This is an exciting time in the library, since we’re finally starting to open up for more programs inside the library and outside on library grounds, instead of just virtual programs. We’re happy to see people showing up again, and we’re still working hard to give you a safe and fun experience here. You can look through this newsletter to find more information on this month’s events, as well as the “Tails & Tales” Summer Reading Program which runs until Sat., August 14 and is open to all ages. We’ve posted a Summer Reading Program survey for everyone taking part in the program. Please let us know what you think so that we can make future programs the way you want them to be.

As of last month, we opened up to full hours, so you can stop by any time Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. or Friday - Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. During that time, you can browse our shelves, check out items, and use our public computers. You can use our indoor drop box to return items during our open hours, but we have two large yellow bins in the parking lot where you can return items at any time.

During our open hours, we’re also accepting donations from our summer wishlist. We currently need disinfecting wipes, disposable masks, hand sanitizer, copier paper (white or colored 8.5”x11”), resealable plastic bags (any size, especially qt., 1 gal., 2 gal., & snack-sized), stand-up sign holders (clear 8.5”x11”), cases of 8-oz. bottled waters, and gift cards (any store, especially Walmart, Giant, & Redner’s).

We are not taking book donations until after Labor Day, due to a lack of storage space. Some of that should open up following this month's Book Sale (see pg. 2) and the following cleanup. We’ll be closed on Mon., September 6 for the holiday, but after that, you can bring in up to three bags or boxes of new or gently-used books and other media, with some exceptions. (We still can’t take magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias, or VHS tapes.)

Thanks to all of our great patrons for helping make this an awesome library!

Adult Book Talks

On Wed., August 4 & 18 at 11 a.m., we’ll discuss the books that we’ve been reading. On the 18th, we’ll talk about everything we read this summer, especially books relating to our “Tails & Tales” Summer Reading Program and optional reading challenge. We’d love for you to come whether or not you’re part of the Summer Reading Program. We’ll start a regular monthly book talk for adults in September, so watch this newsletter and our website (www.whitehallpl.org) for updates on that!
Summer Reading Program

The 2021 Summer Reading Program theme is “Tails and Tales”, and it’ll feature all kinds of animals with tails! The program will run from Monday, June 7 at 9 a.m. through Saturday, August 14 at 1 p.m. This year, both adults and kids can choose whether to register and log books online or on a paper log. Please do one or the other, not both. If you want to record your books online, you can find the link on the Reading Programs page of our website (www.whitehallpl.org), under Programs & Events. When you log books online, we get those records automatically. If you log them by paper, you'll need to bring them into the library. (Adults also have an optional reading challenge on the paper logs.) You can pick up a paper log from the front desk or print one out from our website.

Block Party

Stop by the library for food, games, and more outdoor fun on Sat., August 21, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (There’s no rain date.) This party is to wrap up the season, as well as our Summer Reading Program. This will be the library’s 6th block party, and lots of staff and patrons love this chance to hang out. What a great way to end the summer!

Creation Station

This program, geared towards early elementary students, will take place on Thurs., August 5 at 1:30 p.m. It gives kids a hands-on way to stretch their imaginations.

Quilt Raffle

We’re holding a raffle for the handmade (41x41") kids' quilt pictured below. It'll be near our front desk during the raffle period, so come and check it out! This will be the last raffle for the quilts that were donated to the library, so this will be your last chance for the foreseeable future to win one.

You can buy tickets from Mon., August 2 to Fri., August 20. We'll draw a ticket at closing on Friday at 4 p.m., and the winner will have one week to pick up the quilt.

You can buy one raffle ticket for $2. If you buy five tickets, you'll get one free (which means six tickets for $10).

Book Sale

Come in for a book sale in our community room On Fri., August 27 and Sat., August 28 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Hardback books will be $1, and paperbacks are $.50 each. You can fill up a whole bag full of books for $5. We can give you a bag, or you can bring your own. Other items will be priced as marked.
Super Science & Amazing Art

On Thurs., August 19, come help Crazy Cathy of Super Science & Amazing Art tell a scientific tale! Watch as we launch some tails into the sky. There will be an indoor and outdoor part of this program, weather permitting, and it’s part of our ongoing “Tails & Tales” Summer Reading Program. It’s fun for your whole brain!

Book Nook: American Adventure Month

Now that tourist destinations are starting to open up, and before school begins, this is good time to plan a vacation. The ability to visit other countries changes almost daily but there are so many wonderful things to see and do in the United States. Why not see America first?

Do you know what Whitehall Township has to offer? Let’s start with the 30 parks and recreation sites that provide playgrounds, ball fields, pools, sports courts, disc golf, and fishing. If you like hiking, you can choose between the Whitehall Parkway, the Ironton Rail Trail, the Jordan Creek Parkway, and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Speaking of heritage, did you know that the Helfrich Springs Grist Mill and the Peter Grim Homestead that is across the street are sometimes open to the public? Call 610-776-7280 for hours. The Troxell-Steckel House and Farm Museum is also open sometimes (call 610-435-9601). All three buildings are on the National Register of Historical Sites. All this in our own town! Just imagine what our neighboring towns have to offer. Please do see the Coplay cement kilns in Saylor Park before they erode away. Lehigh County no longer has funds for their preservation. When was the last time you went to a zoo? The Lehigh Valley Zoo not only has a wonderful variety of animals, but you can book a personal event there, too, like a wedding! You can also drive or hike through the surrounding Trexler Game Preserve and see American bison (buffalo) and elk.

We are very lucky to live in a state that has a rich history and such a variety of scenic beauty, even within a day trip. You will find tour books for Pennsylvania starting in our nonfiction collection beginning with Dewy number 917.48.

If you want to expand your adventures, tour books for the United States start with the Dewy number 917, and don’t forget to look in our Oversize books, too. Just a word of advice: after you choose a place to visit, CALL before you leave, because many places now have limited entrance and timed tickets. Many places are having staffing problems so hours may be different than advertised on their websites.

My two favorite places to visit outside of the Lehigh Valley are Bushkill Falls in the Poconos and Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ (outside Trenton). Both are privately owned, require lots of walking, and charge entrance fees. There are 8 waterfalls in Bushkill Falls lined with trails and wooden bridges. Before the falls entrance, there are gift shops, a snack bar, and a small museum accessible without a fee. Other activities available on the grounds for a fee are a maze, a mining sluice, paddle boats, and miniature golf. Grounds For Sculpture has over 100 sculptures, mostly outside, that are both realistic and modern, but all amazing. Look up, look behind bushes, look in the water – surprises are everywhere. That man trimming the hedges isn’t real. Some of the sculptures are life-size Impressionist tableaus like Renoir’s “Luncheon at the Boating Lake” and Manet’s “Lunch on the Grass” that you can insert yourself into for a photo op. Yes, you are allowed to touch and climb on most of the sculptures. Yes, there are places that sell meals, snacks, and souvenirs. Where ever you go for adventure this month, remember to have fun!

~ Chris Andrews
Database Spotlight: AtoZ World Culture

Curious about the world? AtoZ World Culture has you covered. This is the newest database added to our collection and is part of the AtoZ collection that includes Food America, Maps Online, the USA, the World, and World Food.

With AtoZ World Culture, information about world history, cultures, languages, foods, religions, and much more is just a click away. With 174 Country Culture Guides covering more than 60 topics each, this database offers a breadth and depth of content that is unmatched by any other single resource. What will you learn today?

You can access this and all of our other databases by going to the Research & Learn page of our website (www.whitehallpl.org) and logging in with your library card number and PIN.

Fun With Tails: Coloring Page

Library staffers Chris Andrews, Andrea Hargrove (editor), and Patty Vahey produced this newsletter.