

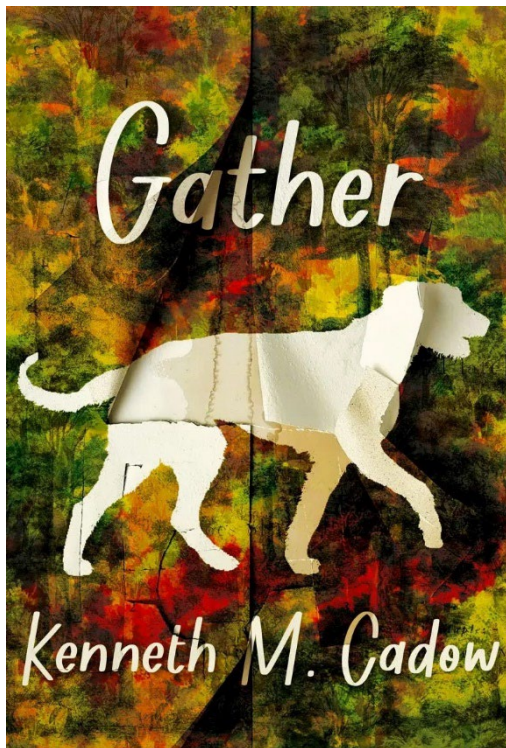
Bennington Free Library

A Bi-Annual Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2024

Gather Round for Vermont Reads 2024!

Since 2003, Vermont Humanities has invited students, adults, and seniors across the state to read the same book and participate in a wide variety of community activities related to the book's themes. The Vermont Reads 2024 book is *Gather* by Kenneth M. Cadow. *Gather* tells the story of Ian, a resourceful teenager from rural Vermont. He isn't supposed to have a dog, but his adopted pup Gather soon becomes a good friend. Although Ian hasn't yet finished high school, he works hard to take care of his mother, who is trying to overcome her addiction to opioids.



In early September, the library began distributing copies of *Gather*. Check at the library's front desk to borrow a copy! Throughout the month of October, **art-making tables** will be set up **in the Children's Room and Reference Reading Room**. Library visitors of all ages are invited to help make small pieces of art to take home or to add to the library's large mural that will be created by community members on Saturday, November 2 at 2 p.m. On Thursday, October 17 at 10 a.m. the Third Thursday Readers (book club co-sponsored by Green Mountain RSVP for readers ages 55 years+) will open its meeting to the public for a **hybrid book discussion of *Gather*** (in-person and online or by phone via Zoom). At 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, the Library will host a **World Conversations Gathering**. Enjoy free pizza and meet people interested in sharing world languages. Thursday, October 24, the Library will host an **in-person book discussion of *Gather*** beginning at 7 p.m. Our final program on Saturday, November 2 at 2 p.m. is a **Community Mural-Making and Art-Making**

Gathering. Using *Gather* the dog templates and other small pieces made at the art-marking tables in the Children's Room and Reference Reading Room, community members are invited to gather and create a large mural that will be displayed near the library's entrance.

The Bennington Free Library is excited to host Vermont Reads programs that encourage reflection, sharing, and making connections.



Be a part of the Library's "Go-Green Campaign"

Receive your newsletter via email.
Sign up at admin@bfli.org.
If you change your email address –
please let us know

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Letter from the Director.....

Welcome to the Fall/Winter newsletter.

Let's get down to business. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all those who supported the library by donating to the FY'24 Annual Fund. Some of you donated multiple times, all of you gave what you could and the end result was that we met our goal. I am impressed with the number of donors we have and I think you will be as well as you scan over the list on the next few pages. As always as one door closes so another opens and similarly as last year's Annual Fund closes, this year's campaign begins. Many of you will already have received your letters and I hope you will once more look favorably on the library and what we do to make an impact on the whole community.

Money from the Annual Fund goes to the services and programs we offer to everyone. Without your help and generosity, we would not be able to offer the passes to local attractions and museums or to offer a variety of programming.

On the programming front the library once more held a successful Summer Reading Program: the Adventure certainly started here! Take a look at page 6 for some snapshots from the summer. Many of the programs were held outside in our newly renovated courtyard. We had two raised beds installed in the courtyard which allowed for even more programs and the excess produce has been offered for free at the Circulation Desk. I hope you had the opportunity to check out a book and take home a cucumber! It is our intention to add more programming related to the garden and to include adults. Although it was a blast to see the two-year-olds watering the plants with their little watering cans I do believe that the adults deserve a chance.

There should be something for everyone during the next few months. Scattered throughout the newsletter you will find a play by Louise Penny and Laura Teasdale, a pop-up and regular book sale, fix-it-fun, and programming around the Vermont Humanities, Vermont Reads book "Gather" by Kenneth M. Cadow and Snapshot Series. Hope to see you at some if not all of these events and if there is ever anything that you would like to see at the library just ask and we will do our best to make it happen.

Finally keep in touch with everything that is happening at the library by checking out our website benningtonfreelibrary.org or by signing up to receive our monthly e-Blast which we call "Month in a Minute".

Wendy Sharkey

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow, the loss of the following supporters and friends of the Library:

June Cooper	Janet Fabricius	Donald Foster	Shane Fressola	Dean Hanson
	Robert Howe	Barbara Marino	Betsy Palmer	
	Cecelia Petrucelli	Edith Sawitsky	Dr. William Wolfe	

WEATHER PERMITTING

Harvest **POP UP BOOK SALE**



ON MAIN STREET
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 19
10AM TO 4PM

 Bennington Free Library 802-442-9051
benningtonfreelibrary.org

Harvest Pop-Up Book Sale

Saturday October 19
 10AM to 4PM

Coinciding with the town Harvest Festival held right here on Main Street. Come and wander the Street and see what we have on offer. All hardbacked books \$3 and all paperbacked books \$1.

Thank you, Annual Fund Donors

This past June, we completed our fiscal year 2023-2024 Annual Fund Drive. Your generous donations allowed the library to reach our fundraising goal for this year! At a time when we are doing more with less, your response was very gratifying. The Annual Fund helps pay for books and other media, special programming, public access computers and general operation functions.

We are very appreciative of your support!

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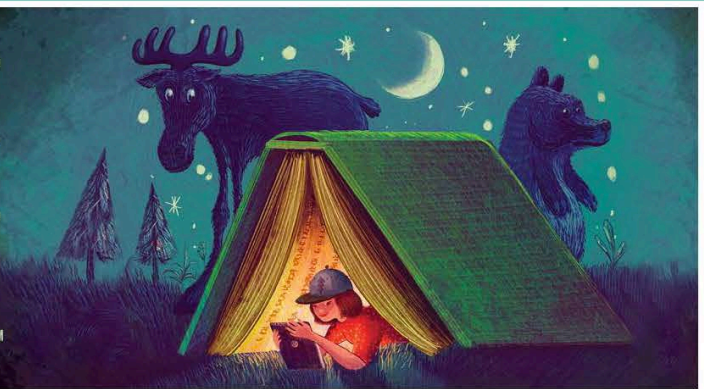
**MOUNT
ANTHONY
UNION
HIGH SCHOOL**

The library is looking for help. Does anyone out there have a spare copy of the 2023-2024 year book? If you have a spare copy or find that you do not want your copy then please consider donating it to the library.

The library has an impressive collection of year books starting with the 1920 edition of The Catamount. The Catamount was continued until 1967 when it changed its name to the Patriot Ledger. The library has the Patriot Ledger from 1967 – 1983. In 1984 it is just titled Mt. Anthony Union High School; the library has all years up to and including 2022-2023.

If you have a copy of the 2023-2024 edition then please either bring it to the library or contact Wendy Sharkey 802-442-9051 or director@bfli.org.

ADVENTURE — BEGINS AT — YOUR LIBRARY™



Bennington Free Library Humanities Camp 2024



We ROCK!

Bennington ROCKS!



VERMONT
HUMANITIES

*The BFL ROCKS

Library Exploration & books!

*ART ROCKS

Artist Ken Rush led a graphic novel artmaking workshop!

*CAVING ROCKS

Expert Caver, Jonah Spivak led a hike to Everett Cave!

*DENIM ROCKS

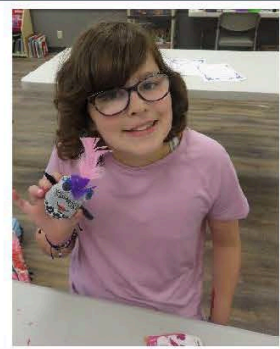
Super Seamstress, Meridy Capella led an upcycling jeans workshop!

*UKES ROCK

Ukulele player, Carol Stair led a uke lesson for everyone!

*VT ROCKS!

*@ The Bennington Museum
Rock expert, Ken Carlson &
Deana Mallory led us on a
tour of VT's rocks & minerals!*



Pet ROCKS!



Caving ROCKS!



Art ROCKS!

14 Middle School Students participated in the BFL's Humanities Camp this summer. They spent the week of July 15th exploring, creating, working together, reading, hiking & having FUN! The camp was led by Misti Granger with assistance from Bennington College intern, Zak Struck & the Children's Room staff. Guest artists, musicians & experts shared their skills & talents with the students.

GET READY THIS FALL: THE DRAGONS ARE COMING! DUNGEONS & DRAGONS BOOKS, AND MATERIALS ARE ARRIVING AT THE BENNINGTON FREE LIBRARY! ADVENTURES WILL SOON FOLLOW IN OCTOBER...

Fix It Fun Returns!

Do you enjoy repurposing and repairing household items? The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance and the Bennington Free Library are partnering to hold their second community repair event on Saturday, November 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bennington Free Library, 101 Silver Street. Volunteer fixers are needed to fix household items that community members bring for repair. All kinds of fixers are welcome, including clothing and fabric, small appliances, small furniture, toys, electrical items, jewelry, and more!

Community repair events reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by promoting repair and reuse. Instead of throwing items away, we can appreciate the value in our possessions by reusing them, which saves money and resources, and contributes to a more sustainable society. This project is made possible by a grant from the Association for Rural & Small Libraries through the generosity of the Manton Foundation.

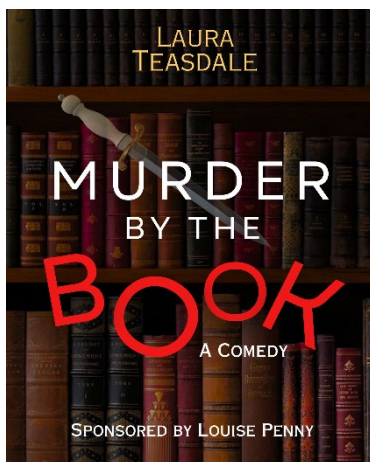


To learn more and complete the volunteer packet, visit benningtonfreelibrary.org, call the library: 802-442-9051 or email reference@bflib.org

Not a Fixer? Mark your calendar for November 9 and bring in items for repair!

Murder Mystery Fundraiser

The Bennington Free Library, John G. McCullough Free Library team up with the Bennington Theater to bring you an enhanced reading of "Murder by the Book" a comedy. The play was written by Laura Teasdale and sponsored by Louise Penny. We are just loving the opportunity to bring the play to the community.



Join us on November 17 at 2pm for this fundraiser.

Tickets \$25 each. Limited tickets so get them early. Tickets available online through the theater or from either of the libraries.

Basket raffle donated by the Vermont Country Store will be drawn at the event. Raffle tickets on sale now at both libraries.

Bake sale at the event. Get a desert to take home or to eat at the performance. Like your deserts, do both.

More details available on the Library website and at both libraries.

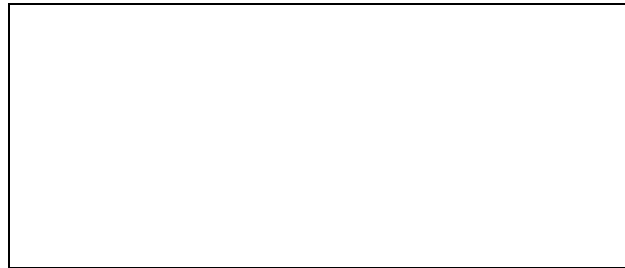
All funds raised will benefit the Bennington Free Library and the John G. McCullough

Free Library.

Bennington Free Library

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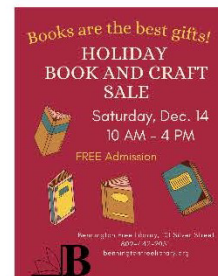


Holiday Book and Craft Sale

Back by popular demand but with a twist. Our holiday book sale will also have a number of crafters selling their wares at the event. If you are a crafter and want to sell your goods contact the library.

For one day only Saturday , December 14 from 10 am. - 4 pm. Perfect for those last minute gifts.

Book, books, and more books suitable for all ages and at unbeatable prices.



Snapshot Series Comes to Bennington!

Vermont Humanities' Snapshot Series includes free talks held at public libraries around Vermont and streamed online from September through May.

On Thursday, November 17 at 7 p.m. the Library will host,

What Does It Mean to Create Legacy? The Power of Personal Narrative. Poet and educator Naima Wade will unpack how personal narrative can create meaning and belonging for individuals and in society at large. Drawing on her own experience of “living with visible melanin in Vermont,” and using poetry and historical examples, she invites participants to reflect on how we can create our own healing legacies and nurture a more just and equitable society. Thanks to CAT-TV for hosting the livestream, live from the Library!