

# Bentley Happenings

December 2025



*Welcome*  
to the Library



## Why a Library?

"A library is a house of hope. It's a place where we all, whatever our situation, can feed our ideas and develop our dreams."

- Doug Wilhelm

[Visit our Website](#)



Follow us on Facebook at Bentley Memorial Library.

## Bentley Memorial Library

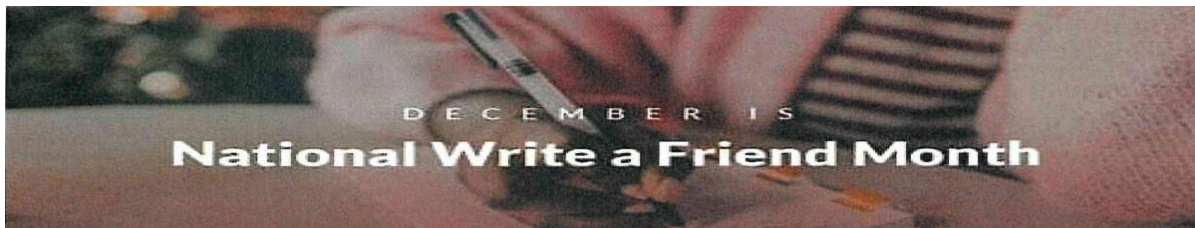
206 Bolton Center Road  
Bolton, CT  
860-646-7349 [bentley@biblio.org](mailto:bentley@biblio.org)

### Hours

Mon. - Thurs., 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Sat., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### Library Closing

Bentley will be closed on Thursday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas holiday. The library will also be closed on Thursday, January 1st in observance of the New Year. Please watch for updates on our holiday hours.



**"Write a Friend Month" offers the opportunity to reflect on the importance of reaching out to others and the positive effects it can have.**

**The Art Wall at Bentley is available for all local artists who would like to display their art. Please contact the library at 860-646-7349 or [bmlprograms@biblio.org](mailto:bmlprograms@biblio.org)**

## The Patio at Bentley

Our patio may seem a little bare and empty this season as our comfortable Polywood furniture is stored for the winter. Next Spring there will be additional seating and a new coffee table for however you choose to use the patio. These additions are just one example of how State Grants can benefit our town.



**6th Annual December Blanket Drive**  
*Benefiting the MACC Community Outreach Shelter*  
**Warmth for the Holidays**

The library will be collecting NEW and handmade quilts and blankets to benefit residents at the MACC shelter in Manchester, part of MACC's community outreach. The residents of these shelters appreciate the skill and time required to create these beautiful handmade quilts and blankets. All blankets and quilts must be dropped off at the library by **Saturday, December 20th**. Holiday deliveries will be made on Monday, December 22nd.

## The Giving Tree

'Tis the season to think of others! The Bolton Social Services Holiday Giving Tree at the library is a program where members of the community provide Holiday Gifts for residents that need some extra help during the Holiday season. Bentley's Giving Tree has gift tags from the Bolton Social Services ready for you to select.

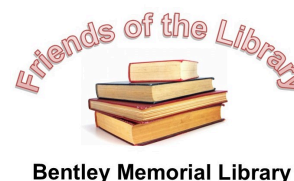


## Festival of Trees Hosted by Bolton Congregational Church December 5th & 6th

Bentley Memorial Library will join other local organizations with our Staff-Picks book themed Christmas tree. The library's tree will highlight novels the staff has selected as *really good reads*. Come explore this wonderful celebration of the holiday and learn about Bolton's many and diverse organizations. Place your vote for the library tree!

## Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library will offer **Coffee Table Books** for sale throughout the month of December in the front lobby. In addition to book sales, the Friends are also selling cloth Book Bags to help keep your library selections together. Please stop by Bentley to help support our sales. All proceeds will be used to support future programs at the library. As you get ready for the holidays and are cleaning out your puzzles, games, and books, please consider donating these to the Friends of the Library. We are looking to have a puzzle and game sale in the new year. The Friends of Bentley Memorial Library was happy to provide refreshments for two great events in November; Amber Mosely's book talk and the 50th anniversary celebration of the Library building. If you'd like to learn more about the Friends of the Library, consider joining us at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30.



Thanks to the Friends of the Library for providing refreshments and supplies for our programs throughout the year.



## The Display Case at Bentley 'We want you!'

Would you like to share your craft, art, travel or event with our fellow library patrons? Consider signing up to display your work in the main display case at Bentley Memorial Library. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your talent! **JANUARY** is coming and we have a slot available for you. We also have openings for May and June. Library patrons always enjoy admiring the display case presentations.

## Bolton Land Trust Animals of Bolton

The Bolton Land Trust has commissioned the creation of a large poster showcasing the animals local to Bolton. Visit Bentley to view this informative artwork displayed on the library art wall.

Illustrations by Dorothy L. Hall, Artist in Residence for the Bolton Land Trust  
Text by Peter M. Picone, Wildlife Biologist for the State of Connecticut



## 2025-2026 Bolton Calendar Bolton Conservation Commission

The library is offering the annual Conservation Commission calendar for \$10.00 each. All proceeds from sales go directly to the Conservation Commission.

## Tech Assistance at Bentley

Bentley will be providing technical support for our patrons throughout the Winter months. If you need assistance with email, Hoopla, Libby, Facebook, the Palace Project, your online account or Acorn– we're here to help. To schedule your in-library session, please call Bentley at 860-646-7349 or email us at [bmlprograms@biblio.org](mailto:bmlprograms@biblio.org) to select your date and **30 minute time slot**. Advance registration is essential to ensure that we are prepared to offer you the most useful assistance possible. If you have technical issues beyond the scope of what the Library can provide, consider contacting the [UR Community Cares Tech Center](#) for assistance, 860-430-4557. The Tech Center is located at 153 Spruce Street in Manchester.

## Coming This December!

Register online, by phone at 860-646-7349, or by email at [bmlprograms@biblio.org](mailto:bmlprograms@biblio.org).



### The Search Begins Scavenger Hunt

A new holiday-themed Scavenger Hunt will challenge your 'sleuthing' skills. Stop by the library and begin your hunt for the hidden objects.

## Toddler Playtime Thursdays in December 10:00-11:00



Come and join our parent-led toddler group which is designed for children from birth to age 3. A trained parent will lead age appropriate play and interactions. Toys will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Parents and care-givers are all welcome!



### Storytime at the Library Wednesday, December 3rd and 17th 11:45-12:15

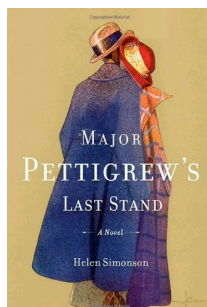
Storytime will continue on these **select Wednesdays** in December! Come and enjoy stories and a simple craft. Feel free to bring your own snack or lunch.

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## Read to the Dogs Reese, Belly & Amelia *Faithful Friends Therapy Dogs*

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 - 12:00**

As part of the December 6th town-wide holiday celebration, Bentley will feature a morning visit from our guest certified therapy dogs Reese, Belly and Amelia. Reading to a dog can improve reading abilities, help a child feel more comfortable and improve a child's attitude towards reading. Bentley will also share a holiday story at the Gazebo at 4:00, just before Santa arrives and the town tree is lit. Come and celebrate the season and enjoy the festivities.



### **Book Discussion**

### **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson**

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at noon**

**Led by Mark Nystrom**

Plan on traveling to Edgecombe St. Mary, a small village in the English countryside filled with rolling hills, thatched cottages, and a cast of characters both hilariously original and as familiar as the members of your own family. Among them is Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) who is wry, courtly, opinionated, and completely endearing. An unexpected friendship with a Pakistani shopkeeper who shares his love of literature begs the question 'can a provincial village accept this norm-breaking friendship'?

**[Preregister for Major Pettigrew's Last Stand](#)**

### **An Intimate Conversation with Ray Hardy**

**Thursday, December 11th at 6:30**

Ray will take us on a journey through wildlife exploration. He will share his mission, his process and the animals he so respects. This will be a small gathering with a limit of ten people. Preregistration is absolutely required and a waiting list will be developed.



**[Preregister for An Intimate Conversation with Ray Hardy](#)**



### **Family Holiday Pajama Storytime**

**Monday, December 15th from 6:30 - 7:15**

Join us for Pajama Storytime! Put on your PJ's and come and enjoy stories, a scavenger hunt, a simple craft and a treat. Please preregister to help us plan for this fun holiday event.

**[Preregister for Holiday Pajama Storytime](#)**

### **Coming in January!**

Register online, by phone at 860-646-7349, or by email at [bmlprograms@biblio.org](mailto:bmlprograms@biblio.org).



### **Toddler Playtime**

**Thursdays in January**

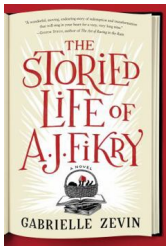
**10:00-11:00**

### **Storytime at the Library**

**Wednesday, January 7th, 14th and 28th**

**11:45-12:15**





## **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin**

**Wednesday, January 21st at noon**

**Led by Mark Nystrom**

A. J. Fikry is the cantankerous owner of Island Books who has recently endured some tough years: his wife has died, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and his prized possession--a rare edition of Poe poems--has been stolen. Over time, he has given up on people, and even the books in his store, instead of offering solace, are yet another reminder of a world that is changing too rapidly; until a most unexpected occurrence gives him the chance to make his life over and see things anew. The book offers charm, humor and insight - just the right mixture for a good January read!

**[Preregister for The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#)**

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Bentley Memorial Library | 206 Bolton Center Road | Bolton, CT 06043 US

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