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February 2019

**Whitehall Township  
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# Whitehall Township Public Library **Library Lines**

## From the Director's Desk!

**Your Library World just got BIGGER!** Beginning Mon., February 4, you will be able to borrow materials from any of the 11 libraries in the new Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative (listed on pg 2). These libraries have combined forces to make borrowing even easier. The book or DVD you want isn't on our shelf? Odds are one of the other libraries has it, and you can either pick it up there or have it delivered here within 1-2 days!

**One Card Rules Them All.** No need to carry around 3 different library cards when 1 card will give you access to all 11 LCLC libraries. Old cards will be exchanged for free! Come see your library staff for all of the details. A new era for Carbon and Lehigh County libraries has begun!

**Starting Genealogy!** Join us on Tues., February 12 at 2 p.m. for a beginner's start on digging up family history! This basic overview will cover some of the non-computer-based tools and strategies that you can use to start compiling your family tree and recording stories of the past. Another genealogy session will be held in April (more next month about date and time).

**Spring Story Time 2019** will start again in March 2019 for preschoolers and toddlers. Registration will begin on Tues., Feb 5. You can register online, at the library, or over the phone!

**Adult Coloring Club** will meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Relax and enjoy yourself with some fun coloring time. This club is for anyone 18+ years old. The library has some supplies but invites you to bring your own as well. Come on in and join the conversation and fun while coloring!

Our **What Are You Reading Now?** club meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. If you love to talk about books, we invite you to chat about whatever books you are reading now and get some ideas for your future reading list.

**If the library is closed for any reason,** you still have access to resources. If you have a current WTPL card and in good standing, you may use the databases located on the right side of our website (all but Ancestry and ABC Mouse can be used outside the library). Try everything from learning a new language, to listening to a book, doing genealogy, looking at recipes from other countries, and reading newspapers online. So before the snow flies, stop by and we will update your card and show you how to use these resources!

Patrons still have time to sign up for the **Adult Winter Reading Program** ending March 23. Our theme this year is "Reading Cures the Winter Blues". Anyone 18 years and older will be able to register and get a book-log to track your reading or listening of books! It is easy to do. Read or listen to a book and write the author

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### Board of Trustees Fiscal Year 2018-2019:

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Public Library



**Did You Know?**

There are many stories behind the animals in the **Chinese zodiac**, but one of the more popular folk tales says that the Jade Emperor (a traditional Chinese deity) wanted 12 animals to be his guard. He had all of the animals race to see who would be chosen, and the 12 winners made up his guard and also became the animals in the zodiac, in the order that they finished the race. This year, **Chinese New Year** falls on February 5, and we're entering the **Year of the Pig**. (The pig was last of the 12 because he stopped to eat.)

猪  
(Pig)

Remember that our **Adult Winter Reading Program** "Reading Cures the Winter Blues" runs through Sat., March 23. Get more information or register at the front desk, and see what books can help you make this dreary season a little brighter!

**Your New Card**

This month, all of our patrons will get **new library cards!** This is part of an exciting new project that we've been working on with several libraries in the area. (You might remember us switching to a new computer system this past year.) The goal of all of this is to make the library more convenient for you and to give you access to more resources.

**The Libraries**

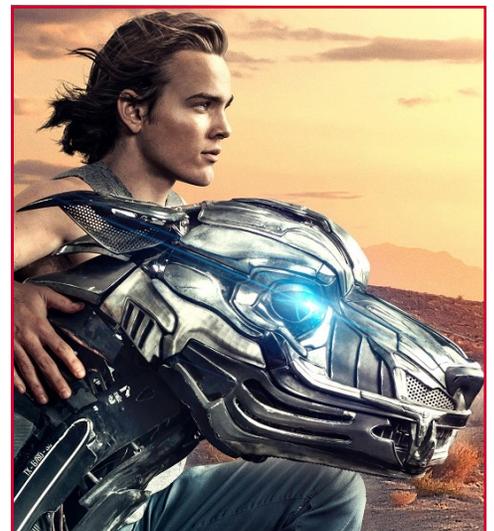
You can use your new card at the Coplay Public Library, Dimmick Memorial Library, Emmaus Public Library, Lehigh Area Memorial Library, Public Library of Catasauqua, Lower Macungie Library, Palmerton Area Library, Parkland Community Library, Slatington Library, Southern Lehigh Public Library, and Whitehall Township Public Library. These libraries are now collectively known as the **Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative (LCLC)**. Come to our front desk to get a list of these libraries with their contact information so that you can check them out.

**What You Can Do**

1. **Check out** books from any of these libraries and **return** those books to any of these libraries as well. (Remember that loaning periods, fees, and other policies may vary by library, so remember to ask about those.)
2. Put a book on **hold** at any of these libraries.
3. Access **library databases** and **electronic resources** from home. (Go through the website of your home library and use the number on the back of your card as your user ID.)
4. Access **your account** from home to check your borrowing record (once you've enabled that feature), renew items, and more.

**At the Movies: A-X-L**

On the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m., we hold **Family Movie Night** at the library so that you can enjoy free movie showings in a fun and relaxing environment. This month's movie, which will be on Tues., February 19, will be **A-X-L**. A-X-L tells the story of a top secret robot dog of that name who develops a special friendship with a boy named Miles and will go to any length to protect his new companion.



## Book Nook: Happy February!

My intent was to write about St. Valentine's Day and include some suggestions for romantic books and movies. My husband and I agreed on our top romantic picks. The movie Robin Hood, any version, but we're partial to Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland. Our choice for most romantic book by a living author is *Outlander* by Diana Galbadon. Then I started researching the holiday, but it turns out that February 14 commemorates the day Valentine of Rome was beheaded. Not a happy thought.

Often, St. Valentine is depicted as Cupid so I researched the Greek version known as Eros. Most of us learned in school that Eros was the son of Aphrodite, but there are many pre-Grecian Eros origin stories, and that got confusing. So I skipped that.

How about the word "romance"? It turns out to be a regional French word dating to the 1300s to describe a story of chivalry, or knights' adventures. The aspect of love was added to romance in the 17th century. Now, as a genre, "romance" usually refers to an exaggerated tale of love.

I also learned about other observances besides Valentine's Day this February, including Groundhog Day on the 2nd, Chinese New Year on the 5th, and Presidents' Day on the 18th. Groundhog Day originated in Pennsylvania – yay! It was preceded by Candlemas, a Catholic feast that included weather-predicting traditions, and various pagan holidays that fell around this time of year.

This year's symbol for Chinese New Year is the pig, usually atop a pile of coins, and associated with good fortune and wealth. I wondered if this might be the origin of a piggy bank. What little I could find implied that in Medieval times, a clay called "pygg" was used for most housewares because metal and glass were very expensive. I don't know about you, but since the Chinese zodiac predates the Middle Ages by about 4,000 years, I think the origin is more Asian than European. What do you think?

I am old enough to remember when Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12, and George Washington's birthday, February 22, were separate observances. We went to school on those days, the banks were open, and the mail was delivered. But in 1971, President Richard M. Nixon signed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act that merged the birthdays, now Presidents Day, to the 3rd Monday in February, and is supposed to honor all U.S. presidents. This act also moved Memorial Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day to Mondays.

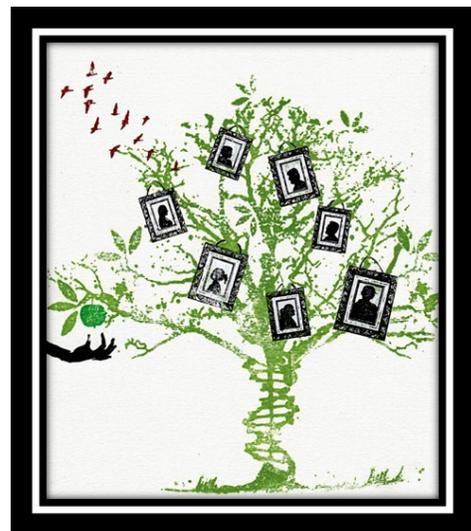
I used many research sources available through our library. I strongly urge you to use more than Wikipedia to gather your facts, and remind you that the most reliable information comes from cited sources. You, as a taxpayer, are paying for some amazing library references in books and on our website, so check them out, and thank you for providing them to our community!

~ Chris Andrews

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## Genealogy the Old-Fashioned Way

Do you want to learn more about your family? Are you reluctant to dive into the world of computer records? We've got you covered! On Tues., **February 12** at 2 p.m., we'll help you begin your journey into family history with the program **Starting Genealogy**. This basic overview course will cover some of the non-computer-based tools and strategies that you can use to start compiling your family tree and recording stories of the past. There's a lot you can learn from books and even from other people. Your relatives can tell you a lot about the past, and in this class, we'll talk about some of the questions you can ask to get conversations going and some of the ways you can log that information.



## Director's Desk (cont'd)

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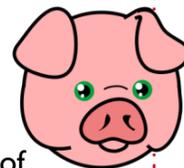
and title on a read log form and return the log to us by 5 p.m. Sat., March 23. We'll have a wrap up party on Tues., March 26 at both 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Also included in the packet is a reading challenge. Just READ and have fun and watch the BLUES melt away!

**Did you KNOW...** Whitehall Township Public Library has drop boxes for the **Whitehall Food Pantry** (non-perishable can / box food products), **Peaceable Kingdom** animal shelter (toys, towels, supplies, and specific foods for cats and dogs), and Whitehall-Coplay School District **Snack Pack Pals** for children in need of food (juice boxes, cracker packs, and other shelf-stable items). Please see the library for lists of specific items that these organizations need. Items may be dropped off during regular library hours.

~ Patty Vahey

### Monthly Reading Challenge

Because we're entering the Year of the Pig this Chinese New Year, we're challenging you to read a book that features a pig. It could be fiction or nonfiction for any age group. See what you can find!



## Last Month

Last month was full of winter activities. For instance, our **Teen Advisory Board** had a **ginger-bread house building contest** (right), where teens competed in teams to build and decorate their buildings. Congratulations to winners Amanda Sodi, Catherine Yunez-Cosme, and Mariam Zaher for their "Lorax House" and Dakota Coleman and Stephanie Wang for their "Baking Academy"! We also began our **Adult Winter Reading Program: "Reading Cures the Winter Blues!"** You still have time to get in on the action, since it'll run through Sat., March 23, 5 p.m.



## Database Spotlight: ABC Mouse

ABC Mouse is an early learning academy that helps kids build all kinds of skills they'll need in school. It helps them learn to read through phonics, and it teaches lessons in math, social studies, art, music, and much more. This is one of two databases that you can only access while in our library building (the other being Ancestry), but it's well worth the trip to help your kids learn in a fun way that's based on their age groups. There's a lot to explore on ABC Mouse, including:

- **My Learning Path** - Kids who are new to reading might want to start on this path that has a series of lessons and activities that build off of each other.
- **Classroom** - If your kid wants to learn about a specific subject, he can check out this colorful and inviting virtual space. There's a lot to click on and explore, and of course, there's a lot to learn as well.
- **Featured Activities** - When a kid has a little bit of time to fill and doesn't know what to try next, this is the place to try out something new and get some general knowledge.

