




Issue
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Surprise! It's a Flash Sale!

Be the first to get your tickets for the 2025 Holly Jolly Christmas Concert at a special Flash Sale on Friday, July 25!

Merry Christmas in July! Get a head start on planning your holiday season experiences by checking out the online, one-day-only Flash Sale for 2025 Holly Jolly Christmas Concert tickets on Friday, July 25. **The Flash Sale will only be available via EventBrite and this QR code on July 25, for \$15.** No advance tickets will be sold at the Library, the Medicine Shoppe, or the Friendly Federal Credit Union at this time. Tickets will otherwise go on sale in September.




B.F. Jones
Memorial Library
663 Franklin Avenue
Aliquippa, PA 15001

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Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6, 2025, for the eighth annual Holly Jolly Christmas Concert at the Hopewell Area High School! The concert will be sponsored by a partnership between the Friends of B.F. Jones Memorial Library and the Artist-in-Residence music program at Hopewell Area High School. Proceeds from the concert will be divided between the Library and the Artist-in-Residence program, which provides musical instruction and instruments to Hopewell students.



Are you looking for a special way to keep someone's memory alive, or to continue their legacy?

Consider a donation to B.F. Jones Memorial Library.

Contact the Library at 724.375.2900 to discuss the different ways in which you can donate in honor of your loved one.

The Bookmark

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF B.F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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The Bookmark, Special Edition: Christmas in July

We're getting our halls decked, and our bells are a-jingling, as BFJ gears up for another summery Santa spectacular!

We have quite a few holiday traditions here at BFJ, and it looks like we've added a new one: Christmas in July! Last year, we held our inaugural Christmas in July event on July 25 (obviously!), which marked five months until the actual Big Day. A flash sale of advance tickets for the ninth annual Holly Jolly Christmas Concert was intended to be the central activity of the day, but...

St. Nick himself took a few hours out of his much-deserved summer vacation to stop by and share Storytime with us, so it's pretty hard to get more special than that. We think he enjoyed the time as much as we did, because he came back to visit just before the holiday last December, too. We've also received a missive from the North Pole - the Big Guy will be joining us on Thursday, July 17, at 10:30am for a special summer storytime.

We're so glad that our good friend Mr. Claus can fit us into his very busy schedule - we can't wait to hear a story, have some snacks, and do some Christmasy crafts with him. Also on the horizon is a flash sale for the 2025 Holly Jolly Christmas Concert, which will be one day only, and only through the QR code in the article on the back cover of this newsletter. No in-person tickets will be sold during the flash sale.

Check the article for more details!



Above: Santa reads to an enthralled group of fans.



Left & Below: Some of our most devoted and adorable Library friends pose in front of our special Christmas in July photo backdrop, rocking their summer finest.



A Note From Your Editor



With a Little Help from Our Friends...

Have you ever wondered about the organization behind some of your favorite Library events? Get to know The Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library.



Welcome to the second-annual Christmas in July Special Edition of *The Book-mark!* We had so much fun celebrating our favorite holiday here at BFJ in the summer last year that we knew we had to do it again.

(See, those Christmas lights I insist on keeping up at the Circulation Desk year-round *do* have a purpose beyond making me smile!)

We hope you'll join us for our special Santa Storytime and our Flash Sale of tickets for the 2025 Holly Jolly Christmas Concert, and that you'll enjoy learning more about the Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library, who make the HJCC, and many of your other favorite Library events and special projects, happen.

Stay cool, Library friends.

Megan

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Blues & Brews. After Hours at the Library. The Holly Jolly Christmas Concert. Over the years, there have been so many programs and events that have been produced for the benefit of our beautiful Library, as well as projects that have been undertaken to ensure that the Library's legacy lives on. Whether they've been projects that have contributed to the upkeep of our historic building, or initiatives to keep our technology and services up-to-date, we have always been grateful for the organization that has spearheaded them.

The Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library has operated in its current iteration as the primary fundraising entity for the Library for the better part of the last four decades. Several of the committee's current members have been with the

Friends since the late '80s or early '90s, highlighting the dedication that the Friends have to BFJ.

(We won't tell you who they are, though, because ladies and gentlemen never reveal their ages. Just know that they are beloved members of the Library community. Two of them can be spotted at the Library quite regularly. They're also married to each other. And they're the parents of two other Friends. And they really like trains.)

The Friends have been the Library's partners for so many projects: the renovation of our front doors, the installation of the digital bulletin boards at our Main Circulation Desk and in the Children's Department, the curation of the History Cabinets in the Jones Zone, the creation of "Then, Now, Forever," also known as BFJ's "official portrait," which was painted by local artist Linda Barnicott and unveiled in October 2023, the sponsoring of the Pittsburgh Pirates' Pirate Parrot at various events over the last few years, the sponsoring of our annual Polar Express Night, and, of course, the Holly Jolly Christmas Concert.

And yet, somehow, that only seems like the tip of the iceberg.

There are so many things that the Friends do behind the scenes to keep the Library's legacy going strong, and the staff is so grateful to them for all of their hard work. So, the next time you're enjoying an event at the Library, chances are good that the Friends will have played a role in bringing it to fruition.

For more information about the Friends, their mission, and the projects they have sponsored for the Library, as well as ways that you can help, visit their website by scanning the QR code below.



It's a "Holly Jolly" Holiday!

The Holly Jolly Christmas Concert celebrates its ninth year of bringing holiday cheer to the community through the sounds of the season.

When local music legend B.E. Taylor passed away in 2014, it felt like the end of an era; for decades, the Aliquippa-born musician's holiday concerts in Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas were, for many, the defining moment of the Christmas season.

In partnership with Hopewell High School's music department and the Artist-in-Residence program, which aims to provide not only music education to students, but to put musical instruments in their hands, the Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library have aimed to recreate a little bit of that holiday magic with the Holly Jolly Christmas Concert.

The concert's headliner, Nashville-based singer-songwriter Bailey "BayTay" Taylor, carries on her uncle's legacy alongside a cadre of local musicians. The 2025 lineup has yet to be finalized, but the 2024 lineup included the return of the Holly Jolly Band: Joe Munroe, Rick Clew, Hermie Granati, Fred Delu, Greg McIltrout, Jim Spears, Dan Taylor, Jordan Taylor, and Sydney Taylor, and the Holly Jolly Horn Section: David Bufalini, Jeff Davis, Kelsey Steele, and Nick Piecuch, longtime B.E. Taylor collaborator Rick Witkowski,

KDKA meteorologist Mary Ours, trombonist/music producer/director Sarah Morrow, and local Blues guitarist and singer/songwriter Bobby Thompson. The evening was rounded out by performances from the Hopewell Area High School Drum Line and Chorus.

We look forward to our ninth year of (the best way of) spreading Christmas cheer (by singing loud for all to hear), and furthering the opportunities for music education in our local schools. The arts, and the life lessons they can teach, are more important than ever, and the Library is proud to play even a small part in helping to keep them in schools.

Don't forget, you can get your tickets early at a special flash sale on July 25th via the EventBrite QR code on the back page of this newsletter, or pick them up in person starting in September at the Library, the Friendly Federal Credit Union, or the Medicine Shoppe.

See you on Saturday, December 6, at 7pm! Make sure to bring your dancing shoes, because the crew brings their A game every year in rocking the house.

