

Belden Noble Memorial Library Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2024

2759 Essex Road
P.O. Box 339 Essex, New York 12936
beldennoblelibrary@gmail.com
518-963-8079



A Note From Our Board

Please note:

The library will be closed for the holidays on:
November 27, 28 and 29
December 25 and 26
January 1 and 2

May 1 to Sep 30

Mon. 2pm-4pm
Tues. 2pm-4pm
Wed. 9am to 4pm
Thurs. 11pm-4pm
Fri. 11pm-4pm
Sat. 9am-4pm
Sun. closed

Oct 1 to Apr 30

Mon. closed
Tues. closed
Wed. 9am to 4pm
Thurs. 11am-4pm
Fri. 11am-4pm
Sat. 9am-4pm
Sun. closed

Our Library Director, Julie Wever, manages the library on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The library is staffed by volunteers at other times.

Belden Noble Memorial Library is an association library operated by our Board of Trustees:

President

Colleen Van Hoven

Vice President

Maureen Ecclesine

Treasurer

Maureen DeLaughter

Secretary

Kathy Nadire

Corresponding Secretary

Sally Minich Prosk

Board Members

Meredith Hanna
Joyce Sukel
Jani Spurgeon

Dear Friends,

Wow! The library's 125th year is drawing to a close! We've moved back into our historic building, held a celebratory auction in July under the leadership of Board member Sally Minich Prosk, continued our Meet Your Neighbors series, and held special programs for our patrons of all ages. Highlights of the year include Allison Pataki's book talk on her recent historical novel Finding Margaret Fuller, Nan Hoffman's family concert, and the creation of our first Movie Binge Box "Don't Travel with Tom Hanks." Recently David Tisdale started a program showing old movies, the first three starring Cary Grant. The series will continue through the winter months – stay tuned.

Unfortunately, we are still unable to use our second floor as there is no electricity or heat. But we are working to reconfigure the space, moving the children's area to the front of the building and a "cozy" reading room to the back. The new Children's Room will have designated areas for younger and older children: the little tykes that waddled in here seven or eight years ago have grown!

The Big Tree Incident impacted us in ways we probably should have foreseen. Our patrons turned to other libraries and found alternative ways to find books. Being housed in the Essex Community Church community room did not allow for a large collection of books or the usual activities we try to provide. The loss of our Children's Room discouraged our young families as the range of options for the children has been limited.

We're working hard to bring our patrons back. Julie Wever, our librarian, is a font of wonderful ideas for everybody. Stop in and try your luck at the giant Word Search and watch for plans for Holidays in the Hamlet. We need your financial support, as always, but we also want your presence.

Hope to see you soon!

- Colleen Van Hoven, Board President



**JOIN OUR
EMAIL LIST**

We send occasional e-mail notices to let our patrons know what's happening at the library. While our print newsletters are sent only twice a year, our e-mail messages, with all the latest news about upcoming programs, new additions to the collection and other library news are sent out once or twice a month. Don't miss out on the latest library news. Join our e-mail list by visiting our Web page at essexlibrary.org and click on 'Join Our E-Mail List'. It takes just a few seconds.

Notes From Library Director, Julie Wever



Can you believe that 2025 is just around the corner? We can't! Despite some challenges that stemmed from The Tree Incident of 2023, we had a great summer with our supporters and friends. Your continued support and understanding were (and are) much appreciated.

The new year is an ideal time to try out new ideas that will help us best serve our community, and we need your feedback to help guide our plans. Please take a few minutes to fill out our 2024 Community Survey and share it with a neighbor.

We want to reach as many community members as possible, including those who are not currently library users. Please return your survey by December 15 so we have time to hit 2025 running. Choose a reply format that works best for you. There are paper copies at the desk in the library, or use your computer, iPhone, or tablet to easily access it here:

https://form.jotform.com/Julie_beldennoblelibrary/belden-noble-library-community-survey



You may also access and fill out the survey using the QR code shown to the left. Simply point your phone camera at the QR code and tap the link that appears. The link will take you to the survey.

Meanwhile, what's happening right now at the library? Lots! Stop in to pick up the latest events flyer. Make sure you are on our e-newsletter mailing list, check out our web site, and keep an eye out for our social media posts.

During the upcoming holiday season, we hope you enjoy the food, the festivities, the fun, and most importantly your family and friends. If we can connect you with any of our resources or programs, we're just a call or email away! - Julie



Holiday Ornament Sale



We have decided to try something new this holiday season. If you have ornaments that have festooned your Hanukkah bush or Christmas tree for years and you would like something else, or you've accumulated far too many ornaments for any tree or bush you can fit in your house, we have an idea for you. You can donate them to our ornament sale. It will be fun to see what we get: but no Styrofoam snowballs stuck with pipe cleaners your child made in nursery school! We will be selling these donated ornaments during the month of December. Cleaning out your holiday stash will benefit the library - a great way to show your support while lightening your load!

Consider These Items for Holiday Gifts

Looking for holiday gift ideas?

May we suggest these library related items which will help support your library?



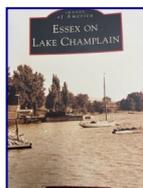
Tote Bag \$10.00



T-Shirts \$15.00



Notecards (set of 5) - drawing of the Belden Noble Library by Jim Van Hoven Jr. \$6.00



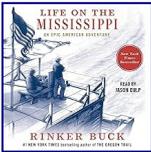
Essex on Lake Champlain book by David Hislop \$5.00

Library Mug \$5.00



There are many ways you can support your library! Donate your time or expertise by volunteering at the circulation desk, lead a program, or lend a hand at our maker stations. Would you like to share the rich resources of our region by donating a museum pass? Library programs are always more fun with prizes, but with our tight budget, good prizes aren't always easy to come by. If you have an idea for a donation, contact Library Director, Julie at 518-963-8079

What The Library Board Is Reading



Life on the Mississippi by Rinker Buck

Buck is the author of the NYT Best selling book The Oregon Trail, his recounting of his travels across America by wagon, while following the path of the early western settlers. His latest book documents his adventures traveling on the Mississippi River on a flatboat. Buck's goal is to recreate the path thousands of Americans took in the early to mid 1800s and to demonstrate how important the flatboat and the Mississippi were to the country's evolution.



The Road From Corrain by Jill Conway

An immersive visit to Australia through Conway's rich writing. She tells of her family's struggle to farm through years of drought in the West and of her personal struggle to grow as a scholar in Sydney. She eventually became the first female president of Smith College.

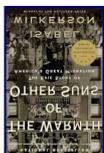
The Comfort of Ghosts by Jacqueline Winspear

The final book in the Masie Dobbs series. We will miss her!



Flashpoint by Catherine Coulter

An FBI series that has you on the edge of your seat wondering what comes next!



The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilderson

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction. A gripping tale of the great migration of black citizens of the Jim Crow South to northern and western cities from 1915 to 1970. An intertwining story of "race, power, politics, religion, and class". As many as six million citizens are estimated to have migrated during this time period.



The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson

This book "methodically" takes the reader through the events leading to the start of the Civil War. Larson's personal thoughts and accounts of key individuals (save those of a single Black person) are found throughout the book. Maybe the book was too methodical, as the New York Times review found it mired in detail. This reader found the detail a most important aspect of the book. See what you think.

Just A Sampling of Our 2024 Events So Far



Nora Nadire, dressed as Adeline Noble, encouraged folks to join us for the library's 125th Anniversary Auction.

Library's Anniversary Auction

We celebrated our 125th milestone year with an auction at the Masonic Lodge on July 13. We auctioned dozens of generous donations from area businesses and individuals. Our auctioneer volunteer, Wayne Bailey, inspired lively bidding. It truly was a FUN Fundraiser! A special note of gratitude must go to Sally Minich Prosk who conceived of and spearheaded the auction, and to the library board for working tirelessly to make the auction a success. We also thank the Masons for use of their building and of course our favorite auctioneer, Wayne Bailey. The event was our biggest fundraiser to date and was a real testament to the Essex community spirit. Thanks to all who donated and to those who participated.



Eclipse viewing with Kevin O'Neill

Have an idea for a library program? We'd love your suggestions. Contact Julie at beldennoblelibrary@gmail.com



We held three new Meet Your Neighbors programs including this one with David and Betsy Tisdale.

- How To Photograph a Political Campaign and Keep Smiling
- Short Story Book Club
- Haunted Hamlet Scavenger Hunt
- November Noir Movie Series
- Lego Building for Kids
- Library Crawl
- Loteria Scavenger Hunt
- Book Sale
- Memoir Writing with Christopher Locke
- Lawn Chair Literary Club
- Book Talk with Allison Pataki
- Family Bingo
- Poetry and Pastries with Christopher Locke
- Family Music Program with Nan Hoffman
- Earth Day events and crafts
- Eclipse Glasses Give-away



Watercolor program, provided by the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System

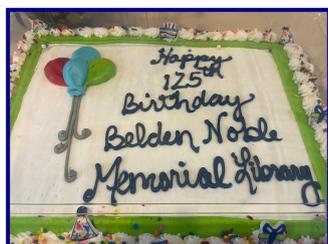
Did You Know?

The Belden Noble Memorial Library was built between 1801 and 1818 to house the H. and B. Noble General Store. During the mid-1800s, it included a corner set aside for books available to the public on loan. Later, the building was made available to the Essex Free Library Association by the Noble family which retained the right to select members of the library's board of trustees. The Belden Noble Memorial Library came into existence as the Essex Free Library in 1899 when it was granted a "provisional" charter by the University of the State of New York. It received "absolute" charter in 1906.

From the beginning, major efforts were made to attract young readers. As early as 1908, children's borrowings accounted for about half those of adults. By 1947, the ratio had increased significantly. Children were borrowing almost as many books as adults. This may have been due, at least in part, to a program initiated at the Essex School by English teacher Amy Mason.

Early on, the library served borrowers from such nearby communities as Willsboro, Reber, and Whallonsburg. It also became a favorite meeting place for various organizations and activities. In World War I, it was used for Red Cross and other "war work." It filled a similar role in World War II. When family member Mrs. Henry M. Baird died in 1954, her will stipulated that the building could continue to be used as a library by the association. She left money in trust for upkeep with the provision that in case of the sale of Greystone, the family home, and related properties, the trust would be dissolved.

Mrs. Baird's heirs offered the building to the Library Association in 1955. The trustees, however, felt that "due to finances" they could not accept under the terms given. In 1974, Fermine Baird Baker deeded the library building and the parcel of land on which it stands to the Town of Essex in consideration of one dollar with the stipulation that the structure "shall forever be used as a library."



This year we celebrate the library's 125th anniversary and have created the 125 club. If you would like to celebrate this milestone with us, membership in the 125 Club is \$125 (surprised?) All donors to the Club receive a free library tote (pictured right) Join the following current members:



Wayne and Donna Bailey Jon and Mimi McBride Jeff and Martha Clark Tom and MaryAnne Mangano Catherine Covert Ben and Kathy Nadire Kevin and Maureen DeLaughter	John Noble Tom Duca and Amy Heffner Paul and Judy Noyes Frank and Karen East Katharine Preston and John Bingham Maureen Ecclesine	Norma Goff Paul and Nancy Siler Peter Gow Sara Solovitch and Rich Scheinin Meredith Hanna Joyce Sukul Robert Harper and Wendy Miller Klaus and Linda Shigley	Sheila Sullivan Ken Hughes David and Betsy Tisdale Hal and Laura Kennedy Jim and Colleen Van Hoven Peter and Judy MacBride Dick and Debbie Walker
---	--	---	---

Please Support Your Library!

Yes, I want to help our library continue to grow and provide the best possible library services for Essex!

Volunteer! The Belden Noble Library could not function without its volunteers. We will do our best to match your talents with one of the many jobs available. We look forward to hearing from you!

Make a tax deductible contribution and keep good things happening at your library.

Join the 125 CLUB by donating \$125 in recognition of the library's 125th anniversary and get a free tote!

Make a financial contribution of any amount.

Donate Stocks, Bonds, and/or Mutual Funds. You can donate stocks, bonds, and mutual funds directly to the library. When you donate stock to charity, you'll generally take a tax deduction for the full fair market value. And because you are donating stock, your contribution and tax deduction may instantly increase over 20%. The same benefits apply for bonds and mutual funds.

Make provisions for the Library in your estate plans. If you have already made a provision for the Library in your estate plans and have not yet informed us, or would like more information about this charitable gesture, please contact the library.

Please make checks payable to Belden Noble Memorial Library and send to P.O. Box 339, Essex, NY 12936, or you can return this form in person at the library. Yes, charitable donations will help your library!
As an official 501(c)3 organization, we are eligible for matching gifts.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Mailing address: _____ State _____ Zip _____