



**"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"**  
**FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS**  
**MARCH 2021**

**Important News**

**(1)** Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your Friends membership!

If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2021 today. Annual membership dues (only \$5.00/person) are one of our major sources of funding now -- especially with our inability to hold book sales due to the pandemic.

Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) or directly by clicking [here](#)

**And, don't forget to reach out to your family members, friends, and neighbors to see if they would like to join the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.** Simply direct them to our website or print out a copy of our membership form located on our website: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) for them and ask them to return it to the address provided on the form.

**Please note:** You can choose to pay your membership dues either by check/money order or via our new electronic payment option (which allows you to pay with PayPal or with a Debit or Credit Card). Simply go to our website to renew: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org)

We appreciate your support and thank you!

**(2) Book Donations** -- As a reminder, although we greatly appreciate your kind intentions, **we are still unable to accept any book donations at this time.** But, please hold on to your donations. We hope to host our book sales later this year and we will let you know as soon as we are once again accepting donations. Thank you for your understanding.

**Error! Filename not specified. Updates from the Township of Ocean Library**

**(1) Welcome** -- As we mentioned in our last newsletter, **Kim Conover** has joined our branch **as a new Librarian.** Now, we also are happy to welcome **Melanie Wedewer as a new Library Assistant.** If you visit our library in the coming days, be sure and wish them both Kim and Melanie a warm welcome as they join our Ocean Library team.

**(2) Hard to Believe** -- Nearly a year has passed since our library was forced to close temporarily due to the pandemic. Since reopening, our library staff has been working hard to meet the changing needs of our town's residents. **For example, the library is purchasing more new ebooks and audiobooks since both of these formats have become increasingly popular since last March.** And, while things may look different inside the library, it continues to be a vibrant and busy place with residents continuing to pick up materials using our branch's curbside pickup and also entering the library during regular operating hours to find the perfect book or to make use of the many available resources.

**Error! Filename not specified. Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators**

**(1) The Township of Ocean Historical Museum** -- [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](http://www.townshipofocean.org) will be open on Sundays in March from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Please Note: Masks will be required for all visitors and staff.

If you would like to visit the museum "virtually," the Township of Ocean Museum has several online exhibits available for remote viewing including exhibits on "Votes for Women: New Jersey and Beyond," "Wet as The Atlantic: Prohibition in New Jersey" and "Farms Galore: Ocean Township's Rural Past." **To**

view these and other online exhibits just go to the museum's website at [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](#) and click on "Museum AtHome."

And, mark your calendar for the **Museum's annual "Spring Tea" scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Women's Club of Asbury Park.** For more details contact the museum at (732) 531-2136 or visit the museum's website at [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](#)

**(2) The Township of Ocean Garden Club** -- Despite all the challenges posed by the pandemic, The Township of Ocean Garden Club has continued its tradition of sending mini-bouquets to Ocean Township Meals on Wheels clients and the Onora Retirement Home on West Park Avenue. Club volunteers created a record 64 arrangements that brightened the day for many house-bound residents of the township. (You can take a peek at these beautiful floral arrangements by checking out the photo at the end of this newsletter.) In order to maintain social distancing, the club could not have every club member participate, but next year, once the pandemic restrictions are lifted, they look forward to having all club members involved in creating these floral masterpieces.

The Garden Club also will be following social distancing guidelines as it hosts two upcoming activities. The Garden Club expects to have an outdoor plant swap in participating members' driveways in May, and host a self-guided Garden Tour of members' homes this summer. More details to come as plans are finalized.

If you are interested in joining the Township of Ocean Garden Club, you can contact the Co-Presidents Pat Mercurio at (732) 493-8725 or Joanne Krulikowski at (732) 804-3139.

**Error! Filename not specified.** [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) Take the March Reading Challenge** -- For March our library's round table of suggested reading based on a monthly theme is going **BOTH in-person and virtual**. This month's theme is **"Music to My Ears"**

Debbie Bagchi, one of our library's reference librarians, has compiled a variety of books featuring music or musicians. So, if you have a song in your heart and want to kick up your heels to some interesting reads check out Debbie's picks on our website: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org)

**(2) Want to Travel Back in Time?** -- Then be sure and check out Goodreads "Top 42 New and Upcoming Historical Fiction Novels". These selections take you from the jazz clubs of Chicago, to the wild west, to the great Plains blizzard of 1888, and many places in between. Check out the list of historical fiction picks [here](#).

**(3) Want to Find A Great Read You May Have Missed?** -- Then check out **Goodreads "Best Books of the 20th Century (from January 1, 1901 through December 31, 2000)"**. Goodreads makes it easy for you to search too. You can search their recommended reads by millennium, century or decade. You just may find a great read you missed. Simply go: [https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/6.Best\\_Books\\_of\\_the\\_20th\\_Century](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/6.Best_Books_of_the_20th_Century)

**(4) Discover Books You'll Love** -- with **"What Should I Read Next"**. Just type in the name of a book you liked and this site will analyze a huge database of real readers' favorite books to provide you with suggestions on what to read next. To get started go to [www.whatshouldireadnext.com](http://www.whatshouldireadnext.com)

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

On **Wednesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. OR Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** this virtual book club will discuss **"Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi**. This book takes you on a journey from Ghana's Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi to present day. Spanning eight generations "Homegoing" begins in the 18th century with the story of Effia who marries a British slave trader, and Esi who is sold into slavery. Follow their story and their descendants as they live through the legacy of slavery. This discussion will be moderated by Rebecca Gokberk.

On **Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** this virtual book club will discuss **"All This Could Be Yours" by Jami Attenberg**. In this book the author explores the impact of being caught in the web of a toxic man whose actions affect a family for generations. The discussion will be moderated by Katie Kenny.

**Registration for these book discussions is required.** Simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper by clicking [here](#) and select "Literature & Writing" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of each virtual book discussion description. **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](mailto:mcl@monmouthcountylib.org)

**(6) Read the Book, Then Hear from The Author -- On Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.** you can meet virtually with **Deborah Mura**, as she discusses and reads from her novel **"Stronger Than the Storm."** Mura's book tells the story of Hurricane Sandy through the eyes of a fifteen-year-old girl and her friends. This event is co-sponsored by Brookdale Community College and the Monmouth County Library, and sponsored by the Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change Grant from the American Library Association.

The session will be conducted on Zoom and is free of charge. **Registration and internet access is required.** To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper by clicking [here](#) and select "Literature & Writing" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of each virtual book discussion description. The link will be emailed to you the day before the program between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**(7) Try A Short Story -- and then join a discussion of "Kindling" by Raymond Carver on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** The short story is about a man going through a transitional period in his life who rents a room from a married couple. **A PDF of the story will be emailed to you after registration.** The discussion will be moderated by Mary Patterson.

The session will be conducted on Webex and is free of charge. **Registration and internet access is required.** To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper by clicking [here](#) and select "Literature & Writing" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of each virtual book discussion description. The link will be emailed to you the day before the program between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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

### [Grab Some Popcorn & Binge Watch a Movie](#)

The Monmouth County Library is now offering **The Reel Movie Discussion: A Virtual Program**. You simply watch the film at your leisure and then join a virtual discussion. The February offerings are:

**March 16, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. "Little Women" (2019) (PG).** The film stars Emma Watson, Meryl Streep, Laura Dern, Saoirse Ronan, Timothee Chalamet, and Florence Pugh. The discussion will be moderated by Kristen Harvey.

**March 30, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. -- "Charlie's Angels" (2019) (PG-13).** This film stars Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott, Elizabeth Banks, Ella Balinska, and Patrick Stewart. This virtual discussion will be moderated by Lynne Myerson.

To reserve a physical copy of these films, please call our local branch at **732-531-5092** to place a hold. Pickup is available in person or through curbside service. Sessions will be conducted on Webex and are free of charge. **Registration is required to participate in a Reel Movie Discussion.** To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper by clicking [here](#) and select "Movies" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of each movie discussion description.

### [Other Fun and Helpful Library Offerings](#)

**(1) Protect Yourself from Scammers -- In honor of National Consumer Protection Week, on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 10:30 a.m., the Monmouth County Director of Consumer Affairs, David**

**Salkin, will share cyber security and online safety tips.** Learn ways you can protect yourself from identity theft, fraud and other online scams.

The session will be conducted on Zoom and is free of charge. **Registration and internet access are required.** To register go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Select "Timely Topics" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description. Please note that the link for the session will be mailed to you the day before the program between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**(2) Do You Need to Invigorate, Focus and Activate Your Mind and Body? Or Do You Need to Unwind, De-stress And Relax?** -- The Monmouth County Library has the virtual yoga program to fit your needs. From Master Yogi Steven Russell of Becoming Sound comes a series of virtual weekday lunch time and evening yoga sessions throughout the month of March.

**Beginning March 1, 2021 -- Energize Yourself Midday -- this 30 minute session streams weekdays between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**

**Beginning March 1, 2021 -- De-stress Your Body and Mind -- streams weekdays after 5:00 p.m.** These sessions are free of charge. No library card is required. Internet access is required to attend. You can join the session through the Monmouth County Library website at [www.MonmouthCountyLib.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyLib.org)

**(3) Tackle That New Year's Resolution to Get More Healthy -- By checking out Rutgers Virtual Health Seminars** offered by the Monmouth County Library.

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. -- Wholesome Whole Grains** Learn the health benefits of grains, recommended daily amounts, and simple tips for making meals interesting.

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. -- Stress Less with Diet** Learn about the types of stress, how healthier food choices impact stress and techniques for relaxing.

This program is offered by Family and Community Health Sciences Department Educator Sharese Porter, PhD, MPH, CHES, Sr. Program Coordinator Supervisor, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington and Monmouth Counties.

These sessions will be conducted on Zoom and are free of charge. **Registration and internet access are required.** To register go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) and scroll to the date for each seminar. You'll find the register button at the end of the seminar description. Please note that the link for the session will be mailed to you the day before the program between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**(4) Does Your Garden Need Help?** -- On **Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, thanks to the **Rutgers Master Gardener Virtual Program**, you can get your horticultural and garden questions answered by Diane Larson, Monmouth County Horticulturist of the Rutgers Master Gardeners. Please email all questions in advance to Ms. Larson via [MonCoLibrary2021@gmail.com](mailto:MonCoLibrary2021@gmail.com) by noon on Wednesday March 3, 2021.

**This session will be conducted on Webex and is free of charge. Registration and internet access is required to participate.** To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Select "Timely Topics" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description.

**(5) Celebrate Women's History Month** -- This month the Monmouth County Library will be hosting several virtual programs to celebrate women and their achievements.

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. -- "Women Lighthouse Keepers"** Lighthouse Keeper was one of the first government career fields opened to women. **Mary Rasa**, a historian who worked as a museum curator and park ranger for the National Park Service for 16 years, will explore the U.S. Lighthouse Service, and look at five remarkable women lighthouse keepers, including one Monmouth County resident.

**Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. -- Bernadette Rogoff will present "We Are Present and Future Women -- Freehold Young Ladies' Seminary, 1845-1898.** Ms. Rogoff, author and Director of Collections at the Monmouth County Historical Association, will spotlight the Freehold Young Ladies' Seminary, one of the most prestigious female educational institutions on the eastern seaboard, as well as give a glimpse into the lives of the some of the impressive women who attended.

**Thursday, March 30, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. -- "A Life of My Own: Meeting Eleanor Roosevelt** This virtual one woman play, by author Stephen LaRocque, stars television, stage and film actress Linda Kenyon. In period costume, Ms. Kenyon illuminates Mrs. Roosevelt's life and work which made her an inspiration to people all around the world.

**Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. -- "The Skirt and Stocking Clad Soldier" Mary Rasa,** a historian who worked as a museum curator and park ranger for the National Park Service for 16 years, will discuss the first women to join the military during World War II, their civilian defense worker counterparts, as well as the Women's Army Corps members from Fort Hancock and Monmouth County. These sessions will be conducted on Zoom and are free of charge. **Registration and internet access is required.** To register go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Select "Timely Topics" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of each presentation description.

**(6) Learn More About the Irish Experience -- On Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. with "Bound for Amerikay: The Irish Emigrant Experience with McDermott's Handy."** (A handy is a set of Irish tunes collected and titled in a person's honor.) This program features songs and the stories of Irish immigrants who left behind their homeland and for promises of freedom and untold opportunity. Kathy DeAngelo and Dennis Gormley, award-winning musicians, will perform a concert of traditional Irish music on fiddle, harp, tin whistle, flute, guitar, and banjo.

To access this program, go to the Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Select "Timely Topics" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "HERE" box at the bottom of the presentation description. Click on that button to join the program. (Program will be available for viewing beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, 2021 through Sunday, March 21, 2021)

**(7) Need to Get Organized? -- Then join bestselling author and organizing humorist Jamie Novak on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., as she shares her secrets for de-cluttering.** During this virtual program you'll join Jamie for a mini, live organizing task and after you log off you'll have great ideas and advice to help you get organized.

This session will be conducted on Zoom and is free of charge. **Registration and internet access is required.** To register go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Select "Timely Topics" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description.

#### **News from Around the County:**

**(1) Julia Telonidis of Ocean Township has been named as Monmouth County Archivist.** Did you know that the Monmouth County Archives contains a wealth of information for both professional and amateur genealogists? Officially opened to the public in 1994, the Archive acquires, indexes and preserves historical records dating back to the 1600s! **Interested in learning more about what documents are housed in the archives? The archives website, [MonmouthCountyClerk.com/Archives](http://MonmouthCountyClerk.com/Archives), is the gateway to knowledge about records in the Archives. Interested in visiting the Monmouth County Archives?** The archives are located on the lower level of the Monmouth County Library headquarters in Manalapan and is currently open to the public **by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling 732-308-3771.**

#### **A Few Reminders:**

**(1) Please note that until further notice The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library in-person meetings are canceled.** We will let you know when these meetings will resume.

**(2) The library's in-person times\*\* are:**  
**Monday - Thursday: 1 - 9 p.m.**



Friday: 1 - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(3) **Curbside pickup\*\*** is now available:

Mondays: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

No curbside service will be available on Friday or Saturday.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE:** Now that winter and potentially bad weather are here, it is a good idea to check the Monmouth County Library website at <https://monmouthcountylib.org/> or call our library branch at 732-531-5092 for closures or delayed openings.

**Help Our Community** -- Want to do your part to help our community and our state during these difficult times? Here are simple ways you can make a difference.

**(1) You Know Everyone Is Being Encouraged to Get the COVID 19 Vaccine, But Do You Still Have Questions?** -- Well thanks to the Monmouth County Library answers are available. **To learn more about the COVID 19 vaccines join Dr. Jay Kostman, Director of the John Bell Health Center on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** for a virtual program offering information on the vaccines for COVID -19 including how they were developed, how they are being used, their effectiveness and how they are tolerated.

This session will be conducted on Zoom and is free of charge. **Registration and internet access is required.** To register go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Select "Timely Topics" from the drop-down box. You will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description.

**(2) Tighten Up and Double Up** -- We all know that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines encourage everyone to mask up. **But, with new COVID mutations spreading, the CDC also is now strongly encouraging everyone to ensure that the mask they wear fits tightly against the face.** If you don't have a N95 or KN95 mask, the CDC recommends that you wear TWO masks (a disposable mask with a cloth mask over it) to ensure a tight fit to help protect yourself and those around you.

**(3) Roll Up Your Sleeve** -- As the country continues to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, good news is on the horizon as vaccines against the virus are gradually becoming available to residents of our state. **If you haven't already done so, go to <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/> to preregister to get the vaccine.** Registration takes just a few minutes (be sure to have your insurance card handy). Once registered, you will receive an email notifying you when you are eligible to make an appointment to be vaccinated.

For more information on vaccination sites in New Jersey, see [this list](#) which is updated frequently as the vaccine roll out protocols and locations change.

Use [this link](#) if you want to be put on a Monmouth County vaccine wait list.

**(4) Add Your Phone to the Fight Against COVID-19** -- **COVID Alert** is New Jersey's free and secure mobile app that anonymously alerts users if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The app also provides users with up-to-date information on New Jersey reopening news, key COVID-19 metrics, and offers a user-friendly symptom tracking tool. The app will never record any identifying data. All users will remain anonymous. To download the app go to: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app>

**Thanks for standing up for New Jersey!**

**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!**

We love hearing from you. If you have a comment about or a suggestion for our newsletter -- send an email to [friendsofoceantwplibrary@](mailto:friendsofoceantwplibrary@)