



Volume 7, Issue 12
**December
2024**

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

Whitehall Township Public Library **Library Lines**

Happy winter! We hope you have a lot of books ready to get you through the chilly months. As you stock up here, you can keep an eye on our website, Facebook page, or WFMZ's Storm Center for weather-related closings.

Board of Trustees Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

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Director: Susan Bielucke

Otherwise, the library's regular **hours** are Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday - Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The following are holiday and other special hours this winter:

- Fri., **December 13:** Library Closes at 3:30 p.m.
- Tues., **December 24** - Wed., **December 25:** Closed All Day
- Tues., **December 31** - Wed., **January 1:** Closed All Day

Story Times

Family Holiday Story Time

Join us for a story time and craft for kids ages 1-5. Registration is required. These story times will be on three Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., and each week will have a different theme:

- **December 4:** Hanukkah
- **December 11:** Christmas
- **December 18:** Kwanzaa



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Storytime Yoga

This fun yoga and story is led by yoga instructor Larissa Noto from The Lovely Little Lotus. Registration is required for each session. Walk-ins will not be accepted, as space is limited.

- **Youth (Ages 6-10): December 9, 5 - 5:30 p.m.**
- **Tots (Ages 2-5): December 12, 10 - 10:30 a.m.**

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 Mon., **December 16** at 6:30 p.m.



Whitehall Township



Public Library



Winter Humor

Questions:

1. What does a gingerbread man put in his bed?
2. What do you get if you cross a snowman and a shark?
3. Where do penguins put their money?
4. How do you build a snow fort?
5. Where do snowmen love to dance?
6. What's the best part of school during the winter?
7. What's a polar bear's favorite drink?
8. Where do snowmen get the weather report?
9. What did the furry hat say to the scarf?



Answers:

1. Cookie sheets
2. Frostbite
3. Snow banks
4. You igloo it together.
5. A snow ball
6. Snow and tell
7. Iced tea
8. The Winternet
9. "You hang around while I go on a-head."

On the Same Page: 2025

Every other month, we have a book club for ages 18+ called **On the Same Page**. There's no registration, and you don't have to be a patron to attend. However, if you are a patron, you can request a copy of the book, which we can check out to you as availability allows. All of these meetings will be at 6:30 p.m.

Tues., **January 21: *The Thursday Murder Club*** by Richard Osman

- In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved crimes. But when a brutal killing takes place on their doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case. They're pushing eighty, but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

Thurs., **March 20: *A Long Petal of the Sea*** by Isabel Allende

- In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. Hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires. Together, they face trial after trial, but they also find joy as they await the day when they will be exiles no more.

Thurs., **May 15: *Remarkably Bright Creatures*** by Shelby Van Oekt

- Widowed Tova Sullivan works at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, keeping busy to help her cope, which she's been doing since her son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound. At the aquarium, Tova befriends the curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus who deduces what happened the night Erik disappeared. Now, he must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.



Thurs., **July 17: *Beach Read*** by Emily Henry

- Augustus Everett is an acclaimed author of literary fiction. January Andrews writes bestselling romance. For three months, these opposites live in neighboring beach houses, bogged down with writer's block, and they strike a deal to force them out of their creative ruts: Augustus will write something happy, and January will pen the next Great American Novel. They'll go on field trips to help both novels along. Both will finish a book, and no one will fall in love. Really.

Thurs., **September 18: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*** by Betty Smith

- This coming-of-age story tells the tale of the young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan. She and her eccentric family make their home in the slums of Williamsburg, where they're often scorned by their neighbors. By turns overwhelming, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and threaded with family connectedness.

Thurs., **November 20: *Dead Wake*** by Erik Larson

- This narrative nonfiction book looks at the sinking of *Lusitania* during World War I and the events surrounding the sinking. This thrilling story, switching between hunter and hunted, paints a vivid portrait of America at the height of the Progressive Era.

Regular Events

Adult Coloring Club:

- Tues., December 3, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. & Thurs., December 5 & 19, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- We have some supplies, or you can bring your own.

Adult Book Talks:

- Thurs., December 5, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Talk about whatever you're reading now or recently finished.

Board of Trustees Meeting:

- Thurs., December 10, 6:30 p.m.
- Our Board of Trustees meets monthly, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting:

- Sat., December 14, 1:30 p.m.
- TAB puts together different library activities, and it's always looking for new teen members!

A Good Yarn:

- Tues., December 17, 6:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
- Those who knit, crochet, and more are welcome!



Book Nook: December

Why does this twelfth month of the year contain “decem” the Latin word for “ten”? The first Roman calendar only contained 10 months, and was probably created in the early 700s B.C. This calendar was attributed to Romulus, the mythic founder and first king of Rome. March (Martius), named for the war god Mars, was considered the first month. This was followed by Aprilis, Maius, and Iunius – also named after figures from their religion. Then the months were named by numbers: Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, December. The Roman calendar was adjusted several times, adding two months, renaming some, and adding days. King Pompilius probably either instituted or named the first two months around 713 BC. Quintilis was renamed July in 44 B.C. (after Julius Caesar), and Sextilis became August in 8 B.C. (after Augustus Caesar). The Roman Empire was vast, and their calendar became standardized throughout their territory.



The Viking calendar also had twelve months and was based on lunar cycles. Mid-November to mid-December was Ýlir, a variant name for Odin. This may be the origin of the word “yule” which, in turn, may be the origin of the word “jolly”. Mid-December to mid-January was Mörsugur or bone marrow sucking month.

The winter solstice occurs around December 21 and is the shortest day of the year. Many cultures celebrate this astronomical event. The ancient Romans observed Saturnalia, a week-long end-of-harvest celebration, with carnivals, feasting, gift-giving, gambling, and role reversals. The Norse were concerned about evil spirits lurking on this long dark night, so bonfires (yule logs) were tended overnight. When Christianity became popular, the Norse people incorporated elements of St. Lucia’s Day into their celebration, with girls wearing wreaths of candles on their heads. Dong Zhi is another end-of-harvest celebration of feasting in China and other central Asian countries. Perhaps the most observed of all is Christmas, which took on aspects of Norse, Germanic, and other traditions. All these observances share being with family and friends for feasting and fun, and the anticipation of days with more light. Happy holidays!

~ Chris Andrews

Adult Winter Reading

Keep an eye out for our Adult Winter Reading Program. It will run from January 2 - March 31. During that time, you can pick up one of our reading program bookmarks, complete the challenges, and return it for a small prize.

Beyond Books

Are you looking for more to do this winter season? The library has more than just books and media for you to check out!

Museum Passes

You can check out a number of museum and other passes at the library! You can have one pass out per family, for one week with no renewals. Most of our museum passes are for indoor places, so you can have some family fun while staying out of the cold!

Birding Backpacks

On the other hand, if you don't mind the cold, you can take one of our birding backpacks to your backyard or a local park. Armed with binoculars, maps, and a birding guide, you can see what wildlife is visible this season. Now that there's less foliage to hide in, this is the best time to see some of our local birds.

Mobile Hotspots

While you're traveling for the holidays, you might not always have access to a Wi-Fi network. You can take out one of our hotspots for a week and have it along with you for the trip.



Polar Bear Maze

Help the polar bear find his friends.

