

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.

Celebrating 50 Years of History

A quieter March gives way to an exciting April at Blaisdell Memorial Library

March of 2024 has been subdued as the library returns to its regularly scheduled programming after February Vacation. But with National Library Week and Blaisdell's 50th Anniversary on the horizon, there's plenty to look forward to as we transition into spring!

The full monthly calendar for March is now available online and inside the library.

Book Groups



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

The Lager Queen of Minnesota by J. Ryan Stradal

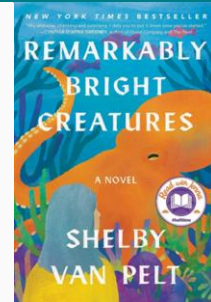


Cookbook Group: *Thursday, April 11th -- 6pm*

Special Presentation: Growing a Healing Garden with Willa Coroka

Cookbook Group members have priority for all CBG Presentations. See more details below.

[Gardening icon created by Freepik - Flaticon](#)



Evening Book Group: *Wednesday, March 27th -- 6:30pm*

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Children's Programs

Our current programming session began on March 5th and will continue for six weeks until April 13th. After this period there will be a two week gap before the May-June session begins. LEGO+ and STEAM Club require advance registration; more information about the sign-up period will be announced in April.

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, April 13th -- 10am*

Please note there will be no STEAM Club meeting on April 9th.

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 YA Book Clubs. New members are always welcome and no registration is required--you can drop in at any time or even bring a friend.

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- **BYG Meeting:** *Wednesday, March 20th -- 6pm*
 - **BYG Tabletop Games:** *Saturday, April 6th -- 10am*

BYG Tabletop Game sessions are currently full.

Regular Adult Programming

- **Game n' Gab:** *Tuesday, April 2nd -- 1pm*

Join us for games, chat, snacks, and friendly competition while relaxing in the library.

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- **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 Coffee Hour Topics:

- **March 20th:** BML at Parks and Rec - Limerick Writing
- **March 27th:** Divine Magic and Faith in Fiction with Alex Conroy
- **April 3rd:** Home Heating & Fuel Assistance Program with Jesse
- **April 10th:** Bobcat Special with NH Fish & Game
- **April 17th:** BML at Parks and Rec - Festive Creations

Library Events

April 9th to April 13th 2024 is **National Library Week** and the **50th Anniversary of Blaisdell Memorial Library!** In celebration, BML will be holding special programs all week long.

We will also be celebrating the history of BML with special exhibits in the library building highlighting our past and your memories. For more information on how you can contribute, please see the end of this newsletter!

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- **Cupcake Decorating:** *Tuesday, April 9th -- 1-3pm*

No celebration is complete without cake! Children and teenagers are welcome to drop in to the library between 1 and 3pm to pick out and decorate a cupcake with a library theme. No cupcake competition this time--choose whatever frosting and toppings you like, then take your treat home to enjoy.

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- **NH Fish and Game presents Understanding Bobcats in**
NH: *Wednesday, April 10th -- 10am*

The New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game joins BML for a special coffee hour presentation about one of the state's wild symbols: the bobcat.

Learn about the natural history of the elusive cat, its habitat needs and the status of the population. Also, hear about the ongoing research projects that help study and protect this country's abundant wildlife!

- **Making Buttons with BML:** *Thursday, April 11th -- 3:30-5:30pm*

Do you like to get crafty and make new things? Try your hand at making a pin-back button and get to know BML's new button machine with this hands-on learning session! Learn how the machine works, make your own buttons, and hear more about how you can return and do it yourself in the future! This is an informal program--it's easy to learn, and you may drop in at any time between 3:30 and 5:30 to participate.

Button-making is open to all ages, but children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult for safety. *This is not your only chance to use the button maker, and it will be available to all patrons in the future!*

- **Cookbook Club: Growing a Healing Garden:** *Thursday, April 11th -- 6pm*

Long before gardens became aesthetic features, plants were cultivated for their medicinal value. This presentation showcases a potpourri of easy to grow medicinal herbs and showcasing a variety of garden designs to help you grow your own first aid kit. This event is hosted by Willa Coroka of [The Magpie's Apprentice](#).

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

Upcoming at the Library

Aside from the excitement of Library Week, there will also be a week of special children's programming for April Vacation, the 23rd to the 27th. More

information will be in the next newsletter!

As we enter spring, Blaisdell Memorial Library is refreshing our available selection of Museum Passes. While some options will no longer be available, we are adding four new free or discounted passes to the upcoming year.

For discontinued passes, we are saying goodbye to the **Currier Museum**. We will also not be renewing our passes to **Strawberry Banke**, or the **New England Aquarium**. Our remaining passes to Strawberry Banke will be available until **June 30th**, and the New England Aquarium will be available until **August 31st**. Passes will no longer be available after these dates, so we encourage you to take advantage and reserve them before they're gone!

As for new options, first, we are happy to announce that BML will now be offering passes to [New Hampshire State Parks](#)! These will offer day admission to most state parks and include a discount on parking reservations. Next, patrons may reserve passes to the [Aviation Museum of NH](#) in Londonderry, perfect for adults and children alike! Those looking for a day-trip destination may enjoy a pass to the [Children's Museum and Theater of Maine](#) or the [Portland Art Museum](#), both in Portland, Maine.

All new museum passes are currently being added to the Library's system and will be available before Summer Reading.

How Far We've Come, Together

Though Nottingham has had a public library for over a century, Blaisdell Memorial Library only came into existence after a generous endowment from Charlotte Blaisdell in 1974. 25 years later, in 1999, the town started renovations on the library building, leading to the BML that we know and love today.

I looked at old Nottingham town reports to write that paragraph, and found myself distracted from fact-checking once I started reading them in depth. There's something incredible about seeing the 1894 budget of \$82 dollars and the title of every single book they purchased! The library has changed

names, buildings, and catalog systems, but you can still borrow a copy of "Little Women", same you could then. In fact, today you can check out "Little Women", an abridged version, a remixed retelling, an audiobook version, and two separate film adaptations on DVD!

Though the role of public libraries has shifted dramatically over the years, so much remains the same! We grow and evolve to meet the community's needs, but try not to ever lose sight of our roots: being a place to check out books, stay in touch with the town, get help when you need it, and learn.

In that vein, we want to reflect on what Blaisdell Memorial Library is and what it means to you. Starting today, you can share your memorable moments with us by sending an email to the [Circulation Desk](#) or filling out [our online form](#). We'll be taking these submissions and putting them on display during Library Week alongside old records and displays from the past. In particular, if you have any old photos or stories about the library's history, we'd love to see and hear them!

I only joined BML in 2020, and there's already been so many changes in that small time. It's hard to imagine where we'll go from here, or what the library will look like, even a few years from now! But no matter how it changes, as long as there's something we can do for Nottingham, Blaisdell Memorial Library will continue to be here--for another 10, 20, and hopefully 50 more years to come.

Jordan Reed
Circulation and Tech Services
