

Issue
01
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2023

The Bookmark

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF B.F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

After Hours at the Library

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Enjoy an evening partaking of platters of cheese, crackers, and fruit, a round of heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a variety of wines in our beautiful Library as you might never have experienced it before.

An amazing basket raffle and 50/50 raffle put the exclamation point on a night out that you don't want to miss!

Tickets are \$50 per person, and are now available.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

SPOOKY PITTSBURGH

5:30PM-7:30PM

Local author Chris Whitlatch, last seen at BFJ in May 2023 for a talk about his new book, *Notorious Pittsburgh*, makes a return trip to regale an audience with the spookiest tales about the Steel City!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

LIBRARYCON '23

12:00PM-3:30PM

In a galaxy not so far away, it's the Return of the Con! CCBC's Dome will once again be the place to be as the libraries of the BCLS join forces for the third annual LibraryCon! A celebration of all things pop culture and libraries, with each library having a unique theme, LibraryCon is an afternoon of activities, food, local vendors, a cosplay contest, magic, and more!

Can you guess BFJ's theme?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

holly jolly holiday concert

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Presented in partnership with the Hopewell School District's Music Department, the Holly Jolly Holiday Concert features Bailey "BayTay" Taylor, The Taylor Sisters, and the Holly Jolly Horn Section (along with some special guests) as they spread holiday cheer from the Hopewell High School's auditorium.

Tickets are \$20, and will be available at the Library, The Medicine Shoppe,

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Polar Express Night

5:30pm-7:00pm

BFJ's favorite holiday tradition continues! This free event for children of all ages features a special storytime with *The Polar Express*, holiday crafts, snacks, and a visit from a Very Important Guest, all the way from the North Pole!

*Registration is required, and will open in November.



663 Franklin Avenue
Aliquippa, PA 15001



THE DOORS

In late May, the façade of the Library changed a little bit - the beloved, original brass doors were taken off in order to undergo restoration.

Spearheaded by The Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library, a capital campaign was conducted to finance the project. Thanks to the generosity of donors, and a matching contribution made by the Friends, the project has so far raised \$12,500 at the time of printing.



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.



All Together Now: Summer 2023

Summer Reading 2023 kicked off on June 3, 2023! Featuring challenges for three age ranges—children, teens, and adults—there's fun for the whole family. With visits from the Little Free Food Truck (time and food donated by the Lutheran House of Prayer in Aliquippa) and The Pirate Parrot, the afternoon featured arts and crafts and lawn games in the Library's courtyard, and the beginning of Free Comic Book Week.

From June 12-14, the Library hosted the Citizen Science Lab, which allows children to get some hands-on experience performing science experiments and learning the importance of STEM education with themes such as Plants, Circuitry, and Robots.

BFJ also welcomed Ms. Brittany and her Summer Yoga class, Professor Steve Haberman and his Magic Show, GSK's Science in the Summer program, and the beginning of two new social groups: Senior Group and Caregivers Support Group. Senior Group takes place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, while Caregivers Support Group takes place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, all at 10:00am.

In late June, we began the latest cycle of the Youth-Led Humanities program. Formerly known as Teen Reading Lounge, YHL aims to teach teens and tweens the importance of representation and diverse perspectives, as well as community service, through a focused literary theme. This year's theme was Food as Culture and Identity.

July sent the Library back to the '40s and '50s with a visit from local performer Vintage Debbie, who lent her talents to a summer tour through multiple Beaver County Library System locations. Her appearance at BFJ featured hits of the Big Band and Swing era, complete with props and audience participation.

Thank you to everyone who made Summer Reading a success — see you next year!



This Issue

- Summer Reading Round-Up P. 1
- History Center Development P. 2
- From the Director's Desk P. 1
- Upcoming Events P. 2

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Hello, all!

As we begin the last quarter of 2023, I wanted to just chat about what the year has brought to the Library. We've had our share of good times—a successful Summer Reading Program, new friends, and plentiful harvests from our very own "Secret Garden" outside in the Courtyard, as well as our new relationship with the Heinz History Center: we were able to take part in two presentations led by the HHC's curators, and they were some of our best-attended of the summer.

We've had our sad ones, too.

The unexpected loss of our Board President, Mrs. Angela M. Stevens, hit us hard; it's going to take a long time to really come to terms with not having her with us. We're hoping to give her legacy the honor it deserves, though, by establishing the Angela M. Stevens Memorial Fund, and rededicating our Children's Picture Book Room in her memory. She was an unfaltering champion of the Library and its mission, and it feels right to have her name on the doors of the room whose initial creation she pioneered years ago.

We're looking forward to what Fall and Winter have in store—LibraryCon will be back, and so will Polar Express Night, for fun for the whole family. We're also going to be upgrading the Library's security, doing some renovations of public spaces, and repointing the building—a project that started with the refurbishing of our doors.

(Which, hopefully by the time this is in your hands, will be home!) - *Kristen Janci, Director*

"If you have a garden in your library, everything will be complete." - Cicero

BFJ's new gardening program fosters a sense of community and stewardship as produce grows and flowers bloom.



Running low on fresh herbs and produce? Come visit the Library!

...wait. What?

That's right! Thanks to the original grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation, and supplemental grants from the Sisters of St. Joseph (Community Garden Grant), the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank (Summer Impact Grant), and Remake Learning (Remake Learning Grant), the Library has spent the summer tending its new green spaces and cultivating delicious produce!

The hydroponic "Lettuce Grow" tower in the Children's Department, and the raised beds with self-watering reservoirs and tower gardens in the Library's Courtyard, were assembled and planted by program specialist Peter Quinn.

The Courtyard garden contains flowers, vegetables, and herbs, and the hydroponic tower in the Children's Department holds vegetables and herbs.

Programming involving the gardens has included patrons of all ages, from the toddlers who attend Storytime to the teens who make up the Youth-Led Humanities Group

(previously known as Teen Reading Lounge) to adults, both volunteers and Library Staff.

The Library has also been excited to host programs in conjunction with Penn State Extension's Master Gardeners.

The gardens -- both indoor and outdoor -- are harvested every couple of days. Gifts of their bounty are available at the Main Circulation Desk inside the Library, so please stop by and see what our gardens have yielded! Maybe the latest batch includes your favorite.

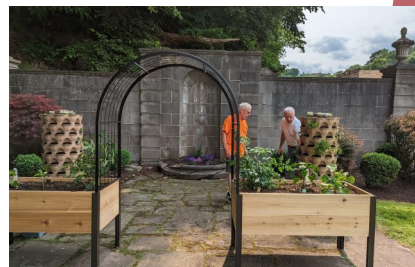
We would be honored to share the blessings of our gardens with you—the Library has already been able to nourish the spirits and minds of our community for nearly one-hundred years. We're so excited to be able to help nourish their appetites, now, too.

Thank you to our generous donors, to our programming specialist Peter Quinn, to our volunteers, and to our staff, all of whom have played a part in the creation of the gardens.

We couldn't do it without you.



BFJ Programming Specialist Carla Smith helps a few Storytime attendees get hands-on experience with the raised beds in the Courtyard.



Program Specialist Peter Quinn and Library Volunteer Andy Gianni survey their hard work with the Tower Gardens.



Members of the Youth-Led Humanities group work on harvesting some greens from the Courtyard.



History Comes Home: Introducing BFJ's new local history cabinets

B.F. Jones Memorial Library has long been viewed as the heart of the town; its centennial presence has allowed it to stand watch as history has marched on here in Aliquippa.

In March 2023, it began taking steps towards being the guardian of history in a tangible way. Several of the book cabinets in "The Jones Zone" were repurposed as display cabinetry, updated and designed by Foster Construction. They have begun to be filled with ephemera of all kinds. One cabinet houses J&L Steel items, one hosts items from Aliquippa businesses of yore, one represents the many professional sports figures who call Aliquippa home, including Mike Ditka and Ty Law. We didn't forget the entertainers, either, like Academy Award-winner Joe Letteri (including a miniature Oscar!), and local music legends Jimmie Ross & The Jaggerz.

Another cabinet pays homage to local war heroes with the display of the Purple Heart awarded to Corporal Steven J. Durish, USMC (Vietnam), and the medals of PFC James D. Gibson, USMC, who was wounded at Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima (WWII). We are so honored to have been entrusted with these invaluable pieces of history, and are ever grateful to those who have served our country with distinction and bravery.

Also on display are the ceremonial shovel used in the groundbreaking for the Library in 1927, and the inkwell that once sat on the desk of B.F. Jones himself.

The cabinets were sponsored by: The Friends of the B.F. Jones Library, the Library Board, Mitchell & Lisa Unis, Marty & Norah Miller, and Gilda Letteri.

And this is only the beginning.



The History Cases at B.F. Jones Memorial Library.

If you are in possession of any items that are illustrative of the history of Aliquippa, and would like to donate it to this project, please contact the Library.

We look forward to sharing our newest project with you — we can't wait for everyone to visit!



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that the Library's birthday is February 1st? We opened our doors to the public for the first time on February 1, 1929!

...that the Library has ties to the Empire State Building? Oscar Bach, the architect responsible for the metalwork in the lobby of the ESB, also created the wrought-iron gateways into our Reference and Reading Rooms.

...that the Library is a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places?

...that the podium JFK used on his visit to Aliquippa in 1962 is on display at the Library?

In Memoriam: Angela M. Stevens



On July 6, 2023, the Library lost one of its most beloved and dedicated supporters: the President of the Library's Board of Directors, Mrs. Angela M. Stevens.

A retired administrator and speech therapist for the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit, Angela believed with all her heart in the Library's mission to educate and support the youth of the area both intellectually and emotionally.

There was no better ambassador for the Library than she was.

In addition to serving as the President of the Board, Angela was also an active member of the Friends of B.F. Jones Memorial Library, and could always be counted on to reign over the check-in table at any event, warmly welcoming attendees with her incomparable smile.

She will be missed more than words can even begin to say, and we can only hope to live up to the legacy she believed in and leaves behind.

If you would like to contribute to the Angela M. Stevens Memorial Fund, which will be used in part to dedicate the Picture Book Room in our Children's Department in dear Angela's honor, please contact the Library at 724.375.2900, or email the Director, Kristen Janci, at kjanci@beaverlibraries.org.



JONES FAMILY TALK

On Saturday, June 10, the Library welcomed Tim Appleton of the Sewickley Heights Historical Center for a talk about B.F. Jones - the person! - and his position as one of the most influential figures in the rise of the steel industry: not only in Aliquippa, but nationwide.



Presenter Tim Appleton and Library Director Kristen Janci