

Battle of the Books 2024

The Aliquippa District Library Center, the Beaver County Library System, and the local school districts joined together for the annual book trivia event.



For many elementary and middle school students, Battle of the Books is the pinnacle of the year. 5th-8th grade students at participating schools are organized into teams, and throughout the year, they read a selected group of books appropriate for their age levels. By the time the Battle of the Books rolls around - this year held on May 8th and 9th at Penn State Beaver - the teams are ready and raring to go, their minds full of trivia from the books. The books are provided by the Aliquippa District Library Center here at B.F. Jones Memorial Library.

The questions are curated by English teachers and school librarians from the participating schools, and the event is staffed by staff members from various


Beaver County Library System branches.

The 2024 champion of the 7th & 8th Grade bracket was a team from Beaver Falls, in yet another strong appearance from the Tigers, who have taken the title multiple times in the last few years.

The 5th & 6th Grade bracket was fierce competition, but a Hopewell team reigned supreme, winning by quite a margin over their competitors.

And while we're so proud of all of the kids who participated in Battle of the Books, we here at BFJ are especially proud of the Hopewell team: it consisted of some of our favorite young patrons.

Looking forward to battling again in 2025!

 B.F. Jones
Memorial Library
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Aliquippa, PA 15001

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Blood Donation

On Monday, April 15, the Library hosted a blood drive with Vitalant Blood Donation. Vitalant set up a full-scale blood drive in the Reference Room of the Library, where patrons, staff, and community members alike participated.

Blood drives provide much-needed supplies for blood transfusions; BFJ is grateful to our community for stepping up to help.



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.

The Bookmark

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF B.F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Summer Reading Kicks Off! This Issue

School's out for summer, and BFJ is ready to be your one-stop shop for entertainment and enrichment over these next few months.

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June is bustin' out all over, and there's no place cooler than your friendly neighborhood Library! Summer Reading 2024 kicked off on Saturday, June 8, in true Steel City style. The Pittsburgh Pirates' very own Pirate Parrot was the guest of honor; in addition to taking (so many!) selfies and posed photographs with the attendees—kiddos and grown-ups alike—, he even got in some parachute work and a quick game of baseball in the BFJ Courtyard.

Not to mention, he made quite a few patrons indoors, and folks driving by, do double-takes. One passerby even honked their car horn to the rhythm of "Let's Go Bucs!" and hollered hello out their window, while Officer D'Arrigo of the Aliquippa Police Department stopped by to say a quick in-person hello and check in on his Library friends!

The Parrot, while the undisputed highlight of the day, was just the tip of the iceberg of the event. Library patrons were able to take home a selection of free comic books (courtesy of New Dimension Comics), begin their annual Brag Tag search by picking up their BFJ Brag Tag, sign up for our Beanstack

challenge (all ages are welcome, and yes, adults will be eligible for prizes throughout the summer, too!), and enjoy lunch and music in the Courtyard.

(Many thanks to BFJ Board Secretary Ed Murphy, for being our Grillmaster and serving up hot dogs worthy of PNC Park!)

We can't wait to share the rest of our Summer Reading plans and programs with you, so be sure to stay tuned to our social media platforms and make sure to grab our monthly calendars the next time you drop into the Library!



A Note from
Your Editor

Total Eclipse Steals BFJ's Heart

The once-in-a-century(ish) celestial event on Monday, April 8, 2024 was celebrated with flair here at the Library!

On June 2, I was able to spend time at the 3 Rivers Comic Con, held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Downtown Pittsburgh. The Beaver County Library System was kindly invited to have a table there, not only in order to spread the message about LibraryCon in October, but also to participate in the excellent camaraderie of the pop culture community. (Shout out to our friend Jon Engell!)

With our banned books-themed display - featuring books like *The Lorax*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, and even *The Oxford Dictionary* (yes, you read that right, schools in Florida have attempted to ban the dictionary) - we felt not only an astonishing love for books and libraries, but we also witnessed a fierce opposition to the idea of banning books.

While not everyone will like every book that's on the shelves, everyone should be able to see themselves reflected there. Attempts to prevent that are a disservice to our communities.

Libraries are for everyone, and we'll never stop being proud of that.

Megan

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If there's anything that's capable of capturing the attention of an often-inattentive populace, it's a celestial event that's billed as "once-in-a-lifetime." The total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, was definitely a global experience. Many people went so far as to plan elaborate trips that would take them to locations which would experience "totality," or the complete darkening of the sun.

Here at BFJ, we weren't in the path of totality, but even so, we celebrated a pretty exciting day. Our Solar Eclipse Soiree began at noon to coincide with the beginning of the eclipse, and continued through the rest of the day. With space-themed crafts and activities, snacks, and even the Portable Planetarium with our friends from the Carnegie Science Center, which hosted interactive presentations on the sun (one for littles, which was *Sesame Street*-themed, and one for older kids and adults), it's hard to say what the best part of the Soiree really was.

Just kidding. It was obviously the eclipse itself; it was so cool to watch the sun slowly get covered up, and to hear the birds in the trees

around the Library get quieter as it got darker outside and the temperature dropped. Even if we weren't in the path of totality like our neighbors to the north in Erie, or to the west in Ohio and beyond, 98% totality was pretty awe-inspiring. And to get to share that experience with so many of our Library friends made it even more magical.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Solar Eclipse Soiree, who helped to make it happen, and who gracefully navigated the shortage of eclipse glasses with us.

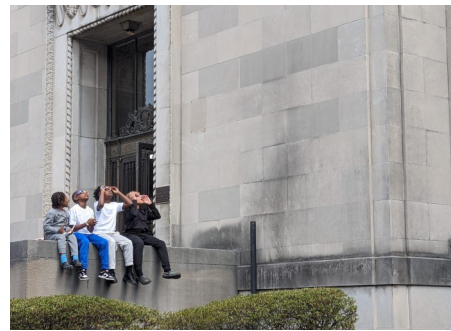
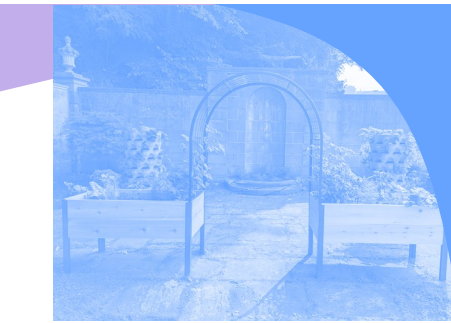
We hope to see you for the next one, in 2044!



WANT MORE SCIENCE? Join BFJ, the Carnegie Science Center, and GSK for Science in the Summer. This year's program will take place from Monday, June 24, through Thursday, June 27. A session for Grades 2 & 3 will be held at 10:00am, while a session for Grades 4, 5, & 6 will be held at 11:30am.



Registration is required.



Readers' Advisory: Summer Edition!

Steven Rowley's newest novel leads off our list of must-reads of the summer, while perennial beach-read favorite Mary Kay Andrews adds another notch to her belt.



One of the most anticipated books of Summer 2024 among the BFJ Staff is the long-awaited follow-up to Steven Rowley's delightful 2019 offering, *The Guncle*, which became a unanimous pick around here as a favorite. *The Guncle Abroad* picks up five years after the events of its predecessor, with titular "Guncle" Patrick O'Hara once again in charge of his precocious niece and nephew, Maisie and Grant. This time, the trio is across the Atlantic, as they traipse around Europe in the lead-up to a family wedding. Full of heart, humor, whimsy, and genuinely touching life lessons, including how to open your heart to change and deal with resurgences of grief, *The Guncle Abroad* is not only a solid sequel, but a brilliant read for any season of life.



Publishers Weekly calls Mary Kay Andrews' newest novel, *Summer at the Saint*, "a mesmerizing mix of mystery and romance that will please any armchair traveler." With this story of the resilience of people, places, and the traditions that bind us together, Andrews proves why she deserves a spot atop the list of Queens of Summer.

Perfect for fans of Elin Hilderbrand and Susan Mallery.



While summer is a great time to indulge in the lighter side of literature, with frothy fun and light-hearted reads, there's

no hard and fast rule that says a nonfiction book about D-Day can't be a summer read, too. Garrett M. Graff's latest, *When the Sea Came Alive: An Oral History of D-Day*, follows in the footsteps of his 2019 work, *The Only Plane in the Sky*, by taking the Allied landing on the beaches of Normandy and detailing it in the very voices of those who experienced it. As we lose our Greatest Generation, it is more important than ever that we hear their stories, in their own words, while we have them here to tell them. Although harrowing, this cannot be missed.

dates to know!

TUESDAY, JUN 18:
Closing at 5:00pm in observance of Juneteenth

WEDNESDAY, JUN 19:
Closed in observance of Juneteenth

MONDAY, JUN 24 - THURSDAY, JUN 27:
Science in the Summer w/ Carnegie Science Center and GSK

FRIDAY, JUN 28 & SATURDAY, JUN 29:
BFJ Book Sale, 9:00am-5:00pm

WEDNESDAY, JUL 3:
Closing at 5:00pm in observance of Independence Day

THURSDAY, JUL 4:
Closed in observance of Independence Day

TUESDAY, JUL 9:
Paint the Past at BFJ w/ Carrie Havranek

THURSDAY, JUL 25:
One-day-only Flash Sale for Holly Jolly Christmas Concert tickets

SATURDAY, AUG 31:
Closing at 2:00pm in observance of Labor Day Weekend