

"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE" FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS FEBRUARY 2025



Important News

(1) The Township of Ocean Library will be **closed on:**

- **February 17, 2025 for President's Day**

(2) **Please note that the performance by Sandy Sasso and her band, originally mentioned in our January newsletter, will not take place in February.** For information on other musical programs happening at Monmouth County Library branches this month check out our "More To the Story" section below or visit the Monmouth County event calendar

at: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21037&t=g&d=0000-00-00&cal=21037&page=5&inc=0>



Keeping Up With The Friends

(1) **A Labor of Love Dedicated** -- The morning of January 25, 2025 dawned bright and crisp as family, friends, and state and town officials gathered to honor the legacy of civic icon and literacy advocate, Phyllis Fyfe, at the dedication of Mrs. Fyfe's Cozy Corner in the children's section of our library. It was a morning of smiles, tears and many wonderful memories of a remarkable woman who touched the lives of so many.

"For the woman who spent years as a librarian and educator in the school system and who served with the Friends as either president or vice president, Phyllis deserved nothing less than an area to be renovated and named in her honor," said Barbara Saint John, Chair of the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library's

Great Ideas Committee. "I like to think the world may have had Mr. Rogers, but we had our very own Mrs. Fyfe and we are so grateful for that. We will never forget Phyllis' smile, her wit, her willingness to help others."

"The newly renovated space features a large, inviting window seat area with refurbished cushions and an updated, cheerful design to make the children's section more welcoming and comfortable," said Claire Steimle, President of the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library. "This project was fully funded and designed by our organization with the goal of creating a warm, engaging environment for young readers."

Also at the dedication were Mayor John Napolitano, Sr., and State Assemblywomen Luann Peterpaul and Dr. Margie Donlon.

The Assemblywomen presented Phyllis' family with a Joint Legislative Resolution (made in conjunction with Senator Vin Gopal). The resolution stated: "Mrs. Fyfe's Cozy Corner will provide young visitors and their families with an inviting space to explore, learn and grow -- an apt tribute to a remarkable woman who left an indelible mark upon the library and its patrons...It is altogether fitting and proper for members of this Legislature to pause in their deliberations to celebrate the life of Phyllis Fyfe and praise her immeasurable contributions to the Ocean Township Library. This Legislature hereby honors the memory of Phyllis Fyfe and pays tribute to her meritorious record of service and commitment"

If you haven't yet done so, please plan to stop by our library to check out Mrs. Fyfe's Cozy Corner. You'll leave feeling as heartened as we do as you see children and families enjoying this special space.

We also have posted photos from the dedication ceremony on our website. Just go to: <https://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org>

Once again, we extend our sincerest thanks to you for supporting the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library and for helping make Mrs. Fyfe's Cozy Corner possible.

(2) And, The Winner Is... -- As you'll recall, we announced that anyone who joined the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library or renewed their membership by January 15, 2025 would be automatically entered in a special prize basket giveaway. We are happy to announce that Lois Kiely has won the gift basket. Congratulations Lois and thanks for being a Friend!

(3) Have a Recommendation? -- Be sure to check out the Monthly tip in this newsletter for how you can help fellow book lovers find that perfect book!

(4) Hang On To Your Donations -- While we greatly appreciate your support and kind intentions, we are unable to accept any further donations at this time due to space constraints in our book room. We kindly ask that you hold on to any unwanted books, DVDs, CDs, vinyl records, audio books, etc. until after our April sale. Once the sale is over, we will let you know as soon as we are once again accepting donations. Thank you for your understanding!



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, best of all, the movies are all free to attend! Movies are shown each and every Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

You can find details about the movies available this month by clicking on this link: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21037&t=q&d=0000-00-00&cal=21037&page=5&inc=0> Once on the site, simply type in "movies" in the "search for event" box and select our branch from the drop-down box at the top of the page, and click on the search button. You then will be able to scroll down to check out all the wonderful movies being shown this month. **Please Note: The Monmouth County Library Calendar site is new, if you experience any difficulties accessing the list of movies being shown this month, please call our branch at 732-531-5092 for assistance.**

(2) Tech Help -- Thanks to Township resident, Jay Berkowitz, our branch now offers library patrons assistance with general technology questions (such as "how to use a smart phone," "how to create an email account," "how to fill out job applications online," etc.). Jay volunteers on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. You even can make an appointment with Jay for assistance. Just call our library at 732-531-5092 and leave your name and phone number with a member of our reference staff. The staff will coordinate with Jay to check his availability and the appointment will be made.

(3) Book Club --The Ocean Township Library Book Club will meet on February 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss *"Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage and a Girl Saved By Bees"* by Meredith May. This is an unforgettable story -- part family story, part beekeeping odyssey -- about how a tiny, little insect could save a little girl's life. Copies of the book are available for pick up at our library's circulation desk. **Please note: No registration is required to participate.**

(4) In-person Short Story Discussion -- A short story discussion, moderated by Branch Manager Mary Patterson, will be held on February 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The story is "Everyday Use" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker. This story explores the themes of culture, identity and family through the encounters of a mother and her two daughters. Registration is required.

To register simply go to the new Monmouth County Library Calendar site by clicking on this

link: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21037&t=g&d=0000-00-00&cal=21037&page=5&inc=0>

Select the date from the drop down box at the top of the page and then click search. When the event/program/discussion you are interested appears, click on it and you'll see a full description as well as a button to push for registration. Please Note: The Monmouth County Library Calendar site is new, if you experience any difficulties registering for programs being offered at our branch, please call our library at 732-531-5092 for assistance.

(5) Love is in the Air -- Not only is Valentine's Day this month, but February is also full of a lot more love because it's National Library Lover's Month. And, our library offers a great deal to love -- books (print, audio, e-books), DVDs, magazines, and computers, as well as fun and interesting special programs -- such as author talks, short story discussion groups, a monthly book club, musical performances, tech support, and free hit movies. There are even special fun programs just for children -- a great way for your family members to make new friends. Stop in and find out more -- and, while you are there, be sure to thank our library staff for helping make our library a place we love.

(6) Especially For The Little Ones -- Our library is the place to go for engaging, fun and informative children's programs each month.

For example, currently the "2025 Sleuthing in the Stacks #1: A Library Scavenger Hunt" is underway at all Monmouth County Library branches, including ours. The hunt is easy and fun -- children just need to find and read at least one of each of the following kinds of books:

- **A story or non-fiction book about dinosaurs**
- **A book with snow on its cover**
- **A fairy tale**
- **A book with a number in the title**
- **A silly book**

Simply pick up a sleuthing form at the children's reference librarian's desk and fill in the title of each book as your child completes the "hunt." When your child is finished they can show their completed scavenger hunt form to a staff member for a reward! If your child needs help finding books our librarians will be happy to help! The scavenger hunt is open until March of this year.

You'll find many other children's programs involving exciting stories, song singing and even craft making at our branch. It is a great way for the little one in your life to have fun, make friends, and develop a love for our library that will last a lifetime. To find out what is happening this month simply go to: <https://monmouthcountylib.org/wp-content/uploads/cocean.pdf>



Monthly Tip

Your Recommendations Can Help Others Find That Perfect Book...

As you know, we occasionally feature our members' book recommendations (A Friend's Pick) in our monthly newsletter.

At our last book sale we expanded this concept by adding a special sale table featuring books recommended by our members. To say that the "A Friend's Pick" sale table was a hit would be an understatement! Buyers loved seeing (and purchasing) books recommended by others.

As a result, we'd like to make member book recommendations more of a regular feature in our newsletter. And you can help (it's easy -- promise!):

Just email us at friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com and provide us with:

1. The title of the book and the author's name
2. One - two sentences about what you enjoyed about the book

That's it! Don't want to have your name appear in the newsletter? **No problem!** We can use just your first name and initial or we can use your recommendation anonymously. It's totally up to you.

So, if you've enjoyed any good books recently, please consider letting us know so we can share your suggestion with other book lovers. Thank you!



Happening Around Town

(1) **St. Patrick's Day Party** -- Our town's highly popular annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on March 13, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Renaissance (**1100 Highway 35**) in memory of Marge Edelson. **The fun event includes a cocktail hour, passed hors d'oeuvres, dinner, open bar, dancing to the music of The Eddie Testa Band and a performance by Irish dancers. The event is \$55 per person or \$100 per couple. To purchase a table or to request tickets please contact the Ocean Township Department of Human Services at 732-531-2600. The deadline for registration is March 3, 2025.**

(2) **Almost Forgotten** -- The Township of Ocean Historical Museum will host a presentation at 7:00 p.m. on February 12, 2025 at the West Park Recreation Center ([615 West Park Avenue](#)) by Dr. Stanley Blair of Monmouth University on "Almost Forgotten Writers from the Jersey Shore".

Dr. Blair will discuss the works of three writers -- Margaret Widdemer (who grew up in Asbury Park and shared with Carl Sandburg what is now known as the Pulitzer Prize), Henry Wheeler Shaw (who wrote under the pen name Josh Billings) and Charles Henry Webb (who wrote under the pen name John Paul) -- all of whom featured Jersey Shore settings in their works. The presentation is free to attend and light refreshments will be served. Be sure to mark your calendar for this fascinating presentation geared for history buffs, book lovers and fans of Jersey shore locales.

(3) **If you are a senior living in Ocean Township, you won't want to miss the interesting and fun senior programs offered through the Department of Human Services. All programs take place at 615 West Park Avenue in the Oakhurst section of town.**

- **Love A Party?** -- Then you won't want to miss our town's Valentine's Party for township seniors, hosted by the Township of Ocean Department of Human Services. **Join other Ocean Township seniors for light refreshments and Valentine's fun and games on February 6, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Bring a dessert to share. **Registration is required. Click on this link to register: <https://forms.gle/swh6XEW9zpQgSYYx9>**
- **Improved Safety and Independence** -- **Join other township seniors on February 13, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. for a presentation by Andrew Goelz, Home Physical Therapist with Atlantic Physical Therapy**

Center, **designed to help improve your safety and independence.** You'll learn practical tips and strategies to prevent falls and enhance mobility, all tailored to support seniors in living confidently at home. Atlantic Physical Therapy offers In-Home 1-on-1 Physical Therapy, bringing personalized care directly to you -- no prescription needed. **Registration is required to attend this presentation. To register click on this link: <https://forms.gle/7QVT2dGriRZ6TnWz5>**

(4) Some Snowy Tips -- With the heart of winter upon us, now is a good time to familiarize yourself with our town's Snow Plowing Tips and Facts:

- **Town plowing typically starts after 3 - 4 inches of snow** has fallen.
- **When shoveling, pile the majority of the snow to the left of your driveway (as you face your house).** This helps when the snow plows come by -- there will be less snow then plowed in front of your driveway.
- **Remember the town does NOT plow out driveways or mailboxes.**
- **Our town typically applies salt prior to plowing to make snow removal more efficient** (helping melt the snow as cars drive over it thereby creating slush which can be more easily pushed off the roadways). **Salt is also applied after plowing to improve driving conditions.**
- **Please try to move your car into your driveway prior to any storm.** By removing your car from the street, our town's plowing crews can work more efficiently and it also prevents your car from being splashed with slush and salt.



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 Friend's Pick -- As part of our Friends monthly newsletter, we occasionally feature 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 Louise Catron.

Louise is recommending *"The God of the Woods"* by Liz Moore. The book was named Best Book of the Year by Oprah Daily, People Magazine and Newsweek -- and was one of The New York Library's Top 10 Book Picks of 2024.

The book, set in 1975, tells the story of a teenager who vanishes from her Adirondack summer camp. But, the teenager isn't just any 13-year-old. She's the daughter of the family who owns the summer camp and, shockingly, this isn't the first time the family has lost a child. The teenager's brother similarly vanished fourteen years earlier, never to be found. As the panicked search begins, a thrilling drama unfolds.

According to Louise the book "is a mystery with a lot of characters that develop with the story. It has a suspenseful plot with an interesting ending."

(2) Join The Ocean Township Book Club -- The Ocean Township Library Book Club will meet on February 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss *"Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage and a Girl Saved By Bees"* by Meredith May. This is an unforgettable story -- part family story, part beekeeping odyssey -- about how a tiny, little insect could save a little girl's life. Copies of the book are available for pick up at our library's circulation desk. **Please note: No registration is required to participate.**

(3) Enjoy Something Short & Sweet -- A short story discussion, moderated by Branch Manager Mary Patterson, will be held on February 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The story is *"Everyday Use"* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker. This story explores the themes of culture, identity and family through the encounters of a mother and her two daughters. **Registration is required.**

To register simply go to the new Monmouth County Library Calendar site by clicking on this link: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21037&t=g&d=0000-00-00&cal=21037&page=5&inc=0>

Select the date from the drop down box at the top of the page and then click search. When the event/program/discussion you are interested appears, click on it and you'll see a full description as well as a button to push for registration.

(4) New Year...New Books -- With the start of a new year comes the exciting prospect of new books -- across every genre -- hitting library shelves and books stores. And, 2025 promises to be no exception. From new mysteries by the likes of Freida McFadden, Lisa Jewell and Alex North to non-fiction books on Mark Twain and Geraldine Brooks to new novels by Ocean Vuong, Fredrik Backman, Taylor Jenkins, and Charmaine Wilkerson to young adult books by the likes of Suzanne Collins and Trang Thanh Tran -- there's something for every book lover to enjoy. Luckily Goodreads is your go-to site for getting a sneak peek at what's

coming from publishers. Just head to their list of 82 "Most Anticipated Books of 2025" to see what the year holds in store for book lovers everywhere:

https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/2842-readers-most-anticipated-books-of-2025?ref=pe_3097180_1162504800&rto=x_green_general&utm_campaign=January072025&utm_content=2025.Most.Anticipated&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter

(5) **On The Rise** -- If you have a young daughter, granddaughter, or great granddaughter in your life, you'll want to check out the new picture book by New York Times bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman. **The book "*Girls on the Rise*" reminds us that girls are strong and powerful alone, but even stronger when they work to uplift one another.** Gorman celebrates girls and girlhood in their many forms -- not for how they look, but for how they look into the face of fear. This book has a 4.6 rating (out of 5) on Amazon and a 4.3 (out of 5) on Goodreads.

(6) **From Across the Pond** -- comes a new book from Graham Norton -- the internationally bestselling author and host of the popular British TV program **The Graham Norton Show**. **The book, "*Frankie*" is a decades sweeping story about love, bravery and what it means to live a significant life** In the book, which travels from post-war Ireland to 1960s New York, the reader meets Frankie, always on the periphery, never self-assured enough to take center stage -- after all life has already judged her harshly. Enter Damian, a young Irish caretaker, who arrives at Frankie's flat to help her as she recovers from a fall. A memory is sparked and the past comes to life as Damian listens to the story that Frankie has kept hidden away all these years. **This book is currently the #1 new release in Contemporary Literacy on Amazon.**

(7) **Presidential Insights** -- As we celebrate Presidents' Day this month, it is a good time to explore the lives of those men who helped contribute to our country's vast history. **One way to start your exploration is to check out Goodreads' list of the "Best Presidential Biographies".** The list includes "*John Adams*" by David McCullough, "*American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*" by Jon Meachum, "*Lincoln*" by David Herbert Donald, and "*Eisenhower: Soldier and President*" by Stephen E. Ambrose. To peruse the list simply go to: <https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/7572> **(Special Note: We are happy to report that some of the titles cited by Goodreads are stocked on our book room shelves for our upcoming April book sale. So be sure to put them on your shopping list for the sale!)**

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

February 12, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join a hybrid (in-person or on Zoom) book discussion of "*The Tobacco Wives*" by Adele Myers. This novel is about Maddie Sykes, a burgeoning seamstress, who's just arrived in the tobacco capital of the South - Bright Leaf, North Carolina in 1946. After years of war rations and shortages, Maddie

is dazzled by the palatial homes and her seamstress aunt's clientele: the wives of the powerful tobacco executives. But, Maddie soon learns that Bright Leaf isn't quite the carefree paradise that it seems. At its heart, the Tobacco Wives is a novel about the power of female connection and the importance of seeking truth.

To register simply go to the new Monmouth County Library Calendar site by clicking on this

link: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21037&t=g&d=0000-00-00&cal=21037&page=5&inc=0>

Select the date from the drop down box at the top of the page and then click search. When the event/program/discussion you are interested appears, click on it and you'll see a full description as well as a button to push for registration.

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



More To the Story

(1) Coming in January -- The Monmouth County Library System will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including:

- **Author Talks (Waubgeshig Rice, Casey Dembowski, and Lee Hawkins)**
- **Yoga Sessions**
- **Lectures:** (including on The Tuskegee Airmen: America's First Black Pilots, President Who?: Lesser-Known Presidents in American History, Nutrition and Heart Disease, Getting Started with Genealogy, What To Do With the Stuff You Declutter, The Almost Presidents: Campaign Losers Throughout American History, Now He Belongs to the Ages: The Lincoln Assassination, and The Murder of Wench Betty)
- **Wonderland of Music by the Colts Neck Band**
- **Musicals for Lovers**
- **A Musical Review: The 1940's to the '80s**
- **Learn to Play Bridge**
- **Lunar New Year Celebration**
- **AARP Tax-Aide Program**
- **Writing Workshops**
- **English as a Second Language Classes**
- **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 on this link: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21037&t=g&d=0000-00-00&cal=21037&page=5&inc=0> Once on the site, simply select the month from the drop-down box at the top of the page and **check out all the wonderful programs you can take advantage of in February.**

(2) Coming in February to the New Jersey State Library System (NJSL)... **The New Jersey State Library System offers "NJSL Presents Webinars" which are free and open to anyone interested in attending.** Registration is required in advance and all webinars are recorded and posted to their [YouTube page](#) afterward. You can also check out event recaps on their [blog](#).

Here's what is on tap in February from the NJSL:

- **Women's Health: Menopause and Gynecological Cancers** -- February 5, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Virtual Author Talk: Dr. Hettie V. Williams "The Georgia of the North: Black Women and the Civil Rights Movement in New Jersey** -- February 20, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Scams and Frauds for Seniors** -- February 25, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

For a description of each webinar's content and to register -- simply go to: <https://www.njstatelib.org/> Scroll down to the listing of Upcoming Events and click on the program you are interested in attending.



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 (look at the bottom of the home page for "Community

Highlights", then click on the red arrow on the right until you see Human Services and click on it)

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