

Welcome, New Carts!

The new, colorful BFJ Book Carts were introduced to the adoring public on Tuesday, December 17, in an official naming ceremony.

As readers of *The Bookmark* will know, one of our most recent projects was the replacement of our old workhorse book carts, and that the first one to be purchased was christened Dolly Carton.

Well, friends, we are so unbelievably grateful to announce that the project was completely funded thanks to the combination of the generosity of our patrons and the Friends of the B.F. Jones Memorial Library.

Seven new carts were purchased and joined the Library family, and to introduce them, the staff held an

Official Naming Ceremony on Tuesday, December 17. The hour-long program featured a livestream of the christening of the carts - complete with thematically-appropriate props, including a lightsaber, a magic wand, and a baseball bat - some refreshments, and a wonderful sense of community.

It is our pleasure to introduce **Dolly Carton, Roberto Cartmente, George S. Carton, Cart Vader, Lord Voldecart, Fairy Cartmother, and Cartney Co** to our BFJ Faithful. The next time you're in, make sure to stop by and admire the colorful new additions!



A cart-tastic rainbow of joy: Cart Vader, George S. Carton, Roberto Cartmente, Cartney Co, Fairy Cartmother, Lord Voldecart, and Dolly Carton!

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As we welcome 2025, it is the wish of the Director, Staff, and Board of Directors of B.F. Jones Memorial Library that the new year is good to all of you.

May 2025 bring you peace, good health, and prosperity...and many excellent new things to read!

We look forward to another year of serving our Library family and the Aliquippa community. We can't wait for all of you to see what we have in store!



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.

Dewey Decked the Halls Again, Jingling All the Way

The holiday spirit was alive and well at BFJ this December, with the return of Polar Express Night and the antics of BFJ's Official Elf on the Shelf, Dewey!

It's no secret that we here at BFJ love Christmas. Decorations, carols, presents, cookies, parties...we love it all. To help us celebrate the season, we welcomed back our very special North Pole guest, Dewey, the Official Library Elf, who brought some added Christmas cheer to our social media channels by hosting a tour of the many Christmas trees that could be found here in the Library.

(We had a total of five: the Big Tree at the Main Circulation Desk, which was decorated by the Library Staff and the Friends of the Library, the tree at the Christmas Train

setup, decked as always by The Murphy Family, the small tree decorated by our very own Miss Cindy in the Reference Room, the small multicultural tree in the Children's Department by Miss Tiffany, and the full-sized tree in the Angela Stevens Picture Book Room in the Children's Department, which was decorated by our Children's Department Staff.)

It isn't a Christmas season at BFJ without the annual Polar Express Night, featuring a read-



ing of the holiday classic *The Polar Express*, treats from our friends at Mac's Donuts, and a visit with Santa himself. On the topic of Christmas' Man of the Hour, he also returned to read some of the letters that the Library System's youngest patrons sent to him via the Libraries' Official North Pole Mailboxes throughout the month of December.

It was a hectic season, but we loved every second!

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In Memoriam Social Workers at the Library



2025 marks the first full year of having two social workers serving B.F. Jones Memorial Library and the Aliquippa Library District.

It is with a heavy heart that the first Editor's Note of 2025 makes its way to all of you as a memorial. At the end of January, the Library family suffered a blow with the sudden passing of Dan Rubottom, the Treasurer of our Friends of the Library committee.

Dan was an integral member of the Friends, having previously served as the committee's co-chair, a position I inherited when he decided to become the Treasurer. He was full of life and light, and could make any room better just by being in it. His heart, and his love for the Library, were unmatched.

Many of you may have met Dan at our annual October fundraiser, After Hours at the Library. He could always be counted on to be behind the bar, smiling broadly and keeping the wine flowing with his best friend, fellow Friends committee member Drew Murphy.

Please keep the Rubottom Family, and Kristi, the love of Dan's life, in your thoughts and prayers. We will miss him immeasurably.

Megan

BFJ Patron Services Librarian
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Libraries are so much more than just depositories for books. Over the past two decades, they have increasingly become true centers of community, providing resources and services far beyond the circulation of reading material. In 2023, BFJ's offerings expanded to include the services of an in-house social worker, Jennifer Honess, LCSW.

As part of her position, Jennifer has facilitated outreach programs and partnerships with local senior housing complexes like the Eleanor Roosevelt Apartments, the Aliquippa School District, Adagio Health, Vitalant Blood Donation, UPMC Health, the Center at the Mall at Beaver Valley Mall, various groups dedicated to the service of veterans, and the House of Prayer Lutheran Church and their ministries.

In 2024, thanks to grants from The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Shell Corporation's Environmental Mitigation Fund, we were able to hire a second social worker who would travel to other libraries within the Aliquippa Library District - Ambridge, Baden, Beaver, Beaver Falls, Chipewa, Midland, Monaca, and New Brighton - and expand the services. Michael Moore was hired to fill the role, and joined the staff of the Aliquippa Library District in September 2024. Please consult the monthly calendar, or email mmoore@beaverlibraries.org, to find out more about Michael's schedule.

The services that Michael and Jennifer are available to provide can be classified by five major subjects:

- **Crisis Intervention:** providing immediate support during a crisis to help individuals regain equilibrium.
- **Case Management:** coordinating services and resources to assist individuals or families.
- **Life Skills Training:** helping individuals develop essential skills, such as budgeting, job

searching, and time management.

- **Advocacy:** representing and advocating for library users' rights and needs at individual, group, and community levels.
- **Psychoeducation:** educating individuals and families about mental health conditions and strategies for managing them.

"I love this job, because I love this community," Honess says. "Being a bridge and a navigator to the resources that are out there in the community, helping people navigate a confusing system or bringing together a group of providers and the community to help make connections is what we're here to do. We're also here to listen if there are any suggestions about how we can even better serve the community."

Both Jennifer and Michael, and the services they have provided to our patrons, have been remarkable, and have truly embodied the program's motto: "Supporting Our Community, One Library at a Time."



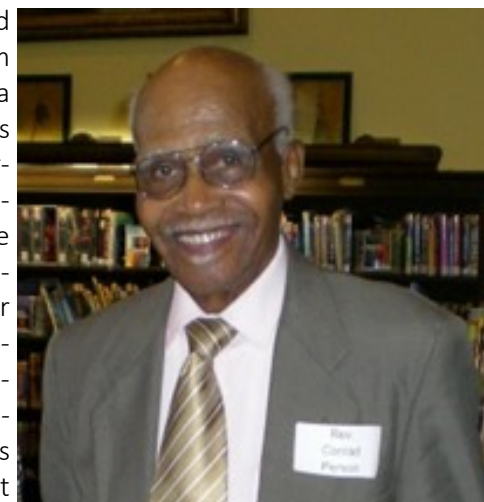
Social workers Jennifer Honess, LCSW, and Michael Moore.



The Rev. Conrad Person Collection

This special collection, curated in honor of Rev. Conrad Person, aims to inspire readers to participate in the development and enrichment of their communities.

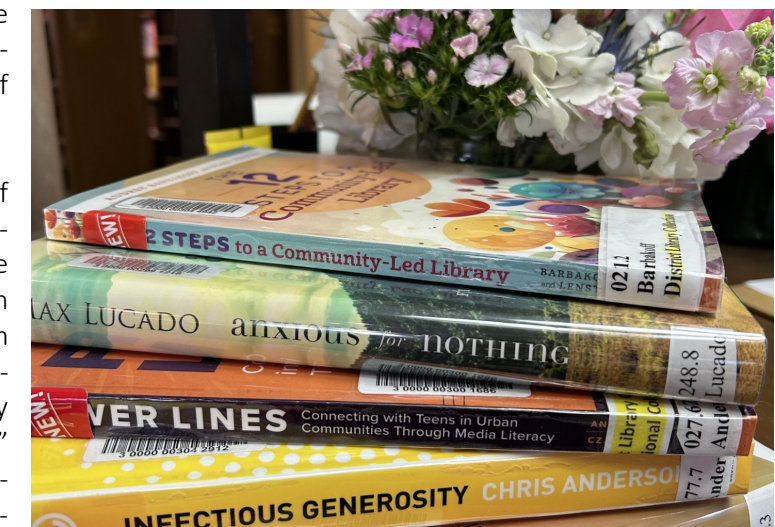
In 2013, the Rev. Conrad Person, who hailed from Heard County, Georgia and moved to Aliquippa as a teenager with his parents and sisters, bequeathed funds to the B.F. Jones Memorial Library that would allow for the curation of a collection devoted to community development and enrichment. The intent was to purchase books that could fuel patrons' senses of civic responsibility



Reverend Conrad Person

through various lenses, from personal spirituality to grassroots politics. Rev. Person was, himself, a stalwart example of service, leadership, and stewardship, whether it was in his position as Chief Operator of the J&L Steel Mill/Aliquippa Works Benzyl Distillation Operation, as the patriarch of a family that included six children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, as the farmer of a homestead in Hanover Township, or as the pastor of Christian Lighthouse Church in Aliquippa.

"The Library has been an important part of community life," Conrad Person, Jr., the Reverend's son, says. "My parents used it while studying for their GEDs. My Aunt, Deloisteen Brown, who ultimately earned her M.D. from the University of Michigan, remembers studying there in high school. I personally got my first library card at age four from B.F. Jones." The Library, as one of the most enduring cultural assets in Aliquippa, and a center of life-



Some recent additions to the Rev. Conrad Person Collection at BFJ.

dates to know!

WEDNESDAY, JAN 1:

The Library will be closed for New Year's Day.

MONDAY, JAN 20:

The Library will be closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

SATURDAY, FEB 1:

BFJ's 96th Birthday! The Library opened to the public for the first time on February 1, 1929. Here's to 96 more!

MONDAY, FEB 10:

Read the Room Book Club w/ Miss Megan. Stop by with your current book, pull up a chair, and read in the company of friends!

MONDAY, FEB 17:

The Library will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day.