



"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"
FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS
JULY 2020

us **Important News** -- Please make note of these changes...

(1) Given the continuing uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus situation and the fact that we still do not have a reopening date for our library, our **August meeting is CANCELED**.

(2) **Great News!! It's official..the Township of Ocean Library is now offering curbside, contactless pickup, and the book drop is now open as well!**

If you are interested in obtaining a book from our library, follow these simple steps:

1. Go [online](#) and search for a book or books, then place a hold on the book(s) you are interested in checking out.
2. You will receive a call from the Library when your book is ready for pickup.
3. Set a time for pickup.
4. Once you arrive, call the library from your car (the phone number is 732-531-5092). **Please note you will be asked to provide your library card number.**
5. The staff will bring out the book(s) you requested and place it on a table outside the front door. At that point you can exit your car and retrieve your book.

NO CURBSIDE PICKUP IS AVAILABLE
JULY 3 AND JULY 4
AS THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED
IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.

(3) Right now we still do not have a date when residents will be allowed back inside the library building. We do know, however, that when the reopening happens the number of individuals permitted inside at any one time will be severely limited. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

(4) **Two other branches of the Monmouth County System -- the Headquarters location in Manalapan and the Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury -- also are now offering curbside, contactless pickup.** Those patrons who have received phone calls will be able to collect their requested books between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. When you arrive, please follow signs to the pick up area. You will find additional posted instructions at the pick up area.

The Monmouth County Library expects to announce additional branch curbside availability in the coming days. In the meantime, all of the branch staffs are working diligently to get locations ready to reopen.

(5) **This statement was issued by the NJ Library Association on Saturday, June 27, 2020.** "Governor Murphy recently announced libraries in New Jersey can reopen on July 2nd at 25% capacity. The NJLA Executive Board supports libraries in establishing their own timetables for reopening. There are many considerations and tasks for each individual library to discuss and implement before safely reopening, including bringing back furloughed staff, finding and funding personal protective equipment, and creating safe and effective service plans. Most libraries will not be ready to open on July 2nd. When libraries do open, services available will vary greatly. We stress that all libraries keep the safety of their staff and the public in mind when moving forward and applaud the work of taking on these unprecedented challenges with utmost care for the souls that provide and use our services."

us **Updates From The Township of Ocean Library** --

(1) **Summer Reading Program** -- This year's summer reading program is underway (the program runs through August 15th) and it is not too late to register. The theme this year is **"Imagine Your Story: Fantasy, Fairytale, Folktale"**. As in the past, each registered participant will be reading towards an opportunity to win a prize. Prizes will be given out in September.

To register go to: https://monmouthcountylib.beanstack.org/users/sign_in

If you participated in the summer reading program in the past, you can use the same user name and password to register this year. No problem if you've forgotten your user name or password you can simply reset it. If you need a quick "how to" for using Beanstack you can go to https://monmouthcountylib.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/beanstack_guide.pdf

The summer reading program levels are: **"Read To Me"** (prizes for 10 books, 20 books, and 40 books plus 3 fun activities); **"Vacation Reading Club"** (Grades K - 6 grade with prizes for 4 hours, 8 hours, and 16 hours plus 3 activities); **"Teens"** (Grades 6 - 12 with prizes for 8 hours plus 1 activity); and **"Adults"** (Age 18+ with prizes for 4 books plus 3 fun optional activities).

To earn prizes this year kids and teens are **required** to complete a number of fun activities. (Activities are optional for adults.) In case you are wondering the prizes for "Kids" are unicorn or Narwhal squirters; for "Vacation Reading Club" unicorn or dinosaur squish balls; and for "Teens/Adults" mini notebooks with post-its and mini pens.

Last year Ocean Township was the top Branch library in number of books/ebook/audiobooks read - **let's do it again!** So ready, set, go -- start reading

us Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators The Township of Ocean Historical Museum will be reopening on Sundays beginning on July 12th through August 30th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The museum will NOT be open Labor Day weekend. **PLEASE NOTE: FACE MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED OF ALL STAFF AND VISITORS. NO MORE THAN SIX GUESTS WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE AT ONE TIME.** Hand sanitizer will be available for visitors.

us Stand Up And Be Counted -- As of last week less than 70% of New Jersey's residents have responded to the 2020 Census. But, it is not too late to be counted! As a reminder, the census determines how many seats our state gets in Congress, guides how more that \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year (including funding for services like the National School Lunch Program and the Children's Health Insurance Program) and helps determine which communities require additional schools and hospitals. **The census is simple, secure, and it only takes a few minutes to complete.**

If you haven't yet done so, please take a minute and complete the census and help ensure our state gets the resources it needs Simply go to: 2020census.gov

You can complete the census online and also find answers to frequently asked questions. **Thanks for standing up for New Jersey!**

us Tax Filings Due In July -- Due to the Coronavirus crisis both the IRS and the NJ Division of Taxation extended the filing deadlines to July 15th. If you need forms you can print them out directly from the IRS website at www.irs.gov/forms or you can call the IRS (1-800-829-3676) Monday through Friday (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) to request a paper copy of the tax forms. New Jersey tax forms can be obtained online at state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/

us Grab A Good 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) **Take This Month's Virtual Reading Challenge** -- once again this month our library's round table of suggested reading based on a monthly theme is going virtual. This month's theme is "**Every Child Is A Story Yet To Be Told.**" Debbie Bagchi (one of our library's reference librarians who normally selects the challenge book selections each month) has compiled a list of great reads that fit the theme (many available as e-books and audio books, with others available as printed books for when curb side delivery begins at our branch). So, if you are up for a good book featuring children...check out Debbie's recommended books on our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org

(2) **Connect With Others In Isolation** -- The **Washington Post** has put together a list of books all featuring characters trapped in isolated houses or out-of-the-way locations. The list includes five books: "**The Guest List**" by **Lucy Folley**, which is set on an island off the coast of Ireland with a group of wedding guests trapped at the scene of a murder unable to return to the mainland. **Anna Downe's "The Safe Place"** where an unemployed aspiring actress becomes a companion to a wealthy family on a gated property in France soon learning that life in lock down isn't always paradise. **T.M. Logan's "The Vacation"** where a wife comes to suspect her husband of wrongdoing during a gathering of college friends in the south of France. **Jody Gehrman's "The Girls Weekend"** where friendships buckle when resentments build about other people's successes. "**Home Before Dark**" by **Riley Sager**, where the main character sets out to discover whether the rural Vermont mansion she and her parents fled 25 years before is actually haunted by the ghosts of murder victims.

(3) **Have Fun Browsing Recommended Reads From the American Library Association** -- The ALA has put together a list of links to a variety of the organization's literature award winners as well as notable reading lists. The titles included were selected by ALA members. Lists are updated annually and cover all ages -- from very young children though adults. You can find this fabulous resource by going to <https://libguides.ala.org/recommended-reading/home>

(4) **Explore Race, Racism and Race Relations** -- The Monmouth County Library has put together a list of titles to help you learn and better understand the critical issue of race relations in the United States. You can access this list on our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org

(5) **Check Out The Most Popular Books of 2020** -- This month **Goodreads** is highlighting the top 40 books of 2020 (so far!!) in all genres. To access the list and find your next read go to: <https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/1857>

(6) **Find Books Especially For Young People** -- Recommended reading lists from our Ocean Township schools for Grades K - 12 offer a host of great book suggestions geared to young people. The lists are all available on a great Google Sites website put together by English Supervisors, Michelle Shappirio and Ian Schwartz, along with media specialists and teachers at each of our township's schools. To access this resource simply go to <https://sites.google.com/oceanschools.org/spartansummerreading/home>

(7) **Or Join the Monmouth County Library's Virtual Book Club** -- On **July 15, 2020** this virtual book club will be discussing "**The Time Machine**" by **H.G. Wells** from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This novel tells the story of a time traveler who gathers his friends together and regales them with the tumultuous fate of the human race. The book club will be moderated by Alyssa Peterson. Registration is required. The link to register can be found on our website: www.friendsofocentwplibrary.org

Please note: Internet access is required to participate. Event access information will be emailed to you prior to the start of the event. If you have questions you can email mcl@monmouthcountylib.org

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

us Don't Let Your Membership Lapse -- Don't miss out on any of the latest library news while supporting our library at the same time. If you haven't yet renewed your membership for the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library it's not too late! (Memberships run from January - December of each year.) Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: www.friendsofocentwplibrary.org or directly by clicking [here](#)
We appreciate all of your support!

us Helpful Reminders:

(1) **Need Help Accessing Library Resources?** Library staff are available to assist you. **The library is "open" for phone help (1-866-941-8188) or via chat (through the Monmouth County Library website) Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.** You also can find more information and links to an array of available library resources on our website: www.friendsofocentwplibrary.org

(2) **Need To Obtain Or Renew A Library Card?** You can contact **Diana Zambrano** at dzambrano@monmouthcountylib.org for help. Please note if you are applying for a library card for the first time you **must** include a copy of your driver's license with your email.

(3) **Need Easy To Follow Instructions For Downloading e-books To Your Device?** No problem! The following links provide step-by-step directions geared for specific devices:

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

[For Nook](#)

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

us One Additional Reminder During This Crisis -- If you or a loved one are struggling during this crisis please reach out for help. The Township of Ocean's Department of Human Services' staff is available to provide needed assistance and to recommend available resources. Staff members can be reached at 732-531-2600 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Remember we are all in this together and help is just a phone call away.

**Thank you again for your continued support of
the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.
You truly are making a difference!
Please continue to take
care and stay safe.
Have a happy and healthy Fourth of July.**