

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.

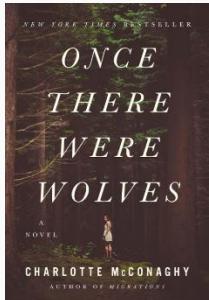
The New Year is Here

Getting down to business in 2024

With the end of the holiday season, Blaisdell Memorial Library has officially returned to its usual programming schedule. With both favorite weekly activities and one-off specials in store, there's no better time to come warm up in the library.

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

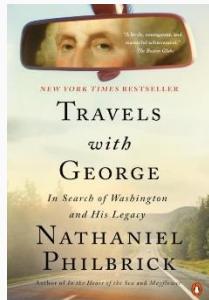
Book Groups



Afternoon Book Group: Thursday, February 1st -- 1:30pm

Once There Were Wolves by Charlotte McConaghy

Cookbook Group: *There is no cookbook group for the month of February. Instead we invite patrons interested in cooking to our upcoming Sourdough Special, being held on February 8th at 6pm. More details below!*



Evening Book Group: *Wednesday, February 28th -- 6:30pm*

Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy by Nathaniel Philbrick

Children's Programs

Our current children's programming session began last week, on January 9th, and will run for six weeks until February 16th. Afterwards there will be a short two week break before sessions resume.

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.

- **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, February 10th -- 10am*

To celebrate February vacation, Blaisdell Memorial Library will be running special programs for children of all ages through the week of February 26th. More information will be coming in the next email newsletter or pick up your February calendar today!

Youth Programs

The BYG (*Blaisdell Youth Group*) is a club for pre-teens and teens 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 Tabletop Games:** Saturday, February 3rd -- 10am
- **BYG Meeting:** Wednesday, February 14th -- 6pm

The BYG will be starting a new game in the upcoming sessions! Interested in joining in? Drop by any BYG meeting or speak with Dan at the front desk!

Regular Adult Programming

- **Game n' Gab:** Tuesday, February 6th -- 1pm

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!

Upcoming topics include Historic Lighthouses of New Hampshire and Southern Maine on January 24th and The History of Pawtuckaway Park on January 31st.

Library Events

- **Craft Together Special: Valentine's Cardmaking:** *February 7th -- 3pm*

Celebrate Valentine's Day by creating a one-of-a-kind card to give to your loved one! Choose a palette of beautiful paint colors to create a marbled paper base, then add additional details for a collage effect.

Sign-ups are required for this program. Please call, email, or visit the library to register.

- **Cookbook Club: Sourdough Special:** *February 8th -- 6pm*

With a distinct flavor and incredible versatility, sourdough has become a rising star in the world of baking. Learn about its rich history and the many ways to use it at home with a demonstration by Adrienne Pasquale of [Titus 2 Breads](#). Get a sample of your own dried starter and learn how to care for it, as well as how to use it in a simple bread.

Sign-ups are required for this program. Please call, email, or visit the library to register.

Upcoming at the Library

Blaisdell Memorial Library is always looking for new additions to our collection and services, and we have several new offerings in the works.

Thanks to a generous donation from one of our patrons, BML is currently preparing take-home Lego sets. Patrons of all ages from children to adults will be able to choose a Lego kit to check out and assemble at home!

Last month we announced that the library had acquired both a Nintendo Switch and a button maker for our patrons to use in the future. We're now happy to say that our first tests have gone spectacularly: the BYG enjoyed a Mario Kart tournament at their last meeting and experiments with the button maker have had beautiful results. We are currently looking for opportunities to highlight both these items in the library in the coming weeks!

The library has also acquired headphones for our patrons to use. If you would like to borrow a pair while in the library, please inquire at the front desk.

A Big Year for Blaisdell

It's funny how small things can lead to big moments. A book you pick up on a whim as a child can change your perspective on life well into adulthood. A chance encounter with a stranger can lead to a friendship that lasts decades! And a little library in-joke can lead to some huge plans for the year of 2024.

While preparing the Nintendo Switch for its first outing, I was prompted to enter a birth date. Since the system is for the library, and not an individual, I turned to Dan and asked when the library first opened. He replied he'd thought it was in April, but that he would look it up to make sure.

Ten minutes into that search we realized Blaisdell Memorial Library was founded in 1974: Exactly 50 years ago. Going a step further, the library started renovations into its modern form in 1999, 25 years past. That's two big anniversaries for Blaisdell in 2024, and we hadn't even noticed!

Naturally, that means it's time for us to pull out all the stops! We've stepped up our plans for the coming year to celebrate the library and what it means to the community, and can't wait to share it all with you. There is just one thing, though... we never *did* find out the date the library first opened its doors.

We'll keep searching for that date, but as we do: If you know Blaisdell Memorial Library's birthday, please reach out and let us know! Until then, sadly, we'll just

have to keep the party hats on standby.

Jordan Reed
Circulation Desk
