

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

## Important News

(1) **Easy Access** -- We are happy to share some wonderful (and super helpful) news. Thanks to our Mayor John Napolitani and the talented team at our town's Department of Public Works, our library now has automatic sliding doors at the front entrance. So whether you have an armload of books, a stroller, or need some assistance -- entering our library just became a whole lot easier.

## Keeping Up With The Friends

We have a lot of exciting news for you this month so be sure and check out ALL of the "Keeping Up With the Friends" items below so you don't miss a thing!!!

(1) **GIANT Book Sale** -- **SPREAD THE WORD** -- our next book sale is scheduled for April 2, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and April 3, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The sale will feature:

- **Thousands of books** -- **Something for everyone!** (Including hardcover, paperback fiction, non-fiction, classics, biographies, history, cookbooks, mysteries, gardening, travel, true crime and romance!)
- **A beautiful selection of specially-priced art and collectible books**
- **Hundreds of children's books** (including board books, picture books, Disney<sup>(R)</sup>, and young adult titles)
- **Audio books and large print books**
- **DVDs** -- including popular TV series, films and children's programs
- **CDs and vintage vinyl** -- a must see for music lovers

Everything is well organized too -- fiction is sorted by author and other books, DVDs and music by genre!

Best of all, proceeds from the sale benefit the Township of Ocean Library's programs and resources.

**And, YOU can help by telling your friends, family and neighbors about the sale and encouraging them to attend.**

**To ensure that our book sale experience is pleasant for everyone we will have the following policies in place during the sale:**

- Doors open at 10:00 a.m. (No early entry)
- Book dealers are welcomed, but hand-held scanners are only allowed on April 2, 2025 and only from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m
- No hoarding of books or blocking of shelves -- Buyers must not interfere with others' ability to browse.
- Use of the MONITORED HOLDING AREA is mandatory. Once a buyer accumulates more than an armload of books, the books will be labeled with the buyer's name and kept secure until the buyer is ready to check out.
- Absolutely NO sliding books, boxes or bags across the floor.

**(2) SPECIAL INVITATION: Just For Being a Friend -- We are very grateful for your ongoing support of the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.**

**And, to show our appreciation -- all current Friends members (those who have paid their 2025 membership dues) are cordially invited to a special "Friends Early Book Sale" event from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on April 1, 2025.**

**This will give you an opportunity to shop our Book Sale before the official sale opens to the public on April 2, 2025. We hope you will be able to join us and we look forward to seeing you at this special sale event. (Light refreshments will be served.)**

**Haven't renewed your membership yet? No problem.**

**You can renew before the special Friends Early Book Sale Event:**

- Membership Renewal Forms are available online on our website at: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) or directly by clicking on **this link**. For your convenience you also can choose to pay your \$5.00 annual membership dues either by check/money order or via our electronic payment option (which allows you to pay with PayPal or with a Debit or Credit Card).

- You can also renew when you arrive for the special Friends Early Book Sale Event.

**(3) We Need YOU!** -- We are looking for Friends members to volunteer to staff our book sale. **Never volunteered at a sale before? No problem! You will be partnered with someone with book sale experience.**

**Our greatest need for volunteers is for the afternoon shifts, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Shifts are usually two hours in length, but we can be flexible to accommodate your schedule -- any time you can devote to the sale will be much appreciated.**

**So, please consider signing up to volunteer.** It's a fun way to help out and give back to our community -- all while raising funds for our library.

**To sign up simply RSVP to this email with your availability.** And, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions -- simply reply back to this message and we will be happy to answer any questions you have. **Thank you!!**

**(4) Read a Good Book Lately?** -- Let us know. **We are looking for book recommendations from Friends members that we can feature in our monthly newsletter.** If you've read a good book recently, please consider sharing your recommendation with other members. **It's super easy to do...**

Just email us at [friendsofcoastwplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcoastwplibrary@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.**

**(5) 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.**

**This month's movies include several highly popular, award-winning films that are perfect picks for March which is Women's History Month.**

You can find details about the movies available this month 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 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) **Talented Young Artists** -- Beautiful art created by young artists from Ocean Township's Middle School and High School will be on display in our library throughout the month of March as part of "Youth Art Month". The Youth Art Month's theme this year is "Healing Through Color". Be sure to stop by our library to see first hand the creativity and artistry of these amazing young people.

(3) **Book Club** --The Ocean Township Library Book Club will meet on March 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "*The Plot Against America*" by Philip Roth. This book takes place in an alternative history -- Charles Lindbergh has defeated Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election -- and the story follows a young man as he comes of age in New Jersey as antisemitism becomes increasingly more prevalent in American Life. **The discussion will be moderated by librarian Adam Rule.** 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 March 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The story is "*The Yellow Wallpaper*" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. This story is about a

woman who secretly journals about her experiences being confined to an upstairs bedroom of a summer home while her physician husband is convinced that she will quickly recuperate from what he considers a temporary illness. **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 at 732-531-5092 for assistance.****

**(5) 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. 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**

**Just a Reminder: It's Never Too Late To Get Your Tech Groove On -- Struggling to master some basic technology tasks? Feeling overwhelmed by your phone or tablet or computer (or all three)? Well you don't have to hold out any longer for a hero to help you.**

**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.**

**Help is literally just a phone call away...make an appointment today...and get your tech groove going!**

## Happening Around Town

(1) **Don't Miss Out -- 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, buffet 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 Jennifer at the Department of Human Services to register at 732-531-2600 x6220. But, ACT FAST -- The deadline for registration is March 3, 2025.**

(2) **Township of Ocean Historical Museum Presents --** The latest in their popular speaker series... **Join actress Lorraine Stone, on March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., for a presentation on Harriet Tubman.** The event will be held at the West Park Recreation Center ([615 West Park Avenue](#)). Ms. Stone's portrayal of Harriet Tubman brings the legend to life -- from Tubman's escape from captivity to her work on the Underground Railroad and her many contributions as a nurse and later a spy for the Union Army. **You won't want to miss this engaging presentation!**

(3) **Save Money -- New Jersey residents can file their taxes absolutely FREE, thanks to IRS Direct File.** This program allows residents to file their taxes directly with the government online -- so there are never any filing fees. Residents can save hundreds of dollars each tax season with IRS Direct File. **You can learn more at: [www.DirectFile.NJ.gov](http://www.DirectFile.NJ.gov).**

(4) **Tax Relief -- Did you know that there are several programs for property tax relief including deductions for veterans, senior citizens, disabled persons, and the surviving spouses of those individuals?** Information regarding these deductions can be obtained on our town's website: [www.oceantwp.org/assessor](http://www.oceantwp.org/assessor), or by visiting or calling the Tax Assessor's office at 732-531-5000 ext. 3345 or 3346.

The state of New Jersey administers other property tax relief programs. You can find out more about state tax relief programs at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/relief.shtml>

(5) **If you are a 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.**

- **Get Your Green On --** At our Town's St. Patrick's Day Celebration for Seniors on March 6, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. You'll indulge in a day

filled with Irish cheer, laughter, and cherished memories as our town honors the spirit of the Emerald Isle. Bring a green dessert to share. Light refreshments will be served. **Registration is required. To register click on this link: <https://forms.gle/9jWtGwY5F6y6o2a9>**

- **Preventing Falls -- Join other town seniors on March 20, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. to learn about the most common risk factors that contribute to a fall.** Betty Sitt, a Monmouth University doctoral student in Occupational Therapy, will help you discover proactive steps to reduce your risk of falling, such as addressing age-related vision changes, environmental hazards and medication reviews. You'll also learn how to safely get up after a fall. Don't miss this informative session that will help you stay safe and independent. Light refreshments will be served. **Registration is required. To register simply click on this link: <https://forms.gle/XAjnVocumDgCEhA7>**

## **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) Up for a Challenge? -- Then the 52 Book Club might be right up your alley.** This unique book club is part of an annual challenge -- read 52 books in 52 weeks. Not only is it simple to join, but it also definitely injects fun in selecting your next great read.

**Each year the challenge is comprised of (surprise!) 52 different categories. The challenge is to read one book that fits under each of the categories. As the 52 Book Book Club says -- think of this as a giant book scavenger hunt. But, wait...these aren't your typical categories -- they are fun, imaginative and allow you to be as creative as you want to be as your fulfill the category task.** For example, some of the categories this year are "A Pun In The Title", "Author's Last Name Is Also A First Name", "Cover Font Is In A Primary Color", "Plot Includes A Heist", "More Than A Million Copies Sold", and "Features a Magician". Definitely not the typical "mystery", "romance", or "single theme" category challenges you find elsewhere!

**Not only will you have fun finding a book to read that fits into a category -- but you also may find yourself exploring new types of books and new authors that you never considered before.**

**Are you up for the challenge? Ready, set...go to <https://www.the52book.club/> to get started.**

(2) **Banish Those Winter Blues** -- Cold, wind and snow have you down? Well, any book lover will tell you that curling up with a good book can do wonders to banish the winter chill. **And, if you need help finding the perfect chill-busting read, look no further than the AARP. The organization has just released its list of "37 of Winter's Best New Books to Get You Through The Chilly Season".** The list includes thrillers, fiction and non-fiction selections, memoirs, mysteries and more by authors such as Scott Turow, Walter Mosley, Charmaine Wilkerson, Anne Tyler, Marianne Cronin, JoJo Myers, Josephine Baker, and Brooke Shields. **To check out the list go to: <https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/info-2024/winter-books-preview-2024.html>**

(3) **Tackling the Tough Subjects** -- If you have a child in your life, then you know it can be difficult navigating some topics in an age-appropriate manner. **But, the book series "A Kids Book About" can help.** Each book in the series (there are nearly 130 books so far) is designed for parents and kids to read together to facilitate challenging, empowering and important conversations. **The books are specifically written for kids ages 6 - 12 (a few are written for age 5 and older).** Books in the series include: "A Kids Book About Adoption", "A Kids Book About School Shootings", "A Kids Book About Empathy", "A Kids Book About Blended Families", "A Kids Book About Becoming A Sibling", "A Kids Book About Voting", "A Kids Book About Periods", "A Kids Book About Adopting a Pet", "A Kids Book About Public Speaking", "A Kids Book About Racism", "A Kids Book About Imagination", etc. **Authors of the books include Levar Burton, Billie Jean King, and Jessica Biel. Many of the titles are available on Amazon and at <https://akidsco.com>**

(4) **Expand Your Horizons** -- Looking for a slightly different take on book recommendations? **Well, you should check out Waterstones, a UK-based bookstore, that also publishes a monthly list of book recommendations.** You'll find many new and interesting titles to choose from that may not yet have made their way to U.S. book recommendation sites. The site's recent recommendations have included "*Blue Sisters*" by Coco Mellors (the bestselling author of *Cleopatra & Frankenstein*), "*Hunted*" by Abir Mukherjee (a riveting thriller), and even a children's book "*Hunt for the Golden Scarab*" by M.G. Leonard and Manuel Sumnerac (a page-turning mystery). **You can find Waterstones' monthly recommendations at: <https://www.waterstones.com/campaign/books-of-the-month>**

(5) **Making Reading Fun** -- If you have a young adult in your family and you wish to encourage their love of reading you should tell them about "The 115 Best Young Adult Books of All Time". **The list, compiled by Discovery (a community of book lovers), with input from over 300,000 readers, includes a host of wonderful books that inspire, spark the imagination, and encourage conversation.** The list includes "*All the Walls of Belfast*" by Sarah Carlson, "*A Wrinkle in Time*" by Madeleine L'Engle, "*Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*" by Judy Blume, "*Dear Martin*" by Nic Stone, "*Eragon*" by Christopher Paolini, as well as classics like "*Anne of*



*Green Gables*", *"Little House on the Prairie"* and *"Little Women"* . The full list can be found at: <https://reedsy.com/discovery/blog/young-adult-books>

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

**March 27, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join a hybrid (in-person or on Zoom) Mystery Book discussion of "Secret Hours" by Mick Herron.** This mystery is about a hostile prime minister who launches the Monochrome inquiry -- investigating "historical over-reaching" by the British Secret Service. Monochrome's mission was to ferret out any hint of misconduct by any MI5 officer, and allowed two civil servants unfettered access to all confidential information in the Service archives. Now the administration that created Monochrome has been ousted and the investigation is over. Until an MI5 case file appears containing the history of a classified operation in 1994 Berlin -- an operation that ended in tragedy and scandal, whose cover-up has rewritten 30 years of Service history.

**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 March -- The Monmouth County Library System will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including:**

- **Author Talks (Nina Totenberg, Dan Heath, Clara Bingham, and Jennifer Weiner )**
- **Yoga Sessions**
- **Lectures:** (including -- Prepare to Care for Caregivers, Downsizing for a Simpler, More Manageable Lifestyle, An Introduction to the Eight Dimensions of Wellness, Eat This Not That: Making Better Food Choices for Prevention of Chronic Disease, Lesser-Known First Ladies in American History, Protecting the Piping Plovers, Eternal Spring, Lecture & Art: Frida Kahlo, Looking for Mrs. Thompson: The Life of Geraldine L. Thompson, and Party Hearty in the Middle Ages)
- **Songs of the Irish Heart**
- **Reliving the 1960s with The Strictly 60s Band**
- **An Afternoon with Rhythm N' Sound**

- Build Your Own Terrarium
- Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services Older Adults Resource Fair
- Learn to Play Bridge
- 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 March.**

(2) Coming in March 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 March from the NJSL:

- **5 Money Questions for Women** -- March 4, 2025, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Psychology of Spending** -- March 12, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Introduction to Finding Grants** -- March 13, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Know the Bear Facts: The Truth About Bears in New Jersey** -- March 18, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Virtual Author Talk: New Jersey Women During WWII** -- March 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](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org)

Ocean Township Department of Human Services website -  
- [www.oceantwp.org](http://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](http://www.oceanmuseum.org)

Ocean Township Town Website -- [www.oceantwp.org](http://www.oceantwp.org)

**Monmouth County:**

Monmouth County Department of Health -- [www.visitmonmouth.com](http://www.visitmonmouth.com)

Monmouth County Library -- [www.MonmouthCountyLib.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyLib.org)

**New Jersey:**

New Jersey Official State Web Site -- [www.nj.gov](http://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](mailto:friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com)