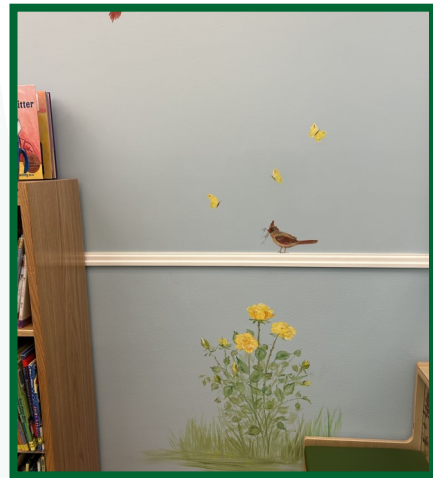



# The Bookmark

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF B.F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## Take a visit to our magical Children's Dept.!



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

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### AN IRISH BLESSING

May love and laughter  
light your days, and warm  
your heart and home.

May good and faithful  
friends be yours, wherever  
you may roam.

May peace and plenty  
bless your world with joy  
that long endures.

May all life's passing  
seasons bring the best to  
you and yours!

With Love,  
The B.F. Jones Memorial  
Library Staff



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.



## Magic is Blooming in BFJ's Children's Dept.!

*A new sign is installed, officially rechristening the Picture Book Room, while a new mural adorns its walls.*

As faithful readers of *The Bookmark* will know, the Picture Book Room in BFJ's Children's Department has been undergoing a transformation over the last two years.

New, child-friendly shelving has been installed - many of which have been sponsored in memory of patrons by their families and friends - , and the walls got an upgrade from the old goldenrod paint to a calming light blue with white accents. New benches and a new area rug were also added; these were sponsored by the Ilene Klein Memorial Fund, established by the Klein family at BFJ in 2023. The Fund also sponsored the purchase of a complete collection of Little Golden Books in Mrs. Klein's memory, which are stored in the benches.

In order to enhance the room, which has been renamed in honor of our Library's long-time Board President, Angela Stevens, local artist Carrie Havranek was hired to create a mural on its walls. The nature-inspired scene features a tree so lifelike that its branches seem to reach right off the wall, adorable

woodland creatures worthy of any fairytale, beautiful birds taking wing, and flowers that practically invite you to lean in and breathe deeply of their fragrances. Special touches like yellow roses, a favorite of Angela's, and butterflies, chosen by the Klein family, are emotional tributes to incredible women, both of whom championed children's literacy in the course of their careers.

We are grateful to Carrie for her wonderful work in adding magic to our Children's Department, and invite all of you to stop in and see it all for yourselves. It is our wish that The Angela Stevens Picture Book room will provide children and their families with many good memories for years to come.



Our little mouse friend wants you to check out some more photos on Page Four!

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## A Note from Your Editor



## Can You Paint With All the Colors of the...Library?

*A fresh coat of paint brightens up the walls, while the installation of new security cameras adds a layer of safety for the Library and its patrons.*

It's no accident that the root word of "library" is so close to the root word for liberty. Libraries are, at their heart, about freedoms: the freedom to read and the freedom to access information chief among them.

Unfortunately, there are many places in the country at this moment where libraries are being attacked and demonized for their dedication to those freedoms. Libraries are losing funding, their staffs are facing personal and professional backlash for standing up to attempts to ban books, and some libraries are even being forced to close.

With the recent executive order that plans to gut the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the threat to libraries, and the patrons they serve, is now more pressing than ever.

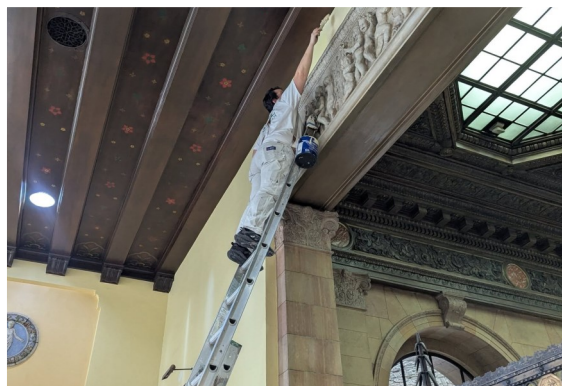
Libraries are so much more than just books. They are the hearts of communities. Now, we can only ask for our community to be there for us: call your representatives. Don't let the IMLS be a target.

There's been a lot going on around the Library since 2023, beginning with the removal and refurbishment of our front doors. And boy, did folks have feelings about that! We can't count how many times we fielded questions about what we had done with the doors and why the new one was so plain.

(..."plain" was the nicest word that was bandied about...)

In Fall 2024, the outside of the building got a serious power-washing and re-pointing from the excellent folks at Mariani & Richards, Inc., and we couldn't let the exterior get all the love. So, we kicked off the new year in 2025 with a handful of interior projects.

Chief among them was inviting the gentlemen from SA McDanel Interior & Exterior Painting, via our friends at MasterCraft, to BFJ to give the walls in the Reference Room, the Jones Zone, the Children's Department, and the staff work areas, as well as the walls in the mezzanine and behind



the stacks, a fresh coat of paint. The beautiful new color replaces the long-present yellow, and the creamy beige with darker accents has served to give the Library a bright, fresh new look.

We also had security cameras installed by our electrical wizards, the team at Turney Electric Co. from Beaver Falls. Cameras were installed both inside and outside the Library. (Next time you're here for a visit, stop and wave if you can spot them!)

Keeping the building in tip-top shape as we approach our hundredth birthday is an ongoing and extensive project, and we're so proud to partner with so many businesses who understand and honor the Library's position in the community. Having folks who love the Library as much as we do working to keep it at its most beautiful makes it so much fun! (Even when the Library staff is trying not to look as painters and camera-installers scale impossibly high ladders in

order to complete their work. That part is Very Stressful.)

Thank you to everyone who worked on this phase of beautifying BFJ. We can't wait for our patrons to come see your wonderful work!



## Oh, The Places You'll Go!

*A birthday celebration for Dr. Seuss brings Aliquippa community leaders to BFJ to read some of the author's greatest hits.*



To mark the beloved author's birthday on March 2, the BFJ Children's Department hosted a Seusstastical Birthday Bash on Saturday, March 1. The afternoon consisted of a series of stories read aloud by Aliquippa community leaders like Mayor Dwan Walker, councilman Donald C. Walker III, local businesswomen - and BFJ's favorite coffee queens - Andrenna Williams (Uncommon Grounds) and Janashia Walker (Aura Coffee Co.), BFJ's Storytime Specialist Carla Smith, and the AEDC's Cindy Gormley, a magic show from Steve Haberman of 13th Hour Entertainment, the official magician of BFJ, and of course, plenty of snacks and crafts! (Including cupcakes made by our very own Miss Kris!)

Thank you to all of our guest readers, who delivered outstanding performances of classics like *Green Eggs & Ham*, *Oh, The Places You'll Go*, *The Lorax*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, and, of course, *The Cat in the Hat*. We are so proud to be part of the Aliquippa community, which always shows up in force to bring joy to our littles.



## dates to know!

**SATURDAY, MAR 1:**  
Join BFJ and some of our favorite Aliquippians as we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss with a Seusstastical Birthday Bash from 1pm-3pm!

**MONDAY, MAR 10:**  
Read the Room Book Club w/ Miss Megan at 6:00pm. Stop by with your current book, pull up a chair, and read in the company of friends!

**TUESDAY, MAR 11:**  
In partnership with Ivy Rehab, the Library's March 11 Storytime at 10:30am will be a special Yoga Storytime. It's never too early to learn mindful practices that are good for the body *and* the spirit!

**MONDAY, APR 14:**  
BFJ Blood Drive w/ Vitalant, 1:00pm-5:30pm.

**EVERY SATURDAY:**  
Visit the Library for our weekly Moms Meet Up group; bring the littles to play in our Children's Department, and both littles and adults can make some new friends! 10am-11am.

*It isn't a March issue without highlighting my favorite piece of Ireland-related literature, even though I also recommended it last year.* If you're looking for something to read this March, and want to learn a little bit of Irish history, you can't go wrong with *Say Nothing*, by Patrick Radden Keefe. This account of the Troubles, centered on the disappearance of one woman, is so arresting and engaging that you'll

forget you're reading a nonfiction book. Bonus? It's been adapted for Hulu as a limited series, so you can binge-watch it, too! (Or, if you're a responsible adult, you can spread it out and savor it. But I'm definitely not going to judge you if you knock it all out in one sitting, because that's absolutely how I plan to consume it. It's pretty much how I consumed the book, too.)

Keep the doors to libraries open.

Let freedom read.

Megan

BFJ Patron Services Librarian  
moneill@beaverlibraries.org