

**"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"
FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS
SEPTEMBER 2023**



Important News

- (1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library will be closed on September 4, 2023 in observance of Labor Day.**
- (2) All branches of the Monmouth County Library also will be closed on September 11, 2023 to commemorate Patriot Day.**
- (3) Regular Schedule -- Just a reminder that our library returns to its normal Saturday operating schedule this month. Our branch will be **open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.****
- (4) Fire Up Your Imagination -- A library card is your key to unlock your imagination through great works of literature, magazines, audio and large print books, exciting movies, educational programming, and a host of digital resources like eBooks. **September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a perfect time to get a library card if you need one.** Just visit our library and our branch's staff will be glad to help you. (Remember to bring along your driver's license.) **And, if you have family, friends or neighbors who don't yet have a library card -- be sure to encourage them to get a card** so they can experience all the wonderful things that our library has to offer.**



Keeping Up With The Friends

- (1) It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of Phyllis Fyfe, vice president of The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library. Phyllis lived a life of service to her community. She was a founding member, past president and most recently vice president of**

the Friends, as well as a respected trustee of the Township of Ocean Historical Museum. She leaves behind an incredible legacy of promoting literacy and education not only through the Friends and Museum, but also during her over 46 years as a school librarian. **She was a remarkable individual who will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her. We extend our deepest condolences to her family.**

(2) Mark Your Calendar! -- Due to the overwhelming success of our book sale last month, we've decided to hold another **Book Donation Day at our library, on October 14, 2023 (RAIN OR SHINE) from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (or until our shelves reach capacity).**

This will help us ensure that we have plenty of new inventory for our next book sale (in the spring of next year). As you know, the proceeds from our sales help us support our library and its many wonderful adult, teen and children's programs.

Of Special Note: Our donation day is open to all residents of our town, so please spread the word and let your friends, family and neighbors know about our October 14th Book Donation Day. Encourage them to join you in gathering up unwanted books, CDs and DVDs (that are in good condition) and heading over to the library on October 14th.

BUT BEFORE YOU DO...PLEASE READ AND SHARE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT ACCEPT...

Items we can ACCEPT:

- Adult and Children's, Fiction and Non-Fiction hard or soft covered books in good or better condition
- Travel Guides Dated dated 2020 or newer
- CD Audiobooks, music CDs, and viewable DVDs in good condition **(Please check that each case has a disc inside before donating. Thank you.)**

. We are especially in need of both Fiction and Non-Fiction Large Print Books

Items we CANNOT ACCEPT:

- Books in poor or damaged condition
- Books with mildew, mold, water, or other stains, or without covers
- Books with wrinkled, marked, or highlighted pages
- Encyclopedias, Test books, Text Books, Reference, Reader's Digest
- Dated Non-Fiction
- VHS tapes or cassettes

For more information on what we can and cannot accept go to [this link](#).

URGENT REQUEST: WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS -- If you'd like to volunteer at the Book Donation Day, we would love to have your help. **Simply RSVP to this email with your availability and we'll be in touch with more details about how you can help. Thanks in advance for your support!!**



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 terrific movies are being shown this month. **And, all the movies are free to attend!**

September 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Book Club: The Next Chapter -- A close-knit group of four women, entering their golden years, embark on a luxury excursion to Italy. United by their passion for literature and romance the women experience a series of madcap adventures while deepening the bonds of their friendship. (This is the sequel to the 2018 film The Book Club.) Stars Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Mary Steenburgen, Candice Bergen and Andy Garcia. (2023) (Rated PG-13)

September 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- About My Father -- This film is about Sebastian who tells his old-school Italian immigrant father, Salvo, that he is going to propose to his all-American girlfriend. Salvo insists on crashing a weekend with her tony parents. Stars Robert DeNiro, Sebastian Maniscalco, Leslie Bibb and Kim Cattrall. (2023) (Rated PG-13)

September 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Love Again: It's All Coming Back to Me -- This film is about a young woman who tries to ease the pain of her fiancé's death by sending romantic texts to his old cell phone number and who then forms a connection with the man who now has the phone number. Stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas, San Heughan, Celine Dion and Russell Tovey. (2023) (Rated PG-13)

September 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Are You There God? It's Me Margaret -- A plucky eleven-year-old named Margaret finds her life on the cusp of change as her family moves from the city to a quiet suburban town. Margaret must now navigate the ups and downs of adolescence -- including new friends, new feelings, and ultimately a new sense of self. Based on the book by Judy Blume. Stars Abby Ryder Fortson, Rachel McAdams, and Kathy Bates. (2023) (Rated PG-13)

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

(2) Medicare Counseling -- Have a question or problem involving Medicare? Then, you will want to register for one-on-one assistance with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides confidential, unbiased information and assistance for evaluating health insurance options and dealing with claims. They can also help in applying for financial assistance for prescription plans, Medicare Parts A and B deductibles, premiums, co-insurance, and co-payments for qualifying beneficiaries. **SHIP volunteers will be at our branch on September 5, 2023 and September 19, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please note: An appointment is required. You can register for an appointment by calling 732-728-1331.**

(3) Free ESL Classes -- English as a Second Language in-person classes are returning to our branch starting September 6, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for adults (age 18 or older). The meetings will be held every Wednesday evening from September 6, 2023 through December 20, 2023. **Registration is required. Call our library branch at 732-531-5092 or register online at 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.

(4) A Summer Musical Interlude -- Come enjoy an hour of music as our branch welcomes back the very popular Charlie's Band, featuring vocalist Sandy Sasso, on September 20, 2023 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 sponsored by the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.)**

(5) Support for Caregivers -- The Monmouth County Library, in partnership with the Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans Services, has assembled Caregiver Kits. **The kits, which may be checked out for 2 weeks, are designed to provide caregivers with a variety of resources relevant to taking care of loved ones at home -- including books and pamphlets for local services that you may keep.** The kits are available to be checked out at both the Monmouth County Library Headquarters and the Eastern Branch, but residents of Ocean Township can request to check out a kit and have it sent to our branch for pick-up. Please ask our branch staff for help if you need assistance requesting the kit.

(6) The Turner Art Gallery, located within our library, **will have a new exhibit this month featuring the work of the talented artists Lois Kiely and Diane Greenblatt.** The exhibit, entitled "Kaleidoscope of Colors", will kick off with a reception, open to the public, on September 17, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Be sure to stop by later this month to enjoy their beautiful work.** Please note that some of the artwork will be available for purchase.

(7) 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 September 26, 2023.** 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).

(8) 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 September. Select the event you are interested in and you you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description



Monthly Tip

(1) Our branch librarian, Mary Patterson, reports that while traditional books are still hugely popular, there has been a surge in residents expressing interest in e-books. Given this growing interest in e-books, if you are wondering how you can download free library e-books to your device, we thought we'd repeat some some helpful "getting started" tips geared to specific devices. The following links provide step-by-step directions:

[For Kindle \(but not Kindle Fire\)](#)

[For Nook](#)

[For Ipad, Android, iPod touch, Kindle Fire, Nook HD and others](#)

If you need help, please ask one of our wonderful library staff members -- they will be happy to assist you.



Happening Around Town

(1) Fun Fall Fest -- Fall is in the air and what a perfect time for our town's popular Fall Fest. **This year the Fall Fest will be held on September 30, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Joe Palaia Park.** The day will be filled with vendors, food trucks, Bessie Boodles the Clown, Backyard Buddies Petting Zoo, fire truck rides, children's activities and inflatables, DPW Touch a Truck Display, music by A&S Sound and the band "After the Reign" (performing from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.), a car show, and so much more. **Don't miss out on this spectacular day of fun.**

Please Note: The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library will have a table at the Fall Fest to sign up new members and provide information regarding our library and all that it offers. If you'd like to volunteer to help out, simply RSVP to this email and let us know your availability for the Fall Fest event. Thanks!!

(2) Have a Question or a Comment for the Governor? -- Now residents of New Jersey, including those right here in Ocean Township, can now reach out to Governor Phil Murphy via text. The Governor launched a new platform, Community^(TM), becoming the first governor in the country to engage directly in this manner. **You can text your question or comments to the Governor at 732-605-5455. After you send your first text, you will receive an automated reply message. Simply follow the instructions in that reply text and you will be added to Governor Murphy's phone contact list. When you are prompted to enter your "city" you must use Ocean Township (as opposed to Oakhurst for example).** The Governor promises to send updates from time-to-time on pressing issues and to directly answer as many individual residents as he can. **Please note:** Community is a system that delivers text messages directly to subscribers without advertising and it does NOT sell user data.

(3) Reporting Crimes -- Our town's dedicated police officers are asking for your help. **If you are a victim of a crime or are involved in any incident that requires police investigation, please contact our police department at 732-531-1800 or 911 (if it is an emergency).** It has come to the attention of our town officials that some town residents are posting about crimes on various social media sites rather than properly documenting these incidents with the police. **Remember that our town's police officers are always available to take your report, give advice and assist you in any way possible. By working together we can keep our town safe.**

(4) Senior Services -- The Ocean Township Department of Human Services offers many helpful services for seniors each month. **One such service is FREE health screenings provided by the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey on the third Thursday of the month from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the West Park Recreation Center ([615 West Park Avenue](http://www.oceantwp.org/seniors)).** Services provided include monitoring of vital signs, medication review, patient education and disease prevention. **No appointment is necessary. For more information go to: www.oceantwp.org/seniors**

(5) **Hometown Heroes** -- The Township of Ocean Historical Museum has produced its latest Hometown Heroes video that you will definitely want to check out. **The video -- "My Brother's Up" -- showcases the heartwarming story of 12 brothers who formed their own baseball team in Depression era Long Branch.** Their story takes them from their early days in Long Branch to a ceremony at Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame. **Ocean Township Councilman Robert Acerra, son of one of the players, shares the family's inspiring baseball history along with award-winning children's book author, Audrey Vernick, also of Ocean Township, who wrote about the brothers in her book, *Brothers at Bat*.** To view "My Brother's Up" go to [this link](#).



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) A Friends' Pick -- As part of our redesign of the Friends monthly newsletter, we will be occasionally featuring a "Friend's Pick" -- a book or author that one of our members would like to recommend to other members of our group.

This month's recommendation comes from Friends member Barbara Saint John

Barbara just finished reading **"*The Red Address Book*" by Sofia Lundberg**. This heartwarming debut novel from Lundberg is about a 96-year-old woman who writes down the memories of her eventful life as she pages through her decades-old address book. **According to Barbara this book "is a quick read that held my interest from the very beginning. If you don't mind having a lump in your throat as you read, you will enjoy this book."**

PLEASE NOTE: Have a book you've enjoyed that you'd like to recommend? **Then, please help us spread the word about your great read to other Friends members. Just reply to this email with the name and author of the book and why you liked it. That's all there is to it! And we'll feature your recommendation in an upcoming newsletter.**

(2) Fall is in the Air -- And thanks to Goodreads you can get a heads start on checking out the biggest books for fall. **Goodreads has compiled its annual Big Books of Fall collection, featuring 55 of the this season's**

most anticipated new releases. As usual, Goodreads has sorted the books by genre making it super easy for you to dive right in. **The list includes new releases by John Grisham, Zadie Smith, Tim O'Brien, Stephen King, and Michael Harriot. To get started go**

to: https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/2617-readers-55-most-anticipated-books-of-fall?ref=bigbooksfall23_eb

(3) Calling All Teens -- If you're looking for books for the teens/young adults in your life (be they children or grandchildren), be sure to check out Epic Reads. This site is one of the largest young adult fiction online communities. One reason the site is so popular is that it offers interactive quizzes, colorful book charts, and lengthy lists of suggested books. **Begin your EPIC search at: <https://www.epicreads.com/>**

(4) Bookish -- Another great source for book recommendations is Bookish, from Netgallery. **Bookish offers a wide range of book lists (including audiobooks, fiction and young adult) and exclusive interviews with authors. But, what really sets this site apart is that they only list brand new releases or soon-to-be released titles, so you can get your library holds or pre-orders in before the rush starts. Want to join the ranks of the bookish? Go to: <https://bookish.netgalley.com/>**

(5) Consider Joining The Monmouth County Library's Book Discussions This Month --**

September 21, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this "Murder They Wrote" book club to discuss *"Portrait of a Thief"* by Grace D. Li. This book is about Will, a senior at Harvard, who fits perfectly in his role: the perfect student, an art history major, a sometimes artist, the eldest son who has always been his parents' American Dream. But, when a mysterious Chinese benefactor reaches out with an impossible -- and illegal -- job offer, Will also finds himself the leader of a heist to steal back five priceless Chinese sculptures looted from Beijing centuries ago. **(Please note this book club discussion will be hybrid -- presented in person at the Library Headquarters in Manalapan and on Zoom.)**

**** (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!!



More To the Story

Coming in September, the Monmouth County Library system will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month, including a 9/11 Commemorative Concert, several author talks (by the likes of Lidia Bastianich, Adam Alter, and Amor Towles), virtual cooking sessions with Chef Rob, yoga sessions, lectures (on topics such as unleashing your inner makeup artist, coastal birding, protecting yourself against scams, the New Jersey Pinelands, perennial plants, America during the Jazz Age, naturalization records for genealogy, coffee, problem solving while you sleep, Andrew Carnegie, organizing your life into one notebook, Chinese culture & art, shipwrecks off the Jersey Shore, planting for next spring, etc.), a Salsa music concert, a virtual appraisal program, a piano/vocal concert, a Yours Truly Johnny Dollar Radio Play, art workshops, writing workshops, English as a Second Language classes, gardening help sessions, and so much more.

You can find details about all the programs available this month, as well as register for those that interest you, **by clicking here**. Once on the site, simply select this month and year from the drop-down box at the top left of the page and **check out all the wonderful programs you can take advantage of in September.**



Looking for Links?

Here are some links for our town, county, and state that we hope will help you stay connected:

Ocean Township:

Friends of the Township of Ocean

Library: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org

Ocean Township Department of Human Services website -

- www.oceantwp.org (click on Departments on the left hand side of the home page and then on the Department of Human Services)

Ocean Township Garden Club -

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/597553924494267/>

Ocean Township Historical Museum -- www.oceanmuseum.org

Ocean Township Town Website -- www.oceantwp.org

Monmouth County:

Monmouth County Department of Health -- www.visitmonmouth.com

Monmouth County Library -- www.MonmouthCountyLib.org

New Jersey:

New Jersey Official State Web Site -- www.nj.gov

**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 please send an email
to friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com**