

"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"
FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS
APRIL 2023



Important News

(1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library will be closed on April 7, 2023 in observance of Good Friday.

(2) Donation Day – Our Book Donation Day has been rescheduled for: **Saturday, April 1, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or until we run out of storage space.** The event is rain or shine in front of the library.

We are accepting gently used adult and children's fiction and non-fiction books in good condition, CD's and DVD's. Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, VHS or cassettes, magazines or condensed books, or anything moldy, dirty or without a cover. A rule of thumb – if you wouldn't buy it, please don't donate it.

(3) Super Sensational Sale -- Don't miss our next sensational Book Sale on April 26 and April 27, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.. We will have hundreds of recently acquired hardcover and paperback books, CDs and DVDs on sale and all proceeds benefit our library and its wonderful programs.

If you are interested in helping out, it's not too late to participate! We still need volunteers to staff our book sale. 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.**

If you have never worked at a book sale before you will be partnered with someone with book sale experience. It's a fun way to help out and give back to the community while raising funds for Friends' projects in support of our library. **To sign up simply RSVP to this email with your availability. Thank you!!**

(4) There's More to the Story -- April 23, 2023 - April 29, 2023 is National Library Week and this year the American Library Association's theme is "There's More to the Story." And, there certainly is more to the story at our library branch. Our library boasts a variety of offerings -- ebooks, audiobooks, large-print books, picture books, paperback and hardcover books, DVDs, magazines and newspapers. And, that's not all! Each month our library hosts a number of programs specifically geared for children, young adults and adults. So, stop by during National Library Week and make it a point to explore all that our library offers.

(5) A Shout Out -- April 25, 2023 is National Library Workers Day and a perfect time to express heartfelt thanks to our incredible library staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of the residents of Ocean Township. The staff plays a critical role in keeping our library such a vibrant part of our community. If you are in the library this month, be sure to thank our staff for their hard work, dedication and professionalism.



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 movies are being shown this month. All the movies are free to attend!

April 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Strange World starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Gabrielle Union, Dennis Quaid, and Lucy Liu (2022) (Rated PG)

April 13, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Tar starring Cate Blanchett, Noemie Merlant and Julian Glover (2022) (Rated R)

April 20, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Devotion starring Glen Powell, Jonathan Majors, Thomas Sadoski and Joseph Cross (2022) (Rated PG-13)

April 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Armageddon Time starring Anne Hathaway, Jaylin Webb and Jeremy Strong (2022) (Rated R)

You definitely won't want to miss these films -- so be sure and save the dates to your calendar.

(2) Medicare Counseling -- Have a question or problem involving Medicare? Then, you will want to register for one-on-one assistance with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides confidential, unbiased information and assistance for evaluating health insurance options and dealing with claims. **SHIP volunteers will be at our branch on April 4, 2023 and April 18, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please note: An appointment is required. You can register for an appointment by calling 732-728-1331.**

(3) A Spring Musical Interlude -- Come enjoy an hour of music as our branch welcomes the very popular Charlie's Band on April 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Charlie's Band will be performing song selections from the Great American Songbook, as well as some smooth jazz and Latin musical numbers. You won't want to miss their performance! **(This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.)**

(4) Join a Knitting/Crocheting Group -- that is now meeting at our library on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of knitting and/or crocheting. This month, the group is meeting on April 25, 2023. All levels are welcome. Please bring your own yarn, needles and/or hooks. Those interested in learning how to knit or crochet also are welcome (just be sure to bring some chunky yarn along with your needles).

(5) Programs For Little Ones -- Our library branch is the site of many special children's programs each month. The sessions are full of fun exciting stories, song singing, and even craft making. **Simply go to: the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) for a full list of the children's programs happening at our branch in April. Select the event you are interested in and you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description**



Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators

(1) The Township of Ocean Historical Museum -- [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](#) will be closed on April 9, 2023 in observance of Easter Sunday. The Museum will be open on all other Sundays in April from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Museum also will be open on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(A) Don't Miss the Museum's Spring Speaker event "Geraldine Thompson, New Jersey's First Lady" on April 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Park Recreation Center ([615 West Park Avenue](#)). During her lifetime, Geraldine Thompson served as New Jersey's first woman state delegate to the Republican National Convention and was also the first woman to be appointed to a state board in New Jersey. **Thanks to this remarkable woman, reforms were made to early primitive health and welfare programs within our state. She was instrumental in the establishment of a county tuberculosis hospital and the founding of what is now known as the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. You won't want to miss this speaker event -- where you are guaranteed to learn more about this trailblazing woman.**

(B) Sold Out! -- Our Museum is happy to announce that they have fully booked their upcoming 17th Annual Spring Tea event. The Museum's staff wish to thank all of you who signed up.

(2) Ocean Township Garden Club -- wishes to thank their outgoing board members Elaine Slocum (Vice President), Joanne Krulikowski (co-President) and Pat Mercurio (co-President) for their 10 plus years of service on the Garden Club's Board. They improved the club with their creativity, educational programs and community outreach activities. While these three individuals will continue as "regular" members of the Garden Club, club members wanted to express their heartfelt gratitude for the time and effort these individuals put into making the Garden Club so successful.



Happening Around Town

(1) The Township of Ocean Community Celebrations is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and Bonnet Contest on April 1, 2022 for children Pre-K - Grade 5 at the Oakhurst Fireman's Field. **The Egg Hunt begins promptly at 11:00 a.m.** (Don't forget to bring a basket or bucket for the eggs!) Prizes will be awarded for Best Overall Bonnet, Most Unique Bonnet, Cutest Bonnet, and Funniest Bonnet. The event is sponsored by the Vin Gopal Civic Association. **Registration is required (Please note the event is open to Ocean Township residents only).** **YOU MUST REGISTER** for this event at: <https://register.communitypass.net/oceantwp>

(2) Honoring Our Heroes -- Please join veterans and local dignitaries on April 22, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. for the unveiling of a beautiful new Vietnam memorial honoring our country's heroes. The monument is located at the rear of our town's library on Deal Road.

(3) The Highly Popular GreenFest is back for 2023! -- The Township of Ocean Environmental Commission and the Township of Ocean Shade Tree Commission are happy to announce that their **GreenFest event is back** again this year. The event will be held **at the Joe Palaia Park (near the Grandstand Entrance) on April 23, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Please plan to stop by and enjoy the festivities.

(4) The Township of Ocean Clean Communities Advisory Committee is sponsoring a **Spring Clean Sweep on April 29, 2023 and April 30, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Volunteers are needed to help give our town a little TLC and help clean up. Families are welcome (so bring the kids!). **Volunteers will meet at the Oakhurst Fireman's Field (at the corner of Larkin Place and Arthur Schenck Lane)** For more information call 732-531-5000 ext. 3378.

(5) Are You Ready for Summer? -- Then you won't want to miss the kick off to summer **Memorial Day Weekend Kick-off Concert** presented by the Township of Ocean Community Celebration Committee **on May 24, 2023 at the Mike Cernigliaro Fairgrounds at Joe Palaia Park** . The concert will feature one of New Jersey's premier dance bands -- So Watt. **Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 per car.** Register/Pay online, in-person or by mail. Please note: no pets are permitted and bring your own snacks (and take home your trash too please).

To register online go

to: <https://register.communitypass.net/oceantwp> Call Jennifer

Nordstrom at **732-531-2600 ext.6220** or email her

at her JNordstrom@Oceantwp.org Make checks payable to Township

of Ocean and mail to Department of Human Services, [601 Deal Road, Ocean NJ 07712](#)



Senior Town Spotlight

If you are a senior living in Ocean Township, you won't want to miss some interesting senior programs being offered through the Department of Human Services. These programs offer a wonderful opportunity to learn and connect with others.

Here is the list of upcoming programs:

(1) Living Well -- There's a popular saying that goes "you are what you eat." **And, now thanks to The Monmouth Medical Center/Anne Vogel Family Care you can learn more about healthy eating at a free workshop and healthy cooking demonstration on April 3, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Anne Vogel Family Care and Wellness Center, [200 Wyckoff Road Suite 1200, Eatontown, NJ](#). You'll learn many helpful tips for preparing meals that are both healthy and delicious. This program is open to the first 18 registrants. To register call: 732-531-2600 or email Mark Rudolph at mrudolph@oceantwp.org.**

(2) Positive Aging – Discover the secret to positive aging at a free seminar on April 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the West Park Recreation Center at [615 West Park Avenue](#). During the seminar, conducted by certified positive psychology coach Diane Lange, you'll learn ways to thrive at any age, uncover the truth (and myths) of aging, and cultivate a positive approach to all the aspects this stage of life can offer. Light refreshments will be served. This program is being hosted by Family and Children's Services. To register call: 732-531-2600

(3) BE WISE -- Join Family and Children's Services' Janet Schindler on Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. for a six-week session starting on April 27, 2023 for Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE), a program that celebrates healthy aging and covers topics ranging from medication management to stress management and healthy living. The sessions will be held on April 27, 2023, May 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2023 and

June 1, 2023 at the West Park Recreation Center at [615 West Park Avenue](#). Attendance is limited to 12 participants so be sure to register soon. To register call: 732-531-2600.

A peek ahead into next month...

Senior Spring Fling -- Welcome spring with a casual afternoon of mixing and mingling with old and new friends at the Township of Ocean's Senior Spring Fling on May 11, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the West Park Recreation Center at [615 West Park Avenue](#). You'll enjoy light refreshments and entertainment provided by Pat Hogan. And, be sure to bring a dessert to share. This program is sponsored by Beacon of Life. To register call 732-531-2600 or email mrudolph@oceantwp.org Please note that you must register by May 4, 2023 in order to attend.



Monthly Tip

(1) Did you know that our library now has a self-service checkout machine? It is located by the front desk. With this machine, you can check out books, pick up books being held for you (just ask at the front desk for your items first), and even pay your bill. Please note that the machine accepts credit or debt cards only (no cash). And, that's not all. You can also print from the library computers to the checkout machine, pick up your printed materials and pay at the machine using your credit or debit card. (If you are paying by cash, you can continue to use the printer located near the library's public computers.)



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) Spring Is in the Air -- And with the coming of spring comes some of the season's most anticipated new books. If you are ready to dive into some great new books, then **be sure to check out Goodreads Big Books of Spring Collection.** This list of books has something for everyone as the list includes titles from nearly every genre. To browse the list simply go to: https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/2538-readers-most-anticipated-books-of-spring?int=Soapbox_Signed_Out_2023_Mar&int_sub=Blog_2538

(2) Trees and the Coming of Spring -- As the leaves begin returning to grace trees throughout our town, it is yet another sign of spring's arrival. **And, if trees are on your mind, you'll want to be sure and check out Amazon's choice for the biggest book of Spring -- "Big Tree".** The book, written and illustrated by Brian Selznick (the man behind such amazing books as "*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*", "*Wonderstruck*" and "*Kaleidoscope*") tells the story of two Sycamore tree seeds who are separated from their mother during a forest fire. Selznick is renowned for both his writing style and his unbelievably amazing illustrations. **To read more about why Amazon thinks this book is one not to be missed go to:** https://www.amazon.com/amazonbookreview/read/B0BTMZYX6C?ref=abr_widget_nav&theme=light

(3) Great Writing -- Who doesn't love a greatly written book? But, finding just that perfect book can sometimes be difficult. **NPR has taken some of the guess work out of the process by pulling together a list of the books that feature "seriously great writing".** The list culled from all the books published last year contains 118 selections that are worth checking out. To begin the search go to: <https://apps.npr.org/best-books/#tags=seriously+great+writing&view=covers&year=2022>

(4) Mysteries Galore -- Following clues laid out by a mystery author, while avoiding misdirection, is the hallmark of any great detective/lover of mystery books. **If you are craving a good mystery and hoping to solve the "perfect" crime, then you'll want to take a look at Discovery's list of "The 30 Best Mystery Books of All Time."** The list includes books by Agatha Christie, James M. Cain, John le Carre, Robert Traver, Tana French, and many more. You'll find the list at: <https://apps.npr.org/best-books/#tags=seriously+great+writing&view=covers&year=2022>

(5) Consider Joining The Monmouth County Library's Virtual Book and Short Story Discussions This Month --**

April 5, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club to discuss "*Black Cake: A Novel*" by Charmain Wilkerson. Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children -- a black cake, made from a family recipe, and a voice recording that details a story about a young swimmer who escapes her home under the suspicion of murder. Secrets are told -- including a mystery of a long-lost child -- that challenge everything Bennett's sons thought they knew about their family and themselves.

April 19, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club to discuss "*Verity: A Novel*" by Colleen Hoover. Lowen Ashleigh is a struggling writer hired to help the husband of a best-selling author complete the books the injured author is unable to finish. When Ashleigh uncovers an unfinished autobiography that the best-selling author never intended anyone to read, she decides to keep the manuscript hidden. But, as her feelings for the husband intensify, she recognizes how she can benefit if he were to read the manuscript.

April 27, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual short story discussion to discuss "*Gooseberries*" by Anton Chekov. Ivan Ivanovich tells a group of friends about his younger brother's dream of returning to the county setting where he and his brother spent a happy childhood. (Please note the link to the story PDF is included in your registration.)

**** (Registration is required for all of these programs. To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Scroll down to the date of the event you are interested in and you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description.)**

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



Other Helpful & Fun Library Offerings**

(Unless otherwise noted, all of these programs require registration. Instructions for registering can be found at the end of this section.)

(1) Poetry for Beginners -- Enjoy poetry? Then you will want to be sure to sign up for a virtual four-part series featuring poet **Tony McPherson** of Urban World NYC. During the sessions you will learn various forms of poetry and develop the beginning skills of creative writing.

Please note that you need only register once -- your registration permits you to attend all four sessions. **The sessions are:**

April 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. -- I Am What I Am -- Explore the world of "I Am" poems, inspired by the works of Carl Sandburg, Ava Shicke, and Rudy Francisco.

April 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. -- Ode to Odes -- Take a deep dive into the world of odes, a poetic device from the tradition of lyric poetry.

April 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. -- Personas & Auras -- Utilizing poems by R. J. Walker and Lucille Clifton, this class will define and illustrate another classic poetic form and invite participants to embody something outside of themselves as a means of writing intriguing poems.

April 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. -- Pantoum: Braiding the Poem -- Learn about poems that echo across stanzas and learn how to write your own.

(2) Author Talk -- Join *New York Times* bestselling author **Kate Beaton**, on **April 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** for a virtual author talk about her first full-length graphic narrative "*Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands*". In this book Beaton writes of her adventures as she headed out west to take advantage of the oil boom happening in Alberta, Canada, after struggling to find work in her hometown in Nova Scotia.

(3) What's It Worth? -- Well, wonder no more! Ask appraiser and author **Michael Ivankovich** during a live, virtual appraisal program on **April 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Mike Ivankovich will let you know what your antiques, collectibles and personal treasures are worth today during this VIRTUAL presentation. **PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE LIMITED APPRAISAL SLOTS AVAILABLE; HOWEVER VIRTUAL VIEWING SPOTS ARE UNLIMITED.**

Important appraisal instructions:

The first 25 confirmed registrants should receive an appraisal of ONE item. You will receive early confirmation if you have an appraisal spot. Registration does not guarantee a virtual appraisal.

Confirmed registrants should have one back up item available -- only to be used if the primary item cannot be viewed correctly by the appraiser.

Because of possible distortions, registrants should turn off Zoom's Virtual Backgrounds during the program.

(4) Garden Virtual Helpline -- With Spring upon us, you'll want to mark April 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. down on your calendar so you can join Diane Lawson, Monmouth County Horticulturist of the Rutgers Master Gardeners, as she provides help and answers your horticulture and garden questions via Zoom. Please email your questions in advance (by noon on April 12, 2023) to Ms. Larson at MonCoLibrary1922@gmail.com

(5) Quick Bites -- Join Chef Rob for a series of virtual Quick Bites as he provides tips to create something savory or sweet this month. These virtual quick bites are available to view on the Monmouth County Library's website at: www.MonmouthCountyLib.org

Here is the Quick Bites Schedule:

April 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- Melt in Your Mouth Butter Cookies

April 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- Chicken Picatta

April 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- Spring M&M Cookies

April 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- Spaghetti Muffins

April 29, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- Stuffed Zucchini with Herbs and Walnuts

Recipes are available on the Monmouth County Library's Eventkeeper site by clicking [here](#) Simply scroll down to the date of the Quick Bite session you are interested in viewing and you'll find instructions on how to access the recipe.

(6) Lighthouse Drawing -- Learn how to draw a still life based on the artwork of Edward Hopper in this virtual art class with Barbara Freiberg on April 26, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. You'll need the following supplies

to participate: pencil, eraser, ruler or straight edge, one piece of 9x12 white drawing or sketch paper, and crayola markers or similar brand.

(7) Author Talk -- Join bestselling novelist and crime writer, William Kent Kruger, on April 27, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. as he discusses his newest book, in the Cork O'Connor private investigator series, "Fox Creek". In this book Cork O'Connor is in a race against time to save his wife, a mysterious stranger, and an Ojibwe healer from mercenaries.

(8) Sit In on a Lecture From the Comfort of Home -- The Monmouth County Library also sponsors interesting virtual lectures. This month be sure to check out:

April 18, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- For Holocaust Remembrance Day, join renowned Danish scholar **Dr. Therkel Straede as he presents a live, virtual program to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the evacuation of Danish Jews to Sweden in October of 1943.** Dr. Straede will provide unique insights into the sea lift operation and why events in Denmark took a decidedly different road than elsewhere in German-dominated Europe.

April 20, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join Rachel Tansey, of the Family & Community Health Sciences Department, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County, for a live Zoom program on "Maximizing Memory". You'll learn to recognize the effects of normal aging on the brain and how to implement some ways to improve your brain function with brain exercises.

April 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. -- Join Jack Grodeska for "Prohibition in Monmouth County" where you'll discover the underworld of bootlegging in Monmouth County -- from those who were well-known to those who were smart enough to keep their "business" under wraps.

April 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join Mary Hussey, Office of the Monmouth County Clerk, for "Using the Records at the Monmouth County Archives". You'll learn about the different kinds of records available, how to make the best use of them, and you'll get tips for improving your research skills.

April 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. -- Join Christopher M. Bellitto, Professor of History at Kean University, for "The Library That Healed a City:

Christchurch New Zealand". You'll learn about how the Christchurch's leaders and residents decided, after two devastating earthquakes, that one of their rebuilding anchor projects would be a new state-of-the-art library built in the heart of the destruction zone. The library helped the city rise from the ashes.

**** (Unless otherwise noted, registration is required for all of these programs. To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Scroll down to the date of the event you are interested in and you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description.)**



Help Our Community -- Want to do your part to help our community? Here are simple ways you can make a difference

(1) Scam Alert -- This is from our town's police department. Several scams have been resurfacing lately to defraud people out of money. **The latest scam involves a letter sent via the U.S. Postal Services that advises you that your home or other assets will be subject to a tax sale if you do not call a 1-800 number. Please DO NOT call the number listed in the mailer. Instead, call your creditors directly at the number you have for them if you have questions or concerns. If you have any doubts, you can always contact the Ocean Township Police Department at 732-531-1800 for help.**

(2) Calling All Fourth Graders -- Monmouth County officers Surrogate Maureen T. Raisch, Sheriff Shaun Golden, and County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon are inviting fourth-grade students in Monmouth County to showcase what they like best about Monmouth County by having them create a poster that fits the theme "My County". Artwork should depict whatever the student feels is unique and special about our county. Prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Place. And, there will also be nine honorable mentions. Each of these twelve posters will be displayed at the Monmouth County Clerk's office.

Entry Rules:

Posters must be on a standard 22 -inch by 28-inch poster board. The words "Monmouth County" must appear at the top of the poster in 4-inch letters made with a black marker.

And, lastly, the student's name, teacher's name, and school must be printed neatly in the lower right hand corner of the BACK of the poster.

Posters must be mailed or delivered to the Monmouth County's Surrogate's Office at the Hall of Records, 1 East Main Street in Freehold. The deadline for submission is by 4:30 p.m. on May 1, 2023.

For more information about the contest go to www.visitmonmouth.com or contact the Surrogate's Office at 732-431-7330, ext. 7331.

**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 about or a suggestion for our newsletter -- send an email to friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com