

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn...or, at BFJ

The Donor Tree celebrates its second year of beautifying the BFJ lobby, where it recognizes and celebrates ongoing donor relationships and lasting legacies.



Above: The Donor Tree, expertly installed by our friend, the excellent Charlie from MasterCraft, graces the wall just inside the Main Entrance of B.F. Jones Memorial Library. Its unique design has been much-admired and remarked upon.



663 Franklin Avenue
Aliquippa, PA 15001

In 2023, the Friends of B.F. Jones Memorial Library sponsored the installation of a Donor Tree, with the intent of recognizing the longtime relationships with those who have been loyal donors to the Library, not simply one-time donations.

The colors of the leaves were chosen not only to be aesthetically-pleasing and to complement the colors in the wall it occupies, but also to represent the length of time that each donor has been contributing to the Library.

Donation Color Key:

- ♦ **Green Leaves:** 3-5 years.
- ♦ **Bronze Leaves:** 6-10 years.
- ♦ **Silver Leaves:** 11-15 years.
- ♦ **Gold Leaves:** 16+ years.
- ♦ **Acorns:** Regular donations of \$10,000.
- ♦ **Stones:** Regular donations of \$50,000.

We're so glad to have this beautiful piece to help us recognize the wonderful folks who have played such important roles in the Library's life.

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vitalant[®] Blood Donation

On Monday, April 14, the Library hosted a blood drive with Vitalant Blood Donation. Vitalant set up a full-scale blood drive in the Reference Room of the Library, where patrons, staff, and community members alike participated.

Blood drives provide much-needed supplies for blood transfusions; BFJ is grateful to our community for stepping up to help.



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 Library Goes to the (Therapy) Dogs!

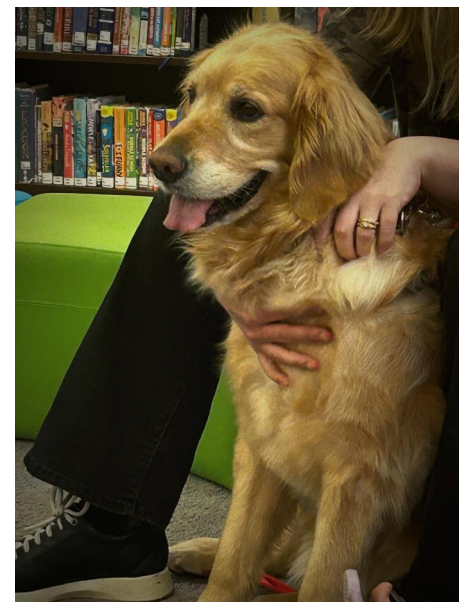
BFJ was proud to celebrate Therapy Pet Week with visits from some of our favorite - and hard-working! - therapy pups and special storytimes.

It's no secret that we love puppies here at BFJ, or that we love seeing good works being done out in our community. To combine these two interests, we invited some of our four-legged friends from the community to the Library for a special celebration of National Therapy Pet Week in the last week of April. Therapy pets provide invaluable services to their organizations, and Carl, Hank, and Zoey are excellent at their jobs.

Carl, the therapy dog for the Beaver County Sheriff's Office, and his human dad, Sgt. Mike Matzie, made a return visit to BFJ on Tuesday, April 29. This distinguished gentleman displayed the very best manners, and was so gentle with the little ones who came to see him. He even shared his very own trading card, in exchange for many pets and scratches from Storytime guests and Library staff alike.

Hank, who just celebrated his first birthday this past April 1, spends his days with Aliquippa's Bravest over at the Aliquippa Fire Station. He and the AFD were scheduled to drop by on Wednesday, April 30, but the big storms that swept through the area on Tuesday, April 29, left the Library without power that day - and the firehouse gang had a lot of important work to do! Hank and his humans will be rescheduling a visit, on a date to be determined.

Zoey is no stranger to BFJ, either. She and her humans, Sister Pat and Sister Sarah, both of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden, along with Sisters Sally and Colleen, spent Spring 2024 sharing garden-themed storytimes with our littlest friends. Zoey brought her human friend, Erin, to the special afternoon Storytime, and even got some treats from the kids who joined us.



Top: Deputy Carl, Very Good Boy, was on duty, with his very own badge!

Bottom: Zoey listened attentively to the story, with her friend Miss Erin.

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A Note from Your Editor

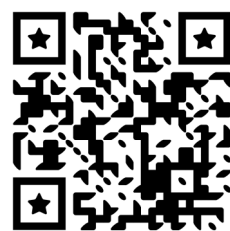


This newsletter's note is short, sweet, and to the point. (Much like me, your friendly neighborhood librarian.) It's borrowed from a beloved friend, Laura Donaldson-Miller, who has changed the lives of innumerable students over the course of her career by being a loving, listening ear and a shoulder on which to lean as they navigate the world. While it's short, it is eloquent. It is also more important now than ever.

Be kind. No exceptions.

Megan

BFJ Patron Services Librarian
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Scan above to learn about the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which is an integral and invaluable agency. It, and the funding it supplies to libraries, is in danger.

"You Can See that the Whole World is a Garden."

In partnership with Remake Learning Days, the Library hosted a craft night for teens and adults where attendees could create their own "Secret Garden Book Nooks."

For the past few years, Carla Smith, one of B.F. Jones Memorial Library's favorite people, has been excited to partner with Remake Learning Days. Remake Learning Days is a nationwide initiative to encourage creative learning through community agencies and efforts. Typically, the partnership provides programs focused on preschool- and kindergarten-aged patrons, but for the 2025 program, the Library looked to create an evening that would be enjoyable for our adult patrons.

(Because adults like to do crafts and indulge their creative sides, too!)

The "Secret Garden Book Nook" Night was held on Wednesday, May 21, and was funded through a grant of \$250 from Remake Learning. But, because we have an active and dedicated Friends of the Library committee, the RLD grant was doubled to \$500. Thanks to this funding, the event was free to attendees.

BFJ's favorite people, graciously served as the evening's facilitator, and guided the attendees through the construction, painting, and assembly of their Secret Garden Book Nooks. Attendees could choose from a variety of landscape-creating items, like moss, pebbles, miniature trees, and foam, among others. The kits came with included lighting pieces.

(And the Nook that Miss Carla made as an example lived at the Circulation Desk for a few weeks ahead of the event; it received so many compliments, and helped to generate a lot of interest!)

Book Nook kits like the ones we used during the event are available for purchase on Amazon, so even if you weren't able to join us for the program, you can order your very own kit and create a beautiful bookshelf enhancer in the comfort of your own home.



Above: Miss Carla gives introductory instructions to a creative audience.



Left: The final result of Miss Kris & Miss Megan's collaborative book nook.



Below: An in-progress Book Nook.



One Book Beaver County 2025: An Evening With Sarah Penner

The award-winning author made a stop on her official book tour for her new release, The Amalfi Curse, for the fourth-annual event.

On June 12, 2025, the Beaver County Library System welcomed *New York Times* bestselling author Sarah Penner, the author of *The Lost Apothecary*, *The London Séance Society*, and *The Amalfi Curse*, as our guest for our 2025 One Book Beaver County author event. Ms. Penner joined us as an official stop on her book tour to promote *The Amalfi Curse*, which was released in April. *The Amalfi Curse* is an intricately-woven tale of two women - one, a woman with power over the sea, in nineteenth-century Positano, the other, a modern-day nautical archaeologist looking to unearth the secrets that beautiful coastline still holds.

The tradition of bringing in an author for One Book Beaver County began in 2022, when we welcomed the delightful Jamie Ford, the author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. In 2023, our guest was Marie Benedict, the author of *The First Ladies*. Last year, we had the pleasure of being joined by Brendan Slocumb, the author of *The Violin Conspiracy*. (Note: Brendan also released a new book this spring: make sure to check out *The Dark Maestro*!)

The evening kicked off at 5:00, when the doors opened at the CCBC Dome. Attendees were able to enjoy a cookie table, provided by the BCLS, and a tea and coffee bar, provided by Chaotik Java from Beaver Falls. R&A Catering, the in-house catering company for CCBC, had a selection of Italian-inspired favorites, such as pepperoni rolls and pinach and sausage rolls, for sale.



The CCBC branch of Barnes & Noble was also on hand to sell copies of all three of Ms. Penner's books; they were sold out before she even took the stage to deliver her presentation.

I was lucky enough to be asked to deliver the keynote address for the evening, and to interview Ms. Penner following her presentation: "Unburying the Secrets of *The Lost Apothecary*: Poison Throughout History: True Tales of Poison, Apothecaries, and the Advent of Forensic Toxicology." It was an incredible experience. Once the presentation, Q&A session, and thank-yous were completed, Ms. Penner indulged the audience in a book signing and photo ops.

We can't wait to see who's going to headline 2026!

dates to know!

WEDNESDAY, JUN 18:
Closing at 5:00pm in observance of Juneteenth

THURSDAY, JUN 19:
Closed in observance of Juneteenth

MONDAY, JUNE 23:
BFJ is glad to host another session of free Vision Screenings for Kids with Vision to Learn, from 9:30am-3:00pm. Appointments required.

THURSDAY, JUL 3:
Closing at 2pm in advance of Independence Day.

FRIDAY, JUL 4:
Closed in observance of Independence Day

MONDAY, JUL 21:
Tea Blending w/ Michelle Soto at 5:30pm.
* Event is filled.

SATURDAY, AUG 31:
Closing at 2:00pm in observance of Labor Day Weekend