GET TO KNOW LAURA

Position: Clerk

How Long Have you worked here?: Since February!

Hometown: Frederick, MD

Favorite Book: The Giver, by Lois Lowry, Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons, Pete the Cat: I Love my White Shoes, Pinkalicious, Fancy Nancy, Snowmen at Night, Little Blue Truck, and more!

Favorite Genre: Children’s Books and Historical Fiction

Favorite Color: Sapphire Blue

What do you want the Patrons to know about you?: I like painting, crafting, and planning activities. Let me know if there is something you would like to learn, a topic you would like to know more about, or an activity you would like to do!
Why do you think Libraries are important?: Libraries are AMAZING! As a stay at home mom looking for activities for me and my kids, I have enjoyed many libraries wherever we have lived. We have checked out hundreds of books over the years, and attended tons of story times and summer reading events! Storytime and library visits are not just for the kids either. Moms and caretakers also get much needed interaction or break time. Libraries offer learning opportunities, social interaction, access to things otherwise not available to patrons, and all the books you can read. All this for FREE!

For a setting close to home check out this book for a fun reveal!

Chaos and murder arrive in Charlie Parker’s hometown of Portland, Maine, with two connected crimes in the latest novel in #1 nationally bestselling author John Connolly’s “flawless and highly suspenseful” suspense series.
This summer, we celebrated 125 years since the laying of our building’s cornerstone. To honor the occasion, our front doors underwent a restoration. Taking in their new, fresh gleam calls to mind how striking it must have been to behold this new brick building, with its stonework and columns and grand, pure white entrance, all those decades ago. How striking it seems now, to have the paint and varnish so fresh and flawless, and contemplate how many people have walked through the doors throughout the decades.

One of the first to walk through them was Judge Henry M. Shepard. Judge Shepard, like Jesse Spalding, was an Athens’ native who made his home and career in Chicago. Both men were present on the day of the library’s dedication in June of 1898. It is noted in the official proceedings of that day that Judge Shepard had a “lively interest” in preserving the history of his birthplace, and that a remark he made, “concerning the necessity of a fireproof building” became the impetus for the beautiful structure we know today. How satisfying it must have been for him to dedicate the building with these words:

“Even brick and stone have tongues that speak and voices that shall be heard if they but be listened for.”

I like to think that on that day the bricks and the stone of the library building spoke of prosperity and hope for posterity to those who were in attendance. Judge Shepard himself knew of both of these things as the grandson of John Shepard, who was once the largest white landholder in the area. Though Henry made his career elsewhere, it is clear that his roots in his home community were deep. Perhaps he understood his own part in the Valley’s story as he delivered his address.
“Communion with the past . . .” he said, “is but a recurring to history, a something, a romance perhaps of which our own lives are only a repetition under different conditions, a story whispered by one generation to another.”

Years later, the stories of the Valley and its history have been kept safe within the walls of brick and stone that Judge Shepard envisioned. Our doors have opened again and again for generations to share in these stories and be touched by them. If you have walked through our doors, you have in turn become part of the whisper of the library’s story.

If the voices of the bricks and stones could be heard today, surely we would be in awe of how they have been enriched. Each weathered brick, like each item on our shelves, and each patron who walks through our doors, adds richness and depth to story of our community’s library.

To walk through our doors is to mingle with the stories that reside here and the whispered* stories of everyone who has ever come here in search of a book or connection. Thank you sincerely for being part of our story during this milestone year.

*please note that actual whispering is no longer required!

- Tiffany

Please watch for our Annual Fund Drive appeal, coming soon to a mailbox near you!
Bryanna's

12 Challenge
12 months to read 12 books recommended by 12 friends

Hawk
James Patterson

Shadow of the Conqueror
Shad M. Brooks

The Only Woman in the Room
Marie Benedict

Shocking Towards Bethlehem
Joan Didion

Persepolis
Marjane Satrapi

One for the Money
Janet Evanovich

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe
Benjamin Alire Sáenz

The Darkest Minds
Alexandra Bracken

Ali Smith
How to be both

The Master and Margarita
Mikhail Bulgakov

The Name of the Wind
Patrick Rothfuss

The Da Vinci Code
Dan Brown

Template by @shadowbooker
There is a common misconception that library staff get to sit and read all day, every day. However, this could not be further from the truth. Sometimes, it can be hard for us to read anything at all for days, weeks, months... In my case, I had been plagued by this unimaginable problem for several years.

I have always craved the comfort of reading, and used to so easily devour long works of fiction in short periods of time. It used to be easy to get lost in other worlds fashioned by such creative people for hours upon hours on end. But alas, for the first few years of my adult life, I struggled to read much at all aside from the odd poem and the occasional picture book either being returned to us at the library, or one being newly added to our collection.

My problem was never lack of interest, nor lack of trying, but rather a severe drain in the focus I used to have for reading. I often found myself struggling to continue after just five pages, ten if I was very lucky, an affliction that made some books take me a whole year or even longer to finish—or worse, made others fall to the wayside unfinished regardless of how much I was enjoying them.

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This year, my best friend proposed a reading challenge to help me get back on my reading feet. This challenge only consisted of twelve books for the whole year—one a month, each recommended by a different peer. I am always motivated by a challenge, and even more so by a deadline, so this challenge did more to help me than my friend or myself could have anticipated. To start this challenge, I took the first recommendation from myself—to finish the book I had been struggling to get through for longer than I can remember now to share. Immediately, I found myself able to read each page faster, and able to get through more of them in one sitting. Before I knew it, I was on to book two. And then book 3. And so on. On September 30th, I finished my last book for this challenge, an astonishing (to me) three months ahead of schedule.

The beauty of this reading challenge is that I was encouraged to read eleven books (since I chose the first one myself) that I may have never picked up on my own. This process has taught me things about the world and about myself that I may have never known without having the guts to start something that felt so daunting and unachievable in the beginning. I have so much thanks to give to my friends, family, partner, patrons, and fellow library staff for recommending all of these books to me and pushing me to power through the task at hand.
To some people, it may seem silly to need this kind of push, especially for someone who works so closely with books every day. But I will be forever grateful for what has been given back to me in the eleven books that have been recommended to me this year.

I believe that the single most important thing I have learned this year is to better appreciate audio books for what they can do to help people with focus problems, like myself, to consume books that they may have otherwise never gotten the pleasure to read.

In wrapping up my own challenge, I would like to encourage all of you to ask a friend, partner, colleague, or family member for a book recommendation. You might even find a new favorite author or series.

~Bryanna Kellogg
Sea Otter #156, known to her friends as Odder, is a free spirit whose curiosity and playful nature lead her to swim too far out into the bay. When she is attacked by a shark and washes ashore, Odder is rescued by scientists and taken to the nearby aquarium to heal. Animal lovers and fans of Applegate’s The One and Only Ivan will enjoy this middle grade novel inspired by true stories from the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s program pairing orphaned sea otter pups with surrogate mothers.
Join the Excitement!

Book Club is for you!

Ever wonder what everyone is reading? What books they are talking about? Is there an author, book, or genre, you are passionate to share with others? Join the many book lovers for our monthly book club meetings. Together we discover a variety of authors and genres. We have spirited discussions with lively conversations and a host of positives by gathering together.

Every third Thursday of the month in our conference room held at 1 o’clock in the afternoon, 6PM in the evening, we invite you to share in this exciting time with us. There is no demand on your time to clock in for every meeting, come when you can!

Stop by our circulation desk where our friendly staff are happy to answer any and all questions.

We hope to see you at Spalding Memorial Library, where we discover together what happens between the covers!
Each year the Spalding Memorial Library partners with local schools to provide books for Kids at Risk in our area. Connie Roupp spearheaded this effort for over a decade, helping to distribute over 3500 books to local youth. Join in our effort this year as we endeavor in Connie's memory. Please consider being an angel by supplying a book for a child in need.

November 15th-December 10th
**Storytimes**

Join us at the library for stories, songs, and a craft on Friday mornings at 10AM & 11AM! Ms. Jess will also livestream stories on Facebook Live on Thursdays at 10AM.

*No storytime on 11/24, 11/25, 12/22 & 12/23*

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**Kids' Crafts**

Saturday, November 26th
10AM-1PM

Stop in during our Christmas Market to make ornaments for the library Christmas tree and your tree at home, too! We will make beaded Christmas trees, sparkly snowflakes, and jingle bell wreaths.

**Santa Claus will be here, too!**

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**Santa Storytime**

Friday
December 9th
10AM & 11AM
(All Ages)

Join us for stories with Santa! All ages are invited!

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**SOCIAL GAMING CLUB**

Join us for board games, card games, gaming computer fun, and more!

Great for kids, teens, and parents alike!

Every other Wednesday 5pm-7pm!

Join the Discord server using the QR Code below to receive regular updates!
If you are interested in submitting Newsletter Content please contact Meaghann at mcampbell@spaldinglibrary.org
Thank you!

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday
Noon-8PM
Friday 9AM-3PM
Saturday 9AM-4PM

Design and Paint Your Own
Gnome Painting
December 3rd
11:00 AM
At Spalding Memorial Library
Registration Required
Cost: $5 per person

Spalding Memorial Library's
8th Annual Christmas Market
Saturday, November 26th
10AM-4PM
724 S. Main, Athens, PA

Vendor Registration Deadline November 11th
Gold, art, barnboard, paintings, holiday decor, & more!