



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



www.tuscliteracy.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome sun, welcome flowers, welcome birds!

All around us, spring is in the air. The warmth from the sun is slowly thawing the ground, awakening the flowers and trees. Birds are feathering their nests, and the barnyards are exploding with new life too. In spring, hope springs eternal. We tackle projects we have been putting off both inside and outside – spring cleaning projects or gardening and yard work. We set goals and make plans for summer vacations and camps. Our graduating seniors feel this hope as well. Many are accepting jobs or offers for college, carefully planning for the future.

Tuscarawas County Literacy Coalition is planning for the future as well. Jim Gill, who has served the TCLC board and One Book One Community committee faithfully for over a decade is taking a step back. Jim has been an instrumental part of both the TCLC and OBOC. He was part of the founding board for both organizations. Through his support, Tuscarawas County has become a county focused on literacy initiative-supporting children of all ages, young adults, families, and the elderly. We are thankful for Jim's service and the amazing things he has accomplished in support of literacy.

Though we will miss Jim, the TCLC is pleased to welcome Lee Elliott as a new board member. Rachel Bowers will take the position of treasurer. We are excited to welcome both to new roles!

As we move towards summer, please include plans to attend TCLC literacy events- including the Shred Event in August and the One Book One Community event in November. Share information about TCLC with a friend and urge your neighbors to read our One Book, One Community title, *The Distance to Home* by Jenn Bishop.

Looking forward to a great summer,



Denise Cooley

Denise Cooley, TCLC President



2026 Community Shred Day Update

Mark your calendars! Our annual Community Shred Day is set for Saturday, July 25th. Stay tuned for more details coming soon and be sure to follow our Facebook page for the latest updates.

TURNING THE PAGE: JIM GILL STEPS BACK AFTER YEARS OF SERVICE WITH TCLC & OBOC

After nine years of serving on the Tuscarawas County Literary Coalition Board, Dover Public Library Director, Jim Gill, will, in his own words, “take a little step back in order to recoup and concentrate on other library projects.”

“I’ve chaired 18 One Book projects,” he said, “so I think it is time for me to step aside and make room for some new blood.” The One Book concept provides the entire community with the opportunity to read the same book and then meet and honor the author. It includes a number of factions besides reading, including writing and art competitions and an evening with the author.

“Meeting and talking with the author gives everyone, young and old, the knowledge that perhaps even they might write a book,” Gill said.

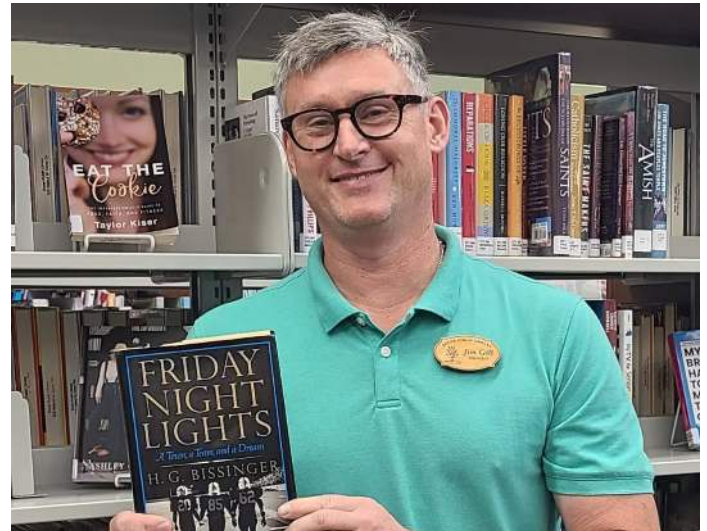
After ten years at New Philadelphia’s library and 16 years in Dover, Gill can rightfully brag about the programs offered. Every day, the building is filled with area residents taking advantage of the children’s, teens, and adult book offerings and programs that include such “non-library” activities as chess, crocheting, ukelele playing, and use of the makers lounge for creating new products.

Gill wants to concentrate on the renewal of a one-mil operating levy that would benefit the library for the next five years. He explained that it is not a tax increase, it will cost \$2.00 a month for the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 and will raise \$369,156 annually.

The funds will be used for the library’s operating expenses such as purchase of materials, programming for all ages, homebound delivery, early literacy programs, summer enrichment programs, and technology assistance.

The levy provides 28 percent of the library’s funds, and without it, severe cuts will have to be made. The primary election in which to vote will be held Tuesday, May 5.

“The state has cut back the amount of money it is contributing to libraries,” Gill said. “Our library is for everyone from birth to grave. Adaptability is the key to keeping us open and available to so many different kinds of people with so many different kinds of offerings.”

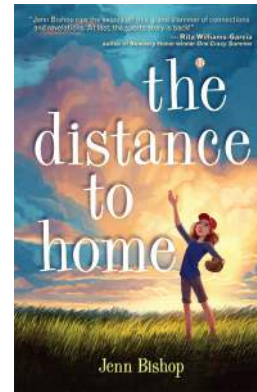


2026 ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY: *The Distance to Home* by Jenn Bishop

The 2026 One Book One Community (OBOC) selection for Tuscarawas County is *The Distance to Home* by Jenn Bishop (www.JennBishop.com). This novel is appropriate for middle school, junior high, high school students, and adults.

BOOK SUMMARY

Last summer, Quinnen was the star pitcher of her baseball team, the Panthers. They were headed for the championship, and her loudest supporter at every game was her best friend and older sister, Haley.



This summer, everything is different. Haley's death, at the end of last summer, has left Quinnen and her parents reeling. Without Haley in the stands, Quinnen doesn't want to play baseball. It seems like nothing can fill the Haley-sized hole in her world. The one glimmer of happiness comes from the Bandits, the local minor-league baseball team. For the first time, Quinnen and her family are hosting one of the players for the season. Without Haley, Quinnen's not sure it will be any fun, but soon she befriends a few players. With their help, can she make peace with the past and return to the pitcher's mound?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jenn Bishop is the author of five novels for young readers, including the Parents' Choice Gold Award winner *Things You Can't Say*. Her books have been named Junior Library Guild selections and Bank Street College of Education best books and have been finalists for state book awards. She currently calls Cincinnati, Ohio, home. What team do you think she roots for?

If you would like to read the book, you can access it through the following resources:

- Check with your local public library for available copies.
- The book is available digitally through the Libby app with a valid library card.
- The book is also available for purchase through Amazon.

EVENTS

We will host Literacy Connection Day for students at Kent State Tuscarawas on Monday, November 2, 2026. This daytime event will feature the author and is intended for middle school and high school students.

The annual culminating community event featuring the author will take place at 7:00pm on Monday, November 2, 2026, at Kent State Tuscarawas Founder's Hall. It is open to the community.

SUPPORT OBOC

One Book One Community is a community organization funded through private grants and donations. If you would like to support OBOC's mission of unifying the Tuscarawas County community through reading and literacy, please contact Rachael Bowers at rachael.bowers@staff.nctschools.org for more information.

BECOME A FRIEND OF LITERACY

You can help strengthen literacy across our community by becoming a Friend of Literacy.

You can support TCLC as a Friend of Literacy through a one-time donation in any amount. A Friend of Literacy is someone who believes that reading, writing, and learning open doors for individuals and families. Your generosity helps provide tutoring, learning materials, and educational opportunities for adults and children working to strengthen their literacy skills.



Checks may be made payable to Tuscarawas County Literacy Coalition with "Friend of Literacy" written on the memo line and mailed to:

Tuscarawas County Literacy Coalition
P.O. Box 1173
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Every contribution helps expand access to learning and strengthen literacy programs throughout Tuscarawas County. Thank you for helping us build a more literate and empowered community.

TCLC COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE 2026



Give your books a second chapter – help build a community of readers!

Spring cleaning is the perfect time to refresh your space, especially those overflowing bookshelves and tucked-away basement boxes. As you sort through your collection, consider giving your gently used books a second life by donating them to the TCLC Book Drive.

We welcome children's, young adult, and adult books in good condition. Your donations help bring the joy of reading to others throughout our community.

DROP-OFF OPPORTUNITIES:

- TCLC Shred Event – August 2026
- One Book, One Community Event – November 2026 at Founders Hall, Kent State Tuscarawas Campus

The donated books will be shared with local businesses, nonprofits, and Little Free Libraries across Tuscarawas County, helping stories find new homes and new readers.

BOARD UPDATE: NEW MEMBER AND UPDATED ROLES

We are pleased to announce an exciting update to our Board of Directors. Please join us in welcoming Lee Elliott to the board as a Member at Large. We are excited to have her contribute to the continued growth and mission of our organization. In addition, the board has updated some leadership roles.



CHRISTINE KENDLE, VICE PRESIDENT

Chris is the 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator for Ohio State University Extension in Tuscarawas County. Additionally, she serves as an Area Leader for Area 14 which includes Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, and Tuscarawas Counties. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS in Human Ecology with specialization in Dietetics and an MS in Human Nutrition. Her primary areas of programming emphasis include leadership development, camping initiatives, nutrition, and health related topics. Her passion is to impact lives through the work she does in the community. Chris is an avid reader and also enjoys scrapbooking and quilting. She cherishes the time she spends with her family, husband Todd and daughters Adeline and Allison.



RACHAEL BOWERS, TREASURER

Rachael is an English Language Arts and yearbook teacher at Newcomerstown High School. She also serves on the One Book One Community committee through the Tuscarawas County Literacy Coalition. She constantly strives to pass down the love of learning and desire to continue learning to her students. Rachael prays that each student entering her classroom recognizes their right and capacity to learn and grow as human beings. She believes in the value of learning about our careers, our interests, our families, our world. Rachael lives in Bolivar, Ohio, with her husband Rob and her son Bobby.

NOW SEEKING BOARD MEMBER!

We are seeking a Board Member to join our Board of Directors.

This volunteer role offers an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on literacy in our community. Our board consists of individuals dedicated to enhancing traditional literacy as well as cultural, financial, medical, and technological literacy in Tuscarawas County.

General Board Member Duties Include:

- Attending monthly board meetings (in person or virtually).
- Supporting the mission, vision, and strategic goals of TCLC.
- Participating in committees or community initiatives as needed.

If you are passionate about literacy and community impact, we invite you to consider serving on our board to help with advancing literacy in Tuscarawas County. Those interested should email TCLC at tuscarawasliteracy@gmail.com.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

CONGRAUTLATIONS TO OUR 2026 WINNERS!

TCLC is proud to announce two local graduating seniors as recipients of the 2026 Tuscarawas County Literacy Scholarship offered in Memory of Keith Rathbun. Each winner will receive a scholarship of \$500. Winners include: Kenley Hayes and Koy Haney.

Kenley Hayes, of Newcomerstown, plans to attend The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and major in elementary education. Kenley has been an active member of her community, participating in sports, student council, her church, and band. In pursuing a degree in education, Kenley wishes to “instill the importance of reading and produce the love of words to children in [her] classroom.”

Koy Haney of Gnadenhutten plans to attend Walsh University in Canton, Ohio, where he will study biology and pursue a pre-med track. Koy is an Eagle Scout, a football player at Indian Valley High School, and a member of the National Honor Society. As a future physician, he hopes to focus on healthcare literacy to help patients achieve better health outcomes.

Congratulations to both Kenley and Koy! We wish them continued success in all their future endeavors!

TUTORING RESOURCES



Subject(s): Reading | Grades: K-5th

Does your child need help with reading? Schedule a one-on-one, 30-minute session with certified literacy tutor Lana Schrock, PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literature.

DOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library – Dover

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM - BOLIVAR BRANCH

Select Tuesdays from January 27 - April 27 from 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Sponsored by Tuscarawas County Literacy Coalition

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM - MAIN LIBRARY

Every Wednesday from March 5 - May 21 from 4:30PM - 7:30PM

Sponsored by Friends of the Library – New Phila

TUTORING SUCCESS STORY

At the Bolivar Branch, at least five families have been working regularly with Lana during the winter and spring sessions. Several of these are returning families from the fall sessions, having observed improvements in their children's reading through their work with Lana.

LIBRARY OF THINGS

Tuscarawas County Public Library System and Dover Public Library have collections of non-traditional items patrons can borrow with their library card. Enjoy health, technology, STEAM kits, outdoor games and more. New items are being added all the time. Check your Dover Public Library or your local TCPL location for more details!

TCPL MUSEUM PASSES

The Tuscarawas County Public Library offers Museum Passes, a service that provides free passes to area attractions! Library customers using a valid TCPL adult card in good standing may borrow a pass to enjoy an educational day. Museum Passes are limited to one pass per household at one time. Digital cards are not eligible to check out Museum Passes. Visit www.tusclibrary.org for more details.

ADVENTURE PASSES DOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Dover Public Library offers Adventure Passes – passes and tickets to local museums and attractions – for patrons to check out and enjoy. There are two different types of passes to check out at Dover Public Library: Card Passes and Paper Passes. Get more details by calling 330-343-6123 or by visiting www.doverlibrary.org/adventure-passes/.

Follow us on
Facebook!



TUSCARAWAS COUNTY LIBRARIES

Claymont Public Library
215 E. Third Street
Uhrichsville, OH 44683
Phone: 740-922-3626

Mineral City Nicole Donant
8503 S High Ext
Mineral City, OH 44656
Phone: 330-859-9100

TCPL – Emma Huber Memorial Library
356 5th Street N.W.
Strasburg, OH 44680
Phone: 330-878-5711

Dennison Branch Library
15 N. Fourth Street
Dennison, OH 44621
Phone: 740-922-5851

Newcomerstown Public Library
123 E. Main Street
Newcomerstown, OH 43832
Phone: 740-498-8228

TCPL – Sugarcreek Branch
120 S. Broadway Street
Sugarcreek, OH 44681
Phone: 740-852-2813

Dover Public Library
525 N. Walnut Street
Dover, OH 44622
Phone: 330-343-6123

Tuscarawas County Public Library
121 Fair Avenue N.W.
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
Phone: 330-364-4474

TCPL – Tuscarawas Branch
209 S. Main Street
Tuscarawas, OH 44682
Phone: 740-922-2748

Gnadenhutten Public Library
160 N. Walnut Street
Gnadenhutten, OH 44629
Phone: 740-254-9224

TCPL – Bolivar Branch
455 W. Water Street
Bolivar, OH 44612
Phone: 330-874-2720

Kent State Tuscarawas Library
330 University Dr. NE
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
Phone: 330-308-7471