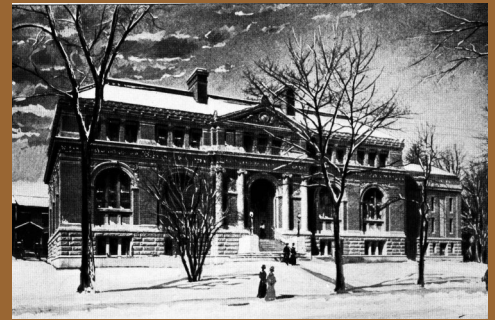




www.nbpl.info
860-224-3155

NBPL News

New Britain Public Library est. 1853



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 2024

In the last newsletter, I shared that it was going to be an exciting year at the library. Here we go. We are going to take advantage of the scaffolding on the original library building for a special project. Watch for it in early February.

Big news! After a wonderful and amazing career at the library, I will be retiring. Whoever thought that when I got my first job at the library that it would span over 50 years, culminating as the director for over 13 years. Working at NBPL with such a wonderful community has been a most fulfilling and rewarding career. To see the library grow, transform and evolve and become a place of community has been amazing and enjoyable. Our board has begun the search for the next director and will make an announcement when the decision is finalized. Thank you for your support and for being a library member. I will surely miss you all! More excitement - the library's big fundraiser, **Literary Libations VIII**, is coming: Thursday, March 21, 2024, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Tickets will be on sale online and at the Check Out Desk early February.

Words from Our Director

—Pat Rutkowski, Director

Adult Programs

Black History Month Films:

Hidden Figures & Summer of Soul

Sat. Feb. 3, 11-1 pm (*Hidden Figures*)

Wed. Feb. 7, 5:30-7:30 pm

(*Summer of Soul*)

Community Room

Join us for screenings of these films that highlight black achievement. *Hidden Figures* is a film based on the true story about three African-American women working at NASA in the 1960's who performed the mathematical analysis and calculations that helped launch astronaut John Glenn into orbit.

Summer of Soul is a documentary directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson about the lost legendary 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which celebrated African-American music and culture and has become known as the Black Woodstock.



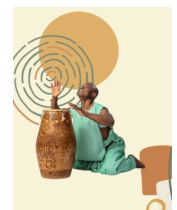
Iddi African Drumming and Dance **All Ages**

Thurs. Feb. 8, 6 pm

Community Room

Come experience the joy of African Drumming and Dance with

Iddi Saaka! Explore a variety of instruments, and learn authentic rhythms and dances from Ghana. Saaka is a dancer, drummer, and choreographer who teaches at Wesleyan University. Register online or call us.



Open Mic Night

Wed. Feb. 14, 5:30 pm

Community Room

Have a song to sing, a poem to share, or stand up routine to try out? Come make some noise at the library at our Open Mic Night! This month's theme is LOVE, so come share your love and heartbreak songs and sonnets and enjoy some Valentine's Day treats! **Registration for performers is required.**



www.facebook.com/nbpl.ct
Instagram & Twitter @NewBritLib

Main: 20 High St. New Britain, CT 06051
Jefferson Branch: 140 Horse Plain Road



Adventurers Club

Feb. 8 & 15, 4-7 pm
Community Room
Join us for monthly sessions of HeroQuest and Dungeons and Dragons. New players welcome but seats are limited. Register online or call the library.

**National Pizza Day-
Pizza Tasting**



Fri. Feb. 9, 11 am
Come celebrate National Pizza Day by trying some local pizza at the library.

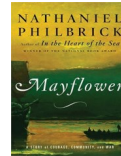
Banned Book Club

Sat. Feb. 17, 3-4 pm
Local History Room
A book club where we will be reading books that have been challenged or banned in public libraries. This month's book is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. Copies available at the Check Out Desk.



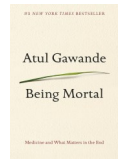
Senior Center Book Discussion Group

Tues. Feb. 20, 1 pm
Senior Center, 55 Pearl St.
The book will be *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Copies available at the Check Out Desk.



Book Discussion Group

Tues. Feb. 20, 6:30 pm
Community Room
The book will be *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. Copies available at the Check Out Desk. New members always welcome.



Lawyers in the Library: Free Legal Advice

Wed. Feb. 21, 5:30-7:30 pm
Community Room
An attorney will be at the library on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Call to register for a free 20 minute consultation.

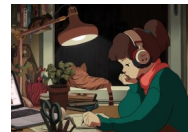


More adult programs on page 4

Teen Programs

Chill Beats to Do Homework To

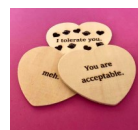
Thursdays Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 6-7 pm
Teen Room



Join us for a dedicated hour of quiet study time. Students can come in to finish homework or read while we play some soothing chill beats in the background.

Anti-Valentines Day

Wed. Feb. 14, 4 pm
Teen Room
Join us in the Teen Room for our Anti-Valentine's Day Extravaganza. We'll have crafts and a 'celebrating single' event complete with delicious snacks not suitable for a date! (think stinky foods!)



Teen Gaming: Taiko No Tatsujin Rhythm Festival

Wed. Feb. 21, 4 pm
Teen Room
Join us the third Wednesday of each month for our Teen Gaming. This month we'll be playing the rhythm mastery game Taiko no Tatsujin.



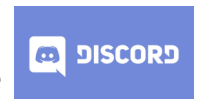
Pokemon Day Celebration

Tues. Feb. 27, 4 pm
Teen Room
Gotta catch em' all! Pokémon fans of all stripes are welcome to join us. Grab a coloring sheet, battle in the Pokémon card game, or catch digital Pokémon while hanging out with fellow fans.



Discord Server and Tik Tok

New Britain teens are invited to join the Teen Room's Discord server to chat and get the latest info on upcoming events. Ask how to join at the Teen Desk. You can also find us on TikTok @NBPLTeens .



***New* in the Teen Room**

Along with the new VR and Nintendo Switch game is the video game adaptation of the boxing movie classic, *Creed*. Stop in the Teen Room during open hours and try it out for yourself.



Children's Programs

Terrific Tots

Monday, 10 am

Feb. 5, 12, 26, 10 am

Storytime with Miss Amy for children ages 2½-3½. Activities include stories, a simple craft, and time to play with library toys at the end.

Feb. 5—**Piping Hot Pizza Stories**

Feb. 12—**Tea with Friends** Stories and a tea party.

Feb. 26—**Who Left Those Footprints?** Dinosaur stories.



Tales on Tuesday (Facebook Live)

Tuesdays, 10–5 pm

Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27

Stories for preschoolers

Feb. 6—**Can You Guess?** With Miss Martha.

Feb. 13—**Hippity Hop:** bunny stories with Miss Christina.

Feb. 20—**Happy Birthday to Me!** Stories for celebrating with Miss Amy.

Feb. 27—**Wheels at Work** Big truck stories with Miss Cathy.



Super Kids

Wednesdays, 10 am

Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28

Storytime with Miss JoAnn for children 3-5 years accompanied by an adult. Stories, fingerplays, songs, and a craft or activity.



Feb. 7—**Things that Go:** transportation stories

Feb. 14—**Stories to Love for Valentine's Day**

Feb. 21—**Can We Please Get a...?** Stories about pets.

Feb. 28—**King of the Jungle** Lion stories.

Family Story Hour

Thursdays Feb. 1, 8, 15, & 22, 6:30 pm
Storytime with Miss Cathy for children ages 3-8. Stories and a short film.

Feb. 1—**African-American folktales** Celebrating the Black storytelling tradition.

Feb. 8—**Unmentionable!** Stories for Valentine's Day and every day!

Feb. 15—**Year of the Dragon** Celebrating the Lunar New Year.

Feb. 22—**Librarian's Choice** Miss Cathy will share some of her favorite books

Feb. 29—**Leap Frog for Leap Day!**



Time for Tots

Fridays, Feb. 2, 9, 16, & 23 10-11:30 am
Playtime and stories in the Community Room. For children under 3 with an adult.



Take Your Child to the Library Day

Sat. Feb. 3, 10-4 pm

Bring the family and sample activities offered for children throughout the year. Make crafts. Read together. Treats. No library card? Get one—they're free, and get a prize. Each child can choose a free book to keep.

2:00—Storytime with Elsa and Anna: meet the princesses and enjoy stories and games. Everyone welcome, no registration.



Science to Go Kits: Black Scientists

Information and simple activities inspired by some Black scientists you should know. Best for ages 5 and up. Available while supplies last.



Wonderbooks!



The Children's Department now has Wonderbooks you can borrow. These are books that read to you! It's a hardcover picture book or early reader with a little audiobook player built right into the front cover. Press play and it'll read aloud to you while you turn the pages. Ask for them next time you visit.



Friends of the New Britain Public Library

February marks the start of a very busy few months as the Friends prepare for the Spring Book Sale (April 18-20, 2024). In March, the display case at the library will highlight some of the many gems featured at the Sale. We hope to see you there. Meanwhile, please visit our Everyday Book Sale which is restocked regularly and open during library hours.

This month we'd like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our long-time Budget Chair, Barbara Canzonetti. Her attention to numbers helps us focus on areas of improvement in our budgets.

We are most grateful to Library Director, Pat Rutkowski, for her unwavering support of the Friends over the decades. We cannot do the work we do without the active support of the Director and the staff, and we've been very lucky to have both. Thank you all. We particularly appreciate all that Pat has done for our group and will miss her. Happy retirement, Pat!

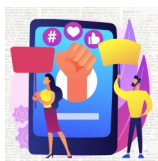
Civics for Adult Citizen Activism

101: Making Change Happen

Sat. Feb. 17, 2-3 pm

Community Room/Zoom

Want to improve life for yourself and your neighbors or have a concern about local, state, or federal laws? This workshop provides a brief historical perspective, discusses strategies for change, and gives examples of successful advocacy. Registration required.



Wellness in the Library: Gentle Yoga

Thurs. Feb. 22, 6:30-7:30 pm

Community Room

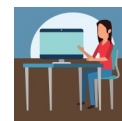
Come join us for our monthly wellness series! This month we're offering Gentle Yoga, presented by Melissa. Bring your own mat.



Computer Basics: Gmail

Wed. Feb. 28, 5-6 pm Community Room

This lesson will be about creating and using a Gmail account. Register online or in person at the Information Desk.



Do-It-Yourself Energy Assessment!

Thurs. Feb. 29, 5:30-7:30 pm

Community Room

This workshop will teach you how to conduct a visual inspection of your home and identify basic energy efficiency issues. We will discuss low-cost interventions that can be done to help improve your home's energy efficiency. Register online, over the phone, or at the Information Desk.



Library Hours and Locations

Main Library

20 High Street
860-224-3155

Monday-Thursday
9 am-8 pm

Friday & Saturday
9 am -5 pm

Teen Room

Monday-Thursday
9 am-8 pm

Friday & Saturday
9 am-5 pm

Local History Room

Monday & Wednesday
9 am-2 pm

Makerspace
Monday & Tuesday
11-5 pm

Wednesday
12-7 pm

Thursday
12-5 pm

Friday & Saturday*
*alternating
1 pm-4:30 pm

Computer Center

Monday-Thursday
9 am-7:30 pm

Friday and Saturday
9 am-4:30 pm

Jefferson Branch

140 Horse Plain Road
860-225-4700

Monday-Friday
8:30 am-5 pm
Closed 1-2 pm

Library Closings

Monday, February 19
Presidents' Day

Library Displays

Front Case

Black History Month
Michael Ardrey

Hall Case

Black History Month
Beverly Jelks