

**"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"
FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS
DECEMBER 2022**



Important News

(1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library will be closed on the following days:

**December 24, 2022 and December 26, 2022 in observance of Christmas
December 31, 2022 in observance of New Year's Eve/Day**

(2) Holiday Sale -- Looking for the perfect book to help you decorate for the holidays or cook the perfect holiday meal or just give you that wonderful holiday feeling? [Then you won't want to miss the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library's "Holiday-Themed Book Sale"](#) featuring an assortment of holiday-themed books in many genres. [This special book sale will be held for several days this month -- December 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, and 20, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.](#) The sale will be located inside our library (right by the front desk). We'll also be using the sale as an opportunity to sign up more members. **If you would like to volunteer to help out during the sale, please RSVP to this email with your availability. Thanks in advance for your support!**

(3) Can You Spare a Moment? -- Members of The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library's Book Inventory Committee are already hard at work planning our 2023 book donation and book sale days and readying our book room for these important events. **If you have some time to spare -- even just an hour or so a month -- The Book Inventory Committee is looking for volunteers to help with their preparations. You'll have fun and meet fellow book lovers -- all while giving back to our wonderful library. **To get started simply RSVP to this email and we'll be in touch. Thanks in advance for giving of your time to help support our town's library!!****

(4) Reaching Out a Helping Hand -- The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library was honored to make a donation to the Township of Ocean Community Hope Fund's Adopt a Family Program. The program helps provide gifts, food and friendship to needy families with children who are hoping for some joy this holiday season. During tough economic times efforts such as the Adopt a Family Program are so important. **If you'd also like to help you can go to:**

[http://www.oceantwp.org/filestorage/5935/8232/Microsoft Word - CHF Adopt a Family Information.doc.pdf](http://www.oceantwp.org/filestorage/5935/8232/Microsoft_Word_-_CHF_Adopt_a_Family_Information.doc.pdf)
to learn more about this wonderful program.

(5) With 2023 just around the corner (hasn't this year flown by?), please take a moment to renew your membership with The Friends of the Ocean Township Library.

Like many non-profits, our group relies on fund raising efforts and membership dues (**our annual dues are only \$5.00**) to continue to provide services and support our library and keep you informed and aware of what programs, events and services are available to you.

There are two ways you can help us support our library...

(A) Please renew today (remember it only costs \$5.00 annually to be a member of the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library). Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org or directly by clicking [here](#)

(B) If you find the services we provide helpful, spread the word! Let your friends, family and neighbors know about the Friends of the Ocean Township Library and ask them to consider becoming a member. Simply print out a copy of our membership form (located on our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) for them and ask them to return it to the address provided on the form.

Please note: For your convenience you can choose to pay your \$5.00 annual membership dues either by check/money order or via our electronic payment option (which allows you to pay with PayPal or with a Debit or Credit Card). Simply go to our website to renew: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org

We appreciate your support and thank you!



Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) Movies...Movies....Movies -- Interested in enjoying a good movie? Then look no further than our library, where a number of movies are being shown this month. [All the movies are free to attend!](#)

December 1, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. -- Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris starring Lesley Manville, Jason Isaacs, Isabelle Huppert, and Lambert Wilson (2022) (Rated PG)

December 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. -- Where the Crawdads Sing starring Daisy Edgar-Jones, Harris Dickinson, and David Strathairn (2022) (Rated PG-13)

December 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. -- Mr. Church starring Eddie Murphy, Britt Robertson, and Natascha McElhone (2016) (Rated PG-13)

December 22, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. -- Top Gun: Maverick starring Tom Cruise, Jennifer Connelly, Val Kilmer, and Miles Teller (2022) (Rated PG-13)

December 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. -- Carmen starring Natascha McElhone, Michela Farrugia, and Steven Love (2022) (Rated R)

You definitely won't want to miss these films -- so be sure and save the dates to your calendar.

(2) Book Club for Teens -- If you have teens in your family who enjoy reading, **encourage them to join our library branch's Young Adults Book Club. The club will be meeting on December 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss "Red Queen" by New York Times** bestselling author **Victoria Aveyard**. The book, currently number 14 on Amazon's Teen and Young Adult Science Fiction list, is an exciting tale filled with intrigue and betrayal.

(3) State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Counseling for People with Medicare -- On December 6, 2022 a SHIP counselor will be available at our library branch from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. to provide free one-on-one help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries who have problems with or questions about their Medicare insurance. Counselors can help you deal with claims, evaluate health insurance options, apply for financial assistance for prescription plans, etc. **All information is confidential. To schedule an appointment for the one-on-one counseling, please call the offices of SHIP at 732-728-1331.**

(4) Get Your Toes Tapping!!! -- Come enjoy an hour of music as our branch welcomes the very popular Charlie's Band on December 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Charlie's Band will be performing song selections from the Great American Songbook, as well as some smooth jazz and Latin musical numbers. You won't want to miss their performance! **(This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.)**

(5) Join a Knitting/Crocheting Group -- that is now meeting at our library on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of knitting and/or crocheting. This month the group is meeting on December 27, 2022. All levels are welcome. Please bring your own yarn, needles and/or hooks. Those interested in

learning how to knit or crochet also are welcome (just be sure to bring some chunky yarn along with your needles).

(6) Programs For Little Ones -- Our library branch is the site of many special children's programs each month. The sessions are full of fun exciting stories, song singing, and even craft making. **Simply go to: the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) for a full list of the children's programs happening at our branch in December.** Select the event you are interested in and you you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description



[Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators](#)

(1) The Township of Ocean Historical Museum -- [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](#) will be closed on December 25, 2022 and January 1, 2023 for the holidays.

The museum will be open on December 3, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and December 4, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. for their special holiday open house (see details below).

The museum will be open on all other Sundays in December from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

Mark Your Calendar -- for the museum's 2022 Holiday Open House and Craft Sale. You won't want to miss this special annual holiday event that takes place on December 3, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and December 4, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

2022 Holiday Quilt Raffle -- The museum is raffling off a beautiful "Celtic Garden" homemade quilt. The drawing will take place on December 4, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. (winner need not be present). To see a photo of this stunning quilt and to obtain a raffle ticket go to: https://tohmforms.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_72.html

(2) Turner Art Gallery -- The Turner Art Gallery, will be hosting a new exhibit, from December 9, 2022 through January 19, 2023, featuring the work of talented artist Adrienne Soltys. The exhibit is entitled "Variety is the Spice of Life." And, don't miss a special reception (which is open to the public and free to attend) for this

exhibit on December 11, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please note: some of the displayed art is available for purchase. For more information go to [adrienne_soltys.jpg](#)



Happening Around Town

(1) Christmas Tree Lighting -- You'll experience some memorable holiday merry making at our town's "It's A Wonderful Life" celebration presented by the Township of Ocean Community Celebrations & Department of Recreation. **The event, which includes our town's highly popular annual Christmas Tree Lighting, will take place on December 4, 2022 at 703 Deal Road.** (Rain Date is December 11, 2022) The festivities begin at 2:00 p.m. (with a special appearance by Santa at 5:00 p.m.) **And this year, the town has some extra special fun activities planned -- including ice skating from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Please note: [registration is required for ice skating](#)), fireworks, refreshments** (courtesy of the Greater Ocean Township Chamber of Commerce), and even a **Christmas carousel!** **More details, including how to register for the ice skating, can be found at: <http://oceantwp.org/qcontent/NewsFeed.aspx?FeedID=5960&ShowDetailsDate=false>**

(2) Menorah Lighting -- Please plan on attending our town's beautiful Menorah lighting ceremony on December 18, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at Town Hall (399 Monmouth Road) Come and join other town residents as the Menorah is lit to mark the beginning of Hanukkah, the festival of lights, a time of joy and celebration.

(3) CodeRED^(R) -- Have you signed up for the Town's CodeRED^(R) notification system? This system will notify you in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts in our town (for example evacuation orders, boil water notices, missing child reports, etc.) Signing up takes just a few minutes and will help ensure that you are "in the know" when important announcements are issued. **Go to our town's website at www.oceantwp.org, click on the CodeRED^(R) icon on the lower right hand side of the home page and just follow the sign-up instructions.**



Grab a Book and Sit Awhile**

Looking for a good book to read this month? No problem! This month we once again are spotlighting several different ways you can locate recommended books in just about every genre.

(1) The Man Behind Lord Grantham -- as every fan (and there are millions of them) of Downton Abbey knows, Lord Grantham is brought to life by the talented British actor Hugh Bonneville (who also starred in the popular children's movie Paddington Bear). What fans may not know is that the actor was well into his 40's before he found fame as the head of the engaging Crawley family. Now you have an opportunity to learn more about the struggles and challenges that ultimately led Mr. Bonneville to the role of a lifetime. **In his new memoir "*Playing Under the Piano*", which was recently reviewed by *The Washington Post*, the actor details his journey, while providing some interesting insights into the captivating world of Downton Abbey.** If you are a fan of the actor or of the show be sure to check out this interesting memoir.

(2) When Times Get Tough...Find a Good Book -- Some days it can seem like the bad news outweighs the good. But, as any reader will tell you, a good book can go a long way to lift one's mood. Goodreads agrees and that's why they recently asked their members to recommend some "feel good" books that are perfect mood boosters. The result is a list of forty-five great books -- books that bring back childhood memories, books full of charming and slightly strange characters, books by funny authors, and books that are all about getting a new start in life. Whatever the situation and whatever the day, you are sure to find a book that will help you see the brighter side of life. **To check out the list go to:** https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/2473-goodreads-members-favorite-books-to-lift-your-mood?int=Soapbox Signed Out 2022 Nov&int_sub=Blog 2473

(3) Winter Reading Magic -- Losing yourself in a book that is set during the holidays or in a snowstorm can be magical. If you are yearning to get into the winter spirit then check out Goodreads' list of winter reads. The list (which features thousands of books to choose from) is easy to navigate as it is sorted by category (for example children, young adults, historical fiction, romance, etc.). So put on your coziest sweater and check out the list at: <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/winter>

(4) Editors' Picks -- Wondering what are the newest books being discussed by the editors of Amazon's Book Review? Well, wonder no longer! The Editors have compiled a list of the riveting books that have them binge reading and anxious to discuss. The list includes *Black Panther* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing: A Memoir* by Matthew Perry, *The Distant Echo* by Val McDermid and more. To find the full list go to: https://www.amazon.com/amazonbookreview/read/B0BLXW8QZT?ref=abr_wi_dget_nav&theme=light

(5) Today Show Picks -- Jenna Bush Hager, host of the Today Show, **started a book club back in March of 2019** to promote a love of reading. **During that time, she's highlighted some remarkable books in a variety of genres.** If you are looking for a new book to tackle, you may want to check out the full list of "Read With Jenna" Book Club recommendations. You'll find the list at:

<https://www.today.com/shop/read-jenna-book-club-list-today-s-jenna-bush-hager-t164652>

(6) Consider Joining The Monmouth County Library's Virtual Book Discussion This Month --**

December 8, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual history book club to discuss *The Regency Years: During Which Jane Austen Writes, Napoleon Fights, Byron Makes Love, and Britain Becomes Modern* by Robert Morrison. While the Victorians are frequently credited with ushering in our current era, in truth the start of massive changes began years before during the Regency years (1811-1820), This book explores the massive contradictions found throughout the Regency Years that indelibly shaped the modern world.

**** ([Registration is required](#) for all of these programs. To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Scroll down to the date of the event you are interested in and you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description.)**

We hope you find this spotlight helpful. Happy Reading!!



Other Helpful & Fun Library Offerings**

(Unless otherwise noted, all of these programs require registration. Instructions for registering can be found at the end of this section.)

(1) Sensational Succulents -- Plan on joining Patricia Schleig, Rutgers Master Gardener, for a virtual program on **December 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** as she highlights the broad variety of succulents and how to properly care for them.

(2) It's A Wonderful Life -- Enjoy this holiday classic as it is presented as a virtual radio play -- complete with sound effects, music, and talented actors -- by the Classic Radio Road Show. The performance will be available to enjoy 24x7 from December 2, 2022 (beginning at 2:00 p.m.) through January 9, 2022. You can access this wonderful Golden Age of Radio program by going to the **the Library's website at: www.MonmouthCountyLib.org**

(3) Holiday Story & Recipe Swap -- In our last newsletter we told you that the Monmouth County Library would be hosting a **virtual Holiday Book and Recipe swap** this year. And, you had an opportunity to participate by submitting your favorite recipe in advance.

If you sent in your recipe, don't forget to join the live Zoom virtual holiday book and recipe swap when it happens on December 7, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

During the session you'll have a chance to share your recipe and also your favorite holiday book title. By the end of the swap you'll leave with some new recipes to try and some new books/authors to explore too.

Don't forget -- Registration is required.

(4) Winter Baking Festival -- Nothing beats the scent of baking cookies -- especially during the holidays. So, plan on joining **Chef Rob on December 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. as he whips up some mouthwatering cookies LIVE on the Monmouth Library's Facebook Page** -- which can be accessed through the Library's website at: www.MonmouthCountyLib.org

The three items on the menu are:

Goey and Chocolatey Mini Cookies

Holiday Jam Thumbprint Cookies

Spiced Eggnog Cookies with Rum Eggnog Frosting

(You will receive emailed recipes and photos when you register.)

(If you miss the LIVE Facebook event, this program will be rebroadcast on the Monmouth County Library's YouTube [Food Festival Playlist](#) after its initial airing.)

(5) It's a Holly Jolly Virtual Puppet Show -- Just perfect for the little ones in your life - **the Robert Rogers Puppet Company will be hosting a virtual puppet show on December 10, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.** You'll experience the magic of the season as you watch a tap dancing snowman, a marching penguin, and more. **Please note: ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED Registration begins on [December 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.](#)**

(6) Healthy Holiday Eating -- **Join Rachel Tansey**, Family & Community Health Sciences, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County, **on December 13, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. as she discusses how to keep a healthy holiday mindset and provides tips for focusing on your health while also indulging and enjoying a holiday meal.**

(7) Winter Barn Art -- Satisfy your inner artist by participating in this virtual art class with Barbara Freiberg on December 14, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. You'll learn how to draw a winter barn scene. You'll need the following supplies to participate: pencil, eraser, ruler, one piece of 9x12 white drawing paper or 6x6 sketch paper, and crayola markers or similar brand.

(8) Find Out What It's Worth -- On December 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. author, auctioneer appraiser, and radio show host, **Mike Ivankovich will let you know what your antiques, collectibles and personal treasures are worth today during this VIRTUAL presentation.** **PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE LIMITED APPRAISAL SLOTS AVAILABLE; HOWEVER VIRTUAL VIEWING SPOTS ARE UNLIMITED.**

Important appraisal instructions:

Registration will open December 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The first 25 confirmed registrants should receive an appraisal of ONE item. Registration does not guarantee a virtual appraisal.

Confirmed registrants should have one back up item available -- only to be used if the primary item cannot be viewed correctly by the appraiser.

Because of possible distortions, registrants should turn off Zoom's Virtual Backgrounds during the program.

(9) Sit In on a Lecture From the Comfort of Home -- The Monmouth County Library also sponsors interesting virtual lectures. This month be sure to check out:

December 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. -- "Miniatures: A Pop Culture Phenomenon" -- Join miniaturist **Darren T. Scala** as takes you into the exciting world of miniatures from ancient times to today. This lecture will address the growing popularity of miniatures, as well as the many different things miniatures can be made from and into.

December 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. -- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: Edward Steichen & World War II Navy Photography -- Join archivist and educator **Gary D. Saretzky** as he discusses the amazing life and career of **Edward Steichen** who became a premier fashion photographer and then **at the start of World War II became the oldest commissioned officer in the Navy and eventually headed all of Navy photography.** After the war, Steichen went on to become Director of Photography for the Museum of Modern Art in New York. **This lecture focuses on Steichen's years during the war.**

December 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. -- Party Hearty in the Middle Ages -- Join historian **Michael Norris** as he explains, using art and archaeology, medieval foods and their preparation in feasts, rules and ceremonies surrounding how these foods were presented, and the types of entertainment guests would

enjoy. Works from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Met's Cloisters Museum will be featured.

December 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. -- Subway Art of NYC -- Join author and historian **Oscar Israelowitz** as he takes you on a virtual tour of **New York City's amazing subway stations, some of which contain stained-glass skylights, brass chandeliers, and Guastavino tile arches.** The tour is based on Mr. Israelowitz's book *Secrets of the New York City Subways*.

(10) Encore! Encore! Encore! -- If you missed any of these earlier Monmouth County Library virtual offerings, now is your chance to catch them during their special encore presentations...

December 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. -- Movie Night Food Festival -- Join Chef Rob as he whips up three tasty snacks for you and your family to enjoy at your next family movie night. The recipes include Shrimp Scampi Flatbread, Pizza Nachos, and Cinnamon White Hot Chocolate with Chocolate Marshmallow Stirrers.

December 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. -- The Titanic: 110 Years Later -- Join historian **Greg Caggiano** as he explores the the voyage and sinking of the **Titanic.** The presentation will include an overview of the ship's construction, passenger daily life, and what ultimately went wrong.

December 29, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. -- Cheers! History of Liquor -- Join historian **Greg Caggiano** as he traces of history of liquor from its origins in **Biblical times** right through the Prohibition and what people are drinking today.

Please note: **To view these encore performances, go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#)** Scroll down to the date for the encore event you are interested in viewing and follow the instructions provided in the presentation description.

(11) Self Care -- If you are interested in meditation or yoga, then be sure to check out the **Monmouth County Library** for a host of self-care programs they are offering each month. **For a list of the sessions and to register simply go to: [the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking here](#)**

****[\(Unless otherwise noted, registration is required for all of these programs. To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking here](#) Scroll down to the date of the event you are interested in and you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description.)**



Help Our Community -- Want to do your part to help our community? Here are simple ways you can make a difference

(1) NJBEST -- If your child has college attendance in their future, be sure to take advantage of New Jersey's 529 College Savings Plan, NJBEST. It can help you get a head start on saving for your child's education. Taxpayers with household adjusted gross income of up to \$75,000 are eligible for a one-time match of up to \$750 with an initial deposit into a new NJBEST account for new beneficiaries. To learn more go

to: https://www.njbest.com/?utm_campaign=20221111_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

**Thank you again for your continued support of
The Friends of The Township of Ocean Library
You truly are making a difference!**

We love hearing from you. If you have a comment about or a suggestion for our newsletter -- send an email to friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com