Library Lines

Volume 9, Issue 10
October 2026

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

Library Hours

- **Monday - Thursday:** 9 am - 8 pm
- **Friday - Saturday:** 9 am - 4 pm
- **Sunday:** Closed

Board of Trustees

- Dhara Dekhtawala, treasurer
- Tom Ernst
- Ed Hozza
- Jacqueline Musselman
- Melissa Sassaman, secretary
- Joan Shafer, president
- Hope Stakes, vice president

Director: Susan Bielucke
Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Library Changes



The library is open to the public! We will have some limited services as construction winds down. During this **renovation**, we're getting updates to our circulation desk, front doors, windows, and bathrooms, and we hope you'll enjoy the end result.

We have a new **online catalog** called Aspen, so if you have any links saved to our catalog or your library account, you'll need to update those. You can find links to both from our website, and you can also download the Aspen app, which is called SPARK Discovery.

Basket Raffle

Our **Basket Raffle** runs from **Fri., October 30 - Sat., November 7**. Find a wide range of items from gift certificates to filled baskets and a 50/50! Come in during our open hours to buy tickets, browse our baskets, and drop your tickets. You can get 1 card of 15 raffle tickets for $5. If you'd like to enter the 50/50 drawing, you can buy 1 ticket for $2 or 3 tickets for $5.



You can **pick up prizes** during our open hours from **November 9 - 15**.

During the **Basket Raffle Presale** only (**September 28 - October 29**), you can get 5 cards of 15 raffle tickets for $20. We close at 4 p.m. on October 22, but we will otherwise have regular hours.

Spooky Season

The library will **close at 4 p.m. on Thurs., October 22** for the Whitehall Fall Parade.

Regular Events

Adult Coloring Club: 10/1 & 10/15, 11 a.m.

Adult Book Talks: 10/1, 1 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting: 10/8, 6:30 p.m.

Teen Advisory Board: 10/10, 1 p.m.

Death Café: 10/19, 6:30 p.m.

A Good Yarn: 10/20, 6 p.m.

Creation Station (Gr. 3 - 6): 10/21, 6 p.m.

Movie Night: 10/28, 6 p.m.

Cryptids & Creatures in Folklore



Join us for an intriguing journey into the world of cryptids and folklore! We'll explore legendary creatures and mysterious beings from cultures around the world, including Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, and many lesser-known creatures. This presentation was rescheduled to Mon., **October 26** at 6 p.m.

Adult Cryptid Craft



Would you like to have some cryptids lurking around your house? Adults can enjoy some creepy cryptid crafts as part of the Halloween season. We'll meet on Tues., **October 27**, at 6 p.m.and registration is required.

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 Tues., **October 20** at 6:30 p.m.

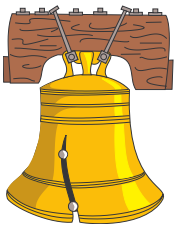
Hallow-Read

Kids can come on Sat., **October 31** from Noon - 2 p.m. for food, games, and crafts run by our Teen Advisory Board. Costumes are encouraged! There's no registration required.



More October Events

Journey of the Liberty Bell



From September 1777 to June 1778, Allentown was home to the Liberty Bell. Patriots took the bell from Philadelphia for safekeeping when the city fell into British hands, and it made its way to Zion's Reformed Church, where the church hid it beneath the basement floorboards. On **October 1** at 6 p.m., the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum will tell us all about this journey as part of the country's 250th anniversary.

Story Times



Registration is required for all story times.

- **Fall Story Time (September 28 - November 19):**
  - ***Preschool Story Time*** (Ages 37 months - 5 years): Tuesdays at 11 a.m. & Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.
  - ***Toddler Story Time*** (Ages 12 - 36 months): Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- **Storytime Yoga:**
  - ***Youth*** (Age 6 – 10): Mon., October 5, 4:30 p.m.
  - ***Tots*** (Age 2 – 5): Mon., October 26, 10:00 a.m.

Chair Yoga



This wellness class combines gentle chair-based stretching and breathwork. The class is on **October 7** at 10:30 a.m., and registration is required.

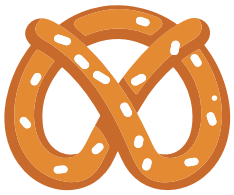
Medicare Enrollment Assistance

Get free, personalized help with enrollment or other questions that you might have. Appointments are on Thursdays at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m., & 4:00 p.m. They must be scheduled in advance at 610-423-4339 x201.

Tummy Time Class



This class is hosted by a pediatric physical therapist on **October 21** at 9 a.m., and registration is required. Learn about the importance of tummy time, different positions and methods, and tips for improving engagement to help support your baby's motor development. This class is suitable for newborns through pre-crawling age, but older siblings are welcome! Please bring a blanket and some of your baby's favorite toys.



Book Nook: National Pretzel Month

It is often very hard to find the history of food origins, but many sources keep repeating the same story when it comes to pretzels. There was a monk in northern Italy or southern France around 610 A.D. who is credited with inventing soft pretzels as little rewards or “pretiola” for his students. The design is thought to represent a person crossing themselves in prayer (with hands on opposite shoulders) and the three openings representing the Trinity. The treat moved through Switzerland, Austria, and was fully embraced by Germany, where it was called “brezel” or “brezitella” derived from the Latin word “brachiatus”, which means having arms like branches. It is important to note that since pretzels are made from flour and water, they are allowed to be eaten during periods of religious fasting such as the Christian Lent, which added to its popularity. By the Middle Ages, pretzel bakers had their own guild, and pretzels were included in many traditions and festivals. They were considered symbols of good luck and love. Monks would hand out pretzels to feed the homeless. Pretzels were used in Swiss weddings as the new couple would break it apart, much like a wishbone, during the ceremony. Germany displays pretzels for good luck around the New Year. Pretzels are credited for saving the walled city of Vienna in 1519 when pretzel bakers in an underground bakery heard digging noises and discovered Ottoman Empire soldiers trying to take the city by tunneling under the walls.

German and Swiss immigrants brought their traditions, including pretzels, to the New World, and Pennsylvania was where many pretzel bakeries were located. Up to this time, pretzels were soft. Julius Sturgis of Lititz had a pretzel factory in 1850 and is credited with making the first hard pretzels. There are two origin stories. The first is that Julius provided a meal to a traveling stranger and was given the recipe in return. The other is that a batch of pretzels was accidentally baked a second time. In either case, the hard pretzels had more shelf life than the soft pretzels. Sturgis converted his bakery to making hard pretzels in 1861 and was able to ship the product outside the area, thereby increasing its popularity and demand. The Reading Pretzel Machinery Company manufactured the first automated machine. A good pretzel twister can produce about 20 pretzels per minute by hand; the machine did 240. The United States is the largest producer of pretzels in the world, with Pennsylvania’s 45 companies supplying 80% of that total, earning the moniker “The Pretzel Belt”.

Pretzels come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and uses, stuffed and unstuffed. The recipe is easy and can be found in many breadmaking cookbooks (Dewey 641.815). Enjoy a taste of history the next time you have a pretzel.

~ Chris Andrews