

# The Library Scoop

*Free Library of Northampton Township ~ Adult Programs & Interests!*



## **The Bucks/Broadway Connection**

**A Lecture in Song with Fred Miller**

**Saturday, April 13, 1:00 pm**

Fred Miller returns to the library for another fun, entertaining & informative presentation. This time, the focus is on our home turf! The Bucks/Broadway Connection celebrates the Golden Age of American song and our region's direct involvement and contribution to a remarkable era of entertainment!

The Bucks/Broadway Connection was originally commissioned by the Bucks County Historical Society as a program focusing on famous Bucks County residents known for their work on Broadway and in Hollywood. While creating the program, Mr. Miller discovered that, through their collaborations with Bucks residents Oscar Hammerstein II, Moss Hart, George S. Kaufman, Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Schwartz and others, every major composer of Broadway & Hollywood's Golden Age has a Bucks Connection!

This roster of Bucks-connected composers is an A-list of American songwriting: George & Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern and many others! Let's also not forget all the stellar performers with their own collaborative links!

And the Broadway classics connected directly to Bucks County? Oklahoma, Gypsy, West Side Story, Annie Get Your Gun, Guys & Dolls, Show Boat, My Fair Lady...the list goes on!

Join us for a great time revisiting the Golden Age of American song with a new perspective on the place we call home! Please register in advance online or by phone ~ 215-357-3050.

## **The Evolution of Music & Sound Reproduction: From the Music Box to Alexa**

**Saturday, May 11, 1:00 pm**



Join popular presenter Norm Rubin as he discusses the evolution of music and sound reproduction from biblical times to the present. The program includes the inventions of Thomas Edison that made it possible to record sound and reproduce voice and music in the home as well as other discoveries that have furthered our ability to record and enjoy music and sound.

The program will wrap up with a conversation on Amazon's Alexa which can, in response to a voice command, instantly play virtually any vocal or instrumental song by any performer or orchestra in the world!

Norm has worn many hats throughout his career, but the high point for him was leading the design team that developed the voice communication system for the NASA Space Shuttle! We hope you'll join us for this look at the history of sound reproduction.

Please register in advance online or by phone ~ 215-357-3050.

## Spring PA Forward® Programs

### **Welcoming the Stranger English as a Second Language (ESL) & Citizenship Classes**

**ESL ~ Tuesday Mornings & Evenings**

**April 9 – June 25**

**Citizenship ~ Thursdays April 18 - June 20**

Welcoming the Stranger is a nonsectarian educational non-profit organization. It was founded in 1999 by Rev. Sturgis Poorman. Classes are tailored to adult students' personal needs. All classes are staffed by volunteer teachers.

Language is the key that opens the door to jobs, community involvement and other opportunities for immigrants, refugees and their families. Integrating students into English-speaking culture allows them to communicate more fully with neighbors, doctors, employers and their children's teachers. Conversation, reading and writing are taught in a practical context.

**Classes will be held in-person at the library.**

**Morning classes run 10:00 – 11:30 am**

**Evening classes run 6:00 – 7:45 pm**

**Thursday Citizenship Classes run 3:30-4:30 pm**

**Register at [www.welcomingthestranger.org](http://www.welcomingthestranger.org)**

### **The Impact of Alzheimer's & Dementia in our Community**

**Saturday, May 4, 1:00 pm**



Today, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and over 11 million are their unpaid caregivers ~ an escalating health crisis that affects many in our Northampton Township community.

We hope you'll join us for a brief information program to learn about the impact of the disease, local resources available and ways you can join the fight against Alzheimer's and all other forms of dementia.

Register in advance online, in person or by phone: 215-357-3050.

**[www.NorthamptonTownshipLibrary.org](http://www.NorthamptonTownshipLibrary.org)**

### **Know Your Medicare Options**

**Monday, April 15, 6:00 pm**

We welcome you to join Steve Perlman of DelVal Senior Advisors as he presents his quarterly talk on Medicare for soon-to-be retirees in our community. The program will provide a comprehensive educational discussion on how Medicare works, what is covered, how Part "D" prescription plans work and how to choose the best plan for you and your future.

This program conforms to the guidelines set by CMS for Educational Only programming. There will be no salespeople present, no forms to complete, and DelVal Senior Advisors will not receive a list of program attendees.

### **Wills and Estate Planning**

**Monday, May 6, 6:00 pm**

***If you fail to plan,  
you plan to fail.***

Howard Solomon, of Solomon Law, will present his annual program on wills and estate planning.

The presentation will include an informative discussion of living wills, Powers of Attorney, wills, living trusts and tax implications of death.

## Talk About yourSHELF

### A different kind of book club!

March 21, April 18 & May 16

Join us on Thursdays at 6:00 pm

Do you love talking about books and enjoy reading whatever **you** choose? Come join us! We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month to discuss what everyone is currently reading, share book recommendations, and get ideas of great new titles to add to our personal to-read lists!

**New Members Welcome! Registration is not required.**

## Friends of the Free Library of Northampton Township Museum Pass Program



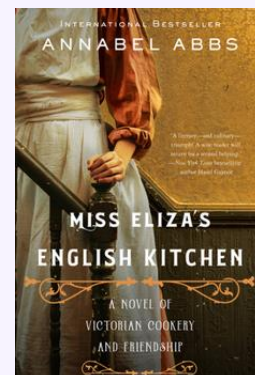
### Here's how the program works:

- ~ Become a Friend of the Library at the "Family" level (\$20) or higher.
- ~ Borrow a pass for a maximum of two nights.
- \*Enjoy your museum visit!

### Twenty-one great attractions!

- \* **The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University**  
~ admits 2 adults and up to 5 children age 18 or under
- \* **African American Museum of Philadelphia** ~ admits 4 adults up to 8 children
- \* **Battleship New Jersey** ~ Admits 2 adults and 3 children
- \* **Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve** ~ admits 2 adults and 4 children
- \* **Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles** ~ admits 2 adults and 3 children
- \* **The Bucks County Children's Museum** ~ admits up to 6 people
- \* **Chanticleer Garden** ~ admits up to 4 people
- \* **Eastern State Penitentiary** ~ admits 6 people, children under 7 are free
- \* **Elmwood Park Zoo** ~ admits 2 adults and up to 6 children
- \* **Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle** ~ admits up to 4 people
- \* **Michener Art Museum** ~ admits 2 adults and their dependents
- \* **Museum of The American Revolution** ~ admits 2 adults and 4 children, ages 6-17  
(children 5 and under are admitted free of charge)
- \* **The Mutter Museum** ~ admits 4 people
- \* **National Constitution Center** ~ admits 2 adults and 4 children
- \* **Penn Museum** ~ admits 2 adults and all children under 18 in one household
- \* **Pennsbury Manor** ~ admits up to 9 people for general admission only
- \* **Philadelphia Magic Gardens** ~ admits 2 adults and 3 children
- \* **Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania** ~ admits 2 adults and 4 children
- \* **Washington Crossing Historic Park** ~ admits 4 people
- \* **Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum** ~ admits 4 people
- \* **Woodmere Art Museum** ~ admits 2 adults and 4 children age 18 or under

## Staff Pick March

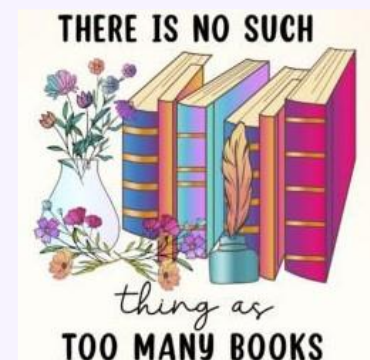


### Miss Eliza's English Kitchen

Annabel Abbs

A historical fiction novel based on real individuals, the book follows Eliza Acton and her assistant Ann Kirby as they write one of the first modern cookbooks in Victorian England where measurements of ingredients are included.

The novel includes a unique female character who breaks away from social norms to become an independent author who supports her friend despite classism. Readers who enjoy cooking will likely enjoy learning about the history of modern cookbooks.





# Libby.

**We've got good news for you!** The most popular public library e-book platform ~ Libby ~ is now available to Free Library of Northampton Township members. Best of all, unlike other e-book platforms, Libby is compatible with all Kindle e-readers (including Paperwhite & Oasis) while also being compatible with all Apple and Android phones and tablets.

Seven community libraries – Free Library of New Hope & Solebury, Free Library of Northampton Township, Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library, Pipersville Free Library, Southampton Free Library, Township Library of Lower Southampton, and Warminster Township Free Library – have formed the Community Library e-Cooperative (CLE) of Bucks County in order to ensure our Amazon Kindle-device users once again have access to e-books as users of our libraries.

Library users must have one of these libraries as their “home library” in order to access Libby and its e-books. The only way to change your home library to Free Library of Northampton Township is to live within Northampton Township. If you live in the township and we are not listed as your home library, you may stop in to see our staff and have it changed.

Approximately 87% of Free Library of Northampton Township's funding comes directly from the taxpayers of Northampton Township. Using a portion of those funds, the library provides a few specific resources reserved for use by only the residents of Northampton Township. The Libby app and its collection of e-books is one of those resources.

Libby features a 600+ and growing collection of adult fiction bestsellers for download. In the Libby collection, you will find mega-popular and modern classic authors along with today's rising stars and some bestselling non-fiction titles as well!

## Book a Librarian!

**1:1 appointments**

**60 minute sessions**

**Day, Evening & Weekend**

**Time Slots Available!**

Want to learn how to get eBooks on your e-Reader, phone or tablet? Have questions about using the internet, email, apps, computer programs or and more? Bring your questions to us!

**We're here to help!**

**Advanced registration is required.** You can register in person, by calling 215-357-3050, or on our website.

## All Puzzle Lovers

Here at the library, we LOVE puzzles and we have several ways for you to share in the fun if you're a “Puzzler” as well!

Visit our **Puzzle Exchange** area behind the Reference desk. Puzzles are available year-round to exchange one of yours for any of ours on the shelves.

We've added a **New Puzzle Table** (complete with drawers for sorting!) to the Community Puzzle area near the Reference desk. Stop by to add a piece or stick around and work on it to your heart's content!



## Needlework, Yarn Crafts & More Meet-up Group

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, Monthly**  
**10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Do you knit, do needlepoint, crochet, or any other similar craft? Make new friends around the table as we get together once a month for chatting and crafting!

There is no sign-up, no official membership, no required attendance. We just enjoy meeting as a group to work on our latest project and getting to know each other while doing so!

We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the May-Sweeney Board Room of the library.

**Hope to see you there!**



## Congratulations to the Prize-Winners of our Annual Adult Winter Reading Challenge!

*This year's theme, Decades of Reading, was a big hit with participants! We had 30 readers who read a total of 140 books between December 21, 2023 and February 17, 2024! There were 4 lucky Prize-Winners!*

~ Carol won our *Cozy Winter Pleasures* tote ~ a huge corduroy tote filled with bestsellers, a puzzle, game, throw blanket, candle and more to keep her cozy on cold winter days!

~ Susan won our *Garden & Books* dragonfly tote filled with bestsellers and a \$50 gift certificate to Gaspar Home & Garden.

~ Candace won our *Food, Wine & Books* gift with a \$25 gift certificate to Jake's Eatery, a bottle of wine, cozy wine-themed socks, a selection of bestselling books and Burt's Bees lip balms.

~ Annamarie won our *Garden & Books* red tote filled with bestsellers and a \$50 gift certificate to Gaspar Home & Garden.

*Special thanks to Gaspar Home & Garden, Jake's Eatery of Richboro and the Friends of the Free Library of Northampton Township for their generous donations!*

## Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Programming!



May 18 brings local author and Buck County Community College Educator, Jennifer Nelson, to present her program on writing memoirs and legacy letters. We invite you to bring pen and paper to take notes while learning more about the Jewish tradition of legacy letters and writing a memoir of your own.

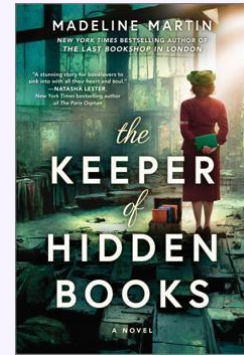
On May 20 ~ Fran McKeown of the PHEAA will speak to prospective students and their families about college funding and planning.

June 8 ~ Join Annie Halliday for her presentation:  
Royal Refugees: By Force and Arms  
Doan Gang of Bucks County

July 13 ~ William Monaghan presents:  
My Life: The Struggles, Success  
& Songs of Billy Joel

**Watch for future newsletters and our website for more information about upcoming programs and events!**

## Staff Pick April



### *The Keeper of Hidden Books* by Madeline Martin

This Goodreads Choice Award Nominee is a beautiful historical fiction novel about the power of books bringing people together in the very worst of times. It is inspired by the true story of the underground library in WWII in Warsaw, Poland.

Together in friendship, Zofia and Janina, rescue books from destroyed buildings and build an underground library in German-occupied Warsaw. The story discusses in detail their anti-Hitler Book Club, also renamed the "Bandit Book Club," and talks about many of the books banned during that time period.

Their love of reading endures, even when Janina is forced into the newly formed ghetto. As war and destruction encircle around them, Zofia must fight to save her friend and preserve her culture and community using literature as the only weapon she may have left.

The power of books is forefront to this story and is an inspiring guiding light for the characters in a very dark time of war.

## March is Women's History Month!



March is a wonderful time to dig in and read books by and about phenomenal women! Following are a variety of fascinating and unforgettable non-fiction stories, memoirs and biographies; true stories about everyday women who stood up, spoke out and changed their world and the world around them!

*Hidden Figures* ~ Margot Lee Shetterly

*My Own Words* ~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

*D-Day Girls* ~ Sarah Rose

*The Radium Girls* ~ Kate Moore

*My Beloved World* ~ Sonia Sotomayor

*Educated: a Memoir* ~ Tara Westover

*Leslie F\*cking Jones* ~ Leslie Jones

*The Woman They Could Not Silence*

~ Kate Moore

*Unbowed* ~ Wangari Maathai

*Believing* ~ Anita Hill

*My Life on the Road* ~ Gloria Steinem

*Clementine* ~ Sonia Purnell

*The Year of Magical Thinking* ~ Joan Didion

*Becoming* ~ Michelle Obama

*Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* ~ Rebecca Skloot

*Marie Antoinette: The Journey* ~ Antonia Fraser

*Not Your China Doll* ~ Katie Gee Salisbury

*Civil Rights Queen* ~ Tomiko Brown-Nagin

*Oath & Honor: a Memoir & a Warning* ~ Liz Cheney

*You Could Make This Place Beautiful* ~ Maggie Smith

*One Way Back* ~ Christine Blasey Ford

*Daughters of Kobani* ~ Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

*Breaking Through* ~ Katalin Kariko

*One Life* ~ Megan Rapinoe

*Romantic Outlaws* ~ Charlotte Gordon

From beloved fictional characters like Elizabeth Bennet and Jo March to current fictional favorites such as *Lessons in Chemistry*'s Elizabeth Zott, find your next read on this list of inspiring stories of women in all walks of life.

*The Vanishing Half* ~ Brit Bennett

*Little Women* ~ Louisa May Alcott

*Beloved* ~ Toni Morrison

*The Handmaid's Tale* ~ Margaret Atwood

*Calling Me Home* ~ Julie Kibler

*The Exiles* ~ Christina Baker Kline

*Go As a River* ~ Shelley Read

*The Conjurer* ~ Cordelia Frances Biddle

*Mistress of the Art of Death* ~ Ariana Franklin

*The Banned Bookshop of Maggie Banks* ~

~ Shauna Robinson

*The Red Tent* ~ Anita Diamant

*Frozen River* ~ Ariel Lawhon

*Pride & Prejudice* ~ Jane Austen

*Circe* ~ Madeline Miller

*The Only Woman in the Room* ~ Marie Benedict

*Three Women* ~ Lisa Taddeo

*Crow Mary* ~ Kathleen Grissom

*The Historian* ~ Elizabeth Kostova

*The Invention of Wings* ~ Sue Monk Kidd

*Looking for Jane* ~ Heather Marshall

*Lessons in Chemistry* ~ Bonnie Garmus

*The Secret Life of Bees* ~ Sue Monk Kidd

*The Nature of Fragile Things* ~ Susan Meissner

*The Women* ~ Kristin Hannah

*All We Were Promised* ~ Ashton Lattimore

*Here's to strong women! May we know them.  
May we be them. May we raise them.*