

The Bookmark

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF B.F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

“Then, Now, Forever” - BFJ gets an official portrait!



Above: Prints of “Then, Now, Forever” by Linda Barnicott

Below: Artist Linda Barnicott chats with Board Secretary Ed Murphy & Friends of BFJ committee member Mary Theresa Vogel



Pittsburgh-based artist Linda Barnicott has added B.F. Jones Memorial Library to the list of buildings she has immortalized in her art. At this year’s After Hours event, the Friends of BFJ were delighted to unveil the Library’s “official portrait,” which is entitled “Then, Now, Forever.” The painting blends nostalgia with the familiarity of the present, with vibrant colors and exquisite details.

On October 25, the Library hosted a reception, where Barnicott signed items available for purchase: prints of the painting, bookmarks, Christmas ornaments, and magnets. Attendees were able to meet the artist, to learn about her inspirations for her paintings, and to chat about treasured Pittsburgh and Christmas memories, as Barnicott is billed as “the painter of memories.”

“Then, Now, Forever” also features a loving tribute to the long-time President of the Library’s Board of Directors, Mrs. Angela M. Stevens, who passed away in July 2023. The green Buick in front of the Library is a replica of the one in which she rode as a young woman, and so there our Ange appears, the silhouette in the passenger’s seat, ever-present at the Library she served with such love and dedication.

The merchandise is available at the Library.

8x11 print: \$30 Bookmarks: \$20 Magnets: \$5
12x18 print: \$90 Ornaments: \$25



THE DOORS

After receiving some TLC over the summer from the pros at Rex Glass & Mirror, the legendary brass doors have returned to their place of honor at the entrance to the Library.

We are so grateful to have had such extreme generosity shown to our mini Capital Campaign by our patrons and community; because of your donations, we were able to raise the funds necessary for the refurbishment.

Stop by and say hi soon!



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.



After Hours at the Library 2023: A night to remember!

On October 7, the Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library hosted the annual fundraiser gala “After Hours at the Library.” The event, which returned in 2022 after a two-year hiatus necessitated by the pandemic, invites guests to spend time in the Library on a Saturday evening, enjoying music, basket- and 50/50 raffles, appetizers and a light dinner buffet, and desserts and coffee.

It is an opportunity to socialize with other dedicated supporters of the Library and its mission, as well as to wander leisurely through the building and experience it in ways that are not linked to the daily business of BFJ.

This year’s event also showcased the official portrait of BFJ, a painting by Pittsburgh-based artist Linda Barnicott, entitled “Then, Now, Forever.”



The painting includes nostalgia supplied by the appearance of 1950’s-era vehicles parked in front of the Library, but also reflects the Library as it appears today: a stalwart presence on Franklin Avenue, with a storied past, a vibrant present, and a much-anticipated future, especially as its centennial celebration approaches in 2029.



This Issue

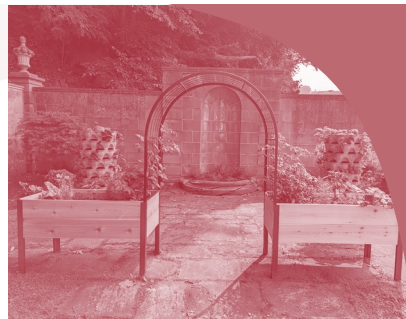
After Hours at the Library P. 1
A Special Note from Dewey P. 2
LibraryCon P. 3
“Then, Now, Forever” P. 4

*A Special Note
from Dewey*



The Best of 2023, as chosen by the BFJ Staff

*Start your 2024 entertainment lists with
some recommendations from some of your
favorite staff members!*



Hi! I'm Dewey, Santa's Official Elf Ambassador to B.F. Jones Memorial Library. I came back to visit for December, and I just want to make sure all of you know— I gave Santa a REALLY GOOD report.

There were so many fun things to do this month - the Holly Jolly Concert, Polar Express Night, the Holiday Market, a visit from Santa so he could read the letters you all wrote to him, and Christmas lunch with the Library people! - and it was spiffy to get to share the treats that so many of you brought to the Library Ladies for the holiday. They appreciate you all so, so much!!!

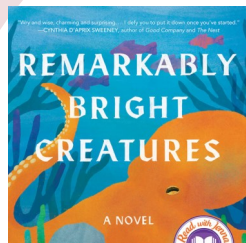
Getting to see all of the kids who come to Storytime, and even the grown-ups who come to the Book Clubs, makes me so happy. The Library is the best place, and it's so full of magic—you all help that magic to keep shining!!!

I have to get back to the North Pole to start working on all the stuff for next Christmas, but I wish you all the most joyful and sparkly New Year, and I miss you all already!!!

See you next year!!!

Love,

Dewey the Elf



It's a consensus among your friendly neighborhood library staff - *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, the debut novel by Shelby Van Pelt, was a standout read this year. This heartwarming story about the unlikely friendship between middle-aged Tova, the cleaning woman at an aquarium, and clever octopus, Marcellus (who doesn't quite believe in staying in his enclosure), is a beautiful exploration of the importance of connection.

Carla

- ◆ *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus
- ◆ *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett
- ◆ *Big Gay Wedding*, by Steven Rowley
- ◆ *Lion & Lamb*, by James Patterson
- ◆ *The Measure*, by Nikki Erlick

Cindy

- *Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune*, by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe
- *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride
- *Tangled Vines: Power, Privilege, and the Murdaugh Family Murders*, by John Glatt
- *The Covenant of Water*, by Abraham Verghese
- *A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them*, by Timothy Egan
- *Demon Copperhead*, by Barbara Kingsolver

Marianne

- * *American Sirens: The Incredible Story of the Black Men Who Became America's First Paramedics*, by Kevin Hazzard
- * *Kaufmann's: The Family That Built Pittsburgh's Famed Department Store*, by Marylynne Pitz
- * *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus
- * *Sisters of the Lost Nation*, by Nick Medina
- * *All the Sinners Bleed*, by S.A. Cosby
- * *These Silent Woods*, by Kimi Cunningham Grant

Megan

- ◇ *Under the Whispering Door*, by TJ Klune
- ◇ *Our Missing Hearts*, by Celeste Ng
- ◇ *Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many*, by Mona Gable
- ◇ *The Wounds of Wisdom*, by Alexandra Roma
- ◇ *Pageboy*, by Elliot Page

Tiffany

- ⇒ *The Next Accident*, by Lisa Gardner
- ⇒ *The Survivors Club*, by Lisa Gardner
- ⇒ *Find Her*, by Lisa Gardner
- ⇒ *When You See Her*, by Lisa Gardner
- ⇒ *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz

It was a great year for film and television adaptations of books, too! **Oppenheimer**, from director Christopher Nolan and starring Cillian Murphy, is based on *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, while **The Color Purple** brings Alice Walker's 1982 novel to a new generation with a star-studded silver-screen adaptation of the Broadway musical that features Fantasia Barrino as Miss Celie, and Taraji P. Henson as Shug Avery.

We also loved *Lessons in Chemistry* and *The Last Thing He Told Me* (both on Apple TV+), *Daisy Jones and the Six* (Amazon Prime), and *All the Light We Cannot See* (Netflix).



3rd Annual LibraryCon is a galactic hit; event celebrates the intersection of libraries and fandom.



In 2021, the Beaver County Library System decided to try something new: bringing a Comic-Con-style event to the county, featuring...libraries. With Courtney Colaizzi at the helm, LibraryCon was born, and the runaway hit event celebrated its third year of existence on October 21. LibraryCon aims to celebrate the creative and evolving ways in which local libraries interact with the community, and to highlight all of the interesting and fun things that the libraries offer.

Many of the BCLS libraries were featured at the event; each library's table had a different theme, from *Star Wars* (BFJ!) to *Harry Potter* (Beaver), and everything in between. We also welcomed lots of local vendors, organizations (including THERAPY BUNNIES!), and agencies to participate in the day, as well as a number of local authors in the "Read Local Row," and cosplay groups like the Steel City Ghostbusters, the 501st Legion/Starkiller Garrison, and Pittsburgh Cosplay for a Cause.

One of the most exciting moments of the day came with the Costume Contest; our guests really understood the assignment! The creativity and variety of costumes was simply out of this world.



LibraryCon has become one of BFJ's favorite events of the year, and we're already consulting with the Magic Mirror for 2024. The countdown is ticking away just like a croc...er, clock, so keep your eyes peeled for pre-registration in May and BFJ's theme announcement!

holly jolly holiday concert returns!

On December 2, The Friends of BFJ and the Artist in Residence Program at Hopewell High School partnered once again to kick off the holiday season with the Holly Jolly Holiday Concert. Featuring Bailey (BayTay) Taylor, The Taylor Sisters, Dan Taylor, Hermie Granati, the Holly Jolly Horn Section, and special appearances by Rick Witkowski and the Hopewell High School drumline, the concert has become an integral part of the holiday season for the area.

The concert, which was attended by nearly 500 people, was also live-streamed, which gave folks who may not live in the area anymore the chance to "come home" for the holidays.

A big thank-you to Dave Bufalini, the concert's coordinator, and a member of The Holly Jolly Horn Section!



Dave Bufalini and Miss Kris were ready to spread holiday cheer!

Polar Express Night 2023

For one early-December evening in each of the last fifteen years, the Library has become the boarding zone for the Polar Express; the event, which features a reading of the classic Christmas story *The Polar Express*, holiday-themed crafts, treats, a carol singalong, and a visit from Santa himself, is a BFJ tradition beloved by all ages.

This year, on December 11, we welcomed over 75 children and their families to Polar Express Night, and thanks to the generous donations of the Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library and several private donors, we were able to provide the children who attended with swag bags full of holiday goodies.

The Staff would also like to thank Ed Murphy, the engineer of the official BFJ Polar Express train, Ben Murphy, cocoa-slinger extraordinaire, and Chief Dave Foringer and the members of the Aliquippa Fire Department, who all shared their time to help make this event unforgettable.

