

Bethlehem Area Public Library 2022 Annual Report



EDUCATE, INFORM, INSPIRE...

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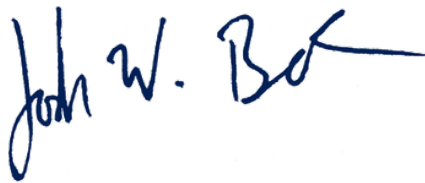
Programs and Events

A Note from the Director:

As the world tried to return to normal in a post-pandemic environment, so too did your public library. But what even is normal anymore? Sure we checked out a lot of books, had fun at storytime and the summer reading program, and hosted a whole bunch of informational presentations, lectures, book clubs, and the like. But what else is a library in 2022 and beyond? What *can* it be? What should it be? With the goal of answering those questions (among many others) we have been involved in a years-long strategic planning process that was finished and published this year.

Despite the looming possibility of pandemic-related disruptions, solid themes were identified during the planning process that honor our past while looking ahead. This plan is a call for action, with initiatives that respond to changing community demographics, culture, and other factors. The plan explores and embraces diversity and partnership with other agencies. The initiatives are grouped under three key words which can be found in BAPL's Mission Statement: EDUCATE, INFORM, INSPIRE.

This strategic plan reaffirms BAPL's commitment to promote a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion across all aspects of library operations. We thank everyone involved in the creation of the plan, and everyone who continues to make the library such a special place. To download the strategic plan, and to learn more about what's going on at the library, visit BAPL.org. And to find out about all the great stuff we did in 2022, read on!



JOSH BERK
Executive Director



photograph by Ted Colegrove

Library Board

Thank you to the dedicated individuals who served on the Library Board in 2022. 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

Anne Felker
Jane K. Gill
Joyce Hinnefeld
Christopher Hunt
Rachel Leon
Delia Marrero
Emil G. Signes

Bethlehem Township

Randi Blauth
Dale Sourbeck

Fountain Hill

Will Rufe

Hanover Township

Jeff Warren



BAPL Coolidge

If asked what makes the Coolidge satellite library in Bethlehem Township special, a patron may reply that it's the convenient neighborhood location, the ample parking, or perhaps the cozy browsing aesthetic. If Coolidge staff were to answer the same question, you'd be sure to hear that it's the patrons themselves that make this the best little community library.

More than a space to simply drop-off and pick-up library materials, relationships with patrons remain our top priority—there will always be the personal touch of favorite book recommendations (and ensuing conversation) as well as a genuine interest in how you and your families are faring. Connection matters most, and it's evident in the intimate stories people share while attending our memoir writing group or in the commitment of volunteers who teach chess classes or jewelry-making workshops. Our patrons donated new books, beautiful artwork, and shared cultural heritage collections for the enjoyment of others in the community.

One of the finest collections was graciously donated by Township resident artist Betty Waldbieser. When she learned that the library's 2022 summer reading program was ocean-themed, she was inspired to create a menagerie of crocheted sea life, including a colorful seven-inch sea slug. When one of our teen patrons spotted the slug nestled among dozens of other creatures, she reached out to Betty to help guide her with her own budding interest in the craft. Betty, of course, was more than happy to share her knowledge, skills, and pattern. It's stories and relationships like these that take place all the time in public libraries, yet remain difficult to capture with mere library statistics.

Our satellite location hosted a number of noteworthy events this year, too, including book discussions, storytimes, craft programs, collaborative programming with Penn State Extension, 4-H Club, Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company, Bethlehem Township Parks Program, and the Wildlands Conservancy—just to name a few. All together we offered over 30 children's programs (attended by more than 350 children) and 15 adult programs (attended by more than 100 adults).

While it's a challenge to keep the library stocked with the most popular books for kids and adults alike—the Township certainly has many avid readers!—it's all part of the fun of working in a small branch. As 2023 approaches, the Coolidge staff looks forward to meeting new patrons, growing the collection, creating fun programs, and always sharing stories.

Books on the Hill

Books on the Hill, our renovated bookmobile that serves as a satellite library in Fountain Hill, celebrated its first anniversary this year. Residents are often surprised and delighted to learn that it is here, and that it is not just for kids! The colorful artwork provided by children's book illustrator Zach OHara give it a youthful flare, but we are always happy to remind residents that there is a great collection of books and movies for adults at this location as well. It is wheelchair accessible too, thanks to a hidden lift behind one of the bookshelves.

Books on the Hill has grown its Spanish language collection this year, so come on in if you are looking for some *libros en español!* Or stop by for one of our many fun events. The biggest events of 2022 were the Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt & Paint Party and Bike Day with CAT (Coalition for Appropriate Transportation). These were well-attended by many families in Fountain Hill. And don't forget the weekly Poetry Tuesday program where Cleveland Wall recites lovely poems in-person and online.

An important development in the neighborhood has been the founding of the Fountain Hill Community Coalition, which formed as a reaction to the closing of the pool which is Books on the Hill's neighbor. This group succeeded in reversing that decision and has gone on to organize neighborhood clean-ups and an upcoming spring festival. We look forward to working with this coalition, and all members of the Fountain Hill community, to continue to grow Books on the Hill into a mighty twig of the BAPL!

“

Fountain Hill residents have always cherished the Bethlehem Public Library, and now with Books on the Hill it's even easier to love. Our residents are enriched by their access to the library, and we look forward to continuing to expand our relationship.

-Will Rufe , Fountain Hill Borough Council Member

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Bookmobile

Over 6,000 library items were delivered to our patrons by the BAPL Bookmobile this year. The Bookmobile travels the length and breadth of our service area, which includes the City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Fountain Hill, and Hanover Township. "Bookie Monster" makes stops at community centers, grocery stores, retirement communities, parks, churches, schools, and many other locations as well. There were some disruptions this year, including the re-paving of the City Garage that the Bookmobile calls home. This required our intrepid Bookmobile driver to parallel park the Bookmobile on these city streets, which was a feat for which there is not a medal, but probably should be. The Bookmobile was also out of service a bit to have its rear bumper raised, with the higher pavement presenting an issue as far as entering and exiting the garage. But despite these disruptions, the Bookmobile could be found in a variety of locales.

In addition to its regular rounds, the Bookmobile made appearances at special events, including the annual Touch-a-Truck fundraiser held by the Memorial Library of Nazareth, and the Trunk-or-Treat event held on Payrow Plaza. Both events were extremely well-attended, offering the Bookmobile (and its driver) a fun chance to interact with patrons old and new.

The Bookmobile was even the focus of a TV show this year, as Sam Chen of Lighthouse TV's "Face the Issues" interviewed Bookmobile driver Mike Henninger and Library Director Josh Berk to talk about the unique role bookmobiles play in addressing barriers to literacy for those who live in our communities.



A young girl with dark hair is smiling, wearing a colorful headband with blue, green, and orange sections. She is holding a large, yellow library card in front of her face. The background is a soft-focus image of a child's play area with colorful toys.

Outreach

Outreach continues to be one of the most effective ways to introduce the library and literacy values to the community. There are always places to go, requests to fill, opportunities to pursue—and we wonder anxiously how we are going to say yes to it all. But we almost always do!

Sometimes statistics do matter in telling a story, and seeing these numbers validates our good efforts in reaching out to the community. In our service area of more than 125,000, it takes a team approach to meet our yearly outreach goals. Librarians and staff from all locations and departments—the South Side Branch, Books on the Hill in Fountain Hill, the Coolidge satellite, Youth Services, Adult Reference Services, and the Bookmobile—all collaborate with partners to provide strong library presence. We visit not only school district locations but also a variety of special places and events throughout the year. We engage meaningfully with the people we meet, not only sharing information about library services, but also about ideas and how libraries support lifelong learning.

We met more than 6,000 people during our 162 outreach endeavors in 2022. Some of the new and exciting places we visited include the Lehigh Valley International Airport, Coca-Cola Park (home of the IronPigs), the National Museum of Industrial History, Historic Bethlehem's Apple Days, Cops-n-Kids' Celebration of Reading, the Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company Carnival, Bethlehem's YMCA, and Bonn Place Brewing Company. Our partnership with the Bethlehem Area School District continues to help us reach families who are new to Bethlehem, provide relevant and enriching programs, and to share the importance of reading aloud to children. We visited more schools than we can list here; it is always a thrill to meet with young people in the classroom and get them excited about their next trip to BAPL, whether it's for the summer reading program, a special event, or to get their first library card.

We look forward to visiting even more places in 2023—look for a friendly face from BAPL and a big yellow library card, coming soon to a location near you!

Reference Department

Every day the Reference Department provides patrons with resources to answer a huge range of questions—almost 18,000 this year. The department staff provide patrons with books, newspapers, websites, journals, and other resources on topics they are interested in for research, schoolwork, or personal enjoyment. As well as fulfilling the daily reference work, our Reference staff performs archival work, helps run Studio II, and hosts many events.

In addition to our events focused on the rediscovered eighteenth century Bethlehem Slave Registry and celebration of our Liberty High School Yearbooks project, another very interesting event was a talk given on May 31st by Ron Yoshida and Laird Evans called "The Portuguese Coastal Camino: Porto to Santiago." Ron and Laird shared photos and stories of their trek on a historic pilgrimage and showed off ephemera from the trip to a packed house.

Another highlight was "Exploring Local Historical Maps" presented by Joel Hoffner on November 29th. Joel showed off a variety of maps from the greater Lehigh Valley area and gave valuable tips on how to use maps for historical research. The talk was also a great way to promote the Lehigh Valley Historical Maps Consortium, which has recently put together a website showing all the different locations of important historical maps.

In 2022, the Reference Department adopted two new online databases (JSTOR and Weiss Ratings), which brought even more world-class research tools to our patrons fingertips. We modernized our system for printing, copying, and faxing, and also helped plan for the renovation of the main floor, hopefully coming soon in 2023. All the while, the department faced new challenges, having to adapt to new A/V systems in meeting rooms, a new library events calendar program, staff turnover, and more. Through many changes, the department continued to offer exemplary customer service to every patron that visits the library.

South Side Branch

There were lots of new faces at the South Side Branch in 2022, with both new staff coming on board, and new patrons coming to visit us. The disruptions caused by COVID closures are finally coming to an end, with attendance returning to the library at a steady rate. Many families attended storytime as well as playtime programs. In addition to regularly scheduled storytimes, we added an "Anytime Storytime Table," where children and families can stop by on their own schedule to read selected stories and do an associated activity. The Branch again served as a summer food site to provide lunches during the months students are out of school. Over three hundred and twenty-five young people were fed at the South Side Branch this summer, many of whom also participated in our popular summer reading program.

Another new offering for children was a sewing group called "South Side Stitches." This program was made available due to a grant from the State of Pennsylvania's Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Kids met weekly to learn to work with patterns, cut fabric, and use sewing machines. They were so proud of their creations which allowed them to express their creativity while gaining a sense of accomplishment and learning a new skill that will last a lifetime.

Many successful events for adults were held as well, including arts and crafts programs, Spanish Conversation groups, citizenship classes, and Qigong sessions. Each one of these offers something to appeal to different segments of our community. Many residents report looking forward to seeing what the Branch will offer next. We are also happy to report the continued growth of our Homebound Delivery program, a service that provides books and other library materials to residents of our community who are not able to leave their homes for medical reasons. There are nearly 200 residents enrolled in this program, each of whom gets items delivered based on their personal tastes. It is a very rewarding part of our work to help serve these members of our community.

The South Side Branch staff is always thinking of ways to help the community. We partner with many other organizations in the neighborhood and beyond, and are always happy to invite new people in to find out what the library is all about. Our staff works incredibly hard; patrons know every time they walk through that door they will get our best.

A young child with dark skin and curly hair is looking intently at a book. The book has a colorful cover with a cartoon character and the text 'SPONGEBOB MOVIE GAME INCLUDED'. The child is wearing a white shirt. The background is a soft-focus image of a library or bookstore with various books and displays.

Youth Services

The Youth Services Department was happy to be able to safely return to indoor programming in 2022 and welcomed many children, teens, and families to the department. Events included many storytime sessions, the first Learn & Grow Family Place play series in nearly two years, and a number of special events for all ages. Outreach opportunities opened up as well, allowing staff to meet potential users where they live, learn, or spend their free time. The energetic staff planned and hosted excellent events that ran the gamut from the more traditional storytimes to pop culture favorites such as Pokémon and Spiderman days. Many community partners got involved, including Moravian University and the Bethlehem Area School District. Moravian University provided America Reads tutors for our free Homework Help sessions; the Moravian World Languages Department and Reeves Library provided the monthly World Stories events which introduced children to the beauty of other languages through literature.

Outreach to the various BASD schools and cooperation with teachers and event coordinators gave library staff the opportunity to meet families and share our resources. Partnering with the City of Bethlehem Police Department allowed our families to attend regular story sessions presented by the officers, building a rapport in the family-friendly environment of the Youth Department. It was a highly successful year of providing engaging and enriching programming to young people across the community.

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All of the librarians are amazing and helpful.

Special thanks to Julia for finding the right books for my little one and for the patience.

-BAPL patron comment via Facebook

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Financial Overview

The Bethlehem Area Public Library would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our municipal governments for funding our operation. Without this funding, we would not be able to provide our community with the educational and recreational resources that have come to be expected. We are proud to be able to offer our patrons access to an ever-growing selection of books, magazines, and other materials, as well as a variety of programs and events to promote learning and literacy. We are deeply grateful for the support of our municipal governments, and for their ongoing commitment to the betterment of the community we share.



Total income: \$2,928,376
City of Bethlehem: \$1,416,274
State of Pennsylvania: \$565,844
Bethlehem Township: \$448,217
Fountain Hill: \$87,301
Hanover Township: \$205,239
Investment Interest: \$118,678
Overdue fines: \$29,608
Book Sales: \$25,417
Annual Appeal: \$19,521

Total Expenses: \$2,945,761
Salaries/Wages: \$1,755,581
Benefits: \$281,128
Pension Obligation: \$165,444
Library Materials: \$244,530
Utilities: \$110,623
IT: \$86,503
Insurance: \$40,022
Financial Services: \$31,373
District Expenses: \$93,334
Building Supplies: \$34,318
Bibliographic System: \$36,519

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 2022.

Pat and Sandy Corpora
Patrick and April Herrity
Elinor Knechel
My Benefit Advisor LLC
Barbara Reimers
Gerald and Diane Roba
Rev. Edith B. Roberts
Martha Young Hutson-Saxton
Bill and Mimi Stanford
R.K. Laros Foundation
The Reidler Foundation
Ed Vogrins
Robert and Ruth Walden
Ron and Sharon Yoshida

Thank you!





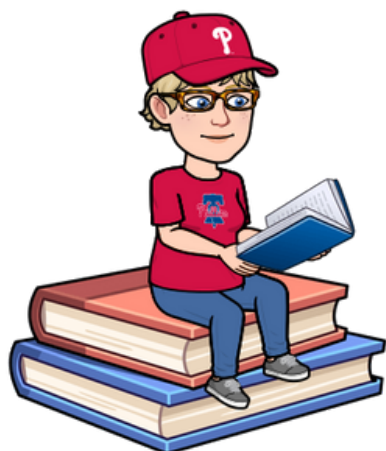
Usage and Statistics

	Active Cardholders	New Cardholders
City of Bethlehem	42,469	2,013
Bethlehem Township	10,027	503
Fountain Hill	2,521	142
Hanover Township	5,461	217

- Visitors to the Main Library: **148,884**
- Visitors to the South Side Branch: **17,971**
- Main Library check-outs: **334,393**
- South Side Branch check-outs: **13,049**
- Bookmobile check-outs: **6,539**
- Coolidge check-outs: **14,149**
- e-book downloads: **43,695**
- Internet hotspots borrowed: **696**
- Bikes borrowed: **63**
- Kanopy films streamed: **7,092**
- Articles accessed through library databases: **45,853**
- Sessions on public computers (Wi-Fi and library PCs): **21,399**

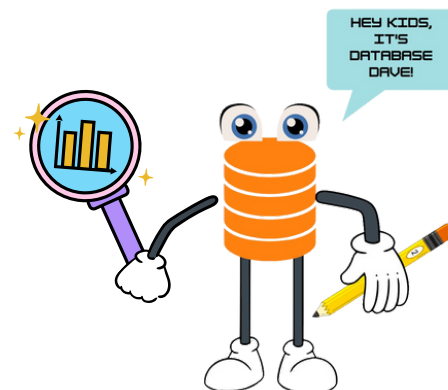


Total Items Borrowed: 420,562



Our Collection

Books	159,965
DVDs	19,758
Audiobooks	7,663
Media <small>(records+microfilm+CDs)</small>	10,255





Programs and Events

Total events and attendance

Total events for kids (Main + SS + Outreach) = **666**
Attendance at these programs (Main + SS + Outreach) = **9,919**

Total events for adults (Main + SS + Coolidge) = **356**
Attendance at these programs (Main + SS + Coolidge) = **3,680**

Event Highlights

Lehigh Valley Book Festival: March 26
Spike's Birthday Party: April 30
Jason Rekulak Book Signing: May 11
The Portuguese Coastal Camino: Porto to Santiago: May 31
Slavery In Bethlehem: The Re-Discovered 1780 Slave Registry: September 19
A Tour of The Solar System: October 24
11FEST: November 11
Holiday Market & Craft Fair: December 10



Youth Services Events & Activities

In 2022, the Youth Services Department presented:

- 424 onsite programs to 10,456 children, teens, and families
- Outreach to schools, community events, parks, and on our Bookmobile allowed us to offer 37 events for more than 1,700 participants.
- Participation in our Summer Reading & Learning program for preschool through high school reached more than 1,100 young people.
- The biggest event of 2022 was the Trunk-or-Treat held in the evening on the Payrow Plaza. Youth Librarian Julia Brennan partnered with the various City of Bethlehem departments and with community organizations to present a Halloween event to top all Halloween events. Approximately 900 adults, teens, and children attended this event where participants came in costume to collect treats, make crafts, visit a firetruck and the Bookmobile, sit in a police car or rescue vehicle, play games, and learn about local organizations and the services that they offer





Programs & Partnership Highlights

Lehigh Valley Book Festival

The Lehigh Valley Book Festival is a celebration of books and the strong connections they forge—bringing published authors, illustrators, and readers together, through thoughtful, approachable, and inclusive programming. The mission of the LVBF is based on the notion that reading is for everybody—and that people of all ages and interests can find something to spark their imagination, broaden their perspective, and nourish their spirit in a book.

After being limited to mostly online events in previous years, this year's LVBF was an in-person, in-library, and intense event. Held on March 26, the event featured many wonderful authors and hundreds of readers in what was a day buzzing with literary activity from beginning to end.

There were novelists, middle grade authors, new book debuts, non-fiction writers, picture book creators, and more. The exciting keynote speeches were given by Dorothy Wickenden, Executive Editor of the *New Yorker*, and Newbery Medal Winner Erin Entrada Kelly. There was also a storytime party with superheroes and princesses reading books to large crowds of happy kids.

The long list of authors included Lehigh Valley favorites as well as many who travelled in for the day. A few—but by no means all—of the literary lights in attendance were: Megan Angelo, Ethan Joella, Kate Moretti, Kate Racculia, Andy Martino, Robin Gow, Jennifer Gilmore, Phil Stamper, Paul Acampora, and many, many more.





Voces de la Comunidad

Celebrate *los voces de la comunidad*! We were happy to work with several community partners this year to publish *Voces de la Comunidad* (voices of the community), an online oral history archive focusing on the lives of Latinx leaders here in Bethlehem. The project was led by Janine Santoro, who was working at BAPL at the time. She is now the Director of Equity and Inclusion for the City of Bethlehem. A few years back, Janine noticed the absence of written, visual, and auditory history of the local Latinx/Hispanic community in Bethlehem. She worked with many colleagues; her team included Mary Foltz and Ronald Johnson Contreras from Lehigh University, Javier Toro from the Steelworkers Archive, and Charlotte Nunes from Lafayette College.

Janine and her team asked, "What does it mean to be Latinx/Hispanic in Bethlehem and how is that changing?" The team sought to uncover and amplify the critical stories, significant events, and contributions that this community has made in Bethlehem by talking to its prominent leaders.

The archive was launched alongside with the unveiling of a mural. Artist Symone Salib painted a scene depicting some of the leaders profiled in *Voces* hanging out at the library. The mural will be on display at the Banana Factory and later at BAPL.

Project Partners: Bethlehem Area Public Library and Lafayette College, funded by the Mellon Foundation. Mural Partners: ArtsQuest and Artist Symone Salib, funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Erie Insurance Giving Network.



100 Years of Liberty



On September 27, we invited everyone from our community to celebrate Liberty High School's 100-year anniversary. Not only were we celebrating this important milestone, we were also celebrating the launch of a new archive including all 100 yearbooks since the school began. Head Reference Librarian Matthew Rothfuss led the project, working with many community members to obtain hard copies of *The Cauldron* which were then scanned and uploaded into a digital repository.



The event also included a social media element where we asked community members if they would be brave enough to share their name and year of graduation so that we could share their senior photo on our Facebook pages. Hundreds of LHS graduates responded. It was so fun to see their smiling faces (and amazing haircuts). The archive is now fully online and available to anyone at www.bapl.org. You may also visit the Bethlehem Room at the Main Library to see the print collection of yearbooks.

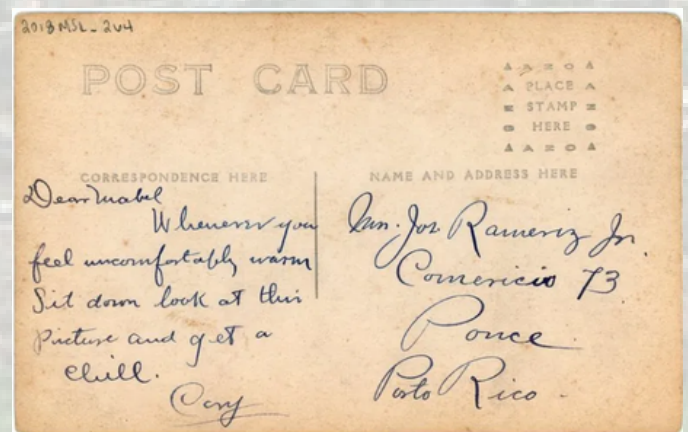


Marlene Spector Levine Postcard Collection

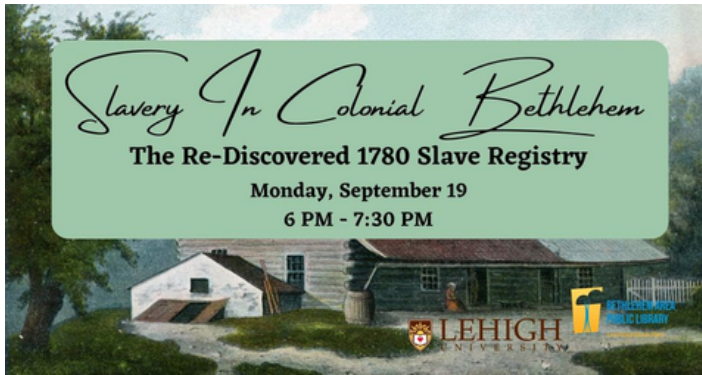
In 2022 we were happy to cut the virtual ribbon on our newest digital collection – the Marlene Spector Levine Postcard Collection. The collection includes over 800 postcards and photographs of important Lehigh Valley sights and landmarks as they appeared in the past. The collection was donated to the library by Marlene Spector Levine, a former resident of Bethlehem. She carefully arranged postcards and photos by location into two large postcard albums and the originals can be seen in our local history collection.

Librarian Caitlin Cuba spent many hours digitizing the collection and creating the web exhibit. Since many of the postcards contain messages, this collection also provides a small glimpse into the lives of the senders and recipients. One of Caitlin's favorite postcards in the collection shows a snowy Easter Morning service in Moravian Cemetery with a message addressed to Mabel in Puerto Rico: "Whenever you feel uncomfortably warm sit down look at this picture and get a chill."

We invite all residents interested in seeing the old days of our buildings, streets, bridges, and neighborhoods, to visit this important collection either in person at the Main Library or online at www.bapl.org.



Programs & Partnership Highlights



Northampton County's "slave registry" was thought to be lost—but it was rediscovered in June 2022

Slavery In Bethlehem: The Re-Discovered 1780 Slave Registry

In June of 2022, while conducting research about muskets and the Revolutionary War in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania archives, Lehigh Professor Scott Gordon came across a document which historians had long hoped to find: the 1780 slave registry for Northampton County. The Pennsylvania legislature had required that all counties provide a complete registry of their enslaved people by Nov. 1, 1780, and any enslaved people not registered by their owners were to be freed as of November 2. At some point in the early 20th century, Northampton's registry disappeared, depriving modern scholars of a wealth of information about this aspect of local history.

On September 19, Prof. Gordon shared his findings about the Registry and its implications for Moravian Bethlehem in a fascinating talk at the library. How many enslaved people lived in Bethlehem and the surrounding communities? Why did the Moravian Church, which considered Afro-Moravians full congregants and brothers and sisters in Christ, often keep them enslaved? What happened to the enslaved and formerly enslaved people after the registry was made?

In trying to answer these questions, Prof. Gordon was able to provide more detailed timelines for many of the Afro-Moravians that lived in and around Bethlehem, while they were enslaved and after they were manumitted. The registry not only reveals to us who was enslaved in Bethlehem, but it also shows us how many individuals connected to the community were allowed to own enslaved people independent of the Moravian Church and often on the outskirts of town. Perhaps most importantly, it shows us how many of those people historians knew to be enslaved while living in Bethlehem were freed due to their exclusion from the registry. As Gordon concluded: "I'd like to believe the Church's failure to register [its enslaved Afro-Moravians] means that the Church did not consider them property, even though in law they were. The Church did not register [them] because it did not care or bother to concern themselves about their status. Before 1780, as we've seen, this neglect meant that enslaved Afro-Moravians remained slaves. But the law changed circumstances in 1780. The same neglect meant that the Church did not care about taking the steps it would have to have taken to keep them enslaved. The Church's lack of care, in this case, resulted in freedom."

The event was extremely well-attended, with many local residents packing the Cohen Room at BAPL to share in the joy of historical discovery and to learn about this important aspect of our local history.





STEEL WEEKEND

AND STEELWORKERS REUNION



Steel Weekend

What began in 2020 as a remembrance and celebration of the "Last Cast" at Bethlehem Steel has now become an annual event. Each year in October the National Museum of Industrial History, in partnership with BAPL and many other wonderful area organizations, honors the special place the steel industry has had in the history and culture of our region.

This year's event broke past attendance records by a wide margin. Highlights included a Steelworkers Reunion Party, pop-up exhibits, hands-on youth activities, film screenings, live demonstrations, guided tours and more. This year also had a "Foodways of Steel" event, where visitors to the museum could enjoy some of the dishes popular with steelworkers from eras past. There were also art activities, including the opportunity for retired steelworkers to have their portraits taken by photographer Ed Leskin. The steelworkers also had an "open mic" where they could share stories and remembrances about their time working at the Steel.

BAPL enjoys participating each year for many reasons, including that it allows us to share the books we published in partnership with NMIH: *Tug!* and the brand new *The Giant Moves*. These books for children celebrate the history of Bethlehem Steel and help keep the stories alive for a new generation. We are proud to say they are written by BAPL's own Catherine McCafferty, in collaboration with Mike Piersa of NMIH.

"The book is a shout-out to the amazing wealth of history we have in Bethlehem," Catherine says. "There are buildings from the 1700s just downtown, and a national museum and original blast furnaces that are part of the South Side landscape. It's truly remarkable how much history is a part of our everyday lives."



Trunk-or-Treat



On October 25, we had a wonderful turnout for a new event: a "trunk-or-treat" Halloween celebration at the Main Library. Trunk-or-Treats, where kids go from vehicle to vehicle in a parking lot or park, instead of house-to-house, are increasingly popular among residential neighborhoods, especially for those that have no sidewalks or live in areas where the streets are hard to get around safely.

We worked with many City departments to spread out in Payrow Plaza and offer trick-or-treating at vehicles in the space right outside the library. There was a firetruck, police cars, an ambulance, the Bookmobile, and TUG, the restored Bethlehem Steel tow tractor who paid a visit from the National Museum of Industrial History. There were fun things to do like a scavenger hunt, arts and crafts activities, a costume contest, and all sorts of games. Library staff and volunteers were there with our book bike to hand out the only thing better than free candy—books! Event sponsors included Lehigh University, Weis Markets, and Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop.

Community participants included: Emergency Medical Services of the City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Fire Department, National Museum of Industrial History, City of Bethlehem Police Department, Bethlehem Health Bureau, Bethlehem Mounted Police, City of Bethlehem Office of the Mayor, Community Services for Children, and City of Bethlehem Recreation. Mayor Reynolds, as well as Councilwoman Rachel Leon were among those who added to the festivities.

Children's Librarian Julia Brennan, who planned and organized the event, says "I wanted to be able to bring the community together to a safe space and get the City of Bethlehem employees involved as well! It was a resounding success and families from all over town stopped by for free candy and a good time. We'll definitely have this event again in 2023."



11Fest

The annual November 11th concert at BAPL is a highlight of our calendar, not just because it raises money for Studio 11, but also because it's such a fun time. We schedule eleven performers throughout the day and into the night, each one a little louder than the last. This year's line-up included experimental musicians, acoustic singer/songwriters, rappers, rock bands, and more. It's truly wonderful how much musical talent there is in our area and how many of them are willing to come share their talents with us at the library. The list this year included: LVNDR, Lunar Calendar, Keith Adams, Service Dog, We're from Antarctica, Trickery!, Time Being, Carrousel, Fictional Name, RA!D, Rogue Target, MacVill, and Zel.

"11Fest is always a good experience with a great mix of performers and guests who all radiate positive energy," said guitarist Tom Janis of Fictional Name.

All the performers volunteer their time to make this event a success. Their time and talent is greatly appreciated. A big thank you to everyone who came to the pay-what-you-can event as well. Nearly \$1,000 was raised in support of the studio, allowing us to maintain the equipment, repair and replace damaged items, and keep this free music-making space up and rocking for another year.

11Fest also serves as a great advertisement for the studio—if you want to come use it, check out the link on bapl.org and book some time. It is free of charge and includes everything you need to record your next musical masterpiece.

