY, FEB 1:
BFJ is celebrating its 95th birthday on February 1st, and we're going to party like it's 1929!

MONDAY, FEB 19:
The Library will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.