

LIGONIER VALLEY LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Prepared By:
Sharon Coronado
Library Director



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PA Law Title 24 Part VI LIBRARIES

CHAPTER 93

PUBLIC LIBRARY CODE

"Local library." Any free, public, nonsectarian library, whether established and maintained by a municipality or by a private association, corporation or group, which serves the informational, educational and recreational needs of all the residents of the area for which its governing body is responsible, by providing free access to:

- (1) An organized and currently useful collection of printed items and other materials, including free lending and reference services.
- (2) The services of a staff trained to recognize and provide for these needs.

2023 Board of Trustees

Carolyn Turner <i>Treasurer</i>	Dr. Peggy Hasley <i>Board President</i>	Kate Lobdell <i>Secretary</i>
Lydia Mack	Laurie Mellon <i>Vice President</i>	Rebecca Krzmarzick
Susan Huba	Sally Van Ingen <i>Past President</i>	Hannah Seibel
Mariah Fisher		Alice Troy-Yslas

2023 Library Staff

Marissa Arcuri <i>Youth Services Librarian</i>	Sharon Coronado <i>Library Director</i>	Debbie Burt <i>Circulation Supervisor</i>
Bobbi McDowell <i>Youth Services Assistant</i>	Cherie Massimo <i>Office Manager</i>	Andy Klein <i>Circulation Assistant</i>
Brenna Grimm <i>Adult Services + Marketing Coordinator</i>	Shirley Iscrupe <i>Pennsylvania Room Archivist</i>	Kathy Geisey <i>Technical Services Coordinator</i>

A WORD FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

DR. PEGGY HASLEY

Our Ligonier Valley Library has come a long way since July 14, 1945 when it opened in a Ligonier residence with 200 donated books!

Our collection of books has expanded to over 60,000 books and over 70,000 items. The number and variety of programs has dramatically increased with activities targeted to a broad range of interests and to all ages in our community. As a consequence, the number and engagement of our patrons has responded. Most days that I visit the library I see a steady hum of activity. The Library is certainly serving as a central hub of Ligonier that, as our mission says, is: “sparking and sustaining connections and personal enrichment”.

The achievements should largely be credited to our new Library Director, Sharon Coronado, who has sprung into action accomplishing so much for the Library in a short time. Sharon has reached out to and created ties with multiple community groups and institutions in the Ligonier Valley. She has fostered an atmosphere of growth and possibility for her staff. She has created a welcoming environment that is oriented first and foremost to customer service.

But without the support of our community and especially the support of the Library Association Members, these things could not have been accomplished. You stuck with us during the difficult times of the Covid pandemic and have helped the Library to make a triumphant return in 2023.

We are so grateful for your very presence in our Library and for your reading and learning mindset. We sincerely thank you.

Once you have taken a look at the report that follows, drop by and visit us. Try something that you haven’t tried before. I know that I will. See you in the stacks!

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Association Members,

Thank you for supporting your library. The best a librarian can hope for is a community that supports their library, loves to read, and champions intellectual freedom. To have all this in a charming town makes me feel like the luckiest librarian. It's wonderful to work downtown where everyone smiles and says hello. I have fallen in love with Ligonier and I'm a very contented librarian because of you. I see how important the library is to this community and the outpouring of support during my brief time here has been an inspiration. Thank you for the warm welcome.

2023 was my first full fiscal year with LVL and I learned so much! You taught me a lot about Ligonier Valley's reading community. It's been a treat getting to know you and the amazing staff that have kept the library flourishing through years of unusual circumstances. They deserve all of the praise for what turned out to be a great first year with a new Director.

As you peruse this report, Peggy and I invite you to celebrate with us the achievements and milestones that we celebrated, such as hiring new staff and promoting existing staff into leadership roles, winning important grants that support operations, and finalizing our strategic plan. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, board members, volunteers, donors, partners, and most importantly, our patrons for their continued support and collaboration. We could not do it without all of you. I call upon each of you to help us make 2024 an even greater success.

My favorite 2023 memory was National Library Week, when our Community Leaders volunteered to be Community Readers. Shoutouts to Mayor Butch Bellas, Chief Mike Matruniks, and Firefighter Jeff Craig. The kids who attended your programs will remember their library experience forever. Anyone who can make kids excited to get to the library is a hero in my book.

SHARON CORONADO

LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Ligonier
Valley
Library



ASSOCIATION MEMBERS' ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION 2023

2929

Association annual appeal letters sent

\$36,350.00

Association Member total donation

326

Number of responses received

34

New Association Members



STRATEGIC PLAN

2023-2026

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND GOALS

1. Community Connections	2. Personal Enrichment	3. Organizational Strength
1.1. Communication and outreach will engage residents from all six communities in our service area	2.1. Our print and digital collections will evolve with patron needs and wants	3.1. Staff will be equipped to effectively and efficiently deliver on our mission
1.2. Our facility will be a safe space that enables all individuals and groups to explore and engage	2.2. Up-to-date technology tools and training will educate and entertain patrons	3.2. The Board of Trustees will exemplify best practice leadership, stewardship, and governance
1.3. Our customer service and hospitality will be welcoming and inclusive	2.3. The Pennsylvania Room and other collections will be continuously evaluated to ensure a more representative historical and scholarly record that reflects our commitment to respectful and responsible collection development.	3.3. Strong financial management, grant writing, and fundraising will support continuous improvement
1.4. Programs for children, teens, adults, and seniors will create a vibrant and diverse atmosphere		3.4. Partnerships across WLN and other nonprofits in the region will improve operations and outcomes



MISSION

We spark and sustain community connections and personal enrichment through educational and entertaining resources and programs for all.

VISION

We will be a pillar of and partner to the Ligonier Valley, celebrated for our impact on patrons of all ages and backgrounds who explore their passions, engage their neighbors, and elevate our community.

VALUES

Kindness – We treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Inclusiveness – We welcome and seek to meaningfully engage all people in an accessible, safe, and comfortable environment.

Openness – We listen to our community and evolve our offerings appropriately.

Cooperation – We work together within and outside of the Library to achieve our mission.

Stewardship – We hold ourselves accountable for the success and sustainability of our Library and community.



YOUTH SERVICES

MARISSA ARCURI

YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

As we reflect on the past year, we celebrate the joy of discovery and the power of play in nurturing young minds. We have strived to create an environment where children not only read but also explore, create, and discover. The Children's Wing fosters active engagement through showcasing children's art, building with blocks, puppets, games, a sensory corner, and more. We recognize that play is a fundamental way in which children explore the world, make sense of their experiences, and acquire new knowledge and skills.

Our focus on learning through play was the main driving force behind programming for our youngest patrons in 2023. We listened to our community and started brand new programs such as the Lego Club and Chess Club, which continue to grow each month. In Family Storytime; friendships are forged during free play, and community support networks are strengthened. For our teenage patrons, the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) plays a vital role in fostering stewardship of the library. Through the TAB, teens are empowered to provide valuable input on programs, collections, and services tailored to their needs and interests.

As we pause to celebrate our growth over the last year, we are grateful for the support of our community and the tireless efforts of our staff and volunteers. Through our new relationships with other non-profits, to our dedicated volunteers, we look ahead to our future. We are excited to build upon this momentum and explore new avenues for collaboration and community engagement.



ADULT SERVICES

BRENNA GRIMM

ADULT SERVICES + MARKETING COORDINATOR

In the past year, Adult Services has offered a blend of virtual and in-person programming, catering to the diverse interests of our community. Among our accomplishments, Virtual Author Talks experienced a significant surge in engagement, amassing a total of 2588 views. This platform has proven to be an invaluable resource for connecting our audience with renowned authors, fostering intellectual discourse, and expanding our reach.

Our YouTube channel also witnessed heightened engagement, with 181 views on taped programs, showcasing the growing appetite for our diverse content offerings. In-person programs remained a cornerstone of our initiatives, with our successful Local Author Series drawing significant interest. The highlight was undoubtedly the Farm Life Mini Book Club with Daryln Hoffstot, which captivated the participants and sparked lively discussions.

Moreover, our two book clubs, Death in the Stacks and Titles and Talk, continued to thrive, serving as vibrant hubs for literary exploration and community building. Additionally, our workshops, such as the recurring meditation class and one-time writing workshops, provided valuable opportunities for personal growth and creative expression.

These achievements underscore our dedication to providing enriching experiences across various platforms and formats. As we reflect on our successes, we eagerly anticipate the future, where we aim to expand our adult programming into a variety of topics to engage community members even further, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and discovery.



PENNSYLVANIA ROOM

SHIRLEY ISCRUPE

ARCHIVIST

Major thanks are in order for our dedicated volunteers: Frankie Graham, Kristine Kopay, Bill Iscrupe, Christine Adams, Rebecca Bell, and Larry Hofelt. These altruistic community members assist me with everything from processing gifts to hanging exhibits. I answered more than 1,115 phone calls, emails, and letters during 2023 and our volunteers help make that possible by donating their time on archival tasks so that I can focus on customer service.

Thanks also to our PA Room Donors consisting of 63 individuals, 4 organizations, and 3 anonymous supporters who contributed publications, framed prints & paintings, photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia. Of particular note are the records of the Ligonier Valley Writers which included 8 boxes of slides relating to the Ligonier Bicentennial of 1958, plus several large photos of early Ligonier football squads.

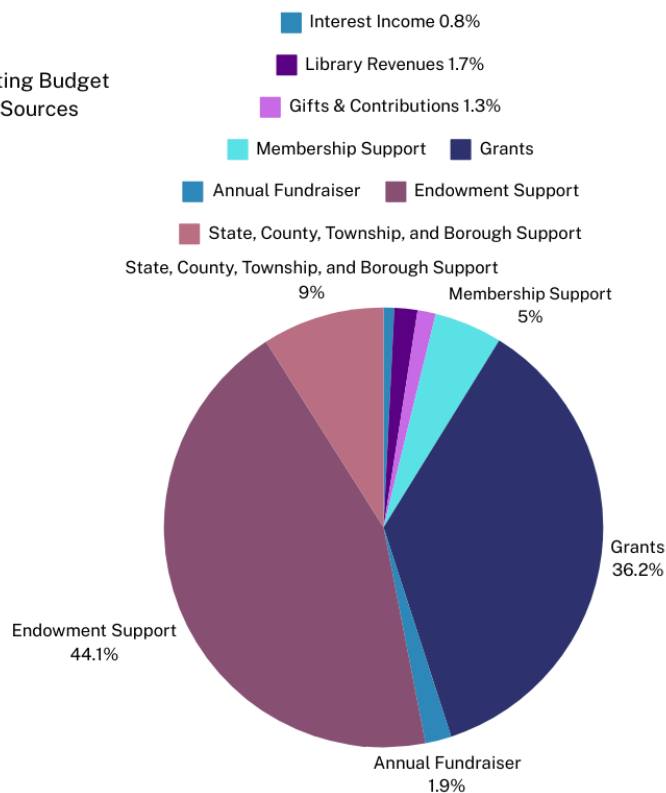
We held several popular programs but the distinction for 2023 belongs to our Historic Photography Show titled *Faces of Ligonier Valley: Veterans of Vietnam and the Cold War*. We were surprised by the outpouring of support from local families who entrusted their loved one's artifacts to us for our exhibit. Younger generations viscerally understand that the sacrifices of our veterans (and the people who loved them) directly benefit their lives.



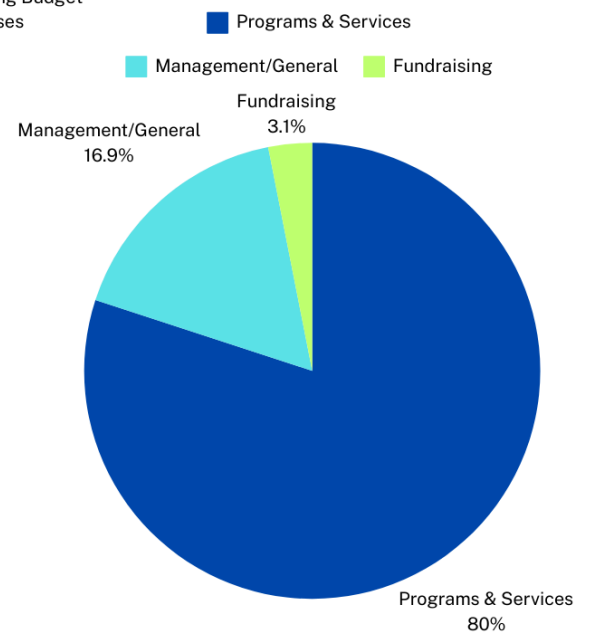
LIBRARY FINANCES

Enormous thanks to our donors and grantors who are vital to our success.

2023 Operating Budget
Revenue Sources



2023 Operating Budget
Expenses





+8.1%

Increase in library materials borrowed

+14.2%

Increase in visits to the library

+25.7%

Increase in visits to the PA Room &
Children's Section

+20%

Increase in items added to the library
catalog



-13.5%

Decrease in total number of card holders. We remove inactive card holders annually, so a decrease is expected here.

+17%

Increase in borrowed eBooks & eAudiobooks

+19.6%

Increase in holds placed on materials

+10.9%

Increase in computer and WiFi usage

Community survey feedback showed that you wanted more library programs and Library Staff listened. The Youth Services team, in particular, were laser focused on increasing program offerings in 2023, with an increased emphasis on engagement of Young Adults. Thank you for showing up to our programs. It's a lot of work but it's clearly the work we should be doing. Major kudos to Brenna, Marissa, and Miss Bobbi!

+260%

Increase in programs offered to
Preschool Children ages birth - 5

+200%

Increase in programs offered to
Elementary School Children ages 6 - 11

+1914%

Increase in programs offered to
Young Adults ages 12 - 18

+470%

Increase in programs offered to
Adults ages 19+

+152%

Increase in attendance at programs for
Preschool Children ages birth - 5

+451%

Increase in attendance at programs for
Elementary School Children ages 6 - 11

+278%

Increase in attendance at programs for
Young Adults ages 12 - 18

+169%

Increase in attendance at programs for
Adults ages 19+



Family Yoga

Saturday, July 8th 2023
11am - 12pm
Ligonier Valley Library
In the Community Room
Registration is necessary

For children 5-10 years & their families.
All ages will enjoy:
Movement,
Games,
Partner poses,
& Breathing exercises

Spend quality time as a family
Patrons are encouraged to bring their own mats.
Extras will be provided.



WESTMORELAND PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS: BOOKS COME ALIVE

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

August 17, 2023
6pm-7pm on the patio
Patio seating fits 20 people. First-come first-serve.



FREE POPCORN

TEEN TIME TODAY FROM 2PM-6PM

Try out our new popcorn machine and flavors!

OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS NATURE PROGRAM

For ages 5-12
Younger children are welcome to observe with their adults.

Friday, July 14
11:00am - 12:00pm
Ligonier Valley Library

MAXIMUM OF 20 SE
ARRIVE EARLY TO SECURE YO

Learn about Pennsylvania's native bird species from the Westmoreland Land Trust.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 11 - 16

2023

THURSDAY



DRAGON MASTERS

5PM-6PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM
SONG OF THE POISON DRAGON
PARTS ARE GIVEN OUT ON A FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVE BASIS
EAT POPCORN AND ENJOY THE STORY

SATURDAY



ACTION ORIGAMI

10:30-11:30AM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM
MAKE TOYS AND MOVING OBJECTS OUT OF PAPER!
THIS WEEK: SPINNING TOP, BALLOON, AND A FLAPPING BIRD

September 18-23

THURSDAY



STEM STATIONS

5PM-6PM IN THE CHILDREN'S WING
LEARN WHILE PLAYING! EXPLORE STATIONS FOCUSED ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH CONCEPTS

SATURDAY



CHESS CLUB

11AM-1PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM
FOR AGES 8-17 OF ALL DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE LEVELS
VOLUNTEER SPOTS ARE OPEN FOR TEENS

TEEN TIME

IN THE SMART ROOM MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

3PM-6PM

AGES 12-18

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE LIBRARY

5:00PM - 6:00PM



SMART ROOM



COMMUNITY ROOM



CHILDREN'S WING



SMART ROOM

NEW Saturday Series

Action origami

September 2, 9, & 16

10:30am-11:30am

Join us for three
Saturdays in September
to create moving objects
with only paper!

Recommended for ages 6 and up



Origami Storytime

SATURDAYS: JUNE 17TH, JULY 15TH, & AUGUST 19TH
10:30AM - 11:30AM

Listen to stories, then fold a creation from out of the storybooks!



No registration required.
All ages are welcome



Parents & guardians are encouraged to work with their children.

MACRO MANIA! AT MILL CREEK

EXPLORE THE CREEK'S LIVING COMMUNITIES
OF INSECTS, WORMS, AND MORE!

SATURDAY
AUGUST 12
10AM-11AM

JOIN US AT THE TRAIL-HEAD TO
LIGONIER VALLEY TRAIL
NEAR FRIENDSHIP PARK

Please bring:
water
sunscreen
snacks
towels

Sign up on our website
OR
Call 724-238-6451



LEGO CLUB

Begins Thursday,
June 22
4:30pm - 6pm

Join us once a month for
LEGO challenges or freeplay.

No registration necessary.

Suggested for ages 6-12.
Duplo will be provided for siblings.



Ligonier Valley Library Readers Theater presents...

Dragon Masters

Every 2nd Thursday
5pm-6pm
Community Room

Go to our website or
call to sign-up!

Drop-ins are
welcome.





Alice in Wonderland New Adventure

June 15, 2023

6pm-7pm on the patio



**TEEN TIME
AGES 13-19**

VR MEDITATION

CALL OR STOP-IN TO REGISTER FOR A TIME-SLOT
MAY 9, 16, & 23

VIRTUAL AUTHOR Talk

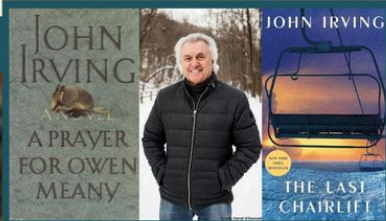
Bestselling Author
Amor Towles

Wednesday, September 27th at 8pm

VIRTUAL AUTHOR Talk

Bestselling Author

John Irving



Thursday, October 26th at 7pm

VIRTUAL AUTHOR Talk

Guidebook Author

Rick Steves

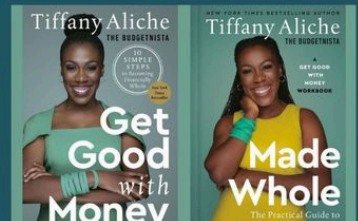


Tuesday, October 10th at 4pm

VIRTUAL AUTHOR Talk

Bestselling Author

Tiffany Aliche



Thursday, November 9th at 2pm



★★★ PEER SUPPORT FOR ★★★
VETERANS

Need help navigating your VA Health Benefits?



FRIDAY | JULY 14 | 1-3 FRIDAY | AUGUST 11 | 1-3
FRIDAY | JULY 21 | 10-1 FRIDAY | AUGUST 18 | 10-1
FRIDAY | JULY 28 | 1-3 FRIDAY | AUGUST 25 | 1-3

Help for Veterans by Veterans

THIS PROGRAM IS FREE. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CONFIDENTIAL.
VISIT THE BOARD ROOM, LOWER LEVEL OF LIBRARY

**SPOOKTACULAR
STORYTIME**

Saturday, October 7
11am-12pm

Ligonier Valley Library Children's Wing

**Library Staff
In-Service Day**

The Ligonier Valley Library will be
closed on **Monday, October 9th**
for mandatory staff training

We will reopen on Tuesday, October 10th at 10:00am

Coming up for the remainder of October
Programs to get you in the mood for Halloween

Five Nights at Freddy's VR
Saturday, October 21st 2-3pm

Ghost Stories with Alan Irvine
Wednesday, October 25th 6-7pm

Mystery Authors Talk
Saturday, October 28th 2:30-3:30pm

Movie Night: Haunted Mansion
Monday, October 30th 4:30-6:45pm

For more info, visit our website!

Tunes & Tempos Together

Connecting Kids to Music
Saturday Series
November 4, 11, and 18

For ages 3-5

10:30am-11:15am

Sign-up fast! Only 12 seats available

To sign up:
Call 724-238-6451
or visit the library

**TEEN ADVISORY
BOARD**

ELECTIONS!

SEPTEMBER 27 5PM-6PM

VOTE VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the
BOSTON TEA PARTY

with the **DAR**
Daughters of the American Revolution

DAR Tea Party

Saturday, December 16th
11am - 1:30pm

ParentTV

A LIBRARY OF PARENTING RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
FROM WORLD RENOWNED PARENTING EXPERTS & EDUCATORS

Dec/Jan Spotlight Video

IS YOUR CHILD BEING
'NAUGHTY' OR JUST NOT
COPING?

Maggie Dent
SPEAKER, AUTHOR & PARENTING EXPERT

ParentTV





21ST ANNUAL HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW
FACES OF LIGONIER VALLEY :
VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND THE COLD WAR
VIETNAM FOOTLOCKER PRESENTATION
 by Soldiers and Sailors Hall
 August 8th 6pm



21ST ANNUAL HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW
FACES OF LIGONIER VALLEY :
VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND THE COLD WAR
VIETNAM: A COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S STORY
 Presentation by Monty Murty
JULY 25 6PM

GENEALOGY FORUM
 Tuesday, September 26
 6-7 pm
 Pennsylvania Room
Show & Tell with your Family Treasures
No registration
www.ligonierlibrary.org





NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 23–29, 2023

ALA American Library Association
Library of Congress

Family Storytime

The Giving Tree

read by
Mayor Butch Bellas

Tuesday, April 25th
11am-12pm
in the Community Room

National Library Week series

Firefighter Storytime

Thursday, April 27th
11am-12pm
In the Children's Wing

Listen to stories read by
Ligonier Fireman Jeff Craig,
then tour of the fire department!

National Library Week series

POLICE OFFICER STORY TIME

Meet a real police officer

Listen to stories

Ask questions

Monday April 24th
11am-12pm
Children's Wing



Movie Night

Oct. 30th
4:30pm

All ages welcome!



Book Signing with Jazmin Henkel

Saturday, October 7th at 2:30pm

Special reading from Raging Tides at 3pm

A Day for Writers

With special program

This I Believe

Led by Jim Busch of the Ligonier Valley Writers

Celebrate "I LOVE TO WRITE" DAY

@ Ligonier Valley Library
120 W Main St, Ligonier, PA 15658

Wed, November 15
5:30 - 6:30 pm

All Ages Welcome!

A Novel Approach:
Turn Those Ideas Into a Page-Turner!

OR

"In a Flash" Youth Writing Workshop:
Young Writers Become Published Authors

Presented by teacher & author
Dana Thomas Weber

Meet the Author

Meet Elizabeth Rodenz author of
Josephine: A Woman of Indomitable Spirit
Including a presentation When Coal was King

ELIZABETH RODENZ
Author

Saturday June 24 | 2:00 PM
Ligonier Valley Library's Community Room, Lower Level

Joyce Tremel
(aka Joyce St. Anthony)

Lig Milliron

Mystery Authors Talk

Oct. 28th 2:30pm

During Ligonier's Pumpkin & Spice Festival

**Writing Your Environment:
A Creative Writing Workshop**

led by Jessica Poli, author of Red Ocher

October 16th 5:30pm Community Room

Foothills Writers

with special guest, Linda Harkcom

September 22
1-2:30pm (social hour 12-1pm)

September

Library Gard Sign Up Month

A Farm Life Mini Book Club

with author Daryln Hoffstot

November 16th 5:30-6:30pm

GREAT DECISIONS

A FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP HOSTED BY LIGONIER VALLEY LIBRARY



The Prettiest Palettes

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Access thousands of magazines for FREE using the Libby App and your Ligonier Valley Library card.

Junior Bookworms

Ligonier Valley Library Book Club for ages 6-11

2nd Thursday every month 5pm-6pm

Books & Crafts



Pittsburgh Magazine's
givebig
PITTSBURGH
presented by
GBU Life

COME GIVE

November 28, 2023 | 12:00am - 12:00am

Ghost Stories
with Alan Irvine
OCTOBER 25TH 6-7PM



Food for Thought Cookbook Club

The Library is a Candid Community Partner!
In-library access is now available for:
The Foundation Directory
GuideStar and
Grants to Individuals!

Research nonprofits & 990's;
Find grants for you and your nonprofit;
Research fellowships and student aid;
Sign up for online trainings;
Stay current by subscribing to the Candid Blog and Philanthropy News Digest.

Please stop by to use these new resources!

Family Storytime
Tuesdays 11am - 12pm
Ligonier Valley Library
Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome!
Show up when you can

Stories! Crafts! Free play!

TREK TO MT. EVEREST BASE CAMP
PRESENTATION BY
DIRK MATSON AND RAVI CHALLA
OCTOBER 7TH 1PM COMMUNITY ROOM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.
MAKE SURE TO REGISTER TO ENSURE YOUR SEAT!

DEATH IN THE STACKS / Titles & Talk
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
WRAP-UP PARTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 FROM 10:30-12:00

REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED
CALL 724-238-6451 OR
EMAIL ACTIVITIES@LIGONIERLIBRARY.ORG

CHESS CLUB
EVERY FOURTH SATURDAY
11AM - 1PM COME AND GO
FOR AGES 17 AND UNDER
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED



EXPLODING KITTENS
FIVE MINUTE KITTENS

Death in the Stacks
@ Ligonier Valley Library

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

A Mystery/Thriller Discussion Group

"Behind the Mask"

LeVar Burton will headline a live virtual conversation with Banned Books Week Youth Honorary Chair Da'Taeveyon Daniels about censorship and advocacy at 8:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, October 4. The event will stream live on Instagram (@banned_books_week)

October 4, 8:00 pm

For more information:





BOOKS & BREW
TONIGHT ONLY
@ Ligonier Valley Library
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 **\$25/PERSON**
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
CASH OR CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
LIGONIER VALLEY LIBRARY ARE
ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR

RAFFLES CORNPULL BLUNT AUCTION
\$35 PER GUEST 2 DRINK TICKETS PER GUEST - TASTING TABLES - ADULTS ONLY - LIVE MUSIC - TASTY TREATS

LIBRARY CLOSSES at 3pm 5/5/23
reopens at 10am on 5/6/23

