

# Belden Noble Memorial Library Newsletter

Summer 2026 Issue

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Essex, New York

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518-963-8079



## A Note From Our Library Director

### May 1 to Sep 30

Mon. 2pm-4pm  
Tues. 2pm-4pm  
Wed. 11am to 5pm  
Thurs. 11am-4pm  
Fri. 11am-4pm  
Sat. 11am-4pm  
Sun. closed

### Oct 1 to Apr 30

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

Our Library Director and Library Assistant manage 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

Maureen DeLaughter

#### Vice President

Tom Mangano

#### Treasurer

Kathy Nadire

#### Secretary

Jani Spurgeon

#### Corresponding Secretary

Joyce Sukel

#### Board Members

Mo Ecclesine  
Sally Minich Prosk  
John Noble

I can't believe almost a year has passed since I started working at Belden Noble Memorial Library. What a year it has been! In this past year, we have been working on updating and organizing our collection, genrefying (yes, that is a real word, even if spellcheck doesn't believe it!) the children's collection to make it more inviting and accessible to kids, and opening up our space for readers, browsers, thinkers, and puzzlers.

One of my favorite ongoing projects is to think up book displays. Marty and I have so much fun every month picking out the perfect books to accompany the upcoming holidays, celebrations, and seasonal observations.

I am so grateful to all of our generous donors this year, both individuals and foundations. They have made it possible for us to put together an exciting schedule of events for the summer and extending throughout the year – see inside for more details! In addition to events, we are getting some comfortable new furniture for both upstairs and downstairs, and some much-needed new signage and supplies for the children's room.

Finally, as summer rolls in, we will be installing three brand-new (and hopefully very powerful) air-conditioners. Come and beat the heat with a good book or magazine! As always, many thanks to the Town of Essex for making this possible.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you this summer!

- Sydney

### Accessibility Grant

How can we make the library more accessible? We want to hear from you: Belden Noble Memorial Library is thrilled to have received a grant through the American Library Association's "Libraries Transforming Communities" Initiative. We will use this to increase services for residents who have a difficult time accessing the library and/or its materials due to mobility or vision challenges. These expanded services could include: book delivery for patrons at home or community-living centers; training on how to access online resources; a "technology center" where patrons can get one-on-one assistance; expanded selection of assistive devices, and more.

What would make the library more accessible to you? We want to hear your ideas and feedback! Also, please let us know if you would like to get involved with this project! Contact our director, Sydney, at 518-963-8079 or by e-mail at beldennoblelibrary@gmail.com if you would like more information.

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](http://essexlibrary.org) and click on 'Join Our E-Mail List'. It takes just a few seconds.



## Some Recent Programs



### Visit from Lakeside's Reading Class

On June 5, the kindergarten literacy class from Lakeside School at Black Kettle Farm took a field trip to the library. Teacher Amanda Stessen has been working with these five young people on phonological awareness and early reading and writing skills. They had fun visiting the library as readers and authors - come check out their creative and very practical guide to life in the woods, "How to Say Hello to a Gnome".



Library Assistant Marty is always looking for fun ways to connect with our local youth. If you have a program idea, let her know!

### A few other programs we held:

- Lunar New Year Celebration
- Halloween Costume Contest
- Meet Your Neighbors
- Family Pajama Party
- Winter Lights Storytime
- Holiday Craft Making
- Silent Auction
- Friday Movie Nights
- Book Sale

### Art At the Library

Artist Amy Heffner taught several participants how to create beautiful linocut prints. We plan to hold another session of this popular program—let us know if you would like to attend.



### DID YOU KNOW?

We offer free wifi and computer use.

You can follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/bnmlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/bnmlibrary).

Summer residents may get a library card by visiting the library with a valid ID.

You can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bnmlibrary/>

We have copy services for a nominal fee.

Your library card gives you access to materials from 30 local libraries and even libraries in other states and countries.

## Our Summer Reading Program Begins June 17

Children and adults will "Unearth a Story" this summer with programs about fossils, gardening, dinosaurs, and creativity. Throughout the summer, children can fill out reading logs and meet their reading goals to earn small prizes. Please come to the library to pick up your reading log.



June 17

### A "BOOK-NIC"

Join us as we kick off the Summer Reading season. Engage in some solitary reading or join a reading group, and then enjoy some simple refreshments or bring your own picnic. We will meet at 4:30 pm behind Town Hall.



July 8

### ABC JUICE

Children will learn about growing fruits and vegetables, and make and enjoy their own "ABC" (apple, beet, carrot) juice. Taught by educators from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Meet 3:30 pm at the library.



July 18

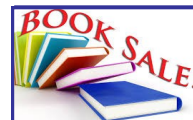
### All About Fossils!

Meet us and Champlain Area Trails staff at the Essex Quarry to learn about fossils and go on a fossil-finding expedition! Designed for children, open to all. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic to enjoy afterwards. Meet at the quarry at 10:30 am Rain date July 25.

## SPECIAL GUEST STORYTIME

### Guest Reader Story Times:

Some of our friends will join us Wednesday afternoons at 3:30pm to read a story and share a fun activity for children.  
 July 1: Amy Robinson  
 July 15: Mrs. Sally  
 July 22: Nora Nadire  
 August 8 (Saturday, 10:30 am): Ken Hughes  
 August 12: Elissa Castelli



Don't miss our **Essex Day Book Sale** at the library.



Look for the library float in this year's special 4th of July parade. Library board member Sally Minich Prosk has planned a very special tableau which we know you will enjoy. After the parade, find our tent at the street fair to browse a selection of used books and other library merchandise, participate in a community art project and pick up a free red white and blue lei!

### Watch For Our Community Art Project

We will provide several opportunities for all ages to participate in creating a collaborative paper quilt to represent Essex, its past, present, and future. Watch for details.

Made possible by a Cultural Assistance Program Grant from the Essex County Arts Council



**Saturday, August 1**  
 from 10:00am to 4:00pm  
**After 3:00pm, fill a bag for \$5.00**

We are accepting books for the sale. Books should be of recent publication, especially best sellers. We cannot accept encyclopedias, Reader's Digest books or worn or old items. Please bring donations to the library during open hours.

## Meet Your Neighbors Returns

Library Board Member John Noble has organized a new season of 'Meet Your Neighbors.' We invite you to join us as we continue to invite our Essex "neighbors" for informal presentations and conversations.

July 9: Mark Gibson will share childhood memories of Essex.

August date to be announced: Wendy Miller and Bob Harper will talk about their many years spending summers at the Crater Club.

September date to be announced: Steven Engelhart will discuss his many years working to preserve historic architecture in the Adirondacks.

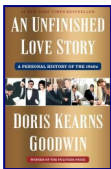
The programs begin at 7:00 pm.

Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion.



On June 10, Library Director Sydney Estey-Dedell and Library Assistant Marty Stratton shared some stories about how they came to the area and how they very happily arrived at the Belden Noble Library.

## WHAT WE'RE READING



**An Unfinished Love Story: a personal history of the 1960s by Doris Kearns Goodwin.** It's a close look at both the JFK and LBJ administrations, based on primary source information from the work of both Kearns Goodwin and her late husband, Richard Goodwin. Her stories from this era of promise, advancement, and tragedy provide a fascinating account of the Sixties.

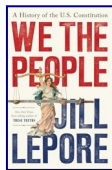


**The Mademoiselle Alliance by Natasha Lester.**

Marie-Madeleine Fourcade is the ultimate survivor. She evades the Nazis again and again in her work as a spy for the Resistance!

**The Keeper by Tana French.** –This is the third and final book in French's Cal Hopper detective series. Those who enjoy visiting Ireland via books will enjoy this well written mystery.

**We the People: A history of the US Constitution by Jill Lepore.** A timely look at the Constitution and the vital role of its amendment process.



### Join us for the next meeting of the Mindfulness Book Club!

Are you interested in deepening your understanding of mindfulness and how to apply it to your life? Do you love to read? Join the Belden Noble Library and Sarah Gerhardt for the Mindfulness Book Club. Each session will include a mindfulness practice.



We will focus on the same book on June 28 and August 2 from 3 to 4:30. You are welcome to attend even if you have not read the book. Come meet like-minded people to connect over the profound and simple practice of mindfulness and reading. Participate in an inspiring discussion about the book and your own mindfulness practice, and learn meditative practices.



### Museum Passes Available

The library offers discount passes to area museums, including:

- ECHO Center
- Wild Center
- Fort Ticonderoga
- High Falls Gorge
- Adirondack Experience
- Empire Pass (NY State Parks)

Borrowers must hold a Belden Noble Memorial Library card to check out a museum pass.

### Microgreen Growing Workshop Saturday, June 20, 1:00 pm

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension's Mina Weymouth-Little for a hands-on workshop on growing microgreens! Take home your own microgreens to grow and enjoy all year round.

This program is best suited for adults or teens.

To register, please call or e-mail the library.

518-963-8079  
beldenoblelibrary@gmail.com

### Free Movies With Your Library Card

Your library system has added the video streaming service Kanopy to the resources you can access free of charge using your library card! We're pleased to bring this streaming service to the community, with its extensive collection of narrative and documentary films, as well as TV series and kids content. Kanopy can be enjoyed on your computer, on the go with a smartphone or tablet, and even on a smart TV! Go to [cefls.kanopy.com](http://cefls.kanopy.com) to get started today!



**2025 DONORS**

Our 2026 donors will be listed in the Summer 2027 newsletter

If we have missed your name here, please let us know so we can include it in the next newsletter.

**Individuals**

Donna and Wayne Bailey  
 Catherine Ballinger  
 Susan Bogardus  
 Livingston Bailey  
 Scott and Laura Bridge  
 Jere and Eileen Buch  
 Jeff and Martha Clark  
 Mary Close  
 Ellen and Dana Cormier  
 Catherine Conover Covert  
 Maureen and Kevin DeLaughter  
 Sam DeLaughter  
 Dick and Leanna DeNeale  
 Andrew and Tracy Leas Dolan  
 John and Laura Sells Doyle  
 Tom Duca  
 Frank and Karen East  
 Maureen Ecclesine  
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 Todd and Ellie Goff  
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 Bob and Carole Harsh  
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Joyce Sukel  
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 David and Betsy Tisdale  
 Richard and Bethany Teitelbaum  
 Jane Terlouw  
 David Trost  
 Luvie Tuller  
 Jim and Colleen Van Hoven  
 Sandy Vance and Lee Ackley  
 Marcia Voorhis Andrew and William Andrew  
 Don and Dale Winyall

**Thanks also to:**

Adirondack Foundation	Notes of Balance
Ausable Brewing	Pink Pig
B&B Beef LCC	Reber Rock Farm
Blackbaud Giving Group	Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Boquet Liquor Shop	Renew
Champlain Bank	River and Rails Market
Champlain Ferries	Spirit of Ethan Allen
DAF Giving 360	Stewart's Holiday Wish
Dames Discount Wine and Liquor	Town of Essex
Delightfully Demented	Village Meat Market
Depot Theater	WBMJR 1974 Trust
Essex Community Fund	The Wild Center
Essex County Arts Council	Wild Orchard Farm Fund
Full and By Farm	Willow Leaf Duplications
Horsford Gardens and Nursery	Willsboro Bowling
Lawson Allen Charitable Trust	Willsboro Diner
MacMan	Willsboro Essex
	Scholarship Fund
	Willsboro Hardware

In addition to cash donations, many of our patrons donate services such as volunteer hours, and items for our tag sales, bake sales, Silent Auction, and other events. Patrons have donated materials, helped with story time programs, prepared items for lending, even fixed things around the library that need fixing.

The names listed here are both those who have donated financially and in-kind with items or services.

Thanks to help from dedicated volunteers, your library is open six days a week from May 1 to September 30. Typical jobs include shelving, rotating collection management, circulation, and of course, a sunny smile. It's a great feeling to send residents and visitors on their way with an item or information that will make their day. For more information about becoming a library volunteer, please contact Joyce Sukel by calling the library.

**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.**

**Make a financial contribution!** Yes, charitable donations will help your library!  
 As an official 501(c)3 organization, we are eligible for matching gifts.

**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.**