



NEWS & EVENTS

LIBRARY LOVE

Dear Library Patrons,

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners calls February #LibraryLovers month and it is easy to see why: whether it's celebrating Valentine's Day, honoring Black History Month, or just keeping true to the New Year's resolution to try something different, there is so much happening at the library.

For Valentine's Day, we will be partnering with Belmont Public Schools and Belmont Against Racism to host the popular International Valentine's Day Celebration on February 11th for the first time since 2020. For adults, join us for the virtual author talk with Kate Clayborn, author of *Love Lettering*, on February 9th.

To honor Black History Month, we are working with libraries across the state as well as our close Belmont partners to bring you a wide ranging slate of programs. Join us on February 8th to delve into historical black communities during the American Revolution; or on February 11th when we'll hear from Dr. Rebecca Hall, Author of *WAKE*; or for our special partnership with the Belmont Human Rights Commission and Belmont Against Racism on February 22nd, when we will welcome professor, historian and National Book Award finalist author Erica Armstrong Dunbar.

Perhaps you are looking for something new to pique your interest? I can almost guarantee that we have a book club for you, whether it's world literature, mysteries, history, popular fiction or a family book club with the kids! Or you could give Tai Chi, the Knitting Club, or Virtual Trivia a try. No matter what you decide, February is chock full of new opportunities for you at the library - come join us!

Kindest wishes,

Lauren Pfindner
Coordinator of Reference & Public Services



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Closed 2/20 for Presidents Day



OFF THE SHelf

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

EVENTS

FREEDOM'S CAUSE: HISTORICAL BLACK COMMUNITIES & THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Wednesday, February 8, 7pm, Zoom
Registration Required

The site we call Longfellow House today was once General George Washington's first major headquarters of the Revolution. His time at there is well-documented and provides a lens into Black history in Revolutionary America. Join Emily Levine of Longfellow House for a discussion of how free and enslaved Black members of Washington's war camp interacted with one another, members of the local community, and Washington himself.

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALK: Q&A WITH KATE CLAYBORN

Thursday, February 9, 7pm, Zoom
Registration Required

We love Kate Clayborn! Her book *Love Lettering* was a favorite of the last year. And now we have the opportunity to ask Kate our burning questions about ALL of her books, including her newest—*Georgie, All Along*. Bring your questions cause this is going to be rapid fire and awesome!

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALK: DR. REBECCA HALL

Saturday, February 11, 2:30pm, Zoom
Registration Required

In her award-winning graphic novel *WAKE: The History of Women-Led Slave Revolts*, Dr. Hall brings to life the women who fought for freedom during the Middle Passage and who led slave revolts in Colonial New York. We'll also follow Rebecca's own story of resistance as living in the wake of slavery continues to shape her own life—both as a successful attorney and later as a historian seeking the past that haunts her. In the process, she learns that the power of these women's resistance, buried in the past, is still very much alive. The past is gone—but we still live in its wake.

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALK: ROSE LERNER & OLIVIA WAITE

Thursday, February 16, 7pm, Zoom
Registration Required

Join us for an author talk and Q&A with Rose and Olivia in celebration of Valentine's Day! These two have a knack for creating characters both deeply relatable and beautifully flawed, and both have delved into 19th-century England research to give their writing context and detail. We'll discuss their writing and research processes, how they craft their historical happily ever afters, and highlight Rose's new book, *Sailor's Delight*, and Olivia's *The Care and Feeding of Waspish Widows*.

PUZZLE SWAP

Saturday, February 18, 9:30am, Assembly Room

Looking for new puzzles? Need to de-clutter your puzzle shelf? Stop by the puzzle swap to exchange your gently used puzzles for others. Puzzle drop off will be from 9:30-10am. Puzzle swapping will be from 10-11am. Can't attend, but still want to contribute puzzles? Excellent - simply drop them off in the Friends Book Sale room during open hours.

INDUCTION COOKING MADE EASY! (COOKING DEMO & SAMPLES)

Saturday, February 25, 2pm, Assembly Room
Registration Required



Explore the many benefits of using induction cooking in day-to-day life with Chef Tom! Chef Tom Mottl will walk us through the steps of making a quick and simple Chicken Carbonara, while highlighting the many upsides of induction cooking: speed, responsiveness, safety and temperature control. By the end, participants will be able to sample the dish as well as ask any questions they might have about induction cooking. Chef Thomas Mottl, CRC, is a Certified Research Chef with over 15 years of product development experience and 8 years back of house experience. He has created recipes for both the products in the bag, and the ones you find on the bag!



OFF THE SHELF

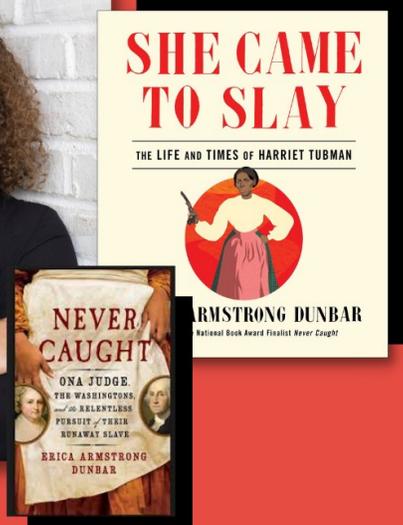
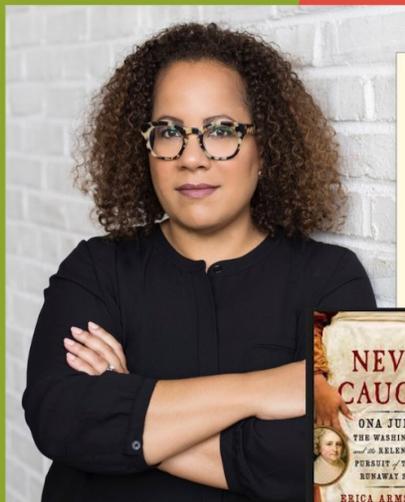
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VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALK: ERICA ARMSTRONG DUNBAR

AUTHOR OF *SHE CAME TO SLAY* AND *NEVER CAUGHT*



Wednesday, February 22, 7pm, Zoom
Registration Required

We're very excited to welcome writer, historian, and lecturer Erica Armstrong Dunbar for this virtual presentation. She's the author of *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* (National Book Award finalist) and *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman*. This event will center on Harriet Tubman—conductor on the Underground Railroad, first woman to lead an armed expedition during the Civil War, spy for the Union Army, fierce suffragist, and advocate for the aged. Erica will particularly highlight Tubman's Boston connections for our local audience. Don't miss it!

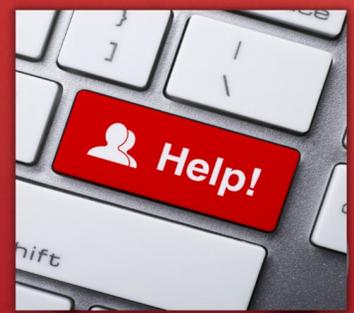
This special event is sponsored by Belmont Public Library, Belmont Against Racism, Belmont Human Rights Commission, Network for Social Justice and multiple neighbor libraries.

Tuesday mornings beginning February 7,
see our website calendar for available times
Registration Required

Need help accessing library eBooks and eAudiobooks through hoopla or Libby? Or maybe you need some basic computer or mobile device guidance? Sign up for a half hour, 1 on 1 tech help appointment with our Technology Librarian, for a personalized assist.

one-on-one tech help

@ Belmont Public Library

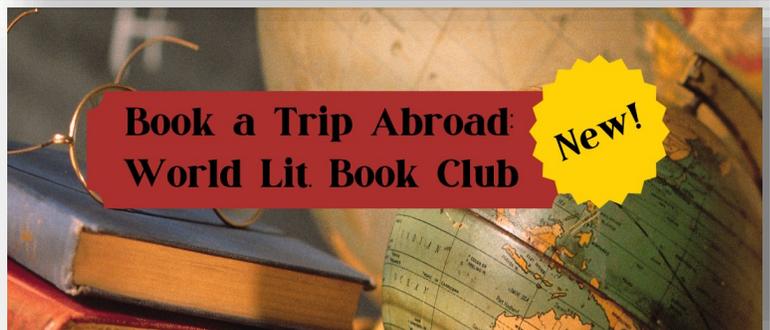


Tuesday, February 28,
7pm, Hybrid (Assembly Room & Zoom)
Registration Required

Book a Trip Abroad, no passport required! Travel the world through books with our newest book club. Join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month as we read books from different countries across the globe. February's selection is *Abigail* by Magda Szabó.

Book a Trip Abroad: World Lit Book Club

New!



OFF THE SHELF

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH (NEW SESSION!)

Wednesdays beginning Feb. 1, 1pm, Flett Rm
Registration Required



Practice speaking English in a supportive environment! This conversation circle led by Dee meets in the Flett Room of the library, begins on Wednesday, February 1st and runs through March 29th, 2023. Space is limited—register now! Please send questions to Lauren at lpfendner@minilib.net.

AGE 50+ JOB SEEKERS NETWORKING GROUP

See website calendar for dates & times, Zoom
Registration Required



Join a professional forum for networking with peers in a safe and comfortable environment conducive to developing new relationships and developing skills and strategies to help in your career transition. Each meeting features a new topic. Meetings include a presentation and hands-on workshop on topics relevant to career transition, guest speakers, access to hiring managers, small group breakout rooms to network, and 1-on-1 coaching guidance.

TAI CHI—ONLINE & IN PERSON!

Saturday, February 4, 10am, Hybrid (Assembly Room & Zoom)



Monday, February 6, 6:30pm, Zoom

Registration Required

Live and in person at the library for the first time in over 2 years - as well as online! Tai Chi practitioner and coach, Aisling O'Shea, will guide you through this beautiful, low impact form of martial art and meditation. No equipment necessary; just wear comfortable clothing! This class will provide an overview of the basic concepts of Tai Chi and Qi Gong and then move further into the Tai Chi Long Form movements. These movements may be adapted for standing, walking, or sitting.

NEW & RETURNING

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Wednesday, February 15, 7pm, Zoom

Registration Required

Join us for an evening of Virtual Trivia for solo players and teams! Our questions are geared toward adults in challenge rating, but for families who want to play together, please know that there are no "embarrassing" questions or content. The ability to access Zoom and view slides on a screen is all you need for this fantastic trivia fun!

UN GROUPE DE CONVERSATION EN FRANCAIS

Thursdays, beginning Feb. 16, 7pm, Flett Room



Registration Required

Un groupe de conversation en Français à la bibliothèque de Belmont! Are you a non-native French speaker (beginner, intermediate, advanced), who worked hard to learn French and is looking to practice it in a friendly environment, have fun talking about culture, arts, gastronomy or any other subject that might interest you? Come join us—boost your oral expression, your vocabulary and confidence in the French language!

WINTER WELLNESS WORKSHOP (2 PART SERIES)

Thursday, February 23, 7pm, Assembly Room



Thursday, March 2, 7pm, Assembly Room

The doldrums of winter in New England can be a challenging time for mental health. Days are shorter and temperatures are colder, many of us struggle with isolation and a dip in mood. Join us for a series that will offer practical and accessible tools to help navigate the emotional challenges of the winter months. This series is intended to foster connection as an antidote to the disconnection many of us experience in the cold winter months. Expect a relaxed and unpretentious atmosphere with warm beverages and community; all are welcome.

CHILDREN & TEENS

OFF THE
SHELF

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Age-Specific Storytimes

(Infant, 1-2s, 3-4s, & All Ages)

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday mornings, start times on website calendar, Assembly Room

Join us for age-specific storytimes here in the library! We'll read stories, sing, and move together!

Concert with Matt Heaton

Friday, February 10, 10am, Assembly Room

Sing and dance along here at the library with one of Belmont's favorite rock stars! Matt's classic and original songs delight all ages (even parents!)

American Sign Language Lunch & Learns

Tuesday, February 21, 12pm, Zoom

Thursday, February 23, 12pm, Zoom

Registration Required

Join for one or both of these fun opportunities to learn and practice American Sign Language (ASL)! Because they'll be taking place at lunchtime, these sessions will be all about food signs!

Li Liu - Acrobat Performance

Wednesday, February 22, 11am, Assembly Room

Come and be amazed by fantastic acrobat Li Liu—right here in the library!

Family Bookclub: *Twins* by Varian Johnson

Monday, February 27, 6:30pm, Assembly Room

Registration Required

Kids and the grown ups they love are welcome to join us for pizza and a book discussion of the graphic novel *Twins* by Varian Johnson! Space is limited. Please register each member of your family for this program and we will then help arrange pick up of the book. The program is recommended for families with kids ages 8 and up.



TEEN PROGRAMMING

Teen Advisory Board (Volunteer Opportunity)

Wednesday, February 1, 3pm, YA Room

Want to learn how the library builds its programs and services? TAB is at the core of program development for their peers: design new volunteer opportunities, build ideas for programs, and make decorations for the library space.

Boba & Board Games

Wednesday, February 8, 2:30pm, Assembly Room

Play board games and drink your favorite types of boba tea on the second Wednesday of each month! This is a drop-in first-come, first-serve program for teens and tweens. Maximum attendance: 20 people.

Fancy 'Fits

Begins Wednesday, February 15, Assembly Room

The library is hosting a prom outfit donation drive! Bring in any gently used gown, suit, and shoe donations beginning February 15 to help spread the fit love!

Love It or Hate It (YA Book Club)

Tuesday, February 21, 3:30pm, Flett Room

Register to Get Reminders

Try blind date with a book and tell us what you think! Join us to celebrate the best (and worst) in YA. This book club is aimed at grades 7-12.

Pop-Up Crafts

Wednesday, February 22, 11am, YA Room

Register to Get Reminders

Dive into an ever changing collection of crafts on offer for our young adult patrons in this once-a-month event.

International Valentine's Day ♥

Saturday, February 11, 1pm, Assembly Room

Join us in the Assembly Room to learn about Valentine's Day & similar holidays around the world! We'll read a valentine story together, make valentines for friends, family, or others who may not receive many, eat snacks and enjoy each other's company. Open to all ages!

Sponsored by Belmont Public Library, Belmont Against Racism, and Belmont Public Schools.



OFF THE SHELF

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY EVENTS

Page of Enlightenment

Thursday, February 9

7pm, Hybrid (Flett Rm & Zoom)

Registration Required

Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World by Jack Weatherford

Cookbook Club

Tuesday, February 14

7pm, Assembly Room

Registration Required

Cook, Eat, Repeat by Nigella Lawson

Pages & Pints

Thursday, February 16

7pm, Trinktisch (87 Leonard St)

Registration Requested

The Hunting Party by Lucy Foley

Better Read than Dead

Tuesday, February 21

7pm, Zoom

Registration Required

The Torso by Helene Tursten

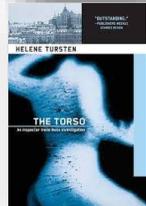
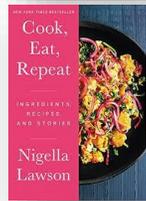
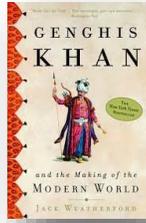
RainbowLit

Monday, February 27

7pm, Zoom

Registration Required

Rubyfruit Jungle by Rita Mae Brown



MONTHLY EVENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWS

This month we celebrate the heart, the relationships we value, and the people we love. Some of the people we love are the friends and family we share books with! These conversations bring us together and strengthen our bonds. And the library offers a trove of rich material for all that sharing. I highly recommend *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams and Kristen loved *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. As always, if you're in need of book suggestions, just ask a librarian.

Sneak Peek

The Friends will be celebrating our 50th anniversary all year. One event that we're particularly excited to share is the first ever family mini golf at the library on March 11th—all day long. Amateurs and experts are welcome. The 18 holes will take you throughout the library and promise to give you a new perspective on the collections. We hope you'll bring your family and friends and join us. It's free!

Finally, books are always for sale at our Everyday Book Sale upstairs to the left of circulation and downstairs in the Children's Room. All proceeds go to the Friends' budget, which supports Library programs.

Happy Reading,
Stephanie Cahoon and Kristen Carte-Smith

Belmont Public Schools Online Registration for School Year 2023-2024 opened January 27, 2023

More information can be found online but registration for Elementary School (K-4) is here: <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Parents/Registration/K-4-Registration>

And Chenery Middle School and Belmont High School Registration for Grades 5-12 is here: <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Parents/Registration/K-4-Registration>

BELMONT

PUBLIC

LIBRARY

Library Hours:

Mon-Wed: 9-9, Thurs: 11-9

Fri-Sat: 9-5

Sun: 1-5

Closed 2/20 for Presidents Day

All programs run by the Library are free and open to the public. This newsletter and many of the services and programs contained herein - wherever you see the  - are sponsored by the Friends of the Belmont Public Library. Would you be our friend? Visit <https://belmontpubliclibrary.net/give/renew-join-or-donate/>