

Blaisdell Memorial Library

Hours:

Sunday: Closed

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10am - 5pm

Wednesday: 10am - 8pm

Thursday: 10am - 8pm

Friday: 10am - 2pm

Saturday: 10am - 2pm

We are closed for some holiday weekends.

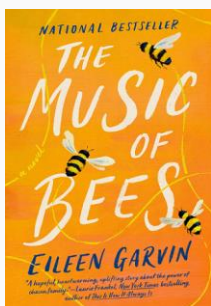
Looking to the Year Ahead

The end of one chapter means the beginning of the next

As we reach the half-way point of December, only two weeks remain until the start of 2024. Although this marks the end of most regular programming for the year, there's plenty to look forward to coming in the new year.

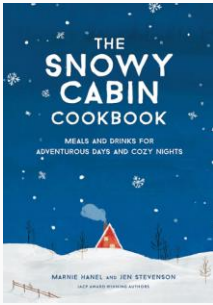
The full monthly calendars for December and January are now available online and in the library.

Book Groups

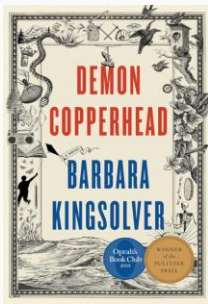


Afternoon Book Group: *Thursday, January 4th -- 1:30pm*

The Music of Bees by Eileen Garvin



Cookbook Group: *Thursday, January 11th -- 6pm*
The Snowy Cabin Cookbook by Marnie Hanel and
Jen Stevenson



Evening Book Group: *Wednesday, January 24th -- 6:30pm*
Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Children's Programs

Our current programming session ends this week, on December 16th. After a three week break, the first session of 2024 will begin on January 9th and run for six weeks until February 16th. Sign-ups for the next session will be open from December 27th to January 3rd.

Story hours are drop-in and open to all ages: Lap-sit and pre-school age children are both welcome. Sign-ups are required for STEAM and Lego + Club.

Due to high interest and limited space, sign-ups for Lego + and STEAM Club

use a lottery system. Priority is first given to participants on the waiting list from the last session. For the remaining spaces, sign-ups submitted between the 27th and 3rd will be entered into a pool. At the end of the sign-up period, we will draw from that pool to determine the session's club members.

For any questions, please call or email the library front desk.

- **Story Hour with Miss Julie and Miss Robin:** *Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays -- 10am*
- **STEAM Club (Grades 3 - 6):** *Tuesdays -- 3pm*
- **LEGO+ Club (Grades K - 2):** *Thursdays -- 3pm*
- **Weekend Story Hour:** *Every 2nd Saturday, January 13th -- 10am*

Please note that Weekend Story Hour has returned to the second Saturday of the month, instead of the third!

Youth Programs

The BYG (*Blaisdell Youth Group*) is a club for kids of middle school age to get together, make friends, discuss books, and participate in fun activities, including a bi-monthly YA Book Group. New members are always welcome and no registration is required--you can drop in at any time or even bring a friend.

- **BYG Meeting:** *Wednesday, December 20th & January 10th -- 6pm*
- **BYG Tabletop Games:** *Saturday, January 6th -- 10am*

BYG Tabletop Game sessions are currently full.

Regular Adult Programming

- **Game n' Gab:** *Tuesday, January 2nd -- 1pm*
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Join us for games, chat, snacks, and friendly competition while relaxing in the library.

- **Community Coffee Hour:** *Every Wednesday -- 10am*

Join us every Wednesday morning for bite-sized discussions with free coffee and snacks. Each week comes with a short presentation by members of the community, the town, or the library that can explore local perspectives, have some fun, and keep you up to date on the latest Nottingham events. Interested in holding your own presentation? Reach out to the library staff about setting a topic and scheduling a date!

Library Events

- **Author Talk: Michael Cameron Ward:** *Wednesday, January 17th -- 6:30pm*

Local author Michael Cameron Ward's books, "A Colored Man in Exeter," and "The Colored Folks Ain't Gonna Make It," are biographical portraits of life as a black man living in New Hampshire. In this presentation, he discusses the state's past and present history with race and his experiences growing up in the area.

Upcoming at the Library

Blaisdell Memorial Library will be closed for the holidays on Saturday, **December 23rd** and Saturday, **December 30th**. The library will be open for its regular hours on Tuesday, December 26th.

[The Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library](#) have begun their annual seed sale fundraiser with High Mowing Seeds. Visit the library today to pick up your pamphlet and order your seeds for the spring! All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Friends of the Library.

Recently, BML has been changing the layout of our YA area, both to create a

more inviting space and to make room for the upcoming **Nintendo Switch!** This new addition to the library's offerings will be available in the coming weeks, with patrons being able to play a selection of games suitable for all ages and skill levels. While the Switch and its games will not be available for checkout and home use, we hope to have it ready to enjoy in-library soon!

The library is also eagerly awaiting the arrival of our **Button Maker**, another new item that will be available for patron use! This professional quality machine will allow anyone to cut out their own art, photos, or other images and turn them into custom pinback buttons that they can display proudly. Look forward to more information in 2024!

A Time to Reflect

Technically, there's not much difference between December 31st and January 1st. It's just a new day, same as the new days before it. Still, the change of years lets us mark an end and a beginning, a chance to start fresh and a chance to look back at what came before.

It's been an incredible year at BML. In 2023, we parted ways with old staff and welcomed new, saw an incredible turn out for Summer Reading, introduced new weekly programs, and got a shed! On a personal level, I began writing this newsletter in May, ran several fantastic crafting events, and naturally, checked out a lot from the library. More than I could remember, in fact!

Luckily, the [Blaisdell Online Catalog](#) had my back. If you don't visit the catalog from home, you may not know that you can view a record of your past six months of borrowing, as well as how much money you've saved all year by visiting the library instead of buying. The catalog website also lets you bookmark items to remember later, set up automatic reserves for releases by popular authors, or change how long the library retains your circulation history to a year or more!

I've heard that the human brain holds onto bad memories more readily than

good ones. That's why I think it's even more important to remember the good times: to reflect on the books I loved, the authors I discovered, the things I'm proud of doing, and the time I'm happy I spent. I only hope that if you do the same, you find some fond memories of Blaisdell Memorial Library!

Jordan Reed
Circulation Desk
