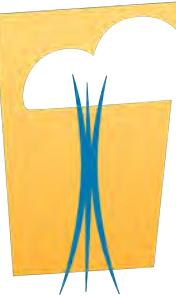




2019

Opening New Doors

Annual Report



BETHLEHEM AREA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Learning Starts Here



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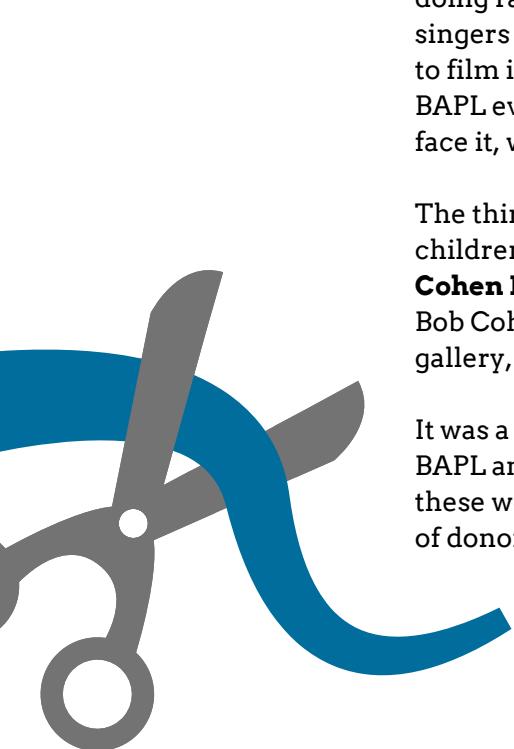
From the Director

My giant scissors got a lot of use in 2019, as we cut ribbons on several new facilities here at BAPL. (Now if only I can find a use for this oversized stapler.) A whole new library facility was opened in 2019 — **BAPL Coolidge**, a satellite library embedded in Bethlehem Township's Coolidge Building. It was a long process to get the 100-year-old building ready to be a modern mini-library. I'm so proud of the library staff and so thankful to the Township officials and employees who made this a reality.

Earlier in the year, we cut the ribbon on **Studio 11**, an innovative public recording studio in the basement of the Main Library. Kicked off by funding from Lehigh University's South Side Initiative and the Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative and improved upon by many community members, the studio features professional-quality sound equipment. In the first year we hosted talented folks doing rap, rock, country, opera, jazz, podcasts, poetry, as well as singers from all around the world. Filmmakers and vloggers used it to film interviews and oral histories. We are so proud of all of you. BAPL even made it onto the liner notes of a few albums which, let's face it, was my dream all along!

The third ribbon-cutting was held in November, as the former children's room on the Main Library's first floor became the **Bob Cohen Room**. Named for Library Board member, donor, and friend, Bob Cohen, the room can serve as a concert venue, lecture hall, art gallery, meeting space, and all sorts of uses not yet imagined!

It was a whole lot of ribbon cutting, all in the name of modernizing BAPL and evolving to meet the needs of our community. Note that these were all completed only due to the generosity and assistance of donors, partner organizations, community leaders, and you!



John W. Berk

Josh Berk
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Thank you to the dedicated individuals who served on the Library Board in 2019. These trustees are appointed by Bethlehem City Council and the governing bodies of each of our supporting municipalities. Trustees do not receive compensation for the service they provide on behalf of the Library and their communities.

City of Bethlehem

Julie Zumas
Jane K. Gill
Olga Negrón
Anne Felker
Emil G. Signes
Joyce Hinnefeld
Sharon A. Yoshida

Bethlehem Township

Randi Blauth
John Merhottein

Fountain Hill

Annamarie Jordan

Hanover Township

Jamie Paxton

Programs & Partnership Highlights

STUDIO 11

B A P L



gets loud in the library

A recording studio in a library? Sounds crazy, and maybe it is, but it went from crazy idea to reality in just a few months. Now it's not uncommon to hear drum beats coming from the basement of the Main Library, or to see guitar bags instead of book bags entering the front door. "We had heard about some big city libraries with recording studios like New York and Chicago," says BAPL Executive Director Josh Berk. "And we started to wonder if we could make it happen here." A few things fell into place—namely library renovations leading to an underused meeting room and a grant from Lehigh University—to get the project started. Berk explains that the library has worked with Lehigh University's South Side Initiative on projects in the past, and that it was SSI Member Professor Mary Foltz who brought the possibility of a recording studio grant to his attention.

"Mary explained that there was funding from the Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative that might be a good fit for a recording studio in the library and we jumped on it," Berk says. The \$10,000 grant helped soundproof the room and allowed for the purchase of microphones, a mixing board, a computer, and more. But the final piece of the puzzle was community involvement. Matt Molchany, local musician, co-founder of Tape Swap Radio, and owner of Shards Recording Studio, helped set up the space and then marshaled community support for donations. "All this stuff starting rolling in," Berk says. "I think it was ten minutes after Matt posted that we were looking for instruments, a snare drum showed up at the front desk." Others donated guitars and amplifiers, drums, even a Wurlitzer organ and full-sized piano.



At the end of 2019, we counted 238 sessions in the studio. There was rap, rock, country, opera, jazz, podcasts, poets, and singers from all around the world. There was an original musical recorded in its entirety. It was used for film projects as well including music videos and more. It's been an exciting addition to the library's more traditional—and quieter—offerings, and it only continues to grow. Turn it up to eleven!



Programs & Partnership Highlights

Bringing Authors to BAPL

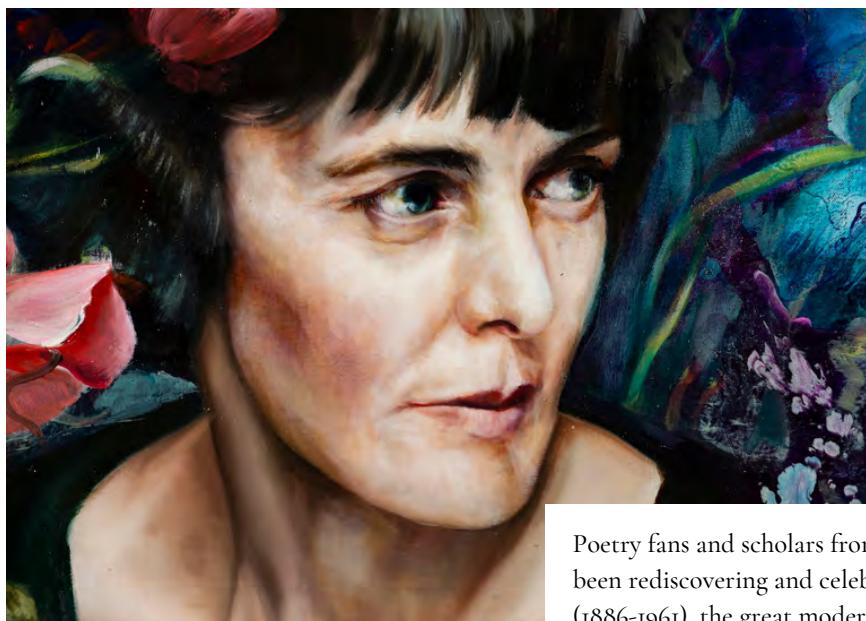
2019 was a big year for big authors at BAPL! We don't think we necessarily deserve all the credit, but consider the following: Young adult writer A.S. King gave a reading as part of the 2019 Moravian College Writers' Conference, and a few months later won the most prestigious prize in young adult literature, the American Library Association's Printz Award, for her novel *Dig*. Chuck Wendig launched his book *Wanderers* at BAPL which went on to hit several best-seller lists and be named one of the "best books of the year" by NPR. Deborah Heiligman read from her book *Torpedoed*, which soon after won a Golden Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

But that's not all! We also welcomed Chris Grabenstein, the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Mr. Lemoncello's Library series, Sarah Aronson, who grew up in Bethlehem, and Kate Racculcia, who works here! Kate's highly regarded *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* was launched with a raucous party that included the author (and library director) singing karaoke.

We feel truly lucky to be able to host all these literary lights and thank Let's Play Books in Emmaus for being our bookselling partner. We also thank you, the reader, for attending these events, reading these authors, and helping the community of letters thrive here in Bethlehem.



Programs & Partnership Highlights



My Own Spirit For Light (detail).
Angela Fraleigh, 2020. Photo: Ken Ek

Instead of pearls--a wrought clasp--
a bracelet--will you accept this?

from "The Gift"

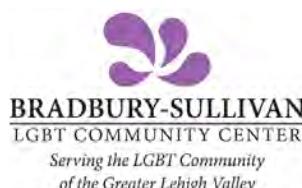
The Year of H.D.

Poetry fans and scholars from the Lehigh Valley and elsewhere have been rediscovering and celebrating Bethlehem's Hilda Doolittle (1886-1961), the great modernist poet known as H.D., and 2019 was in fact "the year of H.D." at BAPL and beyond. We joined three organizations—Lehigh University, Mock Turtle Marionette Theater and Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Community Center—to organize a region-wide celebration of H.D.'s life and work in an exciting project known as FINDING H.D. Finding H.D. was a 12-month long community exploration of the life and work of H.D., culminating in the premiere of a new play by Mock Turtle Marionette Theatre at Touchstone Theatre in October. Other events included public readings, book discussions, lectures, panel discussions, walking tours, a musical performance inspired by H.D., a BAPL Books publication of the out-of-print H.D. volume *Sea Garden*, and the commissioning of a portrait of H.D. by artist Angela Fraleigh to hang at the Main Library—where she can gaze out over the stacks, and everyone in the community can get to know her.

H.D. and her legacy connects and inspires, and it was BAPL's great honor to host a series of lectures by artists and scholars on aspects of her work, from gender and sexuality to identity to the environment and her local Moravian roots. Thank you to everyone who participated! Program partners included the Lehigh University English Department, Mock Turtle Marionette Theater, Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, Moravian College, and indefatigable H.D. champion Jenny Gilrain.



6



Programs & Partnership Highlights



A Community-Embedded Satellite Library

opens its doors!

On Saturday August 24, BAPL celebrated the opening of our newest location: BAPL Coolidge!

A satellite library embedded in Bethlehem Township, BAPL Coolidge is housed in the historic Coolidge Building and open three days a week. The satellite offers a curated collection of books, DVDs, audiobooks, and other library materials for children and adults, as well as two public computers and WiFi access. The location hosted terrific free library programs for all ages, like the Eyes of the Wild live animal demonstration held in July.

Renovating and refurbishing the space was a collaborative commitment between the Township and the library, and BAPL was delighted to share the product of many people's hard work with the whole community. Community Outreach Librarian Regina Kochmaruk oversees operations at Coolidge. "I'm very excited and I guess a little proud, too, to be working at this community gem," says Kochmaruk. "It feels right – I grew up in the Township, and while I have fond memories of visiting the Main library, I would have loved this in my neighborhood! I'm looking forward to building the collection, adding new programs, and simply making Coolidge a welcoming, dynamic space where the community can gather, read, work, and enjoy!"

Bethlehem Township is one of several municipal areas whose residents are served by the Bethlehem Area Public Library, along with the City of Bethlehem, Hanover Township, and the Borough of Fountain Hill. In addition to the Main Library, South Side branch, Bookmobile, and now BAPL Coolidge, BAPL plans to open another satellite location in Fountain Hill in the form of an upcycled bookmobile that will be permanently docked on-site in the community.

"We are so excited to be writing the next chapter of BAPL, opening new facilities and expanding our services into the communities we serve," says BAPL Executive Director Josh Berk. "This has been a long time coming and is the result of excellent collaboration with our community partners. The Coolidge Building is beautiful — come check it out!"



Programs & Partnership Highlights

Programs & Partnership Highlights

Bethlehem in WWII

Now online!

We are proud to announce a major upgrade to a one-of-a-kind local resource. Check out BAPL's World War II database, where you can find over 12,000 entries on local service people from WWII. This collection includes the many accounts in The Bethlehem Globe-Times published during the war. Many articles are light-hearted, highlighting neighbors and friends who found it was a small world indeed when they crossed paths while abroad. Others focused on local heroes who rose to the occasion, were lost too soon, or returned home against unimaginable odds.

The collection has been fully digitized and organized using a digital collection tool called Omeka. It can now be browsed or searched by name. Have a relative who served in WWII? Try the search tool to find articles where they were mentioned. You may also want to check out the exhibit features, where our librarians have selected articles of note.

Hats off to BAPL librarian Jennifer Bruch for taking the lead and putting in lots of hard work to bring this resource to life! This project was funded in part with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, as well as the Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative of Lehigh University.



Seaman Among Rescued After Indianapolis' Sinking; Afloat on Raft for Five Days

SAC 10 1945
e Francis Farris, S 1/c., USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Farris, 2209 Huntingdon Street, is reported as being one of the survivors of the crew of the heavy cruiser Indianapolis which was sunk in the bottom in the Philippine sea after being torpedoed by submarine.

gram received by his parents on Monday from Vice Adm-

General Jacob C. Smith, discussed the fact that he had been wounded in the shoulder on July 30, 1945, and was hospitalized for "exhaustion and exposure". A radio operator on the Indianapolis, Farris was one of the survivors who had been picked up at sea after having been adrift for five days. It has been learned that the famous vessel sank shortly after completion of its mission to San Francisco July 16 on a high-speed run to Guam to deliver essential bomb material.

A former carrier for the Navy, Farris graduated from High School last year and received his "boot" training at Lakes Naval Training Station. He had spent his last four months on May 14, 1945, at Bataan, which was, incidentally, also



EUGENE FRANCIS FARRIS



Relaxed and rested after a good night's sleep, First Lieutenant Adele Foreman, U. S. Army Nurse, is shown above with Miss Lucy Lynn, with whom she is residing, and who was her classmate at Luke's Hospital when the girls were in training.

Lieut. Adele Foreman Home After Release From Japanese Camp — Seeks Only 'Good Rest'

"And please don't call me in the morning," were the words of First Lieutenant Adele Foreman, U. S. Army Nurse, who was imprisoned by the Japanese Government since the fall of Corregidor, as she returned home last evening after her liberation.

Lieutenant Foreman, who lives with the Lynn family at 626

Brothers Meet In North Africa



CPL. GEORGE A. SPEVAK

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Spevak, Sr., 655 Ridge Street, this received word from their son, Cpl. George A. Spevak, that he his brother, Pfc. Francis Spevak, about a week ago. Both serving in the North African theater of the war. George been overseas since April, 1943, and Francis since November, 19

PFC. FRANCIS SPEVAK

Three years ago, the two brothers were taken prisoner by the Japanese at Bataan, and it is not known if they were among those in the long march that followed the surrender. Indeed, General Jonathan Wainwright, recently liberated and who participated in the signing of the instrument of surrender, gave the group that surrendered at Bataan.

Shortly after the brothers were taken prisoners, according to a letter, they were separated.

Charles was sent to Mukden, Manchukuo,

while Michael was sent to China No.

8, and he has been there ever since.

One year following their capture that the

War Department notified the nearest of kin that the brothers were

prisoners of war. A card from



One of Two Barron Boys Taken Prisoner On Bataan Liberated; Fate of Other Remains Unknown

Mrs. Andrew Barron, 31 Ackerman Street, Hellertown, received a letter today from Pvt. Charles Barron, a brother-in-law, who for the past three years was a Jap prisoner. In the missive he tells her that he is well, and was liberated some time ago. He expects to return in the near future.

Pvt. Barron, 21, and his brother, Pvt. Michael Barron, enlisted at the same time, trained at the same camp in this country, and were assigned to the 35th Infantry, and were stationed in the Philippines. Three years ago, due to the fall of Corregidor, they were captured by the Japanese at Bataan, and it is not known if they were among those in the long march that followed the surrender. Indeed, General Jonathan Wainwright, recently liberated and who participated in the signing of the instrument of surrender, gave the group that surrendered at Bataan.

Shortly after the brothers were taken prisoners, according to a letter, they were separated. Charles being taken to Mukden, Manchukuo, while Michael was sent to China No. 8, and he has been there ever since.

One year following their capture that the War Department notified the nearest of kin that the brothers were prisoners of war. A card from

Charles was received about a year ago, but mail from this country never reached him, he stated in the letter. However, cablegrams from General Jonathan Wainwright, recently liberated, reached him in good time. Thus far there has been no information received from Pvt. Michael Barron.

Both are graduates of the parochial school of St. Cyril and Methodius, and are enlisting in the armed forces were employees of the Bethlehem Steel Company. Their wives, Mrs. Charles Barron and Mrs. Michael Barron, are given a \$45 Butler Street, Bethlehem.

The other brother, Pvt. Andrew W. Spevak, Barron are in the armed forces. The former, a member of Headquarters Division, is present at the front. The latter, Pfc. Francis Stephen, who served in the Pacific theater of operations, a member of the Amphibious Engineers, recently returned to the United States.



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY



Department Highlights

South Side Branch

2019 was an exciting year for the South Side Branch! In January, the Branch celebrated the survival of African arts and culture within Puerto Rico and the United States with Luz Suarez and her group “Tikson Carib,” who taught five different Bomba rhythms and songs to excited participants, which was covered extensively by the Bethlehem Press. A successful community partnership formed with Master Gardeners through Penn State Extension and South Side Garden Alliance to create a Spring and Summer gardening workshop series on growing fruits and vegetables in small spaces. We also installed small food pantries called “Blessing Boxes,” created by Eagle Scout Jacob Vosseller, at both the South Side and Main locations. These pantries are continuously stocked with non-perishable food items and socks for those in need.

As part of our annual summer reading program, the South Side Branch was able to offer free lunch to children ages 2-18 with the help of United Way, the Bethlehem Area School District and an Americorps Vista volunteer, Elizabeth Saraceno, who facilitated it. During the course of the lunch program, 487 children were fed! Stephanie Steinly and Brenda Grow also led a variety of children’s programs in unison with the lunch program in an effort to prevent the “summer slide,” a regression some children experience in English and math areas when they return to school in the fall.

Another exciting event which took place in October was “Silver Scream at the South Side,” an event that raised over \$3,000 in tickets and sponsorships to install an elevator at the branch which would make South Side’s programs truly accessible to all. The West Philadelphia Foot Tappers came and performed some speakeasy tunes which added to our spooky, yet elegant 1920’s film noir ambiance, and PBS39’s Grover Silcox gave a chilling rendition of Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart.” Guests got to eat and imbibe on horror-themed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, participate in a costume contest, and take their chances on a fabulous raffle—all for a good cause and a good time!

Overall, the South Side Branch saw a significant increase in attendees for both youth and adult programs. From 2018-2019, there was a 55% increase in adult program attendees (544 people in 2018 versus 842 people in 2019) and a 23% increase in attendees for children’s programs (1,805 people in 2018 and 2,228 people in 2019). In addition, due to outreach efforts in various retirement communities and resource sharing with activity directors, the Homebound program served 713 patrons in 2019, compared to 528 patrons in 2018: a 35% increase! This increase in numbers reflects the strong relationship the South Side Branch has with its immediate community and beyond.



Department Highlights

Youth Services @ Main



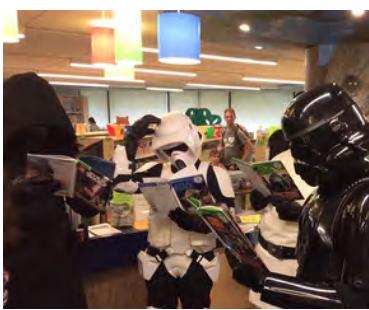
"The library is fun and you learn a lot!" "Your activities here are awesome and can be inspiring like reading to dogs." "You can make a vegan tiramisu!"

The end-of-summer survey always includes some wonderful feedback from the young people who enjoy library programs. Over the course of 2019, nearly 18,000 kids participated in a library program in an exciting year that included author visits, art and music programs, story times, and a few brand new offerings.

Anime Club was added to the slate this year, giving young fans of Japanese animation a chance to get together, watch the films they love, as well as learn about Japanese culture, try Japanese foods, and make a variety of Japanese crafts. "It's something I'm very passionate about," says BAPL's Kelly Fitzpatrick, who started the program. "And I knew there was an interest in it with the younger patrons as well." Future club events include hosting a ramen bar, learning how to make sushi, participating in the cherry blossom festival, studying Japanese and more.

Another new offering was Natural Wanders hosted by BAPL's Bethany Greb. Natural Wanders is a preschool nature walk that includes stories and other fun. It mixes literacy with outdoor exploration based around a seasonal theme. "Each session we choose a non-fiction book to learn about our topic, then head outside with an activity to reinforce the information we learned in our book," Bethany says. They'll enjoy a book about clouds, for example, then head outside with binoculars to point their eyes to the sky. Kids come back week after week (no matter the weather) and have a great time while learning.

An old favorite was the summer reading program, a big hit and a great way for kids to keep their minds sharp between school years. 2019's theme was "A Universe of Stories," a SummerQuest adventure that included prizes for reading as well as incentives for other learning activities and fun times at the library including Christmas in July and a Harry Potter day (celebrating Harry's birthday on July 31). The popular Magic Tree House books were also celebrated with a fun event and the Eyes of the Wild program brought animals such as skunks and wallabies to the library. Then there were even visitors from a galaxy far, far away, as characters from Star Wars (Garrison Carida 501st) came to visit.



Remembering



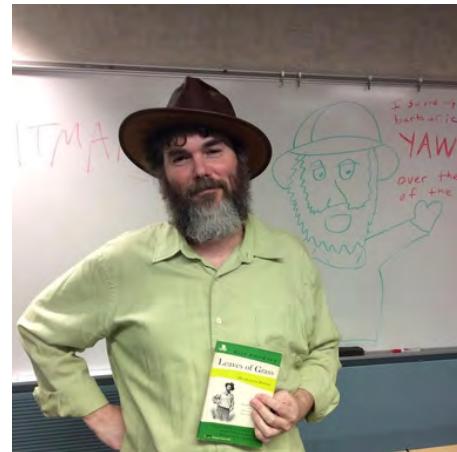
Tuesday
September 17
6:30 pm

@
**BETHLEHEM AREA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Learning. Inspiring. Connecting.

**Toni
Morrison**
1931-2019

with Stephanie Powell Watts & Dr. Sharon Garin-Levy

Department Highlights



Adult Services @ Main

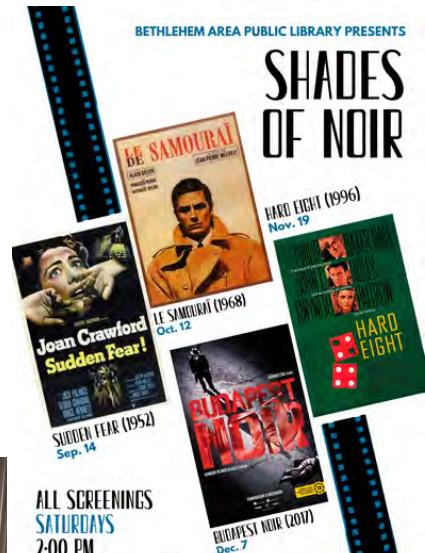
In addition to providing daily reference services, computer support, and a wide variety of assistance to our community members, the Adult Services department at BAPL continued to expand its offering of cultural offerings on a variety of topics. There were documentary film screenings, lectures from visiting scholars, yoga and qigong classes, chess club, an expanded summer reading program, and so much more. We were proud to partner with many local organizations including the Bethlehem Health Bureau, Lehigh University, Let's Play Books, Bethlehem Backyard for Wildlife, the Bethlehem Area School District, Touchstone Theater's Festival Unbound, Selkie Theatre, and more.

The opening of the renovated Cohen Room provided a new and exciting event space to hold library events. The first activity held in the new room was a presentation by photographer and friend of BAPL Ron Yoshida. Ron presented "88 Temples, 800 Miles," a slideshow of beautiful photos taken during his 800 mile, 48-day journey through Japan.

BAPL's Film Series for Adults offered a wide variety of classic and contemporary films to delight and inspire audiences. From the laughter of the Bygone Comedy Classics series to a series of films highlighting the special relationships between canine and humans, to the grittiness of our Shades of Noir series, library patrons enjoyed in-house screenings of films from Kanopy's streaming service.

One event that stands out to department head Rayah Levy was "Remembering Toni Morrison." The library along with professors from Lehigh University and Northampton Community College joined forces to remember Toni Morrison's life and the contribution she made to the world. "Morrison was a woman that celebrated her blackness, exploring sisterhood, dysfunctional family life, racism, and love in her unapologetic writings, and emptied her thoughts on the worlds' stage for us to contemplate," Levy said.

And of course librarians assisted students and scholars on all sorts of topics. There were 137 researchers who paid a visit to the Bethlehem Room, where they paged through books, looked at maps, accessed photographs, and scoured historical records in order to learn about the rich and diverse history of our city.



Department Highlights

Bookmobile

The bookmobile continued with its year-round stops all across the City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Fountain Hill, and Hanover Township. It was another busy year with 9,643 items checked out from among a total selection of some 2,498 books, accounting for how often the available selection is switched out over the course of a year!



The annual summer reading club averages quite a hefty roster of around 30 kids signing up on the bookmobile. And other participants, regardless of which BAPL location signed them up, are free to pick out prizes on the bookmobile at any time during the program.



Our annual Where's the Bookmobile? photo contest has also become a fun summertime staple. This year's heated competition ended in a two-way tie with both Lynn O. and Andy C. figuring out all seven of the photographed locations!

Does the Bookie Monster ever find itself summoned to prowl lands beyond its home? On certain special occasions, yes! In recent years, it was featured at a Touch-a-Truck library fundraiser in Nazareth.



This year's event was held at Bushkill Township Recreation Fields, where the bookmobile starred alongside a slew of municipal and company vehicles of all sizes, from a towering crane all the way down to a police motorcycle. Even a helicopter made the trip, conducting a landing in the middle of the open field. The pilot played it off as if it were a pre-planned landing, but later confided to the bookmobile driver that when he saw the BAPL logo from above he really just wanted to swoop in for a good read!



Where's the Bookmobile?





Department Highlights

Outreach

Chances are, if you've seen this van out and about around town, then you've seen library staff doing outreach!

In fact, in 2019, we reached more than 4,500 residents at over 140 events - in child care centers, schools, and at community events. Understandably, one of our biggest partners is the Bethlehem Area School District. Parents, teachers, and children get a chance to learn about the library and its services, hear fantastic stories, and participate in fun crafts, activities, and science experiments. Best of all, there's always an opportunity to get that most important card in one's wallet - a library card!

Some of 2019's BASD highlights include William Penn Elementary School's Dr. Seuss Night; Lincoln Elementary School's Bed, Books, Beyond; and Governor Wolf Elementary School's Arts Day. We also had special appearances at Musikfest, The Banana Factory, National Night Out in Bethlehem Township, and the Salvation Army's Health & Wellness Fair in conjunction with Representative Steve SamueIson, just to name a few of our many partners. In one of the library's newest outreach programs, called The Next Chapter, participants at the YWCA's Adult Day Program reminisce with thoughtfully chosen stories, photographs, music and crafts.

We love bringing BAPL out into the community we're so proud to be a part of!

Coolidge

This little satellite library had a stellar start in 2019! Open fifteen hours a week in Bethlehem Township (right at Comer Park), the new location offered our patrons family storytimes, adult book discussions, and special programs like Eyes of the Wild, Día de los Muertos, Healthy Holidays and Party Manners 101. Plus, we planted a tree! The lovely American Dogwood was generously donated by the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority, and with the help of the BTMA's Chairman David Thomsen, families helped plant the native species as part of Coolidge's Peace Day Celebration. Onward and upward!



BAPL by the Numbers

Major Donors

BAPL wouldn't be BAPL without the support of our generous donors.

The following individuals, foundations, companies and community partners made a significant financial contribution to the library in 2019.

Estate of Barbara Reinoehl

Ron and Sharon Yoshida

Riedler Foundation

Northampton County Tourism Grant

ESSA Bank

Friends of the Library

Thank you!

BAPL by the Numbers

Financials

BAPL is subjected to a yearly audit by Maher Duessel.
The data published below is presented prior to audit and subject to change.

Revenue

City of Bethlehem	\$1,381,731	
State of Pennsylvania	\$524,066	
Bethlehem Township	\$437,284	total revenue
Hanover Township	\$200,233	\$2,914,225
Interest	\$109,491	
Fountain Hill	\$85,172	total expenses
Overdue Fees	\$64,146	
Book Sales	\$62,347	\$2,832,597
Buy-a-book Fundraiser	\$16,360	
Copy Services	\$13,892	
Annual Appeal	\$13,126	
Meeting Room Rental	\$3,674	
Miscellaneous	\$1,471	
Rental Books	\$1,262	

Expenses

Salary and Wages	\$1,753,840	Building Supplies	\$11,856
Library Books and Materials	\$253,990	Telephone	\$6,218
Benefits	\$252,012	Event Expenses	\$3,995
Pension Obligation	\$165,444	Bookmobile	\$3,326
Utilities	\$108,161	Transportation/Meetings	\$2,308
Information Technology	\$98,236		
Equipment Repair/Maintenance	\$43,454		
Insurance	\$40,026		
Computer Network	\$32,396		
Office Supplies	\$25,157		
Library Supplies	\$17,707		
Legal	\$13,471		

BAPL by the Numbers

Programs & Events

Total events and attendance

Total events for kids (Main + SS + Outreach) = **763** (-4%)
Attendance at these programs (Main + SS + Outreach) = **17,783** (-3%)

Total events for adults (Main + SS + Coolidge) = **284** (+11%)
Attendance at these programs (Main + SS + Coolidge) = **4,438** (+10%)

Most attended event headcounts

Studio 11 Open House: **80** (Feb 23)
Walt Whitman read-aloud: **62** (April 30)
Chuck Wendig book launch: **103** (July 1)
"88 Temples, 800 miles" photography lecture by Ron Yoshida: **76** (Oct 1)
Taste of Bethlehem's Black Experience: **54** (Oct 25)
Silver Scream: **40** (Oct 26)
Kate Racculia book launch: **62** (Oct 30)
KeyStone A Capella holiday concert: **98** (Dec 7)

Finding H.D.: Challenging Limited Understandings of Gender & Sexuality



BAPL by the Numbers

Usage and Statistics

	Active Cardholders	New Cardholders
City of Bethlehem	41,766	2,292
Bethlehem Township	9,742	661
Fountain Hill	2,364	143
Hanover Township	5,324	342

- Visitors to the Main Library: **205,373**
- Visitors to the South Side branch: **38,970**
- Main Library check-outs: **442,197**
- South Side Branch check-outs: **37,153**
- Bookmobile check-outs: **9,643**
- Coolidge check-outs: **3,199** (*partial year data*)
- e-book downloads: **23,350**
- Internet hotspots borrowed: **585**
- Bikes borrowed: **160**
- Kanopy films streamed: **8,527**
- Articles accessed through library databases: **26,545**
- Sessions on public computers (includes wifi and library PCs): **67,579**

Total Items Borrowed: 525,537

Our Collection

Books	153,247
DVDs	18,552
Audiobooks	6,745
Media (records+microfilm+CDs)	11,571

Voicees from the Crowd



"Thank you so much for hosting virtual yoga... the yoga session was a nice treat for my mom and I to be able to attend."

-Jinna Hagerly



My children have been coming to the library since they were babies where we participated in story time and play groups which were great for socialization and early reading. We continue to go to the library frequently even though they are now in middle and high school. The library encourages them to read, helps them explore new topics and genres, and fuels their curiosity to learn.

-Licia Paulus

I love the library! It is such a welcoming space, not only to find a great book, but to enjoy activities for both kids and adults. The library just does amazing things for our community.

-Joanne Garcia



The fact that there is such a service as the library music studio is awesome. So many musicians would love to record music but don't have an outlet to do so... or at least don't have a very "professional" way to do it. And believe me, recording studios often charge a lot for their time. I had a great experience with this service and I hope to record more soon.

-Chuck Rissmiller