



Volume 8, Issue 12
**December
2025**

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

Whitehall Township Public Library **Library Lines**

Holidays at the Library

Closings

The library is open Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and we're closed on Sunday. We have a couple additional closings for the holidays this year: we'll be **closed all day** on **December 24 - 25** for Christmas and **December 31 - January 1** for the New Year.



Movie Nights

We'll have a series of free movies on the first three Wednesdays of the month at 6 p.m. On **December 3**, we'll watch the first *Home Alone* movie, on **December 10**, it's *The Santa Clause*, and on **December 17**, it's *Last Holiday*.

Story Time

We'll also have a series of story times this month. These will be on the first three Thursdays of the month at 11 a.m. On **December 4**, the theme will be Hanukkah, on **December 11**, it's Christmas, and on **December 18**, it's Kwanzaa. Registration is required for each of them.

Holiday Drives

While we're always collecting for the **Whitehall Food Pantry**, we're doing a special Holiday Drive for the next two months, running from Sat., **November 1** - Tues., **December 30**. (We'll be closed December 31.) During that time, we're looking for nonperishable food and personal care items such as cereal, juice, canned soup, canned fruit, jelly, and coffee.

The library will accept **Toys for Tots** donations from Mon., **November 10** - Mon., **December 16**. Please donate new, unopened toys. Toys for Tots will not distribute any gifts that look like realistic weapons or anything with food. If you wish to donate cash, see their website for more information.

Board of Trustees Fiscal Year 2025-2026:

Kathy Betz, treasurer
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Regular Events

Adult Coloring

Club: Tues.,
December 2, 5:30
p.m. - 7:30 p.m. &
Thurs., December 4
& 18, 11 a.m. - 1
p.m.

Adult Book Talks:

Thurs., December 4,
1 - 2 p.m.

Board of Trustees

Meeting: Thurs.,
December 11, 6:30
p.m.

Teen Advisory

Board Meeting:
Sat., December 6,
1:30 p.m.

Death Café:

Mon.,
December 15, 6:30
p.m.

A Good Yarn:

Tues., December 16,
6 - 7:45 p.m.

Adult Winter Reading Program

From Fri., **January
2** - Tues., **March
31**, 2026, adults can
register and pick up
a winter reading
bookmark.

Complete the
bookmark
and

receive a
small prize.



On the Same Page 2026

Our On the Same Page book club is for patrons aged 18 and up. We hold it every other month on a Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. These are the titles we'll be reading in 2026:

- **January 15: *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom:** This novel moves from a coastal Greek city during the Holocaust to America, where the intertwined lives of three survivors are forever changed by the perils of deception and the grace of redemption. *(Fiction, Historical, WWII)*
- **March 19: *The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* by Sangu Mandanna:** In this warm and uplifting novel, an isolated witch embraces a quirky new family and a new love, changing the course of her life. *(Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Cozy)*
- **May 21: *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom* by Ilyon Woo:** This is the remarkable true story of Ellen and William Craft, who escaped slavery through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as "his" slave. *(Nonfiction, Biography, Historical)*
- **July 16: *Hidden Pictures* by Jason Rekulak:** In this supernatural thriller, a woman works as a nanny for a young boy with strange and disturbing secrets. *(Fiction, Mystery/Thriller, Horror)*
- **September 17: *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei:** This graphic memoir recounts the childhood of actor/activist George Takei, imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. *(Nonfiction, Graphic Novel, Biography, Banned Book, WWII)*
- **November 19: *Long Bright River* by Liz Moore:** Two sisters travel the same Philadelphia streets, though their lives couldn't be more different. Then, one of them goes missing. *(Fiction, Mystery/Thriller, PA Location)*



Inclement Weather Closings

Decisions about closing the library for inclement weather do not necessarily follow the Whitehall-Coplay School District's direction. Library closings will be published on social media and on WFMZ-TV (Channel 69) and their online Storm Center.



If the library is closed or closes early due to any emergency situation, then materials due when the library is closed will be due the next day that we're open.

Saturday Story Time

Kids age 3 - 7 can join us for story time on Sat., **December 6** at 11 a.m. No registration is required.

New Museum Pass: Michener Art Museum

We have a number of museum passes that you can check out for a week (one pass per family, with a \$10 per day overdue fee). You can now check out a pass for the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown. It collects and primarily American art, promoting Pennsylvania in general and the Delaware River Valley region in particular. The pass admits two adults and their children.



Book Nook: Reindeer

Reindeer and caribou are the same species, *Rangifer Tarandus* or *R.T.* The word "reindeer" refers to the ones from Eurasia that are domesticated, while "caribou" are the wild ones from North America. They are found in the northern regions of North America, Europe, and Russia, making them circumpolar. Russia has the largest herds of reindeer, approximately 2 million. Numbers in Canada and the United States dwindled, mostly due to loss of habitat as human populations grew. Reindeer are only herded in Alaska now. In Canada, they are listed as a threatened species.



Reindeer are divided into 8 subspecies, mostly determined by location. Their migration habits, the coat color, antler shape, and size vary by subspecies. Their adult size, measured to their shoulder, varies from 3 - 5 ft. Cows weigh 180-260 lbs., while bulls are 300-450 lbs. Both grow antlers, but the males lose theirs after mating season from late September to early November. This means that Santa's reindeer, depicted with antlers at the end of December, are females.

Santa's reindeer are a special subspecies, *R.T. Saintnicolas Magicalus*. Their antlers have a more aerodynamic structure. Their fur traps more air between the shafts, making them lighter. As ruminants, these reindeer are trap and seal off lighter-than-air gases in their four stomach chambers, enabled by a magical feed.

The first reference connecting Santa with reindeer is found in an anonymous 1821 poem, "Old Santeclaus with Much Delight". An anonymous poem from 1823, "A Visit from St. Nicholas", also mentions Santa and reindeer. Clement Clarke Moore claimed authorship of this poem in 1837. Cartoonist Thomas Nast is credited with identifying the North Pole as Santa's home in 1860.

In 1939, the mail-order company Montgomery Ward opened a department store and asked employee Robert May to write a story for children visiting the Chicago store during the Christmas season. Because his daughter loved the deer at Lincoln Park Zoo, May decided his main character would be a reindeer. "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer", which used the same rhyming meter as Moore's poem was handed out to 2.4 million people that first year. It went into mass-market publication in 1947, and two sequels followed. May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, turned it into a song in 1949, but paraphrased a line from Moore's poem naming the reindeer as a sort of introduction. Gene Autry recorded the song in September 1949. It hit the #1 spot by Christmas and was the #1 song for the start of the 1950s. It's risen and fallen on the charts during each Christmas season since then.

Who would have thought a poem would be the source of the iconic Santa's reindeer? Our library has many children's books about Christmas reindeer. Just wander through the children's section and help yourself to the books on display.

~ Chris Andrews

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

According to research findings, the more children ages 1 - 5 hear books read to them, the more prepared they are to learn to read when they reach kindergarten.

Register at the WTPL circulation desk and pick up your first reading log. Track what you read to your child in the reading log. Every 100 books, bring your log into the library so your child can get the first reading reward and the next log. Once you reach 1,000 books, your child will get a certificate and a prize.



Christmas Coloring

