

SPALDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

724 S. Main St.
Athens, PA 18810

Reading, Research, and Entertainment
Mon-Thurs 12-8pm, Fri 9am-3pm, Sat (July & August) 9am-1pm

570-888-7117
www.spaldinglibrary.org

All the buzz...

We are getting a facelift! You may have noticed work crews are busy working on our building this summer. They bring with them some inconvenience, and a bit of mess, but we are truly grateful for them. Our historic renovation project has been over three years in the making, and has needed the dedication of our staff, our trustees, and our community partners, to see it come to fruition.

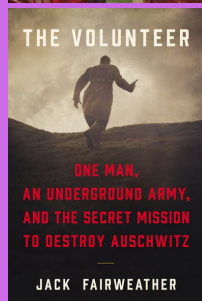
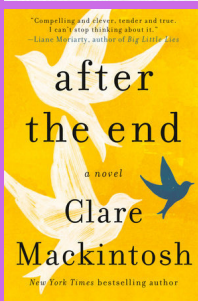
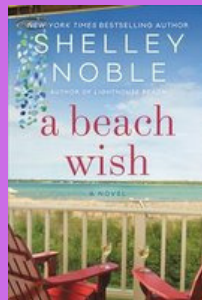
Before the end of the year, the Spalding Memorial Building will undergo four areas of renovation. The first stage is now near completion. The basement-level windows have been replaced and the wrought-iron railings have been removed, sand-blasted and (...read more on page 2)

Wine & Dine + A Brew or Two

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, **August 14th** from 5-8pm. Tickets are now for sale! **\$20 pre-sale and \$30 at-the-door**. Available at the library and museum desks and from any Trustee. Our SILENT AUCTION donations are starting to arrive: Weeping Cherry Tree: Athens Agway, **Golden Ticket for BCRAC Theatres: Bradford County Regional Arts Council**, \$100 Gift Certificate: Croft Lumber, Andrew Wyeth Print: Ceil Daher, **\$100 Gift Certificate: Heritage Beef**, Hand-crafted Hybrid Wine Bottle Stoppers: Detrick Woodworking, **Hand-crafted Original Designs Pottery (TBA): David Webster Potter**.



Check out our New Materials!



Adult Book Club

meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Our 1pm group and 6pm group choose individual titles based on participants interests. Quite often members leave having read a new genre that they have found they like. New members are always welcome to join. We provide copies of the books chosen.



All the buzz continued...

powder-coated, and replaced. The railings on our porch have been refinished too, and the sandstone porch has been meticulously cleaned to restore the stone's true color. These small improvements make a vast difference in the character of our beautiful old building. And they are only the start.

During the coming weeks, the slate floor in our mezzanine will be renovated. The crumbling floor tiles there will be replaced with new slate tiles that will be reinforced from below with sheet metal, to prevent cracking of the slate in the future. The slate for this renovation project is coming from what is very likely the same quarry where the original slate was mined when the mezzanine was built in the late 1920s. The type of slate used is called "Pennsylvania black ribbon sand slate" and it can only be found in one quarry in the nation in Slatington, PA.

The sandstone steps that adorn our front entrance are also scheduled for replacement. The crew at Mac Builders worked hard to find a vendor who could supply us with the right color sandstone to match our porch. With the direction of our architect, Andrew Harding of AJH Design, we are confident that the new steps will vastly improve our building's accessibility and appeal. As part of the porch renovations, the deterioration of the sandstone columns will also be remedied with restorative patches.

The last phase of our renovation project will be the replacement of the mezzanine windows in the rear of the building, overlooking the Chemung River. The old "energy vampire" windows will be removed and replaced with custom-made and energy-efficient windows that will blend well with the historical architecture of our building. On a personal note, our library staff is looking forward to not freezing in the mezzanine stacks next winter!

This renovation project began under the guidance of the Trustees of the Spalding Memorial Library Building Association in late 2015. In December of that year, the library received a Community Development Block Grant through the Bradford County Commissioners to fund much-needed building renovations. Following that grant award, the library had to undertake the rigorous task of getting approval for the building's improvements from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Our architect guided us through that complicated task, but over time it became clear that the cost of renovations were going to exceed the CDBG award amount.

In 2018, the Spalding Library applied for and received a grant from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to complete this ambitious project. The Keystone Grant is a "matching grant," which matches dollar-for-dollar any funds available for the project applied for. Library trustees also put forward over \$50,000 of endowment funds toward the grant application. In late 2018, the library was awarded this second grant, making almost \$200,000 available for our building renovations.

We are delighted to be stewards of this beautiful historic building, donated to our community by our native-son Jesse Spalding in 1897. It takes time and dedication to maintain a building such as ours, but with the support of community members like you, we can certainly succeed.

Our building renovation project has been made possible with funds provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Pennsylvania Department of Education, with funds provided from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the dedication of our Trustees, past and present, who envisioned this project: Todd Babcock, Elizabeth Gregory, Bruce Carpenter, David May, Phil Crouse, Marie Kwasnoski, Janet Giguee, Connie Roupp, Stacey Sickler, Jackie McNamara, and Katie Jones.

Before and After Pictures Building Renovations

BEFORE



AFTER

