

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.

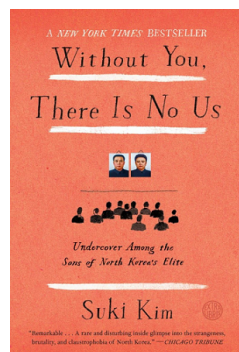
Welcome to 2025!

Getting back into the swing of things as we launch into the future!

It's officially the new year, but things haven't changed too much at Blaisdell Memorial Library. We're currently in our first winter session of children's programming, adult and youth programs have resumed as normal, and some fun is on the horizon looking to the weeks ahead!

Full calendars for January are now available online and in the library.

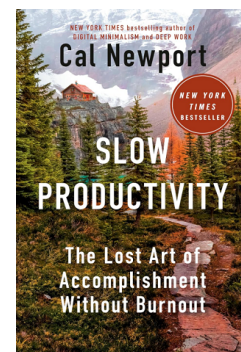
Book Groups



Afternoon Book Group:

Thursday, February 6th -- 1:30pm

Without You There is No Us
by Suki Kim



Evening Book Group:

Wednesday, January 22nd -- 6:30pm

Slow Productivity
by Cal Newport

Children's Programs

The first Winter children's programming session began on **January 7th** and will continue for 6 weeks until **February 14th**. After that point there will be a two-week break before the next session begins. Sign-up dates for the second Winter session will be announced in the next newsletter.

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, January 13th -- 10am*
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- **Teddy Bear Clinic:** *Saturday, January 25th -- 10am*

Does your teddy bear or special stuffie have a boo-boo? Bring them to the Teddy Bear Clinic! This special story hour will have all the usual reading and fun, followed by a special clinic where Ms. Julie and a helper will be sewing up stuffed animals in need of care!

Youth Programs

- **Middle School Club (Grades 6 - 8):** *Wednesdays -- 3pm*

The Middle School Club is for library-loving kids to get together in the library after school to try out crafts, creative writing and games. Perfect for preteens who're hitting middle school and want to have some fun when class is done!

*The Middle School Club is part of our regular programming sessions. For more information about the current programming dates, see **Children's Programs**.*

- **BYG:** *Wednesday, February 5th & February 19th -- 6pm*

The BYG (*Blaisdell Youth Group*) is a club for teens in middle and early high school 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.

Meetings alternate between regular sessions and tabletop game sessions.

Regular Adult Programming

- **Game n' Gab:** *Tuesday, February 4th -- 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 from members of the Nottingham and NH community about all kinds of topics! Want to present? Reach out to the library staff about a subject and date! [Now looking for presenters for March and April!](#)

Upcoming Coffee Hour Topics:

- **January 22:** What's New and Upcoming at BML with Jordan Reed
- **January 29:** The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute with UNH
- **February 5:** Winter Trivia with Neolani Conroy

- **February 12:** NH Humanities presents: The History of Gym Class with Rebecca Noel
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- **Mah-jongg Club:** *Every Wednesday -- 11:30am*

Mah-jongg is a Chinese game of collecting tiles and gaining points played with four people, similar to the card game Rummy! Whether you're a beginner interested in learning the rules or an intermediate player looking for new friends, all are welcome to BML's weekly Mah-jongg club gathering.

- **Homeschool Meetup:** *Every third Wednesday, February 19th -- 1pm*

Calling all homeschool families! Come join your fellow homeschoolers at BML to socialize, discuss, and explore the library and what it can offer in this new monthly meetup! This is a family-friendly group, so parents and children of all age are welcome to attend. Meetups are drop-in; no registration required.

Library Events

- **Craft Together: Valentine's Bookmarks & Cards:** *Saturday, February 1st -- 10am*

Get ready for Valentine's Day with a handmade gift and card for your loved one! Start by picking out a pattern to turn into a faux stained glass bookmark. Trace and color it, add a tassel, then decorate a greeting card that will hold it for a truly one-of-a-kind present!

This program is aimed at adults and teens but older children are welcome with adult supervision. Sign-ups are required and space may be limited so call, email, or visit in person to reserve your space.

Friends of the Library

The annual Friends of Blaisdell Memorial Library seed sale is going on now! Drop by the library through January to pick up an order form for High Mowing Organic Seeds. Pick out the seeds you'd like, fill in the slip, then return to the library by **February 1st** to place your order. All proceeds from the sale will go to supporting the Friends of the Library!

Payments may be made in cash, check, or via Venmo. For more information on the seed sale, contact the Friends via [email](#) or their [Facebook](#).

A Fresh Start...?

Somehow, December 31st, 2024 and January 1st, 2025 didn't feel very different. The line between the two is a bit arbitrary; I haven't changed much between last month and this one! At the same time, the new year offers an opportunity to reflect on the 12 months that have passed to bring us back to January. Change isn't always dramatic and those small, incremental steps can only come together when you take a moment to look at them in total. So then, am I different than I was in *January* of 2024?

I think so. Over the course of the past year I've done my best to improve in all kinds of ways, both personal and professional. I've worked to make our newsletters and calendars more informative and readable. I've helped with more programs, and learned quite a lot in the process. I have a desk now! (Okay, it's a shared desk. *But I have some drawers to myself!*)

Blaisdell Memorial Library, too, has grown. So much of it was dramatic and visible: the new flooring, the new layout, the beautiful backyard garden. Other things have been big deals for the staff, but invisible from the other side of the desk!

Finally, there are those tiny adjustments... the new sitting area allows you to enjoy the sunlight and browse a coffee table book or your latest checkouts. We've moved our magazines up front, too, to give more people the chance to check out the latest issues of Consumer Reports, Yankee Magazine, New Hampshire magazine and more. For every big change we've tweaked a few tiny things, hoping they'll add up to a wonderful library experience.

I'm sure all of you, too, have changed over the year. In big ways and small, in good ways and bad, we become slightly different people than we were before. I hope that this year, the change that comes is more often for the better... or at least gentle enough to weather with only minor complaint.

Blaisdell Memorial Library will surely see changes through 2025 as well. Hopefully you'll come by and see it for yourself!

Jordan Reed
Circulation and Tech Services
