

OFF THE SHELF

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

New interactive format, same great content!
Click on an image or block below to explore!

NEWS

KIDS

TEENS/TWEENS

HOLIDAY GIFT LIST

ADULTS

MUSEUM PASSES

COMMUNITY

FEATURED



FRIENDS FLASH BOOK SALE



NOVEMBER RECAP



NEW LIBRARY DESIGNS

Brought to you by the Friends of the Belmont Public Library / [Become a Friend today!](#)



flash

BOOK SALE



SATURDAY DEC 14

10am – 4pm Library Assembly Room



lots of children's books
gently used books





NOVEMBER

FALL FAVORITES

Our librarians were at it again! Read on for recaps of some of our fall-tastically themed events. We had a blast providing the following programs for the Belmont community, received great feedback from those that attended, and even got to meet some new library users!

Discover Your Family History with Ancestry.com

Librarian Nancy McColm gave a talk on Ancestry.com library edition, focusing on what's included in our subscription, and how to search in ways that maximize the chance of finding one's family's records.

After the talk, all 8 attendees went to the Reference Room to practice what they had learned, and to receive one-on-one help. One patron came away with two key pieces of information about his father, all of which he had previously been unable to find. Another learned strategies for how to search the federal census for her family, whose name has been spelled (at least) three different ways over the years.



Fire Safety Storytime with Firefighter Ross Vona

Kids learned all about fire safety from a real life firefighter! Firefighter Ross Vona, an E.M.T. and S.A.F.E Educator for the Belmont Fire Department, read some of his favorite stories about firemen and women, and generously answered questions and spent lots of time getting to know over thirty library patrons. Do you want to know some of Firefighter Ross' favorite stories or learn more about fire safety? Ask the Children's Staff!

Musical Storytime with the Powers Music School

Over one hundred participants not only got to know Anansi the Spider and his tricks, but learned all about different musical instruments and styles, courtesy of the Powers School. The program consisted of original songs written and composed by Powers staff member Yas Ishibashi, as well as traditional African songs and jazz music. Did you miss this one? Don't worry! The Powers Music faculty will be back in January and March for more musical storytimes!

This program was generously funded by the Jane Gray Dustan Trust, Belmont Savings Bank, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.





NEW LIBRARY DESIGNS



PLANS ON DISPLAY NOW

We are proud to announce that we have completed our Schematic and Design phase. In November we presented the design and costs in a series of presentations, bringing us to the next stage in our efforts. The building committee has completed two years of work to design the new library, and we are so pleased with the outcome. We thank them all for the work they've done, but we also thank all of YOU.

Through the Feasibility and Schematic phases we had seven public forums with about 500 in total attendance, two surveys with hundreds more providing input, and countless meetings (over 75 since 2017) with community groups, library representatives, Belmont Town Government, Town Department Heads, and other community partners. This plan is truly designed by Belmont. All of our schematics are posted on our Library Project Page [Here](#) so please check them out. We've also posted our slides from the final design reveal on the website, and Belmont Media Center will be posting the video of our November 12th reveal shortly.

We especially want to thank one of our key partners, The Veterans of Belmont, who gave us permission to post the beautiful boards with all the designs near our Veterans Memorial on the main floor for all to see.

The Library Building Committee will continue their efforts working towards the construction of a new Library in Belmont, and we are grateful to our [Belmont Library Foundation](#) too, who is also working towards making the future of libraries in Belmont a bright one.

Keep an eye on the calendar as we'll be hosting periodic open houses for patrons to come and ask questions to learn more about the project. The first of which are scheduled for **Tuesday December 10th at the Library from 7-9pm**, with more to follow in 2020. Our work isn't complete yet, but it's important to recognize how far we've come towards this goal.

Thank you all,

Peter J. Struzziero
Library Director at your Belmont Public Library



LIBRARY NEWS

LATEST UPDATES FROM BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOURS

The Belmont Public Library is open on Sundays from 1:00-5:00pm.

Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 24—OPEN 9am-12pm

Wednesday, December 25—CLOSED

Thursday, December 31—OPEN 9am-6pm



FEATURED DATABASE: CONSUMER REPORTS

Before you shop this holiday season use **Consumer Reports** to find the highest rated electronics, appliances, and more for your special someone.

Go to [Subject Guide](#) at belmontpubliclibrary.net > Consumer Issues > Consumer Reports.org.

From home you'll need to enter your Belmont library card number.

Questions? Call 617-993-2870.



MORE NEWS ON NEXT PAGE



EVENTS FOR KIDS

FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES AND THEIR FAMILIES, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

FEATURED EVENTS

STORYTIME AT BELMONT GALLERY OF ART

TUESDAY, DEC. 10 AT 3:30PM

HOMER BUILDING

View some beautiful art from local artists, learn about the elements that go into creating art, and take home a craft. The Belmont Gallery of Art is located on the third floor of the Homer Building at Town Hall (19 Moore Street, Belmont Center).

ANIMAL SKULLS AND BONES

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11 AT 3:30PM

ASSEMBLY ROOM

Have you ever found a bone and wondered what part of the body it belongs to? Do you want to know how to tell what an animal eats just by looking at its teeth? Come and explore real animal skulls and bones with the Habitat Education Center and discover the secrets they can tell you about the wildlife they belonged to!

Recommended for grades 1 and up.

MR. VINNY'S SHADOW PUPPET SHOW

FRIDAY, DEC. 27 AT 10:30AM

ASSEMBLY ROOM

Join Mr. Vinny for an interactive, silly, and surprising puppet experience. Kids will help tell the story of The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Pineapple and then play "What's that Shadow?"

Recommended for ages 3 to 9.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

TUESDAY, DEC. 31 AT 10:30AM

ASSEMBLY ROOM

Ring in the New Year (in the morning!) with an all ages concert with Marcos Valles.



STORYTIMES

INFANT STORYTIME

WEDNESDAYS (EXCEPT DEC. 25)

10:30AM FLETT ROOM

This short program of songs and rhymes is focused on engaging with your baby and meeting new friends.

For infants up to 12 months and pre-walkers.

STORYTIME FOR 1's

TUESDAYS (EXCEPT DEC. 24 & 31)

9:30AM AND 10:30AM FLETT ROOM

We'll share simple stories, songs, and nursery rhymes, and includes time to play and make friends.

For walkers and toddlers under 24 months.

STORYTIME FOR 2's & 3's

THURSDAYS (EXCEPT DEC. 26)

9:30AM AND 10:30AM FLETT ROOM

Come listen to stories and rhymes, sing, and even dance!

For 2 and 3 year olds.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

WEDNESDAYS (EXCEPT DEC. 25)

9:30AM FLETT ROOM

We'll read longer books, sing and dance, and enjoy some fun surprises.

For 3-5 year olds with a longer attention span.

EARLY LITERACY PLAYGROUP

FRIDAYS (EXCEPT DEC. 27)

10:30AM FLETT ROOM

This parent and child group supports your child's language and literacy development. You'll play, read, sing and take home new ideas! Presented by educators from the CFCE grant program.

For children age 4 and under.

NO STORYTIMES DECEMBER 24-27 & 31

MONTHLY EVENTS

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT WITH RUBI

MONDAYS, DEC. 2 AND 16

9:30AM AND 10:15AM ASSEMBLY ROOM

This active program will get kids (and their grownups) moving, dancing, and having fun!

For kids ages 2-5.

PIZZA WITH THE POLICE

FRIDAY, DEC. 6 FROM 3:30-4:30PM

ASSEMBLY ROOM

Ask all of your burning questions, see their uniforms up close, meet one of the K9's, maybe listen to a book or two, and enjoy yummy pizza. Recommended for Kindergarten and up.



MONTHLY EVENTS

DUCT TAPE CREATIVITY AFTERNOON

FRIDAY, DEC. 13 FROM 3:30-4:30PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FLETT ROOM

Calling all kids in 2-4th grade who love to make and create! Join the Duct Tape Network Team for fun, hands-on maker workshop. Use interesting craft, recycled materials, and other exciting materials to bring your ideas and inventions to life.



SING-ALONG WITH MATT HEATON

TUESDAY, DEC. 17 AT 10:30AM

ASSEMBLY ROOM

Join acclaimed local musician Matt Heaton for this sing-along for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers with both original songs and classic favorites.



VR EXPERIENCE: TILT BRUSH

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18 AT 2:30PM

ASSEMBLY ROOM

Come and paint your world the way you want it using Tilt Brush, which lets you paint in 3D space. The possibilities are endless! This program is collaboration with the Belmont Media Center.





EVENTS FOR TWEENS & TEENS

CHECK INDIVIDUAL EVENTS FOR RECOMMENDED AGES.

FEATURED EVENTS

ZINE WORKSHOP WITH PAPERCUT ZINE LIBRARY!

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18
4:00PM FLETT ROOM**

Hey creative teens - ever wanted to publish your writing, art, or opinions? Are you a fan of stuff that isn't necessarily mainstream? Does the idea of trading physical copies of your work with friends and strangers sound rad? Like to make collages? Interested in indie and DIY movements and their history? If any of that is true, zines might be the coolest thing you don't know about!

Join representatives from Papercut Zine Library for a workshop on how to make your own zines -indie, self-published magazines of art, opinion, and everything else under the sun - and learn about their rich history as an underground form of self-expression!

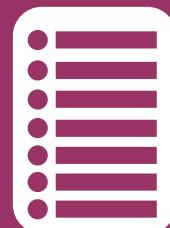
For grades 6 to 12.

BULLET JOURNALING

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11
3:00PM FLETT ROOM**

Bullet journals can be a fun and creative way to chronicle your days, keep organized, and plan ahead! Come learn the basics of bullet journaling or set up a new one for the new year. We'll have plenty of fineliner pens, washi tape, stencils, and ideas to help you along! We can also provide basic journals to a limited number of new journalers.

For grades 6 to 12.



MORE EVENTS ON NEXT PAGE



EVENTS FOR TWEENS & TEENS

HOMEWORK AND HOT CHOCOLATE

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4 FROM 1:30-3:30PM
ASSEMBLY ROOM**

Middle school students--come and eat snacks, do your homework and then play games, do crafts, or read books. Once a month on Wednesdays (usually the first Wednesday of the month.)

For 5th-8th graders.



DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

**MONDAY, DEC. 2 AT 3:00PM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

MONDAY, DEC. 16 AT 3:00PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FLETT ROOM

Ever wanted to embark on your own epic quest? Here's your chance! The library is launching a Dungeons and Dragons campaign for teens! Beginners are welcome, and dice will be provided. Space is limited, please email rmoir@minlib.net for more details.

For Teens.

MAGIC: THE GATHERING

**TUESDAYS, DEC. 3 AND 17 AT 3:00PM
ASSEMBLY ROOM**

Beginners, join us to learn how to play Magic the Gathering! Veteran players, we will have open play as well, and access to a swap box and lands if you need to round out your deck!

For up to grade 12.

GIRLS WHO CODE

**THURSDAYS AT 3:00PM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

FLETT ROOM

Girls Who Code clubs equip girls with concrete technical skills that will provide the foundation for futures in technology. The curriculum is provided by the organization, and involves 40 hours of instruction in computer science including project-based activities to reinforce concepts like conditionals, lists, and loops, with primary learning tracks in Scratch and Javascript.

Registration required. Please email rmoir@minlib.net for more information.

Please note: no Girls Who Code on Thursday, December 26th.



EVENTS FOR ADULTS

FOR PATRONS 18+, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

MONTHLY GROUPS AND BOOK CLUBS

COOKBOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, DEC. 3 AT 7:00PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ASSEMBLY ROOM

Like cooking? Like eating? Like eating and talking about cooking?

Sign up each month for the Cookbook Club. We'll pick a different cookbook every month, and all make recipes to share & talk about.

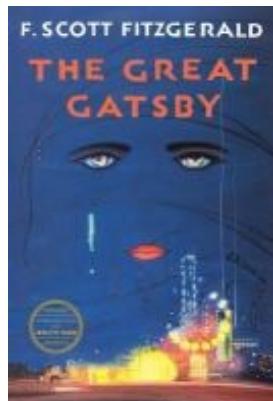


CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4 AT 1:30PM

FLETT ROOM

The Classics Book Group will discuss the novel *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald on Wednesday, December 4th at 1:30 PM in the Flett Room of the Belmont Public Library. A true classic of twentieth-century literature, *The Great Gatsby* is the story of the mysterious Jay Gatsby who uses his vast and implicitly ill-gotten fortune to buy his way into society, hoping to win back the love of his life, Daisy Buchanan. Published in 1925, this exquisitely crafted novel of America in the 1920s has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The Classics Book Group meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 1:30 PM in the Flett Room. All are welcome to attend.



MORE EVENTS ON NEXT PAGE



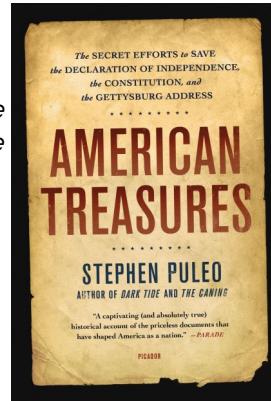
MORE MONTHLY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

BOOKS AND BITES

MONDAY, DEC. 9 AT 11:00AM ASSEMBLY ROOM

Stephen Puleo will make a return visit to Belmont to speak on his latest book *American Treasures: The Secret Efforts to Save the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Gettysburg Address*.

This book charts the little-known journeys of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Gettysburg Address. From the risky adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to our modern Fourth of July celebrations, *American Treasures* shows how the ideas captured in these documents underscore the nation's strengths and hopes, and embody its fundamental values of liberty and equality.

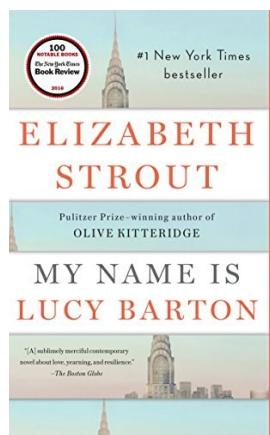


All are welcome to attend this free program, sponsored by the Friends of the Belmont Public Library. Refreshments will be provided.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

FRIDAY, DEC. 13 at 11:00AM BEECH STREET CENTER

This new book group will be led by Coordinator of Public Services Mary Carter, Community Outreach Librarian, Jonathan Nichols, and Beech Street Center volunteer, Kimberly Sliney. Please join them for their next meeting, where they will discuss this month's selection. This group is open to anyone and everyone so please bring your ideas and book suggestions!



DIAL M FOR MOVIES

FRIDAY, DEC. 13 AT 6:30PM VIEWING—ELF ASSEMBLY ROOM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18 AT 7:00PM DISCUSSION FLETT ROOM

Dial M for Movies is the Library's movie club, hosted by Library Director Peter Struzziero. Join Peter for the film viewing - with popcorn of course - then come back later in the month to discuss the film.



TAI CHI AT THE LIBRARY

TUESDAY, DEC. 17 AT 7:00PM ASSEMBLY ROOM

Tai Chi practitioner and coach, Aisling O'Shea, will guide you through this beautiful and low impact form of martial art and meditation. NO equipment necessary, just bring yourself and wear comfortable clothing.

Registration is optional but appreciated.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Belmont Public Library.



MORE MONTHLY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

KNITTING CLUB

FRIDAYS IN DEC. FROM 12:30PM-2:30PM

FLETT ROOM

Bring your knitting, crochet, weaving, or other portable crafts or projects, and we'll get to know each other as we work. We're mainly a social group who like to take a few hours on Friday afternoon to relax and work with yarn, although we're happy to help if you've reached a tricky point in your pattern, or need assistance fixing a dropped stitch. No commitment necessary - we look forward to meeting you!

For more information, contact Jonathan Nichols at 617-993-2896 or jnichols@minlib.net.



ELL CONVERSATION GROUPS

MONDAYS, DEC. 2, 9, AND 16

AT 10:00AM

FLETT ROOM & YOUNG ADULT ROOM

WEDNESDAYS, DEC. 4, 11, AND 18

AT 7:00PM

FLETT ROOM

Improve your English and practice conversational skills in a small, welcoming group with guidance from the group leader.





COMMUNITY EVENTS

LOCAL HAPPENINGS IN BELMONT

BEECH STREET—SENIOR CENTER

PAGE TUNERS BOOK CLUB

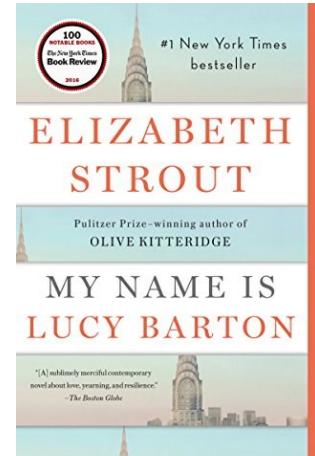
FRIDAY, DEC. 13 AT 11:00AM

BEECH STREET CENTER

This month's selection is *The My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout.

Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life: her escape from her troubled family, her desire to become a writer, her marriage, and her love for her two daughters.

Cost: Free.



MORE EVENTS ON NEXT PAGE



COMMUNITY EVENTS

BEECH STREET—SENIOR CENTER

USSR-RUSSIA MYTHS, MYSTERIES, AND SPYING

TUESDAY, DEC. 3 AT 1:15PM

BEECH STREET

We are pleased to welcome publisher Henry Quinlan for this exciting one-hour presentation. Henry shares his 30-year involvement with the former Soviet Union and Russia. The presentation begins in 1986 with the Chernobyl incident disaster and carries through to 2018. Topics include the Russian mafia, FBI and spying, and Russia's involvement in the 2016 election.

Cost: Free.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, DEC. 12 AT 11:30AM

BEECH STREET

Enjoy all that glitters at the Beech Street Center this holiday season! Sign-up for our noon holiday luncheon, catered by Springwell, and limited to 195 people. Enjoy delicious Italian braised beef, baked potato with sour cream, Caesar salad, Tuscan vegetables, garlic dinner roll, and a carrot cake cupcake with cream cheese frosting. **For reservations, you must fill out a Springwell menu.**

Before the meal starts, Dan Mackowiak helps get our party started with traditional holiday music and sing-alongs. Following Dan, the Belmont High School Trombone Choir is stopping by to entertain. The trombone choir and the Belmont High School band program is considered one of the top programs in the state of Massachusetts. Our party ends with the Singing Grandpops performing annual holiday selections. This party is an event not to miss! **Cost: \$3**

Event is generously sponsored by The Residence at Waverly Square.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE NATICK MALL

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 AT 10:00AM

BEECH STREET

Enjoy a relaxing Sunday afternoon at the Natick Mall. Whether you have holiday shopping to finish or you enjoy walking around the mall, this is the perfect trip. With over 250 stores, food court, restaurants, and Wegmans supermarket, there is something for everyone. We'll arrive back to Belmont by 2 p.m. This trip is limited to 16 people

Cost: \$12 payment due when you sign-up.

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR!

TUESDAY, DEC. 31 AT 1:15PM

BEECH STREET

Join fellow Beech Street Center members for a New Year's Eve celebration and feature film. Share some of your fondest memories from 2019, enjoy the company of others, and bubbly beverages and snacks. After we toast, we'll enjoy a screening of the original 1960's version of *Ocean's 11*, starring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr, and Angie Dickinson. Danny Ocean, played by Sinatra, brings together eleven of his friends to pull off an elaborate New Year's Eve heist at five casinos in Las Vegas. Approx. 127 minutes.

Cost: Free, but donations towards food and beverages appreciated.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL—AUDITORIUM

SAVE THE DATE: KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT FOR 2020-2021

THURSDAY, JAN. 23 FROM 6:30-8:00PM
CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL—AUDITORIUM

Kindergarten Parent Information Night is on Thursday, January 23 for parents and guardians of students entering kindergarten at Belmont Public Schools in 2020-2021, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Winthrop L. Chenery Middle School auditorium, 95 Washington Street (*snow date is Thursday, January 30*).

This is a general information night with Superintendent John Phelan and central office personnel along with the principals of the district's four elementary schools; Mary Lee Burbank, Daniel Butler, Roger Wellington, and Winn Brook.

Kindergarten Central Registration is held in March. More details will be presented at Kindergarten Information Night. Information is also available on the Belmont Public Schools website at: <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Parents/Registration/K-4-Registration>.

We hope to see you there!

(Please note Kindergarten Parent Information Night is for Adults Only)





COMMUNITY EVENTS

BELMONT ART GALLERY—HOMER BUILDING



ELEMENTAL



SHAPE

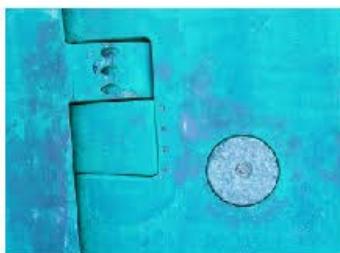
LINE

FORM

COLOR

SPACE

TEXTURE



OCTOBER 27 - DECEMBER 27, 2019