You can start off your Christmas season by joining us for some holiday music. We welcome back the local barbershop quartet, ffourtissimo, to entertain us on Thurs., December 5 at 7 p.m. If you enjoy a capella music, come enjoy this quartet as they deliver fun renditions of classic holiday songs as well as a few newer tunes. This is a free program and open to all!

Santa and Mrs. Claus will stop by the library on Sat., December 7 to have pictures taken with you. Please stop in 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. to have your picture taken, and it will be $5 per person or group. We'll take your picture with Santa and post it to SmugMug, and you'll be able to access it online and print off copies. See the handout at the front desk or our website for more information. Pets are invited but must be on a leash and have current vaccination forms.

We'll decorate holiday cards at the library for the residents of Fellowship Manor and other retirement residences on Sat., December 7 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. This event will be open for children and adults alike (ages 6+). We provide card-making supplies, so all you have to do is show up and have fun!

Holiday Story Time & Craft will be held on Wed., December 4, 11, and 18 at 1:30 p.m. This is open to all and no registration is required.

The library will be closed all day on Christmas Eve Tues., December 24 and Wed., December 25. We reopen on Thurs., December 26. We'll close again at 1 p.m. on Tues., December 31 (New Year’s Eve), and we'll be closed Wed., January 1, 2020 for New Year’s Day and open regular hours Thurs., January 2!

The 2nd & 4th Tuesday Adult Coloring Club is held at 11 a.m. Anyone 18 years old and older is welcome to join us. The library has some supplies but invites you to bring your own as well.

A reminder that Whitehall Township Public Library is part of the Lehigh-Carbon Library Cooperative. This means more resources and services for patrons to use and share among other libraries. We created the one-card system in February 2019, and it's working out great for patrons to find books and resources. If you didn’t get your new purple card, please do so soon so you can enjoy the benefits of the LCLC sources. The libraries in LCLC include: Whitehall Township Public Library, Coplay Public Library, Dimmick Memorial Public Library, Emmaus Public Library, Lehighton Area Memorial Library, Lower Macungie Library, Palmerton Area Library, Parkland Community Library, Public Library of Catasauqua, Slatington Library, and Southern Lehigh Public Library.

Need an ice scraper? You can buy one of our heavy duty scrapers for $1.00 at the front desk! They’re translucent blue with a squeegee and will make great...
As is our tradition at the library, we’re inviting Santa to visit on the first Saturday of December and spread his Christmas cheer. Come any time from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on December 7 for our Pictures with Santa and take part in this special event.

**Pictures**
Pictures are **$5 per person or group**, and you can bring in as many people as you can fit in the shot. (If you want a sitting with Santa but don’t want a picture, it’s still $5.) Once we take your picture, we give you the link to our “SmugMug” website where you can access it online. This website has unrestricted access, and from here, you can print out your picture, save it, or e-mail it to all your friends! If you don’t have a computer at home, we can help you use ours.

**Pets**
You may bring in pets, but they must be leashed and under control and must have their current vaccination information with them.

**Mail Call**
Want to be a part of your community this year? At the same time as our Pictures with Santa event (above), we’ll have our annual **Holiday Card Making** time. On Sat., December 7 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., we’ll bring in scrapbook supplies and make some holiday cards for residents of local senior homes. Since we have supplies, you can just show up and help decorate!

**At the Movies: Toy Story 4**
On the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m., the library has a **Family Movie Night** for adults and kids alike. Come in and relax with this free event! This month’s movie, **Toy Story 4**, will be on December 17. The most recent installment of the Toy Story saga, this film rejoins Woody and the rest of the gang as they learn to deal with changes in their lives. This time, a new toy called “Forky” joins them, and a road trip alongside old and new friends reveals how big the world can be for a toy.

**Toys for Tots**
The library is continuing its annual tradition of collecting for **Toys for Tots**, and you can drop off new, unopened toys through Mon., December 16. This program, run by the U.S. Marine Corps, gives millions of toys to less fortunate children every year so that they can share the magic of the holidays. You can help by donating toys or volunteering. Toys for Tots will not distribute any gifts that look like realistic weapons or anything with food. If you wish to donate cash or volunteer, see their site (www.toysfortots.org) for more information. Thank you!
Songs of the Season

Christmas and music go together like hot chocolate and whipped cream. That’s why we’re ready to sweeten your holiday season with a visit from the barbershop quartet ffourtissimo on Thurs., December 5 at 7 p.m. They’re back by popular demand to bring more of their a cappella music to the library, with a mix of old and new songs sure to appeal to audience members young and old. Founded in 2012, ffourtissimo has a long history of performing all around the Lehigh Valley and beyond, and now’s a good opportunity for you to experience their delightful music with this performance that’s free and open to all.

Book Nook: Local Music

What do the Beatles, Nirvana, Linkin Park, and Kacey Musgraves have in common? They all started out playing in their hometowns until their fan base grew and a major recording company took a chance on them.

This month, I’d like to call your attention to two things. First is our Local History Music Collection. These are CD albums from a variety of local talent. Most of these performers have websites or Facebook accounts letting you know where they’re performing, often for free.

Why would you want to go? Have you ever thought about the hours you spend watching television or reading when you could be out discovering the next Luke Combs? You’ve probably heard about the concept of “mindful living”, and being part of an audience is a perfect example. Performers are very grateful to see you because they know you made a special effort to see them.

Secondly, did you know our library has a monthly open mic night? It’s held every 3rd Monday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Many local musicians play here. If you are a singer or musician, you’re welcome, too. Our open mic is unique because, being a library and not a bar, our audience pays attention to the performers. This region also has its version of the Grammy Awards called the Lehigh Valley Music Awards which honors local musicians across a wide variety of genres. As a fan, you can nominate your favorites and attend the event. But of course, you have to know who to nominate. If you want to sample local talent from our CD collection, the most prominent musicians are, in alphabetical order: Steve Brosky, Bev Conklin, Dave Fry, Jake Kaligis, James Supra, and Craig Thatcher. Or come to our 3rd Monday Open Mic Night and discover someone new.

~ Chris Andrews

It’s not too late! The library is still collecting new or gently-used winter items for Project Keep Warm. This collection, sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Business Group, runs through December 8. They’re looking for coats, gloves, hats, scarves, heavy socks, and blankets. Clothes can be for adults or kids, male or female. There are a lot of people out there that need to keep warm, and this is your chance to help them do that. Thanks to those who have donated and will donate, and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas!
Did You Know?

The Winter Solstice (this year December 21) is the shortest day of the year. It was an important time for ancient peoples that were affected by the changes of seasons. Many of cultures celebrated the lengthening of days with different holidays. For instance, Germanic and Scandinavian people celebrated Yule - a 12-day holiday with a lot of traditions that carried over into modern Christmas celebrations, such as Christmas wreaths, Christmas trees, and the Yule log.

Last Month

Last month, we had our Annual Used Book Sale over a period of two days. Well-attended as always, this book not only featured new and gently-used books, but it also offered a variety of holiday items and baked goods for sale. Our next big fundraiser will be our Pictures With Santa (see pg. 2). Thanks to everyone who supports the library!

Database Spotlight: NoveList Plus

Have you ever wondered what you should read next? It’s a common question that our readers have in the library, so we’ve subscribed to a database that can help you find a book based on your interests. NoveList Plus sifts through fiction and nonfiction alike, and you can find it along with our other databases on the “Research and Learn” section of our website (www.whitehallpl.org). Here are some ways you can explore:

- **Browse** - You can browse in a number of ways such as genre, theme (like immigrant experiences), or your own custom mix of book preferences (like book pace and character types).
- **Read-Alikes** - If you search for a book or author on this site, you can not only find information on that work or person, but you can also find a list of read-alikes on the right-hand side of that entry.
- **Recommended Reading Lists** - If you’re not sure where to start, the NoveList homepage has a list of recommended reading lists by type and age group.
- **Other** - This site has more reader resources, including Genre Outlines, Book Club Resources, Curriculum Connections, and Feature Articles on books and reading.