

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 Summer's Flying By!

It's mid-July but the fun's not over yet

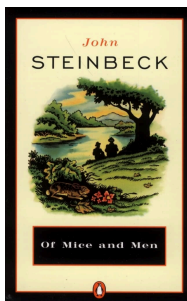
We're currently halfway through Blaisdell's Summer Reading program, with two more weeks of events and programs left to go before our summer wrap-up.

Now's the time to get your reading log or passport, check out the latest additions to the Library of Things or pick up a museum pass for your vacation!

Calendars for July and August are now available in the library and online.

We regret that due to unforeseen circumstances, the UNH SeaTrek event on July 23 has been cancelled. A drop-in STEAM activity will be held at the same date and time instead. See below for details.

Book Groups



Afternoon Book Group: *Thursday, August 1st -- 1:30pm*
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck



Cookbook Group: Thursday, August 8th -- 6pm

Special Presentation: Fermentation with Julie Wojtkowski

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Evening Book Group: Wednesday, July 24th

-- 6:30pm

Where the Forest Meets the Stars by Glendy Vanderah

Children's Programs

BML's Summer Reading is currently ongoing, and our children's programs will continue until August 1st. Our regular fall programming session will begin on September 3rd and sign-up dates will be announced in the coming month.

Story Hour is aimed at younger children and includes a story, songs, and crafts. *Lunch Bunch* is aimed at children K-3+. Children should bring a snack or light meal from home to enjoy over storytime. *Summer STEAM* is aimed at children in elementary to early middle school, with crafts and activities focused on learning new skills. All age ranges are suggestions, and older or younger children are always invited to join in!

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- **Summer STEAM: Tuesdays -- 10am**
 - **Story Hour with Miss Julie and Miss Robin: Thursdays and Fridays -- 10am**
 - **Lunch Bunch: Thursdays -- 12pm**
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- **Story Hour with Koda, the Therapy Dog: Thursday, July 26th -- 10am**

Have fun reading and eating with a gentle animal friend when Koda comes to visit BML! Koda is a certified therapy dog who is always happy to make new friends to read with.

Previous animal friend Buddy may return to Lunch Bunch throughout the summer, if you want to say hello again!

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 gaming, book clubs, crafts, and more! New members are always welcome and no registration is required--you can drop in at any time or even bring a friend.

There will be no regular BYG or Tabletop Game sessions for the month of August. See you in September!

- **BYG vs BML 2: Return of the Librarians:** *Wednesday, July 31st -- 6pm*

Can the Blaisdell Youth Group triumph in a contest against the librarians of BML... again!? It's a head to head competition in games of trivia and more to see who comes out on top! Will BML be able to turn the tables, or will BYG defend their title!? All teens interested in the BYG are welcome.

Regular Adult Programming

- **Game n' Gab:** *Tuesday, August 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 hosts a short presentation by members of the community, the state, or the library exploring all kinds of topics. Interested in holding a presentation? Reach out to the library staff about scheduling a date!

Upcoming Coffee Hour Topics:

- **July 24:** Disc Golf and Backyard Games with BML and Parks & Rec @ the Marston Field
- **July 31:** Big Trees in Nottingham with Kevin Martin
- **August 7:** The Boston Post Cane with Nottingham Historical Society and Tina C.
- **August 14:** *No Coffee Hour - Library Closed*

Library Events

- **Summer Reading Book March Madness:** *Throughout July*

What are the hottest titles in Blaisdell Memorial Library? What have been the patron favorites over the course of 2024? We've got 8 of the highest-circulating books in the library going head to head; come into the library to place your bet on which is number one! The winner will be revealed on July 30th, so don't miss your chance to place an entry.

- **Sew a Sea Creature:** *Tuesday, July 23rd -- 10am*

Practice sewing and have some fun by joining Ms. Julie to make your own stuffed sea creatures! This is a drop-in program open to all but designed for our Summer STEAM aged children (grades 3-6)

- **Marston Field Day:** *Saturday, July 27th -- 10am to 12pm*

Curious about trying Disc Golf? Interested in playing other backyard games and having outdoor fun? Drop by the Marston Field any time between 10 and noon to try out the sport and have some fun with Dan Bunker! Any age welcome.

- **Summer Reading Finale:** *Friday, August 2nd -- 10am to 12pm*

Say goodbye to summer reading with one last hurrah! Join Blaisdell Memorial Library from 10am to noon for activities, raffles, and treats for the whole family!

- **Cookbook Club: Fermentation:** *Thursday, August 8th -- 6pm*

Fermentation can transform yeast, dairy, fruits and vegetables, bringing out incredible flavors and scents that make for fantastic food and drink! Learn how you can ferment food at home with Julie Wojtkowski in this special drop-in presentation!

Library Closures & Hours

Blaisdell Memorial Library will be closing one hour early on **Friday, July 26th** at **1pm**. The library building will also be closed to the public the next day, **Saturday, July 27th** for well and water maintenance. This will not impact the Marston Field Day event, which will go on as planned!

The Library will be also be closed for one week in August for maintenance and cleaning, from **August 11th** until **August 19th**. During this period of time, patrons will be unable to pick up any reserves, museum passes or inter-library loan items.

Upcoming at the Library

The latest addition to BML's Library of Things are the **Adventure Backpacks**, arriving soon! Choose from the Hiking Adventure, Park Play, or Rainy Day themes to borrow backpacks chock full of games, books, and activities for kids to turn an ordinary day into something extraordinary!

Patrons who participated in either the children's reading logs or the library passport program may bring them to the library after August 6th to receive prizes, enter free raffles, and celebrate their accomplishments! *Please note that the raffles will be closed after August 10th. Other prizes may still be available.*

As a reminder, BML will no longer be offering passes to the [New England Aquarium](#) after August 31st. Each pass is good for 50% off admission for up to four people, so don't hesitate to pick one up while you can!

The [Friends of the Blaisdell Memorial Library](#) are planning a new Little Free Library! They are looking for volunteers to help with designing and building the structure. Those interested should contact the Friends via facebook or [email](#).

What Should I Read?

You will not be surprised to hear that one of my jobs at the library is helping people find their next read. Dozens of new titles drop every month and between the latest releases and the hundreds already on the shelves, it can all get a bit overwhelming. Admittedly, this is not my specialty! I am not as prolific a reader as I would like to be, so I do my best to read the summaries of new releases, keep an eye on popular titles and authors, and in particular... listen to patron recommendations.

Many of you are quite voracious readers! We love to hear which books are incredible and which are total snores, and we're always eager to pass along your picks when someone is on the hunt for a good read.

Coincidentally, I don't believe I mentioned one of the special prizes for our library passport holders!

At the end of summer moving into fall, BML will be putting together a series of Patron Recommendation displays and if you've been collecting passport stickers, you have the opportunity to kick things off! For every four stickers you have in your passport, you can choose one title from the library to add to a

display, up to a total of five. You can add your name and a short review or stay anonymous and let it speak for itself!

Recommendations will go on display for a week or two for everyone to browse before we trade for the next set. All recommendations will be added to a public list, so no need to worry if you missed that interesting looking book before it left... and when we've gone through the passport picks, we may open up the door for everyone to make suggestions!

When you're an adult, a fancy pencil doesn't cut it. We wanted to offer a prize that celebrates how earned it: using the library! Don't worry if you haven't begun yet, either: blank passports are still available for pickup, and with [20 passport stickers](#) to earn, there's plenty of options for everyone!

I do promise this isn't me trying to dodge my responsibilities! I can still recommend books to you! But I know it's fun to hear, "you have to read this!", and I'd love if everyone else had a chance to experience that feeling too. The library is more than just a building--it's all the people who use it, too. Why not have some fun sharing in that community?

So start planning your picks now! I don't know how *I'm* going to choose...

Jordan Reed
Circulation and Tech Services



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