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**Whitehall Township
Public Library**
3700 Mechanicsville Rd.
Whitehall, PA 18052
610-432-4339
www.whitehallpl.org
@WhitehallTPL

Whitehall Township Public Library **Library Lines**

Happy Halloween! This month, you can look forward to our fall fundraisers, seasonal events, and more.

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Story Times

Registration is required for all Story Times.

Fall Story Time

Fall Story Time Runs from **October 1 – November 21.**

- **Preschool:** (37 Mo. – Kindergarten) Tuesdays, 11 a.m. & Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.
- **Toddler:** (12 – 36 Mo.) Thursdays, 11 a.m.

Storytime Yoga

This fun yoga and story is led by Larissa Noto from The Lovely Little Lotus.

- **Youth:** (Ages 6-10) Mon., **October 7**, 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **Tots:** (Ages 2-5) Thurs., **October 17**, 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Zoellner Arts Story Time: Rumpelstiltskin

The Zoellner Arts Center will hold a theater story time for toddlers – 1st grade on Tues., **October 15** at 11 a.m., and they'll present the story of Rumpelstiltskin.



Fundraisers

Boscov's Passes

Boscov's is holding its annual Friends Helping Friends Sale on Tues., **October 22.** You can buy a pass for \$5.00 at our front desk and then bring it to Boscov's on the 22nd for 25% off your purchases.

Fall Basket Raffle

- **Donations:** We'll accept gift cards or new items through October 19.
- **Presale:** A card of 15 tickets is \$5. During the ticket presale only (September 30 - October 24), buy 4 cards of tickets and get 1 free.
- **Raffle:** The raffle runs from Fri., October 25 - Sat., November 2. During that time, you can come in during our open hours to buy tickets (at \$5 per card), browse our baskets, and drop your tickets. Find a wide range of items from gift certificates to filled baskets and a 50/50!



Whitehall Township



Public Library



The last day for this year's **Plant a Row** collection will be on October 7, through 4 p.m. We've been taking a collection on Mondays throughout the summer. If you have some extra produce from your garden or from the store, you can donate it to local families in need.



Creation Station: Paper Marbling

Kids in 3rd - 6th grade can enjoy STEAM projects once a month. On Wed., **October 16** at 6 p.m., find out how art and science can do wonderful things with paper marbling. Registration is required.

Medicare Basics

Medicare Basics is an informative educational program designed to help individuals, especially seniors and their caregivers, navigate the complexities of the Medicare system. On Sat., **October 19** at 11 a.m., Kathy Baker, AARP/United Healthcare, will present Medicare and supplemental insurance information, with printed handouts. Registration is requested.

Death Café

Join us for snacks as we discuss death. A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session. No registration is required. This group will meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:30. This month, we're meeting on **October 21**.

Regular Events

- **Adult Coloring Club:**
 - * Tues., October 1, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. & Thurs., October 3 & 17, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 - * We have some supplies, or you can bring your own.
- **Adult Book Talks:**
 - * Thurs., October 3, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
 - * Talk about your recent reads.
- **Board of Trustees Meeting:**
 - * Thurs., October 10, 6:30 p.m.
 - * Members of the public are welcome to attend.
- **Teen Advisory Board Meeting:**
 - * Sat., October 12, 1:30 p.m.
 - * TAB puts together different library activities, and it's always looking for new teen members!
- **A Good Yarn:**
 - * Tues., October 15, 6 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
 - * Those who knit, crochet, and more are welcome!



Spooky Season

It's Electric!

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Gallis back for this weird science event on Wed., **October 2** at 6 p.m. This dynamic science demonstration show features a series of thrilling electrostatic activities that will spark your curiosity and light up your imagination. Witness the power of the Van de Graaff generator as it creates hair-raising static electricity, and marvel at the mesmerizing glow of the plasma globe as it dances with colorful electric currents. Join us for an electrifying experience that will leave you charged up and eager to learn more about the **wonders of electricity!** This program is for Grades 3-7. Registration is required.



Moonlit Mayhem

Are you ready to immerse yourself in this spooky season? On Tues., **October 22** at 6 p.m., we'll play a game of **Ultimate Werewolf**, where you can hunt for the monster in your midst. It might even be you! This game is quick to learn and a howl to play. Teens (Grades 9+) & Adults are welcome, and registration is required.

Movie Night: *Halloweentown*

Our free monthly movie night is usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month. This month, we'll watch *Halloweentown* on Wed., **October 23** at 6 p.m. When a young girl living with her secret witch mother learns she too is a witch, she must help her witch grandmother save Halloweentown from evil forces.



Lehigh Valley Haunts

It's the perfect time of year to hear some **spooky tales** about some local haunts! Local dark side storyteller Ellen Flynn will join us again to tell us some local tales on Thurs., **October 24** at 6 p.m. Registration is requested.



Hallow-Read

Come in for food, games, and crafts run by our Teen Advisory Board! They'll have plenty of fun for our younger patrons on Sat., **October 26** from Noon - 2 p.m. Costumes are encouraged!

Hessian Prisoners in Pennsylvania

Learn how the Continental Army dealt with enemy prisoners captured in battle. Eyewitness accounts highlight some of the experiences of German and British prisoners of war during the American Revolution in the Pennsylvania region. Mike Jesberger returns to present this program on Tues., **October 29** at 6:30 p.m. Registration is requested.

Book Nook:Witches

Some symbols are linked to certain holidays. A broom-riding witch is one that evokes Halloween. The word "witch" derives from the Old English word "wicca." Wicca is an ancient nature-based "white magic" religion that had a popular revival in the 1950s in Britain that continues to this day. "Witch" is genderless, although most are depicted as women. Commonly, warlocks are males who practice "black magic."

The earliest mention of witches occurs in the Bible in Exodus 22:18, which says, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live". Then in I Samuel, King Saul consults the witch of Endor. Scholars debate the translation of the root word, but King James approved the word "witch" in 1611, during the height of witch trials in Europe. They started in 1233 when Pope Gregory IX issued a papal bull intent on prosecuting fringe Christian sects, and it was easier to use the word "witch" to get the job done.

When the Black Death struck in 1346 it was attributed to witches. There was a plague resurgence in the late 1500s, and in London in 1665. Over 100,000 witch trials were held with about 50,000 "witches" put to death. Often, these were older widows, already marginalized because women were not allowed to own property, depending on family for their welfare. It's not hard to see how they would be a burden during hard times like a plague. How does an old woman earn her keep? She'll often do housework, maybe sweeping with a broom and wearing a black dress because it's dirty work.

Pointed hats have been worn throughout history but were fashionable for women in the 17th century. However, in the mid-1600s a new Christian denomination, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was established, and female congregants wore black pointed hats. Quaker beliefs included men and women as spiritual equals, and women could be preachers. These ideas were seen as a threat to the Church of England, and soon Quakers were prosecuted as witches. Ergo, the black pointed hat is used as another symbol.

It's a bit harder to explain why witches fly. It seems the use of hallucinogens was not uncommon, especially applied to the skin. They may have been on the broomstick of a woman named Alice Kyteler. She was the first recorded person in Ireland accused of being a witch, and her trial in 1324 included a witness testimony that she was flying on a broomstick.

As for the date, Halloween, a pagan observance, was considered the best time for divination. Many a maid wanted to know who she would marry and waited until Halloween to dabble for the forecast. There you have it: old ladies in pointy hats riding brooms on Halloween. Be warned, though, because witch trials and deaths continue to this day among some people groups.

Our library has lots of books about witches in both the adult and juvenile collections, fiction and nonfiction. The Salem Witch Trials can be found in 974.4, witchcraft books in 133.4. Or go to our catalog and use "witches fiction" in the subject search to find some bewitching reads.

~ Chris Andrews

