The Beals Memorial Library’s GSA Proudly Presents:

Drag Brunch Frequently Asked Questions

For those who have questions about the library’s upcoming drag brunch, please view this FAQ below.

What is drag?

Drag is a traditional art form of the LGBTQIA+ community. It is an artistic expression of gender and personality through dress up/costume and performance, featuring dance, song, and comedy entertainment. Drag performers are called “drag queens” and/or “drag kings”.

Who is the intended audience for this event?

The library’s intended audience for this event is local teen and adult members of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as members of the general public who might be curious about or who enjoy the art of drag. Although not the target audience, older children may attend this event in the company of their grown-up, and it is left to their grown-up’s discretion whether they feel comfortable bringing their child. Per our request, the performance will be family-family overall.

Who is funding this event?

This event is being funded through a grant provided by the Winchendon Cultural Council and by funds provided by the Friends of the Beals Memorial Library. The Cultural Council is providing funds for the cost of the performer, while the Friends of the Library are providing funds for the cost of food for the event.

Why did the library decide to host drag brunch?

There are a few reasons. One, the library often hosts special events for our ongoing clubs during the summer or during other times of the year. Therefore, it stands to reason that we would also plan something special and fun for our growing teen GSA group. Second, as a public library, the Beals Memorial Library seeks to serve all of the public, including aiming to better serve minority populations within our town, such as the local LGBTQIA+ community. Third, the Winchendon Cultural Council, on the main page of their website, listed amongst their FY2024 Local Priorities a desire to prioritize “Applications from LGBTQ+ organizations and organizations that center BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) individuals and communities” (Winchendon – Mass Cultural Council, 2024). Therefore, when considering what sort of special program or event might be fun for the teens joining our growing GSA group and which might draw a crowd, we settled on a teen-friendly drag brunch and requested funding from the Winchendon Cultural Council to make this event happen.
How does this event provide public benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of Winchendon as a community?

As stated above, drag is a traditional art form of the diverse LGBTQIA+ community, with roots in the African American and Latin American Ballroom Culture, an LGBTQIA+ subculture originating in 1920s New York. It is an important part of queer history and culture and, as an art form, encourages exploration of gender expression and aesthetics through dress/costume, dance, comedy, and other performative talents. This program will allow the LGBTQIA+ community of Winchendon to experience the entertainment of this aspect of their community’s culture within the safety of their hometown, and it will provide the general public with a deeper understanding of the queer community by seeing that drag is not unlike any other theatrical performance.

How is drag brunch different from an evening drag performance?

Drag brunch brings this art form out of nightclubs and into the light of day, allowing these entertainers to perform for wider audiences and break away from the taboos that result in people associating their performances solely with mature settings and content. Drag performers are versatile entertainers who have more to offer a variety of audiences beyond the burlesque and risqué performances they are more commonly known for. For example, some performers will do sing-alongs with younger audiences during drag brunch events.

Typically, drag queens are offered tips by the audience as they perform. Will that be expected at this event?

No. The performer is being paid strictly through a flat performer’s fee provided by the Cultural Council Grant. There will be no need or expectation for the audience to tip the performer as seen in typical, evening drag performances.

Resources: