

"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE" FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS AUGUST 2026

 **Save the Date!**

**Coming to Ocean Township -- A special FREE Community Event
October 1, 2026 from 1:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m.
at the West Park Recreation Center [615 West Park Avenue](#) (Next to the town's pool
complex)**

**Join us for "The Neil Diamond Story" presented by edu-tainer Phil Bruschi
Showcasing the remarkable career of singer/songwriter Neil Diamond
& rousing sing-along numbers**

**Sponsored by the Department of Human Services & the Friends of the Township of Ocean
Library**

**This event is extra special for another reason -- it jumps starts the the Friends of the
Township of Ocean Library Membership Drive and the Community Hope
Fund/Department of the Human Services annual Thanksgiving Food Drive**

Come enjoy a fun afternoon and:

- **Renew your 2027 membership in the Friends.** When you do, you'll be entered into a drawing for a Kindle Paperwhite device. (Drawing to be held in February at the conclusion of our annual membership drive which runs from October 1, 2026 to February 15, 2027))
- **Bring a donation of non-perishable food items with you to help local families facing food insecurity.** Most needed items: stuffing, canned soup, canned fruit/vegetables, cranberry sauce, pasta & sauces, instant potatoes, gravy, hot/cold cereals, peanut butter & jelly, instant hot chocolate & coffee, cookies & crackers. Just be sure to check expiration dates!

The performance is free and open to all Ocean Township town residents and everyone who attends will have an opportunity to win a basket of Neil Diamond-related prizes!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

**Space is limited so be sure to sign up as soon as registration begins on September 2, 2026.
Details on how you can register will be included in the September Friends Newsletter.**

We hope you'll come renew your Friends 2027 membership, donate non-perishable food items and enjoy a fun afternoon of entertainment!



Important News

(1) Volunteer Opportunities Galore -- **If you want to personally get more involved with the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library -- there's good news!** There are several fun events coming up where volunteers are needed. So, if you have some free time and want to meet other book lovers who share your passion for our town's library, sign up to help with one of the following upcoming activities:

- **Replenish Books at the Little Free Library we installed at our town's pool (weekly through Labor Day)**
- **Staff our table at our town's Fall Fest on September 26, 2026 (rain date September 27) during the hours of 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (You don't have to sign up for the entire event, even just an hour or two is appreciated!)**
- **Volunteer at our Book Donation Day on October 17, 2026 anytime between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. as we collect, sort and shelve donations in anticipation of our next book sale.**
- **Help set-up for our next joint Ocean Township Garden Club/Friends of the Township of Ocean Library book club discussion on October 21, 2026.**

Signing up to help is easy. Simply reply to this email with the event(s) you are interested in and the time(s) you are available. We look forward to seeing you at one of these upcoming activities!

(2) **Hurry -- Time is Running Out** -- The Monmouth County Library's Summer Reading Challenge concludes in a few short days -- on August 15, 2026. **Be sure to act fast and log all the books you've read between June 1, 2026 and August 15, 2026.** As in the past, you are reading towards an opportunity to win a prize. **Start logging your books right away to ensure your prize eligibility!**

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Good news! You can now log the books you've read right at our branch. Simply stop by the circulation desk and ask for a form. Fill in the books you've read and turn it in. It makes participating in the Summer Reading Challenge as easy as can be!

And, yes, you can still register your books read online if you want at: monmouthcountylib.beanstack.org

If you participated in the summer reading challenge 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.

Let's make Ocean the top library branch in the number of books/e-book/audiobooks read this summer. Be sure to log in ALL the books you read between June 1, 2026 and August 15, 2026. The more books you read, the better!

(3) Coming This Month -- Short story and book club discussions, wonderful movies, two fabulous musical performances (including one that will take you back to the fabulous '50s), engaging children's programs (including two fun concerts), and more. Be sure to review the "Updates from the Township of Ocean Library" section below for details about these and other wonderful programs coming in August to our branch.



Keeping Up with the Friends

(1) Yay! -- Our Sizzling Summer Book Sale last month was a great success -- despite challenging weather conditions and lingering town power issues. We are happy to report that we raised **\$3,553.50** during the two-day sale. These funds will enable us to provide much needed program and resource support for our library.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to so many individuals who contributed to this successful sale:

- Everyone who donated their unwanted books, CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records so our shelves were well-stocked.
- The members of our Book Inventory Committee who spent countless hours sorting and categorizing the donations.
- The Friends members who volunteered their time to staff the sale.
- The many town residents who stopped by and purchased that "perfect" book, CD, DVD, and record.

A special shout-out of gratitude to our Book Inventory Committee chairperson and team leader, Lynn Librizzi, whose dedication and can-do spirit made this such a successful sale.



Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) Best Wishes -- Our library's branch manager, Mary Patterson, is retiring effective **August 21, 2026**. She has worked hard to keep our library an important part of our community and will be missed. **The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary for her partnership these past several years and extend our good wishes to her for a happy and healthy retirement!** If you stop by the library in the next few weeks, be sure to thank Mary for her efforts on behalf of our library and wish her well.

(2) Calling All Fans of Book Clubs -- Our branch's book club will be meeting on **August 6, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.** to discuss *"Our Wives Under the Sea"* by Julia Armfield. This book is about a marine biologist, Leah, who left for a routine expedition, only this time her submarine sank to the sea floor. When Leah finally surfaces and returns home, her wife, Miri, notices that

something is terribly wrong. Leah barely eats, is lost in her thoughts, rotates between rooms and runs the taps morning and night. Whatever happened in that submarine, whatever it was she was supposed to be studying, Leah has carried it home with her. As Miri searches for answers she must face the possibility that her wife is slipping from her grasp. **Copies of the book are available at our library. Please Note: No registration is required.**

SNEAK PEEK: Coming on September 3, 2026: Our branch's book club will be meeting at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the classic "*Fahrenheit 451*" by Ray Bradbury. Guy Montag is a fireman and his job is to destroy the most illegal of all commodities -- the printed book and the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction he brings, returning each day to his bland life and a wife who spends all of her time watching TV. But, when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Montag is introduced to a past where people didn't live in fear and a present where one sees the world through books instead of the mindless chatter of TV. Soon, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. **Copies of the book are available at our library. Please Note: No registration is required.**

(3) For Short Stories Buffs -- A short story discussion will be held on August 13, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. The story is "*The Woman*" by Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson. Join other fans of short stories for a thoughtful discussion of this quiet, reflective piece that explores identity, perception and the inner life of a woman navigating expectations. The story shows that not all strength is visible -- often it lives beneath the surface. How do we define ourselves when others try to define us first? **Registration is required.**

To register simply go to: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/event/16777175>

(4) Get Your Groove on -- as your toes tap and you sing along with The Angel Cats on August 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. The group's perfect harmonies and high-energy style shine as they bring you a great mix of hits from the '60s through the '90s. **It's a lively, upbeat concert that you won't want to miss.**

(5) Break out Your Leather Jacket and Pomade -- As the 50's and 60's come alive when Phil Bruschi brings his "Favorite Doo Wop Love Songs" to our library on August 19, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Enjoy unforgettable classics like "Daddy's Home", "Earth Angel", "You Belong to Me", and more. **Don't miss this program as we step back in time when Doo Wop ruled the radio airwaves!**

(6) 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 every Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

This month's dramas feature performances from Chris Pratt, Margot Robbie, Lauren Graham, Halle Bailey, and more.

You can find details about the movies available this month by clicking on this link: <https://monmouthcountylib.libcal.com/calendar?cid=21037&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=21037&ct=77719&cm=9026&inc=0>

(7) Especially for the Little Ones -- **Our library is the place to go for engaging, fun and informative children's programs each month.** You'll find many children's programs involving exciting stories, song singing and even craft making at our branch. Among the children's programs coming this month are:

- **Music with Big Jeff -- Move and Groove to your favorite classic kid's tunes with musician Big Jeff on August 5, 2026 from 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. For ages 2 and up with parent or caregiver.**
- **Morning Music -- Bring your little one to the library for a morning of music and fun with Peas and Carrots on August 26, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. For all ages with a parent or caregiver.**

Children's programs at our branch are 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 other programs are happening this month simply go to:** <https://monmouthcountylib.org/wp-content/uploads/cocean.pdf>



Monthly Tip

A quick reminder that you can put our library at your fingertips with the Monmouth County Library app. The app makes it very easy for you to:

- Search the library catalog, place holds, and join waitlists
- See upcoming new books that are set to be released and place holds in advance
- Renew items (as long as there isn't a waitlist) or cancel holds
- View your checked-out items and any fines
- Browse the event calendar by date, location, or subject
- Access library hours and directions

Among the other useful tools available through the app is a handy barcode scanner feature so if you're at a bookstore, book sale, or a friend is showing you a book, you can scan the barcode to see if it's in the Monmouth County Library system. You'll be able to see which branches have the book you are interested in, how many copies are available, and you can place a hold right from there for pickup at your preferred library location.

And, there's more to what the app offers! **It also provides access to eLibrary resources, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines, Kanopy, and more. You even can connect to research tools like EBSCO, Gale resources, Rosetta Stone, Universal Class, and LinkedIn Learning.**

The app also puts your library card right at your fingertips -- there's a digital version of your library card in the app that you can show at checkout or use at the self-check machines. You also can use mobile printing to send documents from your phone or computer to a library location for pickup. The instructions for printing are included in the app, making it very easy; and black-and-white copies cost only \$0.15 each.

In addition, the app links to the library's social media accounts and website, and includes a "Contact Us" option (currently phone only).

Getting the app is simple:

For Apple Phone users go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/monmouth-county-library-mobile/id121643773>

For Android and other users (Google Play):

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.capiratech.monmouth&hl=en_US

We hope you find this tip helpful!



Happening Around Town

(1) National Night Out -- Are you looking for a fun evening for the entire family? Then don't miss this year's 2025 National Night Out event on August 4, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Township of Ocean Community Pool (615 West Park Avenue). The event, designed to promote positive police/community relations, features food, activities, games, and demonstrations of police and emergency equipment. The community pool will be open to everyone too!

(2) The Place to be -- Is the highly popular annual Italian American Association of the Township of Ocean's Festival held at Joe Palaia Park. The festival, which is marking its 50th year, will be held August 5, 2026 - August 9, 2026. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Come and enjoy great food, games, live music, eating contests, fireworks, and more. **Don't miss the fireworks on August 7, 2026 and a concert with the Moroccan Shepherders on August 9, 2026 (from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.).**

(3) Conserve -- New Jersey American Water has issued a mandatory conservation notice for customers in Monmouth and Ocean Counties to reduce water usage due to ongoing drought conditions. Customers must limit all non-essential outdoor watering -- including limiting outdoor watering to twice per week or less if it rains.

(4) Road Safety -- During the summer, our town experiences a large increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Ocean Township Police Department is reminding residents and visitors to do their part to help keep our community safe. They remind everyone to practice these safety tips when traveling:

- **Use sidewalks when they are available.**
- **Always use a crosswalk.**
- **Stay close to the curb if you are walking in the street.**

- Avoid distractions, such as cell phones.
- Ride bikes with the flow of traffic.
- Wear helmets when biking.
- When traveling at night, wear bright clothing and use bike lights.
- Follow the rules of the road.

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

- **Health Screenings -- Join other town seniors on August 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. for free health screenings from Hackensack Meridian Health, including blood pressure, cholesterol*, glucose*, stroke risk assessment, BMI, and pulse. Open to all seniors 60 and older. *Fasting is not required.**
- **Coming to You -- The Office of Senator Gopal, Assemblywoman Donlon and Assemblywoman Peterpaul is bringing their Mobile Office to our town's senior center on August 14, 2026 from 10:00 am. - 12:00 p.m.** Representatives of these legislators will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on: Property Tax Relief, Veterans' Benefits, Utility Assistance, Disability Services, State Agencies, and more. **This event is open to all residents of Legislative District 11.**
- **Scam Prevention -- Come join other town residents on August 13, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for an informative and engaging presentation by Detective Arthur Barnek on how to detect and prevent fraud.** Detective Barnek will share helpful tips on identifying common scams, protecting personal information, and keeping your finances safe. This presentation will provide seniors, families, and community members with valuable knowledge about today's fraud risks and the simple steps that can help prevent you from becoming a victim. Come learn, ask questions, and gain confidence in knowing how you can stay alert and protected. **Registration is required. [Click Here to Register](#)**
- **Stay Active & Healthy & Independent -- Dr. Margie Donlon will visit our senior center on Thursday, August 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss how regular movement is one of the most powerful tools for maintaining your health, mobility, and quality of life.** Motion is lotion for your joints, muscles, heart and mind. Small amounts of movement can lead to big improvements in health and independence. **Registration is required. [Click Here to Register](#)**

(6) It's the law -- As of July 19, 2026 the grace period for compliance with New Jersey's new e-bike regulations has ended. **Anyone found not to have obtained a license, registration and insurance may face fines up to \$50 per violation.** For more information on the regulations and information on obtaining the required license and registration go to: <https://www.nj.gov/mvc/pdf/vehicles/EbikeManual.pdf>



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) Love Libraries & Twisted Tales? -- Then you won't want to miss *"The Library After Dark"* by Andre Pliego. This Amazon Editor best mystery/thriller pick is a national bestseller. In this novel a bookseller must escape the infamously haunted library that holds her darkest secrets, but with a murderer in her tour group -- escaping alive is not as simple as it may seem. ***Forbes* calls this novel "a locked room mystery perfect for book lovers". And Booklist says it's "a fast-paced, complex tale that will appeal to readers who like their mysteries with a touch of horror".**

(2) The Riviera is Calling -- And, the good news is that you don't have to leave home this summer to enjoy it. That's thanks to *"Riviera: Recipes from the Coast of France and Italy: 101 Unfussy Mediterranean Dishes for an Effortless Summer"* by Melanie Masarin. This cookbook, described as a love letter to the Riviera, brings you the flavors of the Mediterranean with over 100 recipes (most with 10 ingredients or less) and stunning photography. The cookbook is earning rave reviews. *Bon Appetit* says "*Riviera* screams laid-back yet impressive entertaining...The recipes are great for hosting". *Vogue* says "This new cookbook, by the founder of Ghia, will transport you straight to a Mediterranean summer..." And [Today.com](https://www.today.com) mentioned that *Riviera* "immediately makes me want to throw an outdoor dinner party and pretend I'm on the coast of Italy." **So crank up Dean Martin's *Volare*, grab a copy of this new book, and start cooking!**

(3) Summer Travel -- Do you like sitting by the pool or at the beach with a relaxing summer romance in hand? A romance that transports you to a beachy resort, a far away island or the vacation destination of your dreams? Whether it's Cape Cod, London, Maine, Ibiza, or a host of other wonderful destinations, BookBub has you covered when it comes to finding the perfect summer romance book to lose yourself in this summer. **In fact, BookBub has compiled a list of 18 new romances just waiting for you to enjoy. To get started go to: <https://www.bookbub.com/blog/summery-romance-novels?position=3&source=multicontent&target=title>**

(4) Explore Our Collective History -- If you enjoy books about American history then be sure to check out our newsletter's latest feature. This month we'll once again explore our country's collective history by recommending a topic or individual worth investigating through books.

In November Americans across this country will have an opportunity to vote in the midterm elections for the individuals who will represent us in Congress -- both in the House and the Senate. So, this month we suggest exploring the history behind who runs elections in our country -- and why.

The Election Clause in Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution explicitly states that the times, places, and manner of holding federal elections for senators and representatives are determined by state legislatures. While Congress can intervene if necessary, the president has

no direct control. In fact, the president has no constitutional authority to administer elections, issue binding rules, or dictate procedures -- these responsibilities are reserved for state and local officials.

But, why is that? During the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the Founding Fathers debated the balance of power between the states and the federal government. Federalists like James Madison and Alexander Hamilton initially worried that the states would act only in their self-interest or refuse to hold elections -- potentially immobilizing the federal government. Others worried that an unconstrained executive branch would result in the risk of manipulation or cheating.

Remember that the framers of our Constitution had just fought a war against executive (King) overreach. To address this, our Constitution gave states broad authority to conduct elections, while also allowing Congress to intervene in specific, limited ways if necessary (which it has done when it passed laws such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993). As Alexander Hamilton put it in Federalist No. 68 the Constitution's election provisions were designed specifically to prevent any single group -- including the executive branch -- from dominating the election process. By giving power to the states, the framers also created protections against executive manipulation of elections.

As a result, state and local governments are the ones who manage voter registration, polling place locations, ballot design & counting, certification processes, and all other types of election procedures. While Congress passes laws to enforce voting rights and standardize certain practices and can provide resources as needed. This decentralized approach allows each state to introduce procedures that work best in their locality, while at the same time maintaining federal safeguards.

In many ways, the framers were ahead of their time when it came to safeguarding our elections. Just think about it. A decentralized system is more secure than a single federal system. If you wanted to hack an election, which would be easier -- hacking a single centralized federal system or hacking 10,000+ separate local election systems (each using different equipment, procedures, and personnel)?

There are many excellent books available to learn more about our voting system -

- *"Understanding the U.S. Government: A Guide to Understanding American Government and Elections"* by Peter E. Tarlow and Stephen H. Vincent, *"The Infographic Guide to American Government: A Visual Reference for Everything You Need to Know"* by Carissa Lytle and Jara Kern, *"The Constitution of the United States"* by Delegates of the Constitutional Convention, *"The Federalist Papers"* by Alexander Hamilton, *"The Everything American Government Book"* by Nick Ragone, *"What You Need to Know About Voting and Why"* by Kim Wehle, and *"Behind the Ballot Box: A Citizen's Guide to Voting Systems"* by Douglas J. Amy.

If you are interested in making your exploration of America's voting system into a family affair, there are also a number of well-written children's books on the subject -- *"U.S. Constitution Workbook for Kids: Fun Activities to Learn about the Constitution, Rights & Responsibilities"* by Jennifer Oglesby (geared for grades 3 - 5), *"How Voting and Elections"*

Work: The Kids Guide to Government" by Zelda Wagner (geared for ages 8 - 11) *"What is the Constitution"* by Patricia Brennan Demuth (geared for ages 7 - 11), *"What Does the Constitution Say?: A Kids Guide to How Our Democracy Works"* by Ben Sheehan (geared for ages 8 - 12), *"What's the Big Deal About Elections"* by Ruby Shamir and Matt Faulkner (geared for ages 6 - 9), *"Understanding Your Role in Elections"* by Jessica Gunderson (geared for ages 8 - 11), *"Everything You Need to Know about the U.S. Voting System: Government Books for Kids"* by Baby Professor (geared for ages 9 - 11), and *"Election Activity Book: Dozens of Activities That Help Kids Learn about Voting, Campaigns, Our Government"* by Karen Baicker (geared for ages 6 - 8)

We hope you'll find reading about the history of America's voting process of interest -- particularly with the midterm just around the corner.

(5) Being Brave -- Can be hard at any age, but especially for the little ones in our lives. But, there's a brand new children's book that can help teach the smallest readers "that no voice is too quiet, no message too small -- to have an impact on a friend". The book, *"I Can Learn to be Brave"*, is by Mariann Edgar Budde. In the book there is a girl who wished she was brave, but she mostly wasn't. She was scared to try new things -- after all, trying new things is hard. What if she fails? What if someone sees her fail? She wants to be brave, but how can she be when the world is so big and she is so tiny? Fortunately another very brave girl takes her under her wing and shows her how to be brave -- whether climbing a hill, trying a rope swing, or searching for a beautiful sunset. It's these little moments, the author believes, that can bring the biggest lessons. **If you are looking to encourage bravery in your little one -- be sure to check out this book which Kirkus Reviews says is "a boon to uncertain youngsters everywhere".**

(6) The City of Light -- If you are a fan of Kristin Harmel, author of bestselling books like *"The Book of Lost Names"* and *"The Winemaker's Daughter"* you won't want to miss her brand new release *"Meet Me in Paris"*. It's a tale of love, loss, courage, and redemption involving nine Americans -- including a dying mother, a rock star, a songwriter, and more -- set over the course of one life-changing week in Paris. Some are calling it *Love Actually* meets *The Notebook*. **So, if the City of Light is beckoning you, then you'll want to be sure to pick up a copy of Kristin Harmel's latest book.**

(7) Summer Preview -- With the summer sun and sizzling temperatures now firmly in place, it's a good time to check out all the new releases coming this season to a book store or library near you. From novels by Beatriz Williams, Ann Patchett, Jaclyn Moriarty, to Colson Whitehead, Andrew Sean Greer, Liane Moriarty, and more -- there's something for everyone. **Thrillers, mysteries, non-fiction abound in the AARP's list of "32 of the Season's Top New Books". To browse the list for your next summer read go to:**
<https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/summer-book-preview-2026/>

(8) A Journey of Discovery -- Throughout history men and women have made incredible discoveries and developed equally incredible inventions that have improved our lives and expanded our knowledge of our world and the universe. From discoveries about the human brain to the secrets of Ancient Egypt to eradicating waterborne pathogens to the discovery of

penicillin -- all were momentous moments in history. **Are you wanting to go on a journey of discovery to learn more about these accomplishments and the men and women behind them? Then, you are in luck because BookBub has compiled a list of "13 Nonfiction Books About Incredible Discoveries"**

To begin what is sure to be a captivating journey simply go to:

<https://www.bookbub.com/blog/nonfiction-books-about-incredible-discoveries?position=seemore&source=multicontent&target=title>

(9) A Wonder -- The newest Oprah's Book Club pick is earning rave reviews from all corners. The book, "Little Wonder" by Sophie Chen Keller, is about a musical prodigy and his mother who spend years searching for each other in this tender novel about the power of a mother's love. Song is a nobody -- just a food delivery person in China. But, her tiny son is a little wonder -- with a true musical gift as a pianist. One day when travelling by train Song loses her grip on her young son's hand and is unable to find him even after a desperate search. Over the next few days, weeks and years, Song and her son fight to find a path back to each other. **As one reviewer wrote it's "an immersive journey amid the sights and sounds of China, as a migrant mother and son follow a seemingly impossible dream inspired by their love of music and their devotion to each other. Keep something handy to dry your eyes."** This book has a 4.6 (out of 5.0) rating on Amazon.

(10) Royal Reads -- Ever wonder what the British royals are reading? Well wonder no more! They recently spilled the beans on their favorite books -- and perhaps one might catch your fancy too! Catherine Princess of Wales loves hearing her children read *"The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark"* by Jill Tomilson, Queen Camilla enjoyed *"The Red Notebook"* by Antoine Laurain, King Charles gave a thumbs up to *"Along the Enchanted Way"* by William Blacker, Prince William enjoys seeing his children read *"The Gruffalo"* by Julia Donaldson, and Prince Harry is a fan of *"Of Mice and Men"* by John Steinbeck. So, put on a pot of tea and see if any of these books are for just right for you too.

(11) Consider Joining a Monmouth County Library Book Discussion This Month**

- **August 20, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join a hybrid (in-person or on Zoom) Murder, They Wrote Discussion of "Ghosts of Waikiki" by Jennifer K. Morita.** After the newspaper she works for folds and the freelance assignments no longer pay the bills, Maya Wong reluctantly returns to her native Hawaii to ghostwrite controversial land developer Parker Hamilton's biography. But, when the Hamilton patriarch is found dead, Maya is drawn into the investigation. And, when her ex, Detective Koa Yamada, assigned to the case, she's forced to contend with the very person she wanted to avoid. **Registration is required.**

****To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library Calendar site by clicking on [this link](#) 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 August -- The Monmouth County Library System will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including:

- **Author Talks (Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson, Glenn Cashion, Dr. Beronda L. Montgomery, and Lucy Foley,)**
- **Lectures** (Murdered in Monmouth County, The Blues: The World's Most Successful Folk Music, The Brew That Was True in Ancient Egypt, Phonograph DJ Mac: An Antique Phonograph Experience, Unearthing Ancient Troy, How to Use Today's AI Tools to Simplify Life, Pediatric Nutrition: Rethink Your Drink, Healthy Homes, Mother Jones: The Most Dangerous Woman in America, Breast Cancer Prevention, The Jersey Shore: From Sandy Hook to Cape May, etc.)
- **Artwork Display: John J. Backes, Jr.**
- **Ted Naccarato Live & Unplugged**
- **Prevention Coalition of Monmouth County Flag Display**
- **Badge & Bark: Monmouth County K-9 Teams Up Close**
- **Rock the Stacks: Presented by No Surrender, Springsteen Tribute**
- **Social Dance Club: Summer Night Series**
- **Seashell Painting**
- **Meet the Seeing Eye Puppies**
- **Unearth a Story: An Adult Art Studio Series Inspired by Prehistory: (PM) Acrylic Gel Pens: Line, Color & Prehistoric Form**
- **Travel Sketching**
- **Watercolor Art Class**
- **An Afternoon of Folk Blues with Tal Naccarato**
- **Rutgers Master Gardeners Q and A Thyme: Lettuce Help You!**
- **Blake Patterson's Wood Bowls**
- **Art for the Non-Artist: Presented by Jenny Santa Maria**
- **Adult Coloring**
- **Jersey Shore Prostate Cancer Support Group**
- **Dueling Pianos: Interactive Concert Experience**
- **Circle of Origami Paperfolders**
- **Book Clubs**
- **Genealogy Club**
- **Yoga**
- **Mahjongg**
- **Writing Workshops**
- **Learn to Play Bridge**
- **and so much more....**

****To register for any of these programs simply go to the Monmouth County Library Calendar site by clicking on [this link](#) 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.

(2) Coming in August to the New Jersey State Library System (NJS�) -- **The New Jersey State Library System offers "NJS� 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 August from the NJS�:

- **The Morale Dilemma: What to do When You Lose Your Desire to Job Search** -- August 4, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Library and Exhibit Tour** - August 5, 2026 and August 19, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Discovering Immigrant Origins** -- August 6, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.
- **Learn to Cross-Stitch** -- August 12, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.
- **Genealogy Research Stories: The Basse Class** -- August 13, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Where is AI in 2026 and Where is it Going** -- August 18, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Cancer Information Session** -- August 21, 2026 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: <https://oceantwp.org/p/departments-of-human-services>

Ocean Township Garden Club: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/597553924494267/>

Ocean Township Green

Team: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090815647382>

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!**