

BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Annual Report 2024



# A Note from the Director

Looking back on 2024, I am struck by the creativity and sense of community that define our work here at the Bethlehem Area Public Library. This year dealt us plenty of difficult challenges, as well as many successes, including a remarkable outpouring of generosity from our supporters. One of the biggest unexpected hurdles we faced was the sudden need to replace our beloved Bookmobile, which had served the Bethlehem area for many years. When the vehicle reached the end of its journey, we launched a fundraising campaign to secure a replacement. The outpouring of support from individuals and businesses was incredible, allowing us to purchase a refurbished mobile clinic that hit the road as our new Bookmobile before the year was up.

We also experienced a significant amount of staff turnover, including the retirement of our Head Children's Librarian Edana Hoy, who we miss every day. Amid the challenges, we continued to serve our public, thanks in no small part to our many community partners. From Bike Day with the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation to mindfulness workshops with Lehigh Valley Health Network and many more, our events reflected the diversity and energy of our community.

Local history also took center stage this year as we launched two significant collections on our website: the Photograph and Print Collection and the Bethlehem Family Photo Album. These digital archives showcase everything from historic stereographs and postcards to pictures of local life from throughout our city's past. These efforts ensure that our city's rich heritage is preserved and made accessible for generations to come.

Thank you to everyone who participated in BAPL's year in ways big and small. Whether you checked out a book, attended a program, donated to a fundraiser, or used a resource online, you were part of our story in 2024. Here's to 2025!



# Library Board

Our sincere appreciation goes to the members of our Library Board, whose commitment and leadership help guide the library's direction and ensure it serves the needs of the community. Appointed by City Council and the governing bodies of our supporting municipalities, these individuals generously volunteer their time, leadership, and expertise to move the library forward. Their commitment to our mission has been key to meeting our community's needs. Beyond attending regular board meetings, our trustees actively participate in committees and community events, always working to strengthen our impact and enhance the services we offer. We deeply appreciate their unwavering support and the positive difference they make.

## City of Bethlehem

Anne Felker  
Joanne Garcia  
Nicole Gencarelli  
Jane Gill  
Joyce Hinnefeld  
Christopher Hunt  
Rachel Leon  
Delia Marrero

## Bethlehem Township

Carolyn Harper  
Peggy Salvatore

## Fountain Hill

Will Rufe

## Hanover Township

Telly Diacogiannis



# BAPL Coolidge

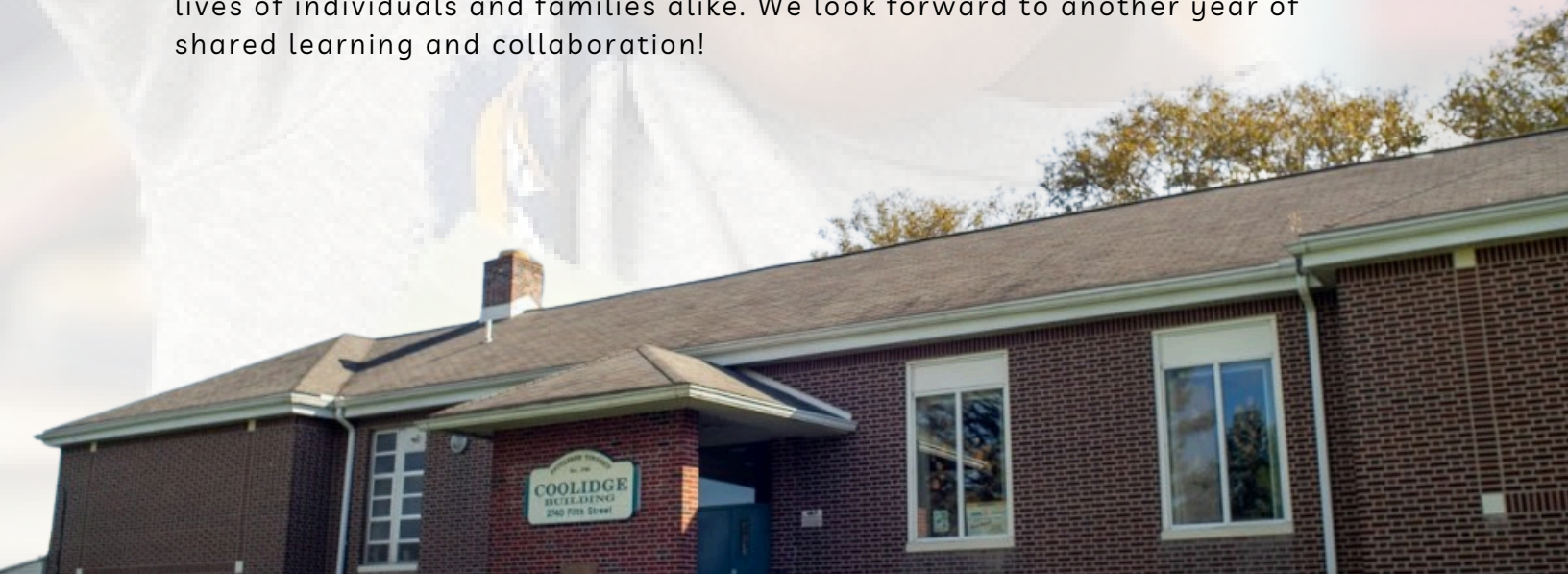
We had a great 2024 at Coolidge, thanks in no small part to the support of our many valued community partners. These include Lehigh University Art Galleries (LUAG), Zoellner Arts Center, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), Festival Unbound, Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT), Nancy Run Fire Company, Northampton County 4-H, Northampton Community College (NCC), and many more.

Thanks to these partners, our little Coolidge location in Bethlehem Township hosted big events like Bike Day with CAT, art-making workshops with LUAG, storytimes with Festival Unbound, a Mindfulness series with LVHN, and a “fire truck tour” where Nancy Run brought a fire engine to Coolidge for an exciting show-and-tell. This event was part of the nationwide celebration of Smokey Bear's 80th birthday. Kids got to hear a story, and, of course, loved climbing aboard the truck!

Additional events throughout the year included a “Meet an Author” day with Margie Peterson, who shared her children's book *The Boy Who Never Threw Anything Out*. Kids were invited to bring one toy to donate, creating an opportunity for kindness and promoting sustainability by giving new life to gently used items. We also hosted an ongoing variety of fun and educational events, including Family Storytime, chess classes, the Memoirs Only Book Club, as well as popular art and writing workshops.

NCC professor Abigail Micheleni's workshop, “Strategies for Listening Across the American Political Divide,” was a particularly timely and much-needed event. Dr. Micheleni provided practical strategies for bridging political divides through effective listening. Community connection is just one thing you'll find at the library—needed now more than ever.

We are proud of the way our community came together in 2024 to enrich the lives of individuals and families alike. We look forward to another year of shared learning and collaboration!



# Books on the Hill

Books on the Hill continues to serve as a unique hub for the Fountain Hill community, offering a surprisingly large collection of books and materials to borrow, as well as a diverse range of activities for all ages. This converted bookmobile may be small, but it is mighty!

Cleveland Wall, a poet and passionate advocate for literature, leads the library's ongoing efforts to offer dynamic programming at Books on the Hill. For example, you can catch her 52 times a year at a "Poetry Tuesday" event, either in-person or on YouTube. At these weekly readings audiences can explore new voices in poetry and deepen their appreciation for the written word. Patrons can stop by to browse the collection or pick up a book on hold, and enjoy a poem as part of the experience.

There were many other creative programs at Books on the Hill in 2024 as well. Highlights included the Junk Journal Workshop, where participants creatively repurposed materials into personalized journals, and Sip & Stitch, a relaxing morning of slow stitching that invited attendees to unwind with fabric, needle, and thread. The library also offered fun and educational STEM activities for kids, encouraging young minds to explore science and engineering concepts. One of the summer's standout events was Read to Dogs, which provided children with the opportunity to read aloud to therapy dogs, helping to improve their reading skills in a comfortable and supportive environment.

The success of Books on the Hill reflects BAPL's commitment to promoting literacy, creativity, and community engagement—making it an indispensable part of life in Fountain Hill.



# Bookmobile



In April 2024, we faced the tough decision to retire our beloved Bookmobile after many years of service to the Bethlehem area. As it reached its end, we began a fundraising campaign to secure the necessary funds for a new Bookmobile to make sure this valuable service could continue. Throughout the year, we organized many fundraising events and activities. These efforts were well-received by our community, and we are so grateful to the many individuals and businesses who stepped up to support us.

Despite the challenge of losing our Bookmobile, we didn't let that stop us from serving the community. The flexibility of our staff—and the use of our outreach van—helped maintain our schedule, bringing library services to neighborhoods across the Bethlehem area. Stops are located in Hanover and Bethlehem Townships, as well as Fountain Hill, and West Bethlehem. We continued to visit many popular locations such as community centers, retail centers, retirement communities, churches, parks, municipal buildings, and schools, ensuring that books and more were still available to families and individuals throughout the region.

As the year drew to a close, we were thrilled to announce that we had purchased a refurbished mobile medical clinic, which would be converted into our new Bookmobile. While it's not brand-new, it features a fresh design and modern functionality, allowing us to continue to bring the joy of books and reading to our community. We're excited to get it on the road in 2025, continuing our proud tradition of bringing books and more to those who need them.

## Pave the Way for Literacy: Join Our Bookmobile Drive!



# Outreach

They say you can't be everywhere at once, but we sure try! This year, as every year, BAPL made it our mission to bring library services out beyond the library walls and into the community all around our service area. One highlight was a series at the Kemerer Museum as part of our long-running partnership with Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites. We love bringing Bethlehem's rich history to life for children and families. We also continued storytimes at the Banana Factory where kids could hear a story, then enjoy a stroll through ever-changing exhibits by local artists. We attended many local festivals, including Hanover Township's Fall Festival, and were thrilled to be part of the grand opening of the new Hanover pool as well. Our "Magic and Illusion" show at the Bethlehem Township Community Center was a fun way to celebrate the end of our summer reading program with a fantastic crowd.

Of course, our outreach efforts wouldn't be complete without visits to our local schools. We visited elementary schools including Lincoln and Asa Packer, as well as the middle school and high schools in the district. At back-to-school nights and open houses, we connected with many students and their caregivers, sharing information about how libraries can support education and spark curiosity throughout the year. Attendees also had the opportunity to apply for library cards—watching students light up when they get their first library card is a highlight of our year!

Other highlights included the "We Got Your Back" event at Wesley Church in Bethlehem. At this annual event, families receive backpacks of school supplies, and have the opportunity to select a free book from the library. At Zoellner Arts Center Family Day, we joined forces with Lehigh University to celebrate creativity and connect with families through stories and hands-on activities. Also noteworthy is our ongoing partnership with the "Parents as Teachers" group, which helps support families in fostering early literacy and learning at home.

Each visit reminded us of the power of outreach to bring people together and build connections. Whether at a museum, a school, or a festival, we're proud to show up for our community and share the magic of BAPL. Here's to many more adventures in 2025!

The logo for Bethlehem Area Public Library is located at the bottom of the page. It features a stylized sunburst or fan-like graphic on the left side, composed of several curved lines radiating from a central point. To the right of this graphic, the words "Bethlehem" and "Area Public Library" are written in a large, white, serif font, stacked vertically. The background of the logo area is a solid blue color.

Bethlehem  
Area Public Library

# Reference Department

Our reference services were in high demand in 2024, with 24,394 questions answered at the Main Library alone. Online resources were heavily used, with 39,137 database searches and 80,483 total views. Additional reference services included test proctoring sessions, as well as new offerings like power banks for use in the library and access to our new 'huddle rooms.' The Computer Center at the Main Library remained a critical resource. The computer lab on the first floor was used 11,522 times; Wi-Fi usage at the Main Library was substantial as well, with 46,310 sessions logged.

The Bethlehem Room served as a vital hub for historical research and preservation. We welcomed 238 visitors, facilitated the use of 421 materials, and recorded 222 instances of microfilm usage. Our team also responded to 21 research requests. Our Interlibrary Loan services continued to foster resource sharing. We borrowed 2,547 items, loaned out 3,646 items from BAPL, and sent 1,864 items outside the district. BAPL patrons checked out 1,414 ILL items, underscoring the importance of this program. Our adult programming thrived this year, with 290 events hosted at the Main Library, drawing a total attendance of 5,491 participants.

To start the year, we unveiled a display on Bethlehem's climate challenges to highlight local sustainability efforts. Also in January, authors Joel Hoffner and Grace Huang gave a fascinating presentation on early Northampton County schoolhouses. February and March featured creative programs such as a Jigsaw Puzzle Contest, several webinars, and celebrations of local art and ecology, including a very well-attended presentation on native plants and a lecture on outsider artist Mr. Imagination.

Reference staff were also busy processing historical map donations, and introducing Express PCs for patrons. Staff also presented library services to an engaged group of about 50 seniors at Northampton Community College. The addition of a custom display case in April, donated by the Friends of the Library, coupled with engaging events like a retro gaming arcade that drew 175 attendees, underscored the library's focus on community engagement. May and June maintained the momentum with wellness events, a Shakespeare Festival performance, and an artificial intelligence program. Community-focused initiatives, including walk-in computer help and participation in local celebrations, showcased the library's dedication to serving Bethlehem's diverse population.

Fall saw some big staff changes, welcoming some fresh faces and saying goodbye to valuable team members. We also purchased a new Bookmobile, launched several new digital archive collections, premiered a WWII-focused online collection for Veterans Day, and hosted multiple popular concerts.

As we conclude the year, these achievements underscore the hard work and dedication of our staff, as well as the vital role our department plays in serving the community. We look forward to building on this success in the coming year.





# South Side Branch

In 2024, the South Side Branch underwent several changes but continued to thrive with a variety of successful programs and community-driven initiatives. Despite temporary closures and leadership transitions, the year featured many successful programs and services that demonstrated our continued commitment to serving our community.

Art programs proved especially popular in 2024. Our Art Journaling sessions were a standout, as were workshops like Poetry and Tarot, Cardmaking, Drop-In and Draw, Paint Your Own Miniature Mushrooms, the spooky Skeleton Bath Candle workshop, and a fun 3D Beach Painting event. These creative outlets drew participants of all ages and from all walks of life, fostering a sense of connection and inspiration.

Our kids' programs were also a huge hit, including Adventures in Nature, Adventures in Robotics, and Adventures in the Dark, all hosted in partnership with 4H of Northampton County. Additionally, therapy dog visits, afterschool playtimes, special storytimes, and afterschool game days were much appreciated by young patrons. Once again, free lunches were provided as part of our Summer Learning Program, ensuring that children in our community were nourished in both body and mind. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to serving all families and fostering a supportive environment for every child who walks through our doors.

For adults, we hosted Spanish practice classes as well as a class for new English speakers to practice their language skills. We also hosted for the first time a successful CPR class and continued with our free citizenship classes. We are always so proud of our students who complete their citizenship journey, and it's always a special moment for library staff when these students achieve this an important milestone and become new Americans.

Whether it's exploring new hobbies, improving skills, or simply enjoying a space to play and create, our programs continue to enrich the lives of those in our neighborhood. We look forward to another year of growth, connection, and excitement in 2025!

# Youth Services

2024 was an exciting year for Youth Services, though it was also bittersweet as we said goodbye to our beloved Head Children's Librarian, Dana Hoy, who retired in October. Dana was a cornerstone of our library community, and her kindness, creativity, and dedication to the children and families she served were greatly appreciated and will be deeply missed.

Throughout the year, we continued our popular storytimes for all ages, with special highlights like Baby Storytime, which is always a hit with our littlest library visitors. Our diverse offerings also included author visits, STEM projects, art activities, and even a "Block Party" where kids had a blast building with blocks.

Our summer was packed with events, including "Read to the Dogs," where kids practiced their reading skills with therapy dogs, as well as game days with something for everyone from chess to bingo. We had family fun nights, a teen book swap, and a delightful tea party with Historic Bethlehem. We also partnered with the Bethlehem Area School District's Spanish teachers to offer engaging programs *en español* for school-age children.

Other special events throughout the year included Chinese New Year festivities and a fun Sign Language Storytime. We also continued our partnership with community leaders, including hosting Mayor Reynolds, who joined us for a special storytime. Turns out, he loves Elephant and Piggie too!

A special shout-out goes to our Teen Advisory Board, whose members helped plan activities and volunteered their time to support the library while earning community service hours for school. Their contributions are invaluable, and their energy and creativity have enriched our programming. They played a key role in events like Spike's Birthday Party—one of the year's most antic. They also hosted events like "Teen Chef," where they made the world's fanciest grilled cheese sandwiches.

Near the end of the year, we welcomed our new Head of Youth Services, Lisa Underwood. We can't wait to see how Lisa helps write the next exciting chapter for BAPL's young readers!



# 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 support, we couldn't provide the educational and recreational resources our community relies on. We are proud to offer our patrons an ever-growing collection of books, magazines, and other materials, along with diverse programs that 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 Revenue:**

**\$2,953,491**

City of Bethlehem:

\$1,431,503

State of Pennsylvania:

\$459,764

Bethlehem Township:

\$488,648

Fountain Hill: \$91,276

Hanover Township:

\$222,581

Investment Interest:

\$102,818

Overdue fines: \$36,758

Book Sales: \$50,505

Annual Appeal: \$31,507

## **Total Expenses:**

**\$2,923,570**

Salaries/Wages: \$1,878,842

Benefits: \$305,348

Library Materials: \$242,388

Utilities: \$118,037

IT: \$83,913

Insurance: \$42,695

Financial Services: \$31,397

Building Supplies: \$15,353

Bibliographic System: \$39,489

HR: \$21,135

*Note: These numbers are published here prior to audit.*

# Major Donors

We are deeply grateful to the many library donors whose support was instrumental in the success of our library's initiatives this year, especially during the unexpected fundraising efforts for our new bookmobile. When the need arose, our community stepped up, and their generosity allowed us to secure a new vehicle much sooner than anticipated. The community's passion for education and lifelong learning continues to inspire us. We are honored to receive such support for our mission and our dedication to the cultural and educational enrichment of our community. A heartfelt thank you to all who believe in our work and stand with us in advancing this shared vision. Below are the major donors for 2024:

The Reidler Foundation  
R.K. Laros Foundation  
Barbara B. Reimers  
Geraldine Sturges  
Lisa Moriarty  
American Fence and Flag  
Sharon and Ron Yoshida  
Pat and Sandy Corpora  
National Museum of Industrial  
History  
Janice R. Brody  
The Davis and Smith Family  
Foundation  
QNB Bank  
Linda and Bob Freedman  
Gerald and Diane Roba  
Wind Creek Bethlehem Casino  
Russ and Mary Jo Miserendino  
Patrick and April Herrity  
John & Olga Conneen  
Carol Ann Reidenbach  
Paul Wegrzynowicz  
Patrice Teltser  
Robert and Ruth Walden  
Anthony Italiani Jr.



Catharine Roseberry  
Kacy Rhoton  
John Hoffer Jr.  
Linda Weiss  
Dr. Peter Behrens  
M.E. Brennan  
Joyce Hinnefeld  
Jeffrey and Susan Parks  
Susan P. McNamara  
Jean and Donald Davis  
Hughes Investment  
Kathleen S. Konrad  
Jean Theman  
Kristin Illick & Jeffrey Frank  
Kimberly Ann Wesner-Seifert  
Shirley M. Dalusio



# Programs and Events

In addition to loaning thousands of books, answering countless reference questions, and providing a wealth of resources, we at the Bethlehem Area Public Library also love to host events that bring our community together. In 2024, we offered a wide variety of programs and activities for all ages at the Main Library, South Side Branch, Coolidge Branch, Books on the Hill, and through virtual platforms. From fun events for children to informative programs for adults, our library continues to be a place where curiosity is sparked and lifelong learning is encouraged. Below is a summary of the year's events, participation, and highlights.

- In 2024, we hosted 382 adult programs and events across the Main Library, South Side Branch, Coolidge Branch, Books on the Hill, and virtual events. These programs had a total attendance of 6,846. Two of the best-attended events were the Retro Arcade (175 attendees) and "Play On!" – a stop on the community tour of *The Comedy of Errors*, presented by the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival (119 attendees).
- For young people, we organized 440 events, with a combined total attendance of 8,003! Participation in our Summer Reading & Learning program for preschool through high school reached more than 1,120 participants.
- The largest program of the year was Spike's 8th Birthday party, with 82 children and 57 adults in attendance.
- In 2024, we also held 120 outreach events with an attendance of 3,237!

## **Total Events and Attendance:**

- Total events for kids (Main + South Side + Outreach) = 633
- Attendance at these programs (Main + South Side + Outreach) = 9,573
- Total events for adults (Main + South Side + Coolidge) = 382
- Total attendance at these programs (Main + South Side + Coolidge) = 6,846

# Digitizing Bethlehem's Newspapers

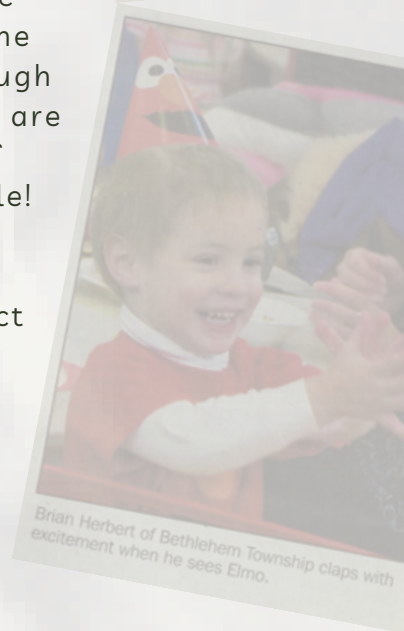
***The Bethlehem Star and the Bethlehem Press are now preserved at BAPL.org***

This year we were excited to announce the digitization of two local newspapers: *The Bethlehem Star* and the *Bethlehem Press*, now available online for the community to explore and enjoy!

*The Bethlehem Star*, a bold and engaging weekly newspaper, first hit the streets in December 1993. Known for addressing hot-button issues, the paper quickly made its mark. Editor Gerald Scharf described the paper as "a cheeky little community newspaper," which was popular with readers. Unfortunately, its run was short-lived, ceasing publication just one year later, in December 1994. We are proud to present all 42 issues of *The Bethlehem Star* in PDF format for our community to browse, revisit, and reflect on. With splashy headlines like "Bethlehem's Worst Properties," "Elvis Lives in Bethlehem!" and "The Unsolved Murders of Bethlehem," you know there are plenty of interesting stories to uncover.

*The Bethlehem Press*, part of the Lehigh Valley Press group of weekly newspapers, began its journey in September 1987. Over the years, it became an essential source of news, serving the Allentown and Bethlehem areas, with a focus on the Bethlehem Area School District. Thanks to the diligent efforts of BAPL staff, we've now digitized all weekly issues of the *Press* from January 2010 through August 2, 2023. You can browse through the issues by date or use the search bar to find a specific edition. There are many "person on the street" interviews, as well as in-depth coverage of local news and sports. You might find yourself or a neighbor in an article!

Special thanks to volunteer Bob McCall and staff members Michael Henninger, Kristen Leipert, and Matthew Rothfuss for making this project a reality.



RETHLEHEM PRESS



# 'Be My Neighbor Day' & Lehigh Valley Book Festival

## *A Day of Kindness and Community at Bethlehem Area Public Library: Be My Neighbor Day*

On March 23rd, we were thrilled to host PBS39's "Be My Neighbor Day" event at the Main Library, where hundreds of families came together to celebrate the legacy of Mr. Rogers and the power of kindness. Despite the cold, rainy weather, more than 700 people braved the elements to honor the spirit of Mr. Rogers and his unwavering message of love, acceptance, and community.

Inside the library, we welcomed families to connect with local police, firefighters, and city officials while enjoying music and interactive activities with the ever-enthusiastic Lolly Hopwood. On our second floor, young readers had the opportunity to meet with children's authors as part of the Lehigh Valley Book Festival. PBS characters Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittykat were on hand to pose for photos and bring smiles to the faces of kids and parents alike.

It was an unforgettable day, filled with joy, community, and a shared commitment to making the world a better place—just like Mr. Rogers did for all of us. His legacy of kindness continues to inspire and unite us, and we're proud to carry that torch forward.

"We are incredibly proud to have hosted such a special day for our community," said Executive Director Josh Berk. "Mr. Rogers taught us the importance of kindness, and we pride ourselves on being good neighbors. It's moments like these that remind us of the power of community and the lasting impact of simple acts of kindness."

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special celebration. Together, we continue to make our community a kinder, more connected place for all.



# Podcasting Class Gives Students a Chance to Take the Mic!

This summer, BAPL turned up the volume on creativity with our Teen Podcasting Class, where teens went from casual storytellers to full-fledged podcasting pros, mastering everything from voice control to the technical magic behind the mic.

Held at Studio 11 and led by the talented team behind the Lehigh Valley Cold Cases podcast—Dan Chiles and Lys Sparrow—the class gave participants a hands-on experience in podcast creation. Throughout the week, attendees learned how to craft engaging content, practiced their voice techniques, and mastered pacing—all while exploring the technical side of podcasting. They learned about the hardware and software behind recording, editing, and sharing a polished pod. By the end of the week, each group of teens created a podcast that reflected their interests, including music, pop culture, video games—whatever inspired them.

The class culminated in not one but two launch parties. One was held at the library and the other at the Banana Factory, where the teens proudly shared their finished projects. The energy in the room was contagious as each student's podcast came to life, sparking lively discussions and cheers from friends, family, and fellow students. It was a celebration of creativity, accomplishment, and the power of storytelling in the digital age.

This class was supported by ArtsQuest's Arts In Education partnership through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. We thank them for their support!

**ARTSQUEST**  
imagine that

Pennsylvania  
Council on the Arts  
**PARTNER**



# Sherlock Holmes & The Vintage Book Fair

On September 28, Sherlock Holmes visited the library—that's right: Sherlock lives! It was actor Neill Hartley who brought the legendary sleuth to life in a captivating one-man performance of *Sherlock Holmes and The Speckled Band*. The performance was part of a fundraiser for the library's new Bookmobile. The day began with a vintage book fair from 10 AM to 5 PM, where book lovers browsed and bought an impressive collection of books, ranging from affordable paperbacks to rare and collectible editions. The evening performance by Hartley had the audience on the edge of their seats as Sherlock cracked the case inside a dark and menacing mansion, much to the delight of fans.

A rare book auction was the evening's grand finale, with a signed copy of *The Stark Munro Letters* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle drawing spirited bidding. "Conan Doyle autographs are incredibly rare," said BAPL Executive Director Josh Berk. "Owning a signed book by him is a dream come true for collectors."

Thank you to Elliot Tracey – State Farm Insurance for sponsoring the evening. All proceeds from the auction and book sales went toward the purchase of BAPL's new Bookmobile, ensuring the library's ability to bring books to the community for years to come.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a truly memorable day of Sherlock, books, and fun. One thing was certainly no mystery: how great it was!



# Two New Local History Collections at BAPL.org

In 2024, two significant local history collections went live on the library's website, [bapl.org](http://bapl.org). This achievement is the result of the hard work and dedication of our staff, interns, and volunteers. **The Photograph and Print Collection**, which showcases Bethlehem and the surrounding areas, features photographs, historic stereographs, and postcards from the Frederick Truman Beckel Collection.

**The Bethlehem Family Photo Album** also went live in 2024. The photos were collected as part of a 1991 initiative by the library and local community members in celebration of Bethlehem's 250th Anniversary. Pictures were submitted at that time, and through the meticulous work of BAPL librarian Caitlin Cuba were scanned, organized, and uploaded. The categories highlight various aspects of community life including culture and recreation, education, family, neighborhoods, social and civic life, work, and worship.

These digital collections represent a step forward in preserving the heritage of our city and making it accessible to the public. By putting these materials online, BAPL is ensuring that anyone interested in the city's rich history—whether scholars, students, or curious residents—can explore the past at their fingertips. Explore these collections at [bapl.org](http://bapl.org) today!





# Usage and Statistics

## New Library Cardholders in 2024

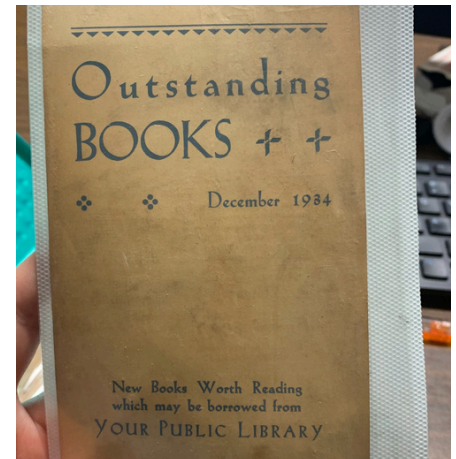
City of Bethlehem: 2,034

Bethlehem Township: 567

Fountain Hill: 158

Hanover Township: 220

- Visitors to the Main Library: 173,285
- Visitors to the South Side Branch: 15,918
- Main Library check-outs: 323,583
- South Side Branch check-outs: 11,053
- Bookmobile check-outs: 3,928
- Coolidge check-outs: 18,676
- e-book downloads: 48,769
- Internet hotspots borrowed: 535
- Bikes borrowed: 36
- Kanopy films streamed: 14,202
- Articles accessed through library databases: 67,038
- Sessions on public computers (Wi-Fi and library PCs): 71,699
- Reference questions answered: 25,788



Total Items Borrowed: 421,492



## Our Collection

Books 163,113

DVDs 20,577

Audiobooks 6,426

Media 8,448

(records+games+microfilm+CDs)



