

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.

Happy New Year!

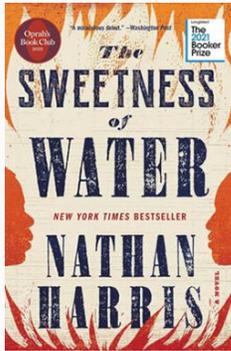
The future looks bright for Blaisdell Memorial Library

The time has come to say goodbye to 2025 and welcome in 2026 with a new programming session for children and a month of familiar favorites for adults!

Calendars for January are now available online and in the library.

Please note that Blaisdell Memorial Library is closed through the holidays and January 1st. The library will be reopening as per usual on January 2nd.

Book Groups

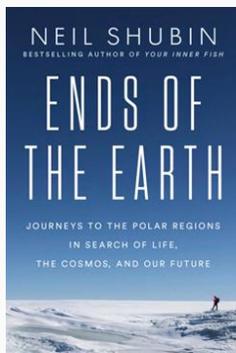


Afternoon Book Group:

Thursday, February 5th -- 1:30pm

The Sweetness of Water

by Nathan Harris



Evening Book Group:

Wednesday, January 28th -- 6:30pm

Ends of the Earth

by Neil Shubin

Children's Programs

The first Programming Session of 2026 will begin on Tuesday, January 6th and run for six weeks until Saturday, February 14th. After this point there will be a two week break before the next session.

Story hours are drop-in and open to all ages. Sign-ups are required for STEAM and Lego + Club.

- **Story Hour with Miss Julie and Miss Robin:** *Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays -- 10am*
 - **LEGO+ Club (Grades K - 2):** *Tuesdays -- 2:45pm*
 - **STEAM Club (Grades 3 - 6):** *Thursdays -- 2:45pm*
 - **Weekend Story Hour:** *Every 2nd Saturday, January 10th -- 10am*
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- **Homeschool Meetup:** *Thursday, January 15th -- 1pm*

Calling all homeschool families! Join us at BML to socialize, discuss, and learn at the library! All ages are welcome. No registration required.

- **Teddy Bear Clinic:** *Saturday, January 24th -- 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 your usual fun, plus Ms. Julie and a helper there to stitch up stuffed animals and make them feel better!

Youth Programs

- **BYG:** *Wednesday, January 21st -- 6pm*

The BYG (*Blaisdell Youth Group*) is a club for teens in middle and early high school to get together and participate in fun activities, including gaming, book clubs, crafts, and more! New members are always welcome!

Regular Adult Programming

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

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

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

Join us every Wednesday morning for bite-sized activities and discussions with free coffee and snacks. Each week has something new! Want to present? Reach out to the library staff about a subject and date!

- **January 7:** The American Crossword Puzzle Tournament with Joanne Quiñones Reed
- **January 14:** A Vacation in Iceland with Mary Waldo
- **January 21:** BML at Parks and Rec - Winter Animal Tracks with Tom Eid
- **January 28:** Isles of Shoals and Piscataqua with Kurt Hastings
- **February 4:** Ukraine Presentation with Josh Ducros

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- **Mah-jongg Club:** *Wednesday after Coffee Hour (11am); Friday -- 10am*

Mah-jongg is a Chinese game of collecting tiles and gaining points played with four people. Whether you're a beginner or an intermediate player, all are welcome to BML's weekly Mah-jongg club gathering!

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- **Casual Critics:** *Every 2nd Thursday, January 8th -- 5pm*

Are you a film buff? Join the Casual Critics! Each month, a new movie is chosen. Stream it at home or pick up a copy from the library, watch, and join the meetings to discuss! This month's movie is *Spirited Away (rated PG)*.

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- **11 O' Craft:** *Every 2nd Wednesday, January 14th -- 11am*

Join library staff once a month for a unique craft aimed at adults (but open to families). No sign-up needed and all supplies provided. This month's craft will be decorating dish towels.

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- **Homesteaders' Hub:** *Every 3rd Thursday, January 15th -- 5pm*
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Homesteaders and those interested in building their skills are invited to join the Hub! Share your knowledge, trade tips, and learn about traditional skills, self-sufficiency, and sustainable living.

- **NEW! Chess Club:** *Every 3rd Saturday, January 17th -- 10am*

Are you an avid chess player or someone looking to learn? Drop into BML's Chess Club for the chance to practice your skills against fellow players! This program is open to all ages.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Reading with your children while they're young is an excellent way to build a lifelong love of reading. If you have a child who has not yet entered kindergarten, BML invites you to join our [1,000 Books Before Kindergarten](#) program and see how far you can go together!

The program is open to all pre-K children from infancy on and can be as easy as coloring in a leaf for every bedtime picture book. All reading counts, from revisiting old favorites and listening to audio books to reading chapters of longer books together!

The program is completely free; speak to a staff member at the front desk at any time to sign up and receive your kickoff gift. Once you've started, bring completed reading logs to the library to track progress and receive special rewards at 250 and 500 books. Reach 1,000 to celebrate with a shout out on the library sign!

If you've already signed up but progress slowed, it's never too late to jump back in! The cold winter months are the perfect time to get reading, and you'll be surprised how fast the books add up. Reach out to a staff member for more information!

Get Ready for Reading in 2026!

The start of a new year is a perfect time to take stock of your library account, make sure your information is up to date, and get ready for another year of library fun!

Visit the [library's online catalog](#) and log into your account using your **library card number** and **password** (by default, your 10-digit phone number including area code). From **Account Info**, you can update your contact information, change how you receive library messages, and sign up for emailed checkout receipts.

From the **Reserves** tab you can check your **Express Reserves** list; this feature lets you subscribe to specific popular authors, guaranteeing a reserve on all of their new releases as soon as they arrive. Choose from a variety of patron favorites, including Kristin Hannah, Stephen King, Jodi Picoult and more. There's even children's book authors like Erin Hunter and Dav Pilkey, to make sure your child never misses the next Warrior Cats or Dog Man!

December 31st is the also last day to see how much money you've saved by borrowing from the library over the past year. Just checking out a few items a month instead of buying them can add up to hundreds of dollars saved!

Finally, if your New Year's Resolution involves reading, now's the perfect time. Check out our book lists to see the top titles of 2025 in [Adult Fiction](#), [Adult Non-Fiction](#), [Young Adult](#), and [Children's Books](#)! Place reserves from home and you can pick them up as soon as the library reopens.

Where We Go From Here

The older I get, the faster the time seems to pass. I feel like I was *just* writing my farewell to 2024 and in the blink of an eye we've arrived at the end of the year!

I can't help but look back each December and marvel at how far we've come. I always say, "this year was better than the last!", but truly... 2025 has been an incredible year. I cannot say how proud I am of the changes we've made, the programs we've held, and the way the library has evolved in these brief 12 months. I hope you'll all agree that Blaisdell Memorial Library is better than it's ever been before and I have no doubts that we'll only keep growing.

Over the past 5 years, it has been my pleasure and privilege to be a part of that growth. I have come to love my role in the library and love the town of Nottingham and the amazing community at BML. I could never have imagined how far I would go, and how much I'd enjoy all that I do!

So it is with a heavy heart that I want to announce that I will be leaving Blaisdell Memorial Library at the end of January. It's not a choice made lightly, but for where I am now and where I'm going, it's the one I decided upon.

I doubt I've ever struggled more to find the right words for this section! I worry that it's self-centered to use the newsletter to tell everyone, but if it is, I hope you will forgive me. I've come to know so many of you so well, so I wanted to tell you all properly in the way that I can.

I have had a lot of fun! I've enjoyed talking with you, I've enjoyed writing to you, and I've enjoyed being a part of BML! I don't know where the future will take me but I know that I'll go forward with everything I've gained from this community.

I'll keep working hard in January, and I hope you'll come and join me! After all, when the weather's this bad, the library is the only place to be.

Jordan Reed
Circulation Desk Supervisor
