



Volume 3, Issue 7
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**Whitehall Township
Public Library**
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Inside this Issue:

Database Spotlight: Overdrive	2
The New Normal, cont'd	2
Blind Dates & Baskets	3
Book Nook	3
Fantasy Fun at Home	4-6
Writing Contest Winners	7-9

Whitehall Township Public Library **Library Lines**

The New Normal

We've been open to the public for a month now, and we're slowly expanding our hours and bringing back services we used to provide. Due to state mandates, we still have some limits, and we'll continue to follow CDC guidelines. So far, all of our patrons have been very patient and understanding about the situation, which we appreciate. So, thanks to all of you; you've been terrific!

Our **current hours** are Monday & Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., and Saturday (CURBSIDE PICKUP ONLY) from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you come into the library, you'll need to follow safety guidelines, like **wearing a mask** or other face covering, using **hand sanitizer** when you first enter and maintaining **social distancing** as much as possible between yourself and others.

If you come in to **browse for books** or use our **copy machine**, we ask that you check out your materials or make your copies without loitering. If you **use our computers**, there's a two-hour limit, and you can sign up for a time slot at our front desk.

If you **pay for prints or fines** with cash, we will accept exact change only, and if you pay with a credit or debit card, there's a \$5.00 minimum. If you buy anything from our book sale, we can only take cash (in exact change).

Due to popular demand, we've decided to continue offering **curbside pickup** as an option and will for the foreseeable future. This is a quick and easy way to get books if you know what you want. You can put books on hold through the My Account page on our website (whitehallpl.org) or over the phone (610-432-4339). When they arrive for you, we'll call you to schedule a day for you to pick them up.

All item **returns** go in the yellow drop boxes in our parking lot. No materials will be accepted at the front desk. After they're returned, we put everything in quarantine for 4 days before we check it in (using the date you returned it as the check in date). You'll see the items listed in your account until then.

If you have items to **donate**, though, please come to our back staff door during business hours. Due to the extremely high volume of incoming donations, we ask that you limit yourself to no more than three bags or boxes at a time. (We prefer them to be in bags or boxes instead of loose for ease of storage.) We take books and most other media in good condition, except for magazines, textbooks, and encyclopedias.

Books and computers aren't the only things that the library offers. We also like to host different **programs and events** throughout the year. For now, those events are going to stay digital, mostly through Zoom. Watch our events calendar

(Continued on page 2)

Whitehall Township



Public Library



There will be **NO CURBSIDE PICKUP** on Sat., **September 5**, and the library will be **CLOSED ALL DAY** on Mon., **September 7** for **Labor Day**. We hope you get to take a hard-earned break from all of your labor, too, and we'll see you back in the library soon. In the meantime, stay safe and have fun!

September is **National Yoga Month**, according to the US Dept. of Health & Human Services. Yoga is a gentle practice that helps many people maintain a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

Yoga is great for people of all ages and experience levels. It can help strengthen and tone your body while relaxing your mind (which is great in these trying times).

If you look in our library, you can find nonfiction books and DVDs on yoga in the 613.7 section.

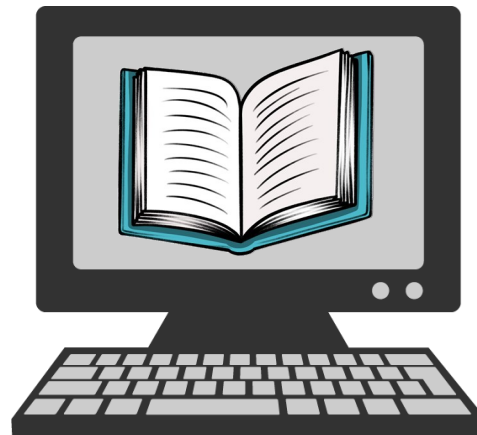


Database Spotlight: OverDrive

This database offers a wide selection of eBooks and eAudiobooks that you can read on various devices. For eMagazines, you can visit our RBDigital Magazines database.

Logging In

Start from our homepage (whitehallpl.org), and you can find OverDrive under our Research & Learn menu. Then, when you go to sign in, select your home library from the dropdown menu. (If you don't know what your home library is, ask one of our front desk workers, and they'll be happy to tell you.) After that, the page will ask for your library card number and PIN. You can find your library card number on the back of your card. (If you have a new LCLC card, the card will be purple, and the number will start with 6000000...) Your PIN is a 4-digit password that you created at some point, usually when you first sign up for your card. If you don't remember setting it up or forgot what it was, one of our desk staff can change it for you.



One thing that can throw people off when using OverDrive is the name. When you get to the OverDrive homepage through our website, you'll see that it says "Carbon Lehigh Downloadable Library" at the top. Don't worry; you're in the right place! Also, when you download the app to use OverDrive, the app is called Libby.

Using It

There's a search bar in the upper right-hand corner of your screen. There, you can search for authors, titles, or subjects, just like you would in our catalog. If a book is available to borrow, you can borrow it. Otherwise, you can place a hold and wait for it to come in. When you borrow a book, it's "returned" automatically, and you'll no longer be able to read it after the due date. This means that you never get any late fees on these books.

The New Normal, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

and our social media accounts (on Facebook and Twitter) to learn about upcoming events. If you go to the Programs & Events section of our website, you can find other pages besides our calendar. We include pages for kids, teens, and adults that have some **at-home activities**, and the kids page has some **archived programs**, too. We know that screen fatigue is a real problem, so we're still trying to come up with more ways to bring you fun and education away from the computer, too. We welcome any patron suggestions, as well as feedback on our Summer Reading Program, so please feel free to reach out to us. For a preview of upcoming **library fundraisers**, see pg. 3 of this newsletter.

Blind Dates & Baskets

This year, the library hasn't been able to hold a lot of our regular programs and events, including our **fund-raisers**, but we have two in the works to hold this fall. Watch our website for more details about dates and prices as we get closer.

Basket Raffle

We've held basket raffles at the library for a few years now, but this one will be a little different. Instead of putting out a lot of baskets at once, we're going to have a few at a time and spread out the fun for a little longer.

Blind Date With a Bag of Books

In this new fundraiser, we'll sell brown bags full of new or gently-used books for \$5 per bag. Each bag will come with a card to tell you the genre or subject (including a few surprise mixes), though the exact books will stay a mystery. If you're not sure what you want to read next, this is a great way to find something new.



Book Nook: "Get a Library Card" Month

Seems like there's a month for almost everything. Although our library is still following CDC restrictions, we are glad for each step that takes us closer to "normal". If you're an avid reader and library user, you may have purchased books online during quarantine, and were surprised to discover how expensive they are. The average retail cost for an adult hardcover book is \$28, and a child's picture book is \$18. Granted, places like Amazon give discounts, but if the book is a clunker, you still lost money.

Maybe you discovered **electronic books** through our website (whitehallpl.org). The LCLC (Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative) has 13 libraries that select and purchase downloadable print and audio books. These can be downloaded to your e-reader, PC, or your phone using the Libby app (see pg. 2). LCLC also provides electronic magazines. Our library also subscribes to several expensive databases, like Ancestry and Reference USA. BUT to use these databases YOU MUST HAVE A PURPLE LIBRARY CARD. If you don't have one, it's easy. You can even apply online by going to the My Account page on our website.

Sometimes people wonder why they need to provide **proof of residence** to get a library card. That's because not all municipalities support public libraries. A local example is Northwestern School District, and those residents must purchase annual library memberships. If you live in Whitehall or another area that supports public libraries, though, part of your taxes already go to your home library.

You are allowed to borrow items **free**, and we trust you to return them, but if you don't, we need to contact you with reminders. Library theft is a Pennsylvania Statutes, Title 18, criminal offense. More importantly, if you don't return library materials, you are stealing from YOUR community. But we find 99% of OUR library users are trustworthy. So, dig out that library card, borrow some books, DVDs, and music CDs, and explore some of the really interesting databases we offer, too. If you don't have a PURPLE LCLC card yet, we can help.



FANTASY FUN AT HOME

Our “Imagine Your Story” Summer Reading Program may be over, but we’ll leave you with a few last activities relating to fairy tales, fantasy, and mythology.

Color the Dragon



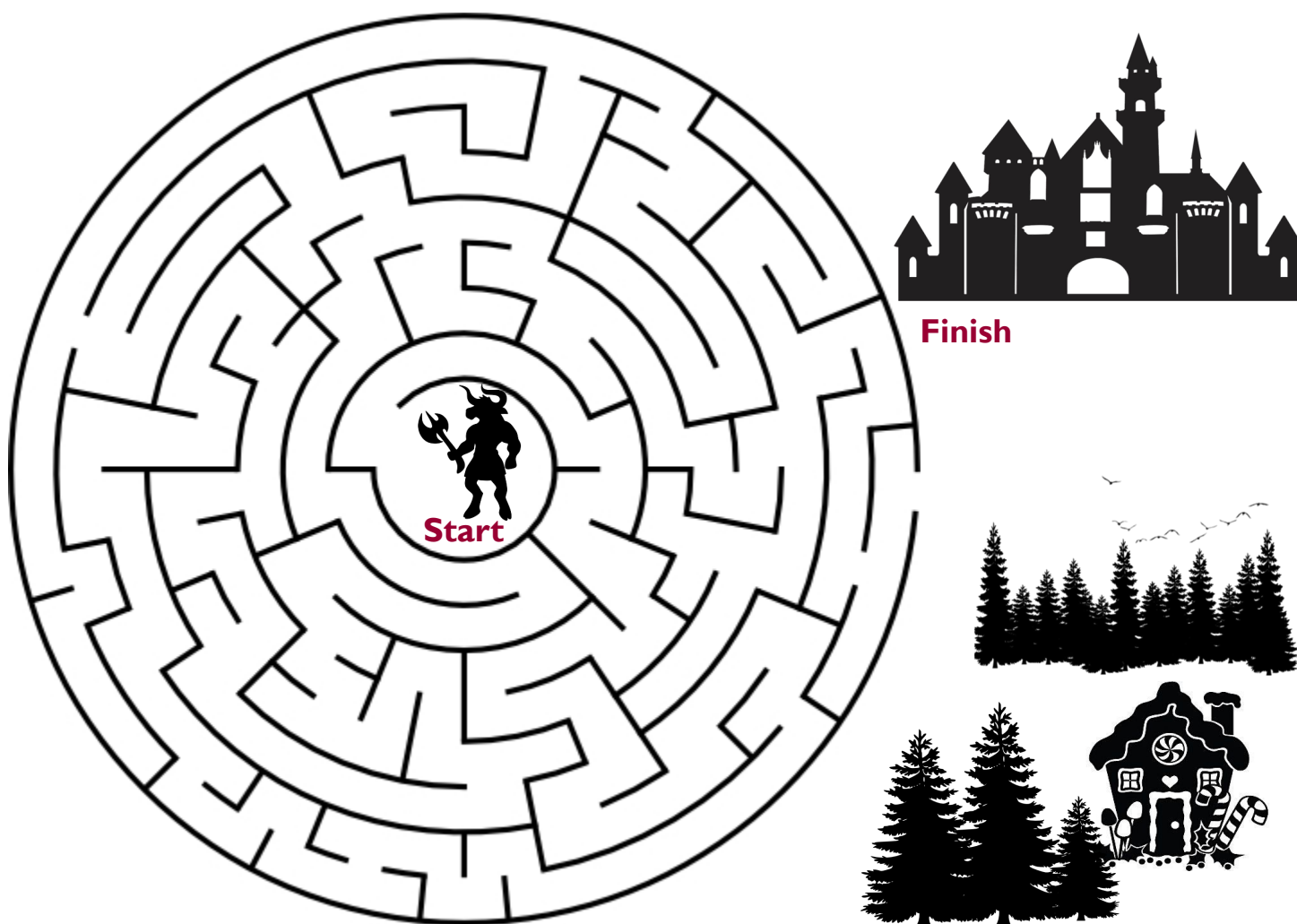
Logic Puzzle: The Quest

A Prince, a Princess, and Knight each traveled a long distance to go on quest. Their mounts were a Dragon, a Unicorn, and a Griffin. They traveled 25 miles, 50 miles, and 100 miles. Can you figure out which person rode which creature and how far each one traveled using these clues? (Answers at the bottom of the page.)

1. The Prince is afraid of serpents.
2. The Knight's unicorn couldn't carry him in his armor for 100 miles.
3. The Princess rode 10 miles a day for 10 days in a row.
4. The hybrid creature traveled 25 miles.

Escape the Labyrinth

Get away from the minotaur and out of the labyrinth, back to the safety of your castle.



Logic Puzzle Answer

The Princess rode her Dragon for 100 miles, the Knight rode his Unicorn for 50 miles, and the Prince rode the Griffin for 25 miles.

Word Search

Words might be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, either forwards or backwards.

O	M	L	E	D	N	E	R	G	A
L	M	I	N	O	T	A	U	R	P
Y	I	Y	S	A	O	M	V	E	O
M	R	O	T	T	R	U	P	T	L
P	G	K	R	H	A	N	S	E	L
U	K	A	A	O	O	G	I	L	O
S	C	I	W	R	E	L	S	A	H
A	U	R	G	A	O	D	O	R	F
N	P	S	O	B	E	K	D	G	V
V	A	L	H	A	L	L	A	A	Y

Word List:

AMUN
APOLLO
EDDA
ELSA
FRODO
GRENDL
GRETEL
GRIMM
HANSEL
HOGWARTS
MINOTAUR
MYTHOLOGY
NARNIA
OLYMPUS
PUCK
SOBEK
THOR
VALHALLA
YOKAI

Color the Unicorn

WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

This summer, we held our first ever writing contest as part of our “Imagine Your Story” Summer Reading Program. Submissions were broken up by age group, and you can read our winning entries below. Thanks to everyone who submitted their works, and congratulations to our winners!

“The Fairyland Palace: The Story of Ellie the Yoga and Candy Fairy”

by Clara Dantsin, Preschool

Characters

Ellie - a yoga and candy fairy

Hagnar - a witch

Save-a-roo - a saver who has pet kanga “roos” and swords.

Story

Days were warm. It was warm (spring), yoga and fun! “Everything STOP,” Ellie said.

The witch, Hagnar, took Ellie!!!!!! Now, Hagnar fights over Saveroo.

The End



“A Tale of Two Brothers” by Vihaan Sinha, Teen

My brother is my closest companion
He always makes me so proud
Our souls and minds are like that of no other
We always find comfort with each other around
We swim side by side
And snuggle in our twin blankets, to gaze at the stars - spellbound
Our love for soccer brings out our cold rivalry
But in the end, we hug each other, like brothers newfound
I love my brother with all my heart
Like the deep depths of the ocean so profound
He's my knight in shining armor
One who always inspires me to find happiness abound!

“An Unfinished Quilt” by Sarah DeLeo, Adult

She's running through the woods, it's too dark to see where she's going. The moon is full above her but the trees filter the light out, their heavy branches impeding its path. Her lungs burn, her legs ache, but still she keeps running. Whether it is *from* or *to* something she can't remember, she just knows that she must keep going.

She stumbles over a log of wood - didn't see it - and finds herself in a clearing. She pulls herself up, dusts the dew and grass off, and glances around.

She's not alone.

Not far off, near the center of the clearing, a group of people mill around. They *look* like people, at least, with the correct number and position of limbs, but something seems off. It seems off in the way they carry themselves, in the way the moonlight reflects off their skin in a shimmer rather than a glow, in the way their smiles are a bit too sharp when they look her way and meet her eyes -

Oh no. She tries to flee before they come over, but her body is perfectly comfortable where it stands in the faint moonlight, at the edge of the clearing in the dew and mud and quickly growing fog.

She thinks of her parents, her bed, a nice warm fire in the main room after the evening meal.

The people who aren't stand close enough to speak, though she knows she would have heard them if they had spoken from the center.

"What is your name?" one asks. This one is the tallest of the group, its features and wardrobe betraying a status of royalty.

She *tries* not to speak. Her jaw is clenched shut, and she's not sure she could produce sound even if she wanted to. But she is compelled, in the same way her body longed to stay put.

"Elys," she says.

"Elys," the royal repeats, testing it out. She does not like how it sounds, coming from the other. "Thank you."

The party turns away, and she is alone. The moon grows dimmer. The clearing drains of color, and as she steps back, the forest does as well. Soon she stands alone in darkness. Then she is gone as well.

"You shouldn't have given him your name," Mogen says the next morning. They are stitching: Mogen is working on her twelfth quilt, and Elys works on a secret. "Everyone knows you don't give fairies your name."

Elys doesn't fight it. She knows Mogen will not understand. She can't properly explain her compulsion to answer honestly, how *lying* was never an option. "Why do you call them fairies? It was just a dream."

Mogen looks up from her quilt. "Of course they're fairies. You keep having the same dreams. This is how they work, Elys, all the books say so."

"They've never seen me before. One spoke to me! That's never happened before."

"Well," Mogen flips her hair out of the way and looks back to her quilt. Elys can't help but watch. Mogen is so graceful, all the time. "Maybe they were just waiting. You *are* a young woman now."

"What?"

"Why else would they watch over you for so many years? I think they were just waiting for you to grow up so they could properly court you." Mogen continues expertly working her quilt, unaware of Elys's baffled face. "I'm jealous! My parents found me a suitor, so I'll be gone soon."

Elys looks down at the quote she's carefully stitching onto her sampler. The letters are uneven, the flowers have too many leaves, and now she's encountered a new problem: will it be done in time? "Oh."

"Don't tell anyone, but I don't think I want to be married."

Oh.

The night is dark. Mogen stumbles through the underbrush, looking for the clearing Elys described earlier that day. Maybe Elys is right and it *is* just a dream, but Mogen has to know, She'll take any chance she can, but

(Continued from page 8)

she can *not* be married. Not to him.

Her suitor's hands are too rough, his face too hard, and he is *much* too old. More than that, he plans to leave for the west before the start of the next season. Mogen must make twelve blankets and stitch a great quilt before then. When she finishes the quilts, she will be married. She's nearly done with her last one, and has been for a while. When no one is looking, she's been taking the stitches out to slow her work. Now, though, she's sure someone has caught on.

The clearing is just ahead, and Mogen approaches. As she gets closer she sees the clearing is surrounded by ancient, flat stones in the ground. Within the circle they've created, only grass grows. Mogen doesn't see any people like Elys described. Maybe it really *was* just a dream?

She needs a better look. Maybe the shapes at the far edge of the ring are the people from the night before. Mogen steps into the ring of stones.

Mogen isn't at the door the next day, when Elys comes calling. Her mom answers instead, asking if Elys has seen her because *she* hasn't and she'd really like to question her on the status of her quilts.

Elys doesn't know. No one in the village knows, either. Elys knew Mogen was not happy about marriage, but she wouldn't just run off! At the very least, not without sharing her decision with Elys.

But it seems she has simply *vanished*.

She falls asleep that night with an uneasy feeling deep inside, anxious of a life without Mogen come sooner than planned. Her dreams are, predictably, the same as they've been.

There is one difference this time: in addition to the usual creatures populating her dreams, there is Mogen.

She doesn't seem bound, or imprisoned. She looks like she won an argument. Elys can't help but feel relief at seeing Mogen's smug look, painfully out of place in this dark clearing.

The royal one notices where Elys's eyes have fallen and shifts Mogen out of view slightly.

"Elys," it calls out, using the name that she gave, "Would you like her back?"

Frozen, like before, she can only nod. She would like her back very much.

The royal smiles widely, with too many teeth to be friendly. "How about a trade? We like you, Elys. We don't like this one as much. Why don't you stay here with us - forever - and she can go home."

Elys agrees easily. Her parents are just biding their time until they can send her off, anyway, so what's the difference? Surely there will be a bed and warm fire here and, better still, her friend will be free.

Two of the others act as guards and march Mogen to the outside of the ring, where Elys still stands. Mogen pulls against them, fighting and dragging her feet, as she shouts, "Stop! Wait!" She is ignored as the guards keep walking forward.

"What's wrong?" Elys calls out, brain still foggy and dreamlike. She feels thoroughly unsure if this is still a dream, or reality. "You were right. They were courting me."

"Yes," she agrees, "But I can't leave! I can't go back to that life! Please, I can't be married off and leave you behind."

Elys is taken aback, but that makes sense. Mogen hadn't run off just to prove her wrong, she'd run off to *run away*. She'd found what she wanted.

"Wait!" Elys calls out. The guards stop and the royal looks at her. "What if she stays?"

"We like *you*," they say at once.

"Yes, and you will have me, but her as well. I won't stay if she can't."

There is a brief pause where even the forest itself is silent. Then, the guards let go of Mogen.

They rush to each other and embrace. The royal signals them to follow and they do, traveling deeper and deeper into the forest, safe in the company of each other.