



Yoga Fundraiser Raises \$2,095!

We are thrilled to announce the tremendous success of our recent Yoga Nidra Fundraiser, where community members gathered to unwind and give back. It was on March 8 and led by our dedicated instructor Matthew Mitlas. The Yoga Nidra session attracted a wonderful turnout of supporters eager to contribute to a meaningful cause. Through their generous participation and donations, we are proud to announce that we raised a total of \$2,095.00. The event not only provided participants with a rejuvenating experience but also contributed significantly to the Main Library renovations. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Matthew and everyone who attended, donated, and supported this event. Your contributions make a real difference.



Main Library Renovation Update

Now that spring has sprung, it is time to begin the library's renovation. The library is planning a critical renovation to modernize its facilities, improve accessibility, and expand community services. We will start by replacing all the library's old clay sewage pipes with larger PVC pipes. Then we will repave the parking lot. In addition, the library plans to re-paint, re-carpet, and add furniture that is more comfortable. We hope to start the interior renovations this fall or in the spring of next year.

The total construction cost is projected to be \$1,437,501. The library already has \$1,158,148 from a RACP Grant reimbursement, ERTC funds and fundraising. The library also applied for a \$100,000 Erb Charitable Fund Grant. If WVPL is awarded that grant, the library will only need to continue fundraising \$179,353 to complete the project. The \$100,000 grant would go towards the creation of the multi-purpose room, 2 conference rooms and 2 study rooms.

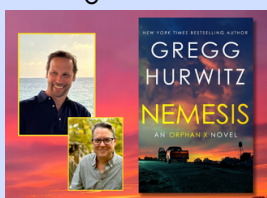
Modernizing the library will enhance accessibility, expand technological capabilities, and create a dynamic, inclusive space for learning, collaboration, and community engagement. By investing in renovations now, WVPL can better meet evolving needs, foster digital equity, and strengthen its role as a vital community hub. This transformation will ensure equitable access to resources, support growing demand, and provide a welcoming space where people can connect and thrive.

Celebrating Literature: Author Events with Pam Jenoff & Gregg Hurwitz

We had two incredible author events bringing together book lovers for engaging discussions with renowned writers.

On February 18, bestselling author Pam Jenoff captivated the audience with insights into her latest release. She shared her research process, the real-life inspirations behind her stories, and answered thoughtful questions from attendees.

Following this, On February 22, thriller fans were in for a treat with Gregg Hurwitz, the mastermind behind the Orphan X series. His discussion was filled with gripping stories about his writing journey, character development, and the intense action that defines his bestselling books. Both events were a fantastic celebration of literature, storytelling, and community. Thank you Ambler Theater and Upper Dublin Library for collaborating with WVPL.



Read Across America

Read Across America week was March 2-8. What better place than the library to celebrate the joy of reading and promote the importance of literacy? We did just that, at both branches, with the help of Wissahickon School District Board President Amy Ginsburg and school board member, Zeffy Karagiannakis who were our guest readers. After listening to a story, children made a craft and enjoyed play time.



Please help support our efforts to make a better library for the community. An envelope is enclosed, or if you want to donate online, please go to wvpl.org and click on "Donate". If you have suggestions for the library renovation, simply email the director at afrank@wvpl.org

Dash Robots Adventure

Children, ages 6-10, are having a blast with the *Dash* robot on the last Wednesday of each month at Blue Bell library where they learn coding skills and problem solving. *Dash* has sensors that allow it to interact with its surroundings, respond to voice commands, navigate routes, flash lights, and even play a xylophone. It offers beginner-friendly drag-and drop coding as well as advanced JavaScript programming.



Summer Reading For Children June 16th -August 16th

Summer 2025 is packed full of fun educational events and activities happening each week at both the Main Library and Ambler Branch. We are looking forward to Stories in the Park, Adventure of the Missing Color, Ryan the Bug Man, Amazing Reptiles, Turtle Dance Music, Music with Miss Michelle, Optical Illusion Workshop, and so much more...! There is something for everyone at no cost to anyone. Stay up-to-date on registering for these events by visiting the calendar on wvpl.org. In addition to library programming, you can keep track of your summer reading by logging your books on paper or in the Beanstack app, beginning in June. Everyone who participates will receive a prize. Don't miss out!



The Blue Bell Library has a new way for patrons to unwind and connect, our recently introduced Puzzle Table and Puzzle Swap!

The puzzle table, located near Computer #1 in the library, invites visitors to stop by and work on a communal jigsaw puzzle at their own pace. Whether you add a few pieces or stay to complete a whole section, it's a relaxing and rewarding way to spend time.

For those who prefer to take a puzzle home, our puzzle swap offers an ever-changing selection of puzzles to borrow and exchange. Simply bring in a puzzle you've completed and trade it for a new one—no checkout required!

We're delighted to see so many patrons enjoying this new addition. If you haven't joined in the fun yet, stop by the Main library, find a puzzle that piques your interest, and get started!

Wild Life Education with the Raptory

It was a snowy day but lots of folks still came out for the wildlife education talk given by Jade Chen of the Raptory, on the afternoon of Saturday, February 15 at the Ambler Branch. The children loved seeing the wildlife up close: a falcon named Pound Cake, and a screech owl, Charizard, named after a Pokemon character. Everyone left having learned about their habitats, behaviors, and their importance to our ecosystem.



Celebrate National Poetry Month

Join us on April 26 at 1 PM for Where We Belong: Celebrating the Poetry of Home, honoring the winners of the 2025 Wissahickon Area Poetry Contest at the Ambler Branch.

Children's Category

Winner - **Michael Rivera, "Roots of Home"**

Finalist - **Charlotte Choe, "Look Around"**

Teen Category

Winner - **Kyaria Nguyen, "Roads to the Endless Heart"**

Finalist - **Zoe Brownstein, "Connecting Paths"**

Adult Category

Winner - **Caitlin Mattera, "Keep the Home Fires Burning"**

Finalist - **Patricia Niemann, "Home to the Branches"**

Led by Montgomery County Poet Laureate Lisa DeVuono, the contest received over 70 submissions exploring the theme of Home. Winners will be recognized, and guest poets Michelle Reale, Bill Van Buskirk, and Lisa DeVuono will present readings.

Select poems will be displayed in local Ambler storefronts throughout April.

Free and open to all! For details, visit the WVPL website or call 215-646-1072.



National Library Week April 6-12, 2025



Library workers, board members and volunteers celebrated National Library Week with Eric Klinenberg on Friday, April 4, at 7 PM at Upper Dublin Library. He discussed the vital role of libraries in building strong communities. National Library week highlights the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

DONATE

Your continued support matters. You can help renovate the Main Library in Blue Bell. Will you please donate? You can use the enclosed envelope or go to wvpl.org/donate

Volunteer Spotlight:*Sarah Hamill*

We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on Sarah Hamill, a dedicated volunteer at the Blue Bell Library since 2017. Sarah's journey with our library began long before she joined our volunteer team; she has been a patron since 1990, making her a familiar face in our community. Sarah's commitment to service extends beyond our library walls. She generously dedicates her time weekly at Manna on Main Street, a local soup kitchen in Lansdale. Retired from a successful career in financial services marketing, Sarah fills her days with enriching activities, including her passion for reading. Her love for books and her desire to give back to the community shines through in everything she does.

Summer Adult Reading Challenge: Read, Review, and Win!

Summer is the perfect time to dive into a great book. Join our Summer Adult Reading Challenge at the Blue Bell and Ambler Branches from June 16 - August 16. Participation is simple:

- Read a book.
- Write a short book review.
- Drop your review into our prize drawing boxes at either library.

Drawings will be held every other week. Review forms will be available at both libraries—pick one up, start reading, and share your thoughts.

Whether you love mysteries, memoirs, or summer beach reads, we can't wait to hear about your favorite books. Happy reading, and good luck!

Are you looking for

Then join the Blue Bell or the Ambler Branch of the Friends of the Wissahickon Valley Public Library. If you use one library more than the other, then that's the group for you. The Friends make money for the libraries by hosting book sales and other events. To learn more about the Friends, go to wvpl.org and click on Friends on the information menu. The Blue Bell Friends' next big book sale will be held May 2-6 at the Main Library.

How To Donate

Donations are tax deductible

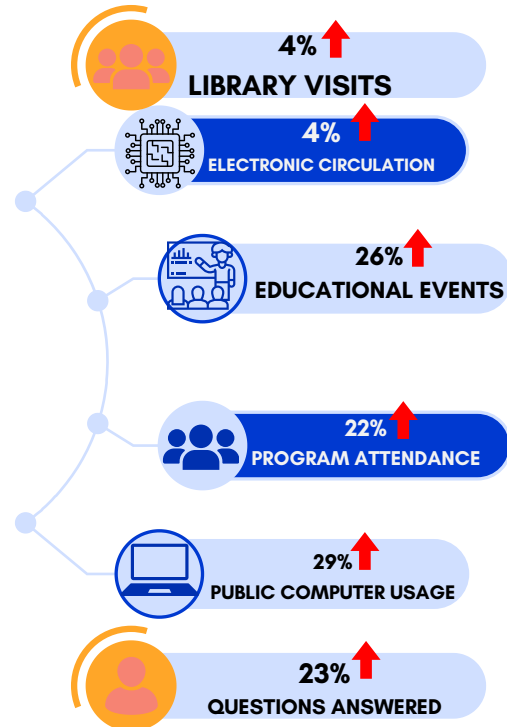
Mail Donation in the enclosed envelope.

Donate Online at wvpl.org, click on **Donate**.

Sign up for Company Matching Donations. The library gets matching donations from General Electric, Exxon Mobil, Merck, Citizens Bank, Johnson & Johnson, Penn Virginia Corporation, Pfizer Foundation, Quaker Chemical Foundation, Vanguard, Oracle, Wells Fargo and GlaxoSmithKline.

Make a Memorial Donation. Honor a relative or a friend.

Donate a portion of your required minimum distribution from your **IRA**.

**2024 By The Numbers****Autism Acceptance Month Reads**

- *The Reason I Jump* by Naoki Higashida (Adult)
- *Unmasking Autism* by Devon Price, PhD (Adult)
- *A Boy Called Bat* by Elana Arnold (Grades 6-10)
- *Rules* by Cynthia Lord (Grades 4-7)
- *Henry, Like Always* by Jenn Bailey (Grades 1-4)
- *A Day With No Words* by Tiffany Hammond (Grades 1-2)
- *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll (Grades 3-7)
- *Good Different* by Meg Eden Kuyatt (Grades 3-7)
- *Flap Your Hands* by Steve Asbell (Grades K-5)
- *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures* by Julia Finley Mosca (PreK and up)

These books celebrate and promote understanding, inclusivity, and acceptance of individuals on the autism spectrum and their experiences.

\$50,000 Anonymous Donation

WVPL was very lucky to be the beneficiary of a large anonymous donation. The donors donated through Pennsylvania's Earned Income Tax Credit Program (EITC). This program allows non-profits organizations to get funding to do great work, while the donors get a tax credit. This donation will allow the library to plan amazing STEAM programs this year at the library and at the Boys and Girls Club. And what is even more amazing is that they plan to donate \$50,000 again next year. We are so grateful for their amazing generosity. We also want to thank Elliott-Lewis for donating \$2,500.



At the heart of the library are people like you! Your support is what fuels the library's mission.

650 Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422



Give the gift of literacy.
Support the library at
www.wvpl.org/donate

Occupant or

For library events and updates



facebook.com/wvplibrary



@wvpl_pa

www.wvpl.org

Ongoing Programs at the Library

Wissahickon Valley Public Library - We're here to serve you!

Blue Bell Branch:

Mondays

Online ESL Group
Yoga
Advanced Tai Chi
Intermediate Tai Chi
Beginning Tai Chi
Chess Club

Tuesdays

Integrate for Good (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)
Blue Bell Baby Wiggles (Under 2 years)
Knitting
Movie Matinee
Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesdays

Book Club (1st Wednesdays)
MC Readers Club (1st Wednesdays)
Lego Club (1st Wednesdays)
The Wednesday Night Social Club

Thursdays

Storytime (Ages 2-4)
Socrates Café (2nd Thursdays)
Thursday Movie Club (1st Thursdays)
NAMI Support Group (4th Thursdays)

Fridays

Story Time (Ages 2-4)
Mahjong Group

Saturdays

Mystery Book Club (3rd Saturdays)

Ambler Branch:

Mondays

Baby Time Storytime
Online ESL Group
Queens of Mystery Book Club (1st Mondays)

Tuesdays

Children Storytime
Photography Club

Wednesdays

ESL Morning Groups

Thursdays

Book Group (2nd Thursdays)
Ambler Kids Chess Club (1st Thursdays)

Fridays

Yarn café
Ambler Artist Group
Programs For Adults With Developmental Disabilities

- Art (1st Fridays)
- Bingo (3rd Fridays)
- Social (4th Friday)

Saturdays

Reading to the Dogs (3rd Saturday)



Main Library

650 Skippack Pike
Blue Bell, PA 19422
wvpl.org
215-643-1320



Ambler Branch

209 Race Street
Ambler, PA 19002
wvpl.org
215-646-1072



Current Hours:

Mon-Thurs 10-8 PM
Fri & Sat 1-5 PM
Sundays 1-4 PM at BB
(Sept-May)



Support the Blue Bell Renovation.

Please donate!
wvpl.org/donate

SPECIAL EVENTS:

May 6, 6:30pm : **Music for May and Forever** AMB
May 8, 2:00pm : **A Walking Tour of the Cotswolds and Cornwall** BB
May 14, 6:30pm : **History of Mystery and Magic** AMB
May 15, 6:00pm : **Who is Adrienne de La Fayette?** BB
May 20, 6:00pm : **Special needs Financial Planning** Zoom program