

Published in the Penn-Franklin News on 9/6/21.

### **Virtual Is OK with Me**

I love the virtual option for meetings and programming, irrespective of COVID-19. So much so, that I continue to attend hybrid Library Board meetings virtually, as I do also meetings/activities of other organizations with which I work; all the latter encourage and have adapted beautifully to virtual in this time of COVID.

More than a year ago, I wrote to alert you to all the on-line children's programming being made accessible countywide by individual library members of the Westmoreland Library Network. This was significant because, while WLN libraries normally do collaborate on cost-sharing, buying, and grant-writing, now they were doing collaborative on-line programming to benefit all patrons during the COVID-19 crisis no matter the home library. Some WLN libraries are rushing back to "normal" now, concurrently with the end of typically high summertime activity, but one in particular should be noted for its robust summertime offerings on-line. I want to recognize the Greensburg Hempfield Area Library (GHAL) for that.

So, without dates and times, here is a virtual sampling from a summertime GHAL menu.

**"Fairy Gardeners"**: Little gardeners are invited to join us as we learn how plants grow! We'll plant seeds and build our own fairy gardens for our Fairy friends. Please sign up once if you are able to attend most of the 6 sessions. This virtual program will be held via Zoom. Support for this program was provided by the Michael J. and Aimee Rusinko Kakos Fund through the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County at the Pittsburgh Foundation.

**"Bee-Bots and Coding Camp 3-Moon Adventures"**: Learn some basic coding by playing with a toy Bee! A story and coding come together for Bee-Bot fun. Our three-day camp will let you create your own story using our beautiful mats, coding cards and a Bee-Bot. The whole family can join in because it's yours for a week! Three different week-long sessions of Bee-Bot coding camps will be offered, each covering similar content; please choose one. Please register by family instead of by individual. Families will need to pick up their Bee-Bot at the library before the program and return it to the library when the program is finished. This virtual program will be held via Zoom.

**"STEM & STEAM"**: Are you curious? Do you like to figure things out? Maybe you just want to get your hands dirty, use glue, tape, scissors, or even your brain! Have some fun as we build, create, and make things with a little bit of learning too. Join Miss Steam and Miss Stem, a program filled with science, creativity and much more. This virtual program will be held via Zoom.

These happen to be on-line STEM examples from the more than 50 WLN in-person and virtual opportunities to participate in a program over the course of one week at eight different WLN Libraries. Of course, there have been more STEM programs than just the on-line ones, conducted in-person inside and outside of the Libraries. Lots of reading programs too for all ages, and crafts. There have been outdoor garden

Published in the Penn-Franklin News on 9/6/21.

programs and outdoor Stage Right! programs, and one by Delmont Public Library that was offered in a pizza shop.

You have only to go to <https://www.wlnonline.org/events/> to see the full listing of programs being offered weekly, so please check them out. And, I hope that you are coming to better appreciate that, even though you may patronize just your home library of the 23 main libraries in the county, you have been offered much, much more program access than you may have otherwise realized.

Charles B. Greenberg  
3268 Windgate Drive  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
(724) 325-1093