This program was a celebration of the "Bridgerton" books and the latest season of the Netflix series. We aimed to invite fans for a fun afternoon tea and to have an outlet to discuss the series and characters they love.

**Advanced Planning**

The goal of this program was to celebrate a series that has become vastly popular over the last few years and to invite fans to have a fun afternoon where they can
talk about the story and characters with others.

I started planning for this in February of 2024 and slowly bought items and thought of fun prizes to give away to make this tea as enjoyable as possible. I asked our Friends of the Library group for aid in covering some or all of the cost.

The hardest part was getting a good buzz about the event and making sure people RSVPed and followed through with that RSVP. My initial goal was a group of 50 for the event and it would have been more realistic to aim for 30-35. I didn't feel disheartened by how slowly the 31 RSVPs trickled in. After a few cancellations, we ended up expecting 23 and therefore planned for 30 when it came to getting the food for the event.

**Marketing**

We primarily used our Facebook to promote the event as well as posters hanging up in our library and a few businesses in town. The Facebook posts were hit and miss, some did quite well and others were barely interacted with at all. The posters in the library did allow for it to come up organically with some patrons, and I'd say a bit of word of mouth went into it as well which worked pretty well.

**Budgeting**

This program had a handful of costs, from the decorations to the food and prizes. I'd say the bulk of our spending was invested in decorations, including the utensils for the food and tea. Dollar Tree is your biggest friend when looking to get as much as you can for your dollar. I found a lot of our utensil-like items there, saving a ton of money.

I'd also suggest asking people to loan out some items. We elected to ask our community if they had teapots we could borrow for the day instead of investing in some ourselves. It worked out nicely and they added an extra fun discussion element to the event.
**Day-of-event Activity**

On the day of the program, a family friend and I came in three hours before to do the finishing touches like building the sandwiches and putting out other condiments and snacks. We did a big bulk of set up the night before which also took about two hours.

The biggest challenge we faced was not being able to begin our setup till late the night before the event due to another group needing the space. Had I been able to do small things here and there throughout the week leading up to the event, it would have felt less frantic and rushed. Do not hesitate to ask for help. Had I asked for a little more assistance it could have benefited us to have more breathing room before the event.

**Program Execution**

We hosted the tea from 12:00 to 2:00 pm on a Saturday. People began showing up about 15-20 minutes before which was a bit earlier than I anticipated, but at least the tea was all set up.

We had 18 attendees when we expected 23 and prepared for 30. While it was a little heartbreaking to have some no-shows, it worked out because it allowed for a more open and inviting discussion.

I started with some [history and fun facts](#) about Afternoon Tea, the Regency era and the tradition of the “social season." Then we had time to eat and mingle for 15-20 minutes. I prepared some [discussion questions](#) and we spent about 45 minutes going over them and ended with giving away prizes. I’d say I achieved our goals by providing a fun afternoon for people to talk about a series they enjoy and to have some good food. Every attendee said they had a great time.

In preparation for the event, we created a display called 'Bridgerton and Beyond' which had the "Bridgerton" books and other Regency romances. We had some interest, and books left the display regularly. Everyone that attended the event made sure to mention they had a good time and would love to do something like it again so we considered that a major win since we have struggled with adult events...
since COVID. We didn't do any type of survey, but in hindsight, I would have liked to
so I could get more specific feedback as well.

**Advice**

Plan ahead. Never assume any time is too early to get started. I even started getting
some of the decorations ready weeks to a little over a month in advance so they
weren’t things I had to worry about week or day of. One of my major projects was to
build a small floral arch as a photo opportunity area and I took an hour here or there
in the afternoons to build it out so all that needed to be done with it the day of was
to hang it from the ceiling.

Food is both easy and tasking for an event like this. You can easily Google ideas of
tea-like food to serve and you’ll find hundreds of ideas and recipes. Narrow down
your list and scout out options and prices in stores.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Many hands make light work and in a situation like
this, it will aid you greatly.

**Supporting Materials**

- **Download this Program as a PDF**
  - Feedback (Coming Soon!)
  - Programming Librarian Facebook Group

**Slideshow Images**
YOU ARE INVITED TO
Bridgerton Afternoon Tea
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th
1:00 - 2:00 P.M.
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN THE LADIES OF THE LIBRARY MANOR FOR A MOST WONDERFUL AFTERNOON TEA. A SPREAD MEANT FOR THE MORE ELITIST OF THE TEAS WILL BE PROVIDED AS WE DISCUSS THE CURRENT DOWARDS OF THE BRIDGERTONS AND OTHER PROMINENT FAMILIES OF SAVANNAH. YOUR INQUIRY IS NOT REQUIRED BUT HIGHLY ENCOURAGED. THIS SOIREE IS LIMITED TO 50 ATTENDEES SO PLEASE INQUIRE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT THIS EVENT OF THE SEASON!

Lady Whistledown's
Society Papers
Extravagant People, Extravagant New

Dear Gentle Reader,

It has come to this author's attention, that there have been rumblings of an most exciting event coming to the halls of Bridgerton Community Library. The illustrious names of the guests will be hosting an afternoon tea that anyone who is anyone of the town is not to miss. Come with an appetite for a scrumptious spread of treats as well as tantalizing gossip about the antics of the Bridgertons.

Please be assured that this event is open to all, but a reservation is highly encouraged. For more information on this exciting event, please see the event below.

Yours in anticipation,

Lady Whistledown
Image
Bridgerton High Tea

Audiences:

Intergenerational
Tea Blend Workshop

Audiences:

Adults (21 and up)
Books & Looks

Audiences:

Teens (13-16)
Young Adult (17 - 20)
Adults (21 and up)