



# BAY SHORE BRIGHTWATERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

## Inside

Library Happenings  
PAGE 1

Adult Programs, Library Notices  
PAGE 2

Children's Programs  
PAGE 3

Teen Programs, General Information,  
Museum Passes, Displays, Library Trips  
PAGE 4

## Celebrate Black History Month

### Hometown Histories - BBA337

Join one of our Librarians on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM for Hometown Histories: A Local History Book Club. We will read and discuss fiction and non-fiction books written by local authors, as well as books about our local areas. Reading materials will be available a month before the meeting at the Circulation Desk. **Please note that there will be no Hometown Histories in January.**

**Espionage and Enslavement in the Revolution or Remember Liss: The Remarkable True Story of One Woman's Enslavement and Freedom in New York** by Claire Bellerjeau and Tiffany Yeeke Brooks.

**Thursday, February 5, 6:00 PM**

Join historian and author Claire Bellerjeau as she discusses the discovery of a new founding figure named Elizabeth, or Liss. Liss was enslaved by the Townsend family of Oyster Bay, New York, whose son was Robert Townsend aka "Culper, Jr.", George Washington's lead spy in Manhattan during the Revolutionary War. Liss's escape with the British, re-enslavement in Manhattan and later Charleston, and her complex struggle for freedom gives new insight into the country's founding era, through the eyes of an enslaved Black woman seeking liberty in a country fighting for its own. Open to all.



### Fireside Book Discussion

Copies of the book in various formats are available a month before the meeting at the Circulation Desk.

**The First Ladies** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray

**Tuesday, February 10, 2:00 - 3:30 PM**

A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist and daughter of formerly enslaved parents Mary McLeod Bethune--an unlikely friendship that changed the world.

See page 2 for January's Fireside Book Discussion selection.



### February Displays

#### Gallery

Frenel Mezilas teaches painting and drawing, and he loves working with his students. His work, whether realistic, surreal, abstract, or cubist, represents Haitian culture and history.

#### Inside and Lobby Displays

In honor of Black History Month, the Library showcases will feature books, photos and artwork from Bay Shore resident and Library Board Trustee Elder Frances Bell.

### Exploring African-American Ancestry - BBA406

**Thursday, February 5, 6:30 PM**

Whether you are just getting started in your genealogy research or have already begun, come join our guest speaker, April Earle, for a glimpse into the nuances of African-American genealogy research. She will share important genealogical records and discuss the impact slavery had on the creation of historical records.

### Cato in the Revolution: Spies, Slavery, Church, and Chocolate - BBA425

**Wednesday, February 18, 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Join historian and author Claire Bellerjeau as she shares her exciting new discoveries about Cato, an enslaved Black man who aided the Patriot spy and tailor Hercules Mulligan during the Revolutionary War. Cato's story, once mere legend, comes to life with details of an assassination plot against Washington, enslavement in the powerful Schuyler family, Cato's religious life at St. Paul's Chapel, and the intersection of colonial chocolate making and slavery. Showing great bravery, agency, skill, and faith, Cato speaks for other unknown and often "invisible" people of color who helped shape the course of the Revolution—and the history of the United States.



### Monthly Movie

Settle in for a great film and a cozy community experience – right here at your library! There are two showtimes to fit your schedule. February's selection:

**Hidden Figures (2016), rated PG**

**Wednesday, February 11 at 3:00 PM or 6:30 PM**

Enjoy complimentary popcorn and water while you watch! Please see page 2 for January's selection.

### AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is a free tax counseling and preparation service, helping low and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those ages 60 and older. The tax appointments will be on Thursdays beginning February 5 through April 9 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.



Call the circulation desk or stop in to make an appointment. You must come in to the library prior to your appointment to obtain an intake packet. The packet must be completed and submitted to your tax preparer at your scheduled appointment. Intake packets can also be downloaded via the Library's website. In addition to the packet, please bring your current tax records and copies of last year's federal and state tax returns. If filing jointly, both people must be present and present a photo ID and a Social Security Card. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers cannot prepare returns that include rental property, military income, alternative minimum tax, or sale of Crypto Currency. Please note that some tax information, especially from brokerage firms, may not be sent to you until the end of February. AARP Tax-Aide is administered by the AARP Foundation, in cooperation with the IRS. Free Electronic Filing (E-Filing) is included.

*Thank You*  
Thank you for your generous donations of food, hygiene products, toys, mittens, and other warm clothing during this past holiday season. All items were donated to local community members in need. Your kindness is much appreciated!  
  
The Library continues to collect non-perishable food, baby items, and hygiene products for our Mini Food Pantry and Clean Cabinet throughout the year.

### Register for Library Programs

- Registration using a valid Bay Shore - Brightwaters Library Card is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.
- Program fees are non-refundable and due at the time of registration.
- Please adhere to the age guidelines of the program when registering.
- Please notify staff members of food allergies.
- Scan the QR Code to access the program calendar.



**BAY SHORE - BRIGHTWATERS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
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# Adult Programs

Registration for January and February adult programming begins Monday, January 5th at 9:30 AM. Registration for out of district patrons begins Tuesday, January 20th.

## Soul Line Dancing with the Long Island Soul Sliders - BBA420

**Saturdays, January 3, 10, 24, 31, February 21, 28, 1:00 - 2:30**

Fee: \$20. Promote heart health and mental wellness through dance! Join instructor Sardia Lewis, of the Long Island Soul Sliders, as she guides you through various styles of dance as a form of exercise to achieve your fitness goals and have fun! Please bring water and a towel. **Registration is underway.**



## ISO Chamber Players: Connecting Generations Concert - BBA402

**Sunday, January 11, 1:30-3:00**

Featuring members of the ISO and past laureates of the Young Performers Competition.

## Yoga with Kate - BBA393

**Mondays, January 12, & 26, February 2, 9, & 23, March 2, 9 & 16, 6:00 - 7:15 PM**

Fee: \$30. Join Kate for a yoga practice designed for all ages and bodies. Gentle Yoga is a slower form of Yoga that is a combination of seated, kneeling, and standing postures, focus on the breath, and short periods of meditation. No prior yoga experience is necessary, please bring a mat, a towel, and two blocks if you have them.

## Silent Book Club - BBA412

**Thursday, January 15, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

Chill, read, snack. Bring your own book or pick one here. We'll have cozy vibes, comfy seats, and snacks while we all read in quiet together.

## Empire Safety Defensive Driving Courses BBA124

**Saturday, January 17 or Saturday, February 14 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Fee: \$30. Learn to be a better driver and save money on your auto insurance. Please bring your New York State Driver's License to this class. There will be a half hour lunch break allowance.



## Brushes and Bliss - BBA438

**Wednesday, January 21, 7:00 PM**

Paint away stress with the YES Community Mental Health Promotion & Support Organization.

## BYOT: Bingo - BBYA110

**Thursday, January 22 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Bring your teen for a Fun Night of Bingo with chances to win fantastic prizes. Be sure to register both yourself and your teen to reserve your spots!

The Local History Room will be open for visitors on Sunday, January 11 and Sunday, February 1, 2026 from 12-4pm. Feel free to drop in to view collections or get assistance with research or scanning! You can also make an appointment by emailing: BSBWPLlocalhistory@gmail.com.

## Visit the Local History Room

The Local History Room will be open for visitors on Sunday, January 11 and Sunday, February 1, 2026 from 12-4pm. Feel free to drop in to view collections or get assistance with research or scanning!

You can also make an appointment by emailing: BSBWPLlocalhistory@gmail.com.

Place your documents into the secure containers located in the Lobby area. Shred-It will pick up the containers on a regular basis and bring it to their secure facility to shred.



## Notary Public Notice

Patrons are now required to make a notary appointment with our online system. Walk-ins are still available on Fridays between the hours of 9:30 - 11:00 am, but subject to notary availability and cannot be guaranteed. Please see our website for our updated notary policy.



## Photography Notice

The Library may utilize photos and videos from public programs and events on its website, on social media, and in Library publications. If you do not wish for you or your child to be photographed, please alert library staff prior to the program or event.

## New Year-Round Shredding Bins

Place your documents into the secure containers located in the Lobby area. Shred-It will pick up the containers on a regular basis and bring it to their secure facility to shred.



## Social Work Intern

The Library has a social work intern available to help with referrals to social services, food and housing assistance, and mental health resources. Please call the Library for more information.

# Children's Programs

Registration for January programs begins Friday, January 2nd at 9:30 AM and registration for February programs begins Monday, February 2nd at 9:30 AM. Programs for children ages 5 and under require an adult to be present in the program room unless otherwise noted. Programs for children in grades 5 and under require that an adult remain in the library for the duration of the program.

## Early Childhood

### Mother Goose Rhyme Time - BBJ107

(Ages Birth - 18 Months)

**Tuesdays, January 6 and 13**

**Tuesdays, February 3 and 10**

**10:00 - 10:25 AM**

Are you ready to rhyme? Join Ms. Lisa to share nursery rhymes, fingerplays, and action songs with your little one!

### Snow Babies - BBJ400

(Ages Birth - 17 Months)

**Thursday, January 8, 10:00 - 10:30 AM**

**Wednesday, February 25, 10:00 - 10:30 AM**

Enjoy songs and fingerplays with A Time for Kids. Please bring a blanket or towel for your child.

### Creative Corner: Magic Nuudles - BBJ401

(Ages 2 - 5 Years)

**Saturday, January 10, 10:30 - 11:00 AM**

This sensory experience encourages children's hand/eye coordination and motor skill development.

### Signs & Stories - BBJ100

(Ages Birth - 5 Years)

**Tuesdays, January 13, 20, 27**

**Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 24**

**1:00 - 1:30 PM**

This interactive program features themed stories, fingerplays, and easy songs using the same signs to assist with caregiver/student retention.

### Tots Night Out - BBJ101

(Ages 18 Months - 5 Years)

**Wednesday, January 14**

**Thursday, February 26**

**6:30 - 7:15 PM**

A Time for Kids leads an interactive and educational family program that includes singing, dancing, stories, and a craft.

### A Time for Kids: Five Little Snowmen BBJ402

(Ages 18 Months - 5 Years)

**Thursday, January 15**

**10:00 - 10:45 AM or 11:00 - 11:45 AM**

Join A Time for Kids for songs, rhymes, and a craft.



### Waddle Fun Storytime - BBJ403

(Ages 2 - 5 Years)

**Thursday, January 22, 10:30 - 11:00 AM**

Waddle over to the Library to share penguin stories and make a craft.

### Pajama Storytime - BBJ103

(Ages 3 - 7 Years)

**Wednesday, January 28**

**Wednesday, February 25**

**6:30 - 7:00 PM**

Put on your jammies and join a librarian for a fun and cozy storytime.

### Tiny Tots Workshop - BBJ404

(Ages 12 - 35 months)

**Wednesday, January 28, 10:00 - 10:45 AM**

A resource specialist is available to assist families with developmental questions while children play with our toy collection.

### Babies Boogie - BBJ405

(Ages Birth - 23 Months)

**Thursday, February 5, 10:00 - 10:40 AM**

Join Nicole Sparling for a morning of fun and music with your little one!

### Toddlers Tango - BBJ406

(Ages 2 - 5 Years)

**Thursday, February 5, 11:00 - 11:40 AM**

Join Nicole Sparling to wiggle, giggle, bounce and play with your little one!

### Lovely Day Storycraft - BBJ407

(Ages 2 - 5 years)

**Wednesday, February 11, 10:30 - 11:00 AM**

Share stories about love and make a craft.



### A Time for Kids: Valentine Love - BBJ408

(Ages 18 Months - 5 Years)

**Thursday, February 12**

**10:00 - 10:45 AM or 11:00 - 11:45 AM**

Join A Time for Kids for songs, rhymes, and a craft.

### Drama with Your Mama! - BBJ409

(Ages 2 - 5 Years)

**Thursday, February 26, 10:00 - 10:45 AM**

Enjoy live music, storytelling, and interactive imaginative play led by a theater professional.

## School Age

### Chess Club - BBJ410

(Grades 2 - 5)

**Wednesday, January 7**

**Wednesday, February 4**

**5:00 - 6:00 PM**

Join librarian Mr. Chris to learn to play chess, or just improve your game.



### Storycraft with Miss Margaret - BBJ102

(Ages 4 - 7 Years without Adult Caregiver)

**Monday, January 12**

**Monday, February 23**

**4:15 - 4:45 PM**

Share a story with Miss Margaret and then make a craft based on the story.

### Minecraft: Snow Globes - BBJ411

(Grades 1 - 5)

**Tuesday, January 13, 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Tackle three thrilling snow globe-themed challenges in your own Minecraft world!

### Silent Book Club: Kids' Edition! - BBJ412

(For Independent Readers in grades 1 - 5)

**Thursday, January 15, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

Silently read a book of your choice. Bring a book from home, or choose one from the Library before the program begins. Then, make a bookmark, and enjoy some snacks.

### SEL Storytime - BBJ413

(Grades K - 2)

**Friday, January 16, 4:00 - 4:30 PM**

Join Ms. Lisa for a SEL read aloud, music, and activity focused on kindness.

### Paint It Forward - BBJ414

(Grades K - 5)

**Saturday, January 17, 10:30 - 11:30 AM**

Create pieces of art that will be "paid forward" as small acts of kindness.

### Winter Mittens - BBJ415

(Grades K - 2)

**Wednesday, January 21, 4:15 - 4:45 PM**

Read some winter stories, then make a cozy mittens craft to take home.

### Puzzle Piece Frame - BBJ416

(Grades 3 - 5)

**Thursday, January 22, 5:00 - 5:30 PM**

Make a frame to hold all your puzzling or precious photos.

### Lego Buddies - BBJ106

(Ages 4 - 7 Years without Adult Caregiver)

**Friday, January 23 and**

**Friday, February 13**

**4:00 - 4:45 PM**

Make a Lego masterpiece with an older buddy.

### Getting Crafty - BBJ105

(Grades 3 - 5)

**Monday, January 26, 5:00 - 5:45 PM**

**Thursday, February 19, 2:00 - 2:45 PM**

Use your imagination and the Library's craft supplies to make your own unique artwork.



### Groundhog Storycraft - BBJ417

(Grades K - 2)

**Thursday, January 29, 4:15 - 4:45 PM**

Come hear a story about Groundhog's Day and afterwards, make a fun craft.

Join in our winter-themed scavenger hunt! Find all of the hidden items to earn a sticker.

### Heart Wreath - BBJ418

(Grades K - 2)

**Friday, February 6, 4:15 - 4:45 PM**

Show everyone you're ready for Valentine's Day with this fun wreath craft.

### Gnome Valentine Ornament - BBJ419

(Grades 3 - 5)

**Monday, February 9, 5:30 - 6:00 PM**

Make a gnome valentine ornament for that special someone or keep it for yourself!

### Hanging Hearts - BBJ420

(Grades 3 - 5)

**Wednesday, February 11, 4:30 - 5:00 PM**

Decorate for Valentine's Day with a heart-themed wall hanging craft.

### STEM Storytime - BBJ108

(Grades K-2)

**Friday, February 27, 4:00 - 4:40 PM**

Join Miss Lisa for a STEM read aloud and activity.

## Take-Home Kits

### Craft Kits

#### Children up to Grade 3 - BBJ109

#### Children Grades 4 and up - BBYA109

Reserve a kit for January and February. Limited quantities are available.

### Garden Club Kits

Each bag contains a seasonal nature-related book and activity.

## Drop-In Family Programs

No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Crafts Potpourri - BBJ422

**Friday, January 2, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Make a craft, while supplies last.

### Game and Puzzle Get-Together - BBJ423

**Friday, February 20, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Play a game or do a puzzle with your family.

### Lego Family Fun - BBJ424

**Wednesday, February 18**

**11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Build a

## Teen Programs

Teen Programs are for students in Grades 6 - 12. Registration for January programs begins Friday, January 2nd at 9:30 AM. Registration for February programs begins Monday, February 2nd at 9:30 AM.

### Take Home Craft Kits - BBYA109

Reserve a kit and make a craft at home. Kits are available for January and February. Pick up your kit at the Children's Services Desk. Limited quantities are available.

### Snack Taste Test Challenge - BBYA400

Thursday, January 8, 6:00 - 6:45 PM

Join us at the library to taste and rank a variety of Pop-Tart flavors. Which one will come out on top?



### Silent Book Club - BBYA401

Thursday, January 15, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Chill, read, snack. Bring your own book or pick one here. We'll have cozy vibes, comfy seats, and snacks while we all read in quiet together.

### Bling a Book - BBYA402

Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Tuesday, January 27, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Give your favorite book a glow-up! Join us to decorate book covers with sparkly gems. Please bring your own book.

### BYOA: Bingo - BBYA110

Thursday, January 22, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Bring Your Favorite Adult for a Fun Night of Bingo! Join us for an exciting evening filled with great fun and chances to win fantastic prizes. Be sure to register both yourself and your adult to reserve your spots!

### Charming Slime - BBYA403

Tuesday, February 3, 6:00 - 6:45 PM

Choose from a variety of fun charms to create your very own one-of-a-kind slime.

### BYOA: Yoga & Gemstone Bracelet

#### BBYA110

Tuesday, February 10, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Calm your body and mind with gentle movement, then get creative by designing your own gemstone bracelet in our hands-on lesson. Be sure to register both yourself and your adult to reserve your spots!



### Adopt a Dragon - BBYA404

Thursday, February 19, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Unleash your creativity by adopting your very own fidget dragon! Then, customize and paint its egg with bold, vibrant colors.

### Craft & Chill - BBYA405

Monday, February 23, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us for a surprise craft where the project remains a mystery until you walk in! Come ready to get creative, hang out with friends, and make something totally unexpected and fun.

### Lego Robotics - BBYA406

Tuesday, February 24, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us for a hands-on robotics adventure as we build and code our very own LEGO Grabber Robot.



### 100 Books Before Graduation

Read 100 books before graduating high school and earn prizes along the way! Register through the library website and track your books online. All participants must have a valid Bay Shore-Brightwaters Public Library Card and be entering grades 6-12 in the fall.

### Get YETI to Read!

January 5 - February 7

Join the Winter Reading Club for Teens! Visit the Teen Department beginning January 5th for details.

### Hygiene and Food Drives

Bring in four travel-sized hygiene products or four unexpired non-perishable food items to earn one hour of community service. These products will be used in the Library's Clean Cabinet and Mini Food Pantry for our community members in need. Please bring your items to the Teen or Children's Desk. -A maximum of four hours per student will be accepted each month-

## Community Service

Students must arrive on time in order to receive Community Service credit.

### Bookmarked with Kindness - BBYA105

Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Get creative and earn community service hours by designing personalized bookmarks for library patrons.

### Craft Buddies - BBYA102

Monday, January 12, 4:15 - 5:00 PM

Monday, February 23 4:15 - 5:00 PM

Help a younger friend make a craft.

### Self-Care Journaling - BBYA408

Saturday, January 17, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Learn how journaling can help you build daily habits one step at a time. Discover methods to release or organize your thoughts in a thoughtful way that cultivates moments of tranquility and self-reflection.

### Lego Buddies - BBYA103

Friday, January 23, 4:00 - 4:45 PM

Friday, February 13, 4:00 - 4:45 PM

Create a Lego masterpiece with a younger friend.

### Service Through Stories - BBYA114

Thursday, February 5, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Wednesday, February 18, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Earn community service hours while learning something new! Join us where you'll listen to an historical lecture and reflect on the stories that shaped our world. See this month's Hometown Histories selection on page one for details about February's lecture.

### Bead Kind - BBYA407

Thursday, February 12, 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Create friendship bracelets to spread kindness and brighten someone's day.



## Library Displays

### January

#### Lobby and Inside Showcases

Bay Shore - Brightwaters patrons display their creations in the Tiny Art Show.

### Gallery

Long-time Bay Shore resident Michael Warner began his foray into the world of photography in the 70s with a 35mm camera, but now he works exclusively with digital devices. The images that will be on display in the gallery represent a variety of approaches to artistic expression through photography.

### February

See page 1 for information about the February displays.

## Discounted Tickets

### Purchase at the Library:

- American Museum of Natural History
- Bronx Zoo
- Long Island Aquarium
- Long Island Science Center

### Purchase online:

(Contact the Library for discount code information.)

- The Gateway Performing Arts Center
- Manes Studio Theatre

Please contact the Library for current pricing and availability. Scan for more information.



## Museum Passes

### Free Print-on-Demand Passes:

- American Airpower Museum
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden
- Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum
- Cradle of Aviation Museum
- Fire Island Lighthouse
- Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
- Long Island Maritime Museum
- Montauk Point Lighthouse and Museum
- Old Westbury Gardens
- Sagtikos Manor Historical Society
- Vanderbilt Museum and Mansion

### Pickup/Return Passes:

- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Lt. Michael P. Murphy Navy Seal Museum
- Long Island Children's Museum
- NYS Empire Pass

Scan for Museum Pass information.



## Library Director

Andrew Story

## Assistant Director

Katie McIntyre

## Business Manager

Janet Anderson

## Board of Trustees

President: Elder Frances Bell

Vice President: Francis Pooley

Secretary: Joan Mason-Dollmann

Finance Officer: Diane Hartill

Trustee: Harry Brown

## Library Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:30 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday and Saturday: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

## Holiday Closings

Thursday, January 1

Monday, January 19

Monday, February 16

## Library Trip

### Wind Creek Casino

Bethlehem, PA

Saturday, April 11

Please call the Library for more information, including availability and pricing.

