

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



## Important News

(1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library **will be closed on:**

- **June 19, 2026** in observance of Juneteenth.

(2) Donations -- We are currently accepting a limited number of books in good condition for our upcoming July book sale. **Due to our storage space constraints, we are only able to accept donations in these targeted categories:**

- recent novels published within the past 5 years only
- art books
- large print books

If you have books in these categories that you would like to donate, please contact us at [friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com) **BEFORE** bringing any items to the library. We are unable to accept drop-off donations without prior arrangement.

**Please note: We cannot accept musty, moldy, damp, dirty or damaged books or those stored in basements, garages or other damp environments.** Because mold and mildew can spread quickly to our other donated materials, we must be especially careful about the condition of books that we accept. **Books should also be from smoke-free environments.** We appreciate your understanding and cooperation!

(3) Our Giant Sale is Just Around the Corner -- The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library's giant book sale will be held on July 8, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and July 9, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Important: You can find all the details -- including news about a special Friends-members-only pre-sale event and how you can volunteer at the sale -- in the "The Keeping Up with the Friends" section below. You won't want to miss this highly popular summer event!**

(4) You Can Unearth a Story -- by participating in the Monmouth County Library's annual Summer Reading Challenge. This year's theme, Unearth a Story<sup>TM</sup> "underscores the joy of discovery that reading brings, and that every person and every community has stories waiting to be found and shared -- through books, programs, and local

knowledge". For more details on how to participate (and earn a prize), see item one in the Updates From the Township of Ocean Library section below.



(5) "250th " Exciting Program News -- As you know, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our country and throughout the year the Monmouth County Library system will be hosting a number of informative and fun programs to mark this historic milestone.

There are three "History Runs Through Us" programs being held at Monmouth County Library branches this month -- just browse the "More to the Story" section below and look



for the special "250th " symbol.

(6) Coming This Month -- Short story and book club discussions, wonderful movies, fun children's programs (including a visit by a magician!), 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 June to our branch.



## Keeping Up with the Friends

(1) Reminder! Summer Meeting Schedule -- In response to the feedback we received in our recent member survey, **The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library will hold its June and July meetings in the evening.** The June meeting will be on June 10, 2026 and the July meeting will be on July 15, 2026. Both meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. This will provide members who can't attend morning meetings a chance to find out more about our group and the projects we have underway. **We hope you'll plan to attend!**

(2) Providing Needed Support -- **The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library has actively supported our library and its staff in a number of ways recently:**

- We are excited to report that the sound proofing materials (in bright flower and grass shapes) that we purchased have been installed in the children's activity room. A special thank you to our library's Teen Advisory Board who installed the flowers. Be

sure to take a peek in the room to see how these materials brighten up the room for our town's littlest residents.

- Great news! The little library that we purchased for placement near our town's pool has arrived. We will be working with our town's wonderful Department of Public Works to install the little library and then we'll stock it with some great books -- so it hopefully should be in place soon for pool visitors to enjoy.
- Our library staff requested some supplies -- plastic adhesive book covers and book dividers for the children's book boxes -- and we were happy to purchase these items for them.

**Our thanks go out to YOU -- because your support, as well as proceeds from our book sales, made our efforts possible.**

**(3) START SPREADING THE NEWS -- Our highly popular summer book sale is coming next month!! The sale is scheduled for July 8, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and July 9, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. And the best news? Our sale rooms are chock full of wonderful items:**

- **Thousands of books -- Something for everyone!** (Including hardcover, paperback fiction, non-fiction, classics, biographies, history, true crime, cookbooks, mysteries, gardening, travel, 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
- **Puzzles** -- perfect for family fun time

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.

**(4) 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 2026 membership dues) are cordially invited to a special "Friends Early Book Sale" event from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on July 7, 2026. (Light refreshments will be served.)**

This will give you an opportunity to shop our Book Sale before the official sale opens to the public on July 8, 2026. We hope you will be able to join us and we look forward to seeing you at this special sale event.

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 at our website: <https://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org> or directly by clicking on this link: <https://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org/files/ugd/ebfcd11e5079c9d7d24e45a0aa9ca1f2248cbe.pdf>
- For your convenience you 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 also can renew when you arrive for the special Friends Early Book Sale Event.

(5) 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. Thank you!!



## Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) Ready...Set...Read! -- The Monmouth County Library system is once again sponsoring its Summer Reading Challenge! This year the program kicks off June 1, 2026 and runs through August 15, 2026. The theme this year is "Unearth a Story".

As in the past, each registered participant will be reading towards an opportunity to win a prize. So sign up and start logging your books right away to ensure your prize eligibility.

To register go to [monmouthcountylib.beanstack.org](http://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. If you experience any difficulties, stop by our library and one of our amazing library staff members will assist you.

The summer reading program levels are: "Read To Me;" "Vacation Reading Club" (Grades K - 6); "Teens" (Grades 6 - 12 ); and "Adults" (Age 18+).

Let's make Ocean the top library branch in the number of books/e-book/audiobooks read this year. **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. So, READY...SET...READ!**

**(2) Calling All Fans of Book Clubs -- Our branch's book club will be meeting on June 4, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "The White Tiger" by Aravind Adiga.** This book is about Balram Halwai who grows up in poverty in rural India, but dreams of a better life. Working as a driver for a wealthy family, he witnesses firsthand the corruption and inequality dividing rich and poor. Copies of the book are available at our library.

**Sneak Peek: Coming in July -- Our branch's book club will be meeting on July 2, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "Kindred" by Octavia E. Butler.** This time travel novel tells the story of Dana who is ripped from 1976 and transported onto a Maryland slave plantation in 1815. Her mission? To keep alive the white boy who will grow up to assault her ancestor, because without him she'll never be born. Every trip back in time grows more dangerous for Dana. She feels the lash, wears the chains and endures the daily terror endured by millions of slaves. The author doesn't allow you to observe from a safe distance. You're trapped inside Dana as she navigates an impossible choice: submit to survive or resist and risk everything. You'll finish this book changed. You'll understand how the past lives in our present and why that matters more than ever.

**(3) Join a Short Story Discussion -- A short story discussion will be held on June 11, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. The story is "I Stand Here Ironing" by Tillie Olsen.** Join other fans of short stories for a discussion of a story that offers a powerful reflection on motherhood, memory, and the weight of past choices. This story captures the quiet, complicated strength it takes to look back, make peace with the past, and keep going. **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 in appears, click on it and you'll see a full description as well as a button to push for registration.

**(4) Coming Next Month -- Mark down the date!** You won't want to miss the Sawmill Old String Band's performance on July 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. **The Sawmill Run Old Time String Band will take you on a musical journey through America's original roots music - American folk, bluegrass, country and rock traditions.**

**(5) 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 films feature a crime-fighting spider, a crime-busting American captain, some avenging superheroes, and four fantastic defenders.**

**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>**

**(6) 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:

- **After-School Makerspace** -- Geared for ages 5 years and up (with parent/caregiver), this program features LEGOS®, STEAM games, and a unique craft! Be sure to dress for mess! This program will be held on Wednesdays this month from 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Feel free to drop in anytime during the hour. **Please note there will be no session on June 3, 2026 due to a special program (see next item).**
- **Unearth a Magical Story** -- Geared for ages 5 years and up (with parent/caregiver), **this special event features magician Steve Woyce as he kicks off our branch's summer reading adventure with a fun magic show.**

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**

**After the winter we had here in New Jersey, we can't blame you if you feel the need to soak up some fresh air and summertime weather. The good news is that you can enjoy the arrival of summer and a good book right at our library.**

**Simply make time to enjoy your book in the picturesque gazebo located behind our library. It is the perfect spot to take in some fresh air while reading the latest novel, a classic, a summer romance or whatever catches your fancy.**

**So enjoy your summer and our gazebo!**

We hope you find this tip helpful.



## **Happening Around Town**

**(1) VOTE! -- New Jersey's primary election is on June 2, 2026. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.** In this primary election, voters will select the candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives who will appear on the ballot in our state's general election in November.

**(2) Summer Hours -- Town Hall is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. These summer hours will be in effect until September 4, 2026.**

**(3) Slow Down -- Our town's police department is reminding residents that new 25 mph speed limits are now in effect for the following roadways: Wickapecko Drive, Sunset Avenue, Logan Road and Park Boulevard.** Please obey all posted speed limits and drive safely!

**(4) Flag Day -- A ceremony marking Flag Day will be held at the Veteran's Memorial (located behind our library) on June 14, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. With 250 flags as a backdrop, the event will include a flag retirement ceremony performed by Commander Michael Palutis of the Disabled American Veterans.** Town residents are invited to bring their worn or torn flags to be properly retired.

**(5) Fireman's Pond -- The beautification project at Fireman's Pond, located on Wickapecko Drive in the Wanamassa section of town, is complete! The pond, dedicated in 2015, has been dredged, the area has been cleaned, and the trees and shrubs have been trimmed.** A fountain will be added and the pond will be stocked with fish so that children in the Wanamassa, Oakhurst and Wayside sections of town will be able to enjoy some fishing and have a great time this summer. **Be sure to stop by to see the pond and enjoy nature in this lovely spot.**

**(6) Congratulations are in Order -- to Jennifer Nordstrom, our town's Special Events Coordinator. Jennifer recently was honored by the Vin Gopal Civic Association with the Community Engagement Award "for her work helping organize events and strengthening community connections across the region". The Friends of the Township of Ocean**

**Library have benefitted greatly from Jennifer's strong support of our group's outreach efforts over the years.**

And, if you have ever enjoyed our town's Fall Fest, Holiday Fair, Christmas Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.. -- you have Jen to thank. She is the creative force behind these and so many other events that make our town such a special place. **The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jennifer for this well-deserved recognition and thank her for her continuing support of our organization.**

**(7) 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.**

- **Ocean Township's History -- Join other town seniors on June 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. for a presentation by Jim Foley, President of the Ocean Township Historical Museum, as he delves into the captivating history of our community.** From its early days as Oceanville to the neighborhoods of Poplar, Wayside, and Lincoln, learn about the evolution of the place we proudly call home. **Registration is required: [Click Here to Register](#)**
- **Roadmap to Aging Well: Navigating Senior Care, In-Home Support, and Future Planning --Join other town seniors on June 11, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. for an informative and engaging Lunch & Learn discussion featuring several senior care professionals who will provide attendees with practical guidance, valuable resources, and insight for planning ahead.** The discussion will include senior care navigation, in-home support options, future planning, and the many decisions that families face as they work to help their loved one's age well. Guest speakers will include: Kathleen Hala, The Home Care Navigator, Bridget Ervin of Senior Care Authority and Leslie LaCasta and Kellie Larson of Seniors Helping Seniors Jersey Shore North. **Registration is required for this FREE event. [Click Here to Register](#)**
- **Mobile Office Visit -- On June 12 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. representatives from the office of Senator Gopal, Assemblywoman Donlon and Peterpaul, will be available to assist residents of Legislative District 11 with information and support** related to property tax relief, veteran's benefits, utility assistance, disability services, and other state programs. **Community members are encouraged to stop by with questions or concerns about available services and assistance programs.**
- **Senior Health and Resource Fair -- The Township of Ocean Department of Human Services is excited to announce that its fourth annual Senior Health and Resource Fair will be held on June 18, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** This much-anticipated annual free event is dedicated to enriching the lives of seniors in our community by offering a wide variety of resources, services, and educational opportunities that promote health, wellness, and overall well-being. Attendees can explore informational booths from local organizations and businesses covering topics

such as healthcare, financial planning, senior support services, and more. With a focus on creating a welcoming and supportive environment, the 2026 Senior Health and Resource Fair promises to be an informative and meaningful experience for seniors and their families. **Admission is free. All are welcome!**

- **Keeping Your Brain Healthy -- Join other town seniors on June 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. when Noelle Santos from the Brain Injury Alliance presents Keeping Your Brain Healthy: Strategies for Older Adults.** This is an interactive quiz-style presentation that covers essential topics including mental health, staying physically active, healthy eating, mental stimulation, social connections, and substance use/smoking. **Registration is required. [Click Here to Register](#)**
- **BINGO! -- Join other town seniors for fun & games and a chance to win prizes at the West Park Recreation Center on June 29, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Click to register on [Community Pass](#) to login to your account.**



## **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) It's a Love Letter -- not a memoir or a tell-all, that's how author Rachel Goldberg-Polin describes her book "*When We See You Again*". This *New York Times* best seller is a heartfelt and emotional profile of a mother's grief, incredible courage, and boundless strength in the face of an unthinkable tragedy.** On October 7, 2023 Rachel Goldberg-Polin's beloved son, Hersh, was kidnapped from a music festival that was billed as a celebration of love. In that moment, her life became a story of life before and life after. Over the next eleven months, she and her husband worked tirelessly to secure her son's and the other hostages' release. Her heartfelt pleas -- in the media, at vigils, and in the halls of power -- soon made her the voice and face of the crisis. But in the end, Hersh and five other hostages were executed after enduring 328 days of violence and hardship. In this book Rachel Goldberg-Polin explores the pain, love, and longing that permeated the days during and after the crisis. **At its heart this book is a story of trying to live with grief, finding the light when there seems to be only darkness, and persevering after suffering and loss.** This book has a 4.9 rating (out of 5.0) on Amazon.

**(2) Perfect For Grads -- If you are looking to share some of life's wisdom with this year's high school and college graduates, consider giving them "*A Calendar of Wisdom*" by Leo**

**Tolstoy. (And, while you are at it you may want to pick up a copy for yourself as well!) Once banned under Communism, but recently rediscovered, this collection of daily thoughts can help feed the soul, teach what is really important in life, and remind us that true happiness is achievable by striving for a life worth living. Tolstoy considered this book his most important contribution to humanity. This book has a 4.5 rating (out of 5.0) on Amazon.**

**(3) 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.**

**For this month's topic, we suggest exploring the history of the Voting Rights Act. The Act is a landmark U.S. federal statute that prohibited racial discrimination in voting. It was designed to enforce voting rights under our Constitution's Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. The bill was jointly sponsored by Mike Mansfield (D-MT) and Everett Dirksen (R-IL) -- with 64 other senators signing on as co-sponsors. It was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965.**

**The National Archives and Records Administration stated "The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was the most significant change in the relationship between federal and state governments in the area of voting since the Reconstruction period after the Civil War". The act contains numerous provisions that regulate elections. There are provisions that prohibit state and local government from introducing rules that restrict the right of citizens to vote based on race or color or membership in other minority groups. Other provisions outlaw literacy tests, poll taxes, harassment, intimidation, and other such devices that were historically used to limit minority voting. Congress enacted major amendments to the Act in 1970, 1975, 1982, 1992, and 2006.**

**Since its passage, the Act has proven to increase voter registration, voter turn-out, and increased minority representation in Congress and in state and local offices.**

**As one example of the Act's impact -- The last Black Congressman elected from the South in the 19th Century was George Henry White of North Carolina, who was elected in 1896 and re-elected in 1898. His term expired in 1901. No Black people served in Congress for the next 28 years, and none represented any Southern state for the next 72 years. In contrast, our current Congress has 139 members who identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian American, Native American, or multi-racial. In fact, approximately 33 Black lawmakers now serve from Southern states.**

In recent years the Voting Rights Act has been significantly weakened by Supreme Court rulings.

**There are many excellent books available to learn more -- "One Person, No Vote" by Carol Anderson, "Beyond the Voting Rights Act: The Untold Story of the Struggle to Reform America's Voter Registration Laws" by Gregory T. Moore, "The Voting Rights Act of 1965: Background and Overview" by Kevin J. Coleman, "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America", by Ari Berman, "The Voting Rights Act of 1965: As Amended: It's History**

and Current Issues," by Garrine P. Laney, *"Because They Marched: The People's Campaign for Voting Rights that Changed America"* by Russell Freedman, and *"Free at Last to Vote: The Alabama Origins of the 1965 Voting Rights Act"* by Brian K. Landsberg.

**If you are interested in making your exploration of the Voting Rights Act into a family affair, there also are a few well-written children's book about the Act --** *"Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965"* by Jonah Winter (geared for ages 5 - 9), *"Equality Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America"* by Deborah Diesen (geared for ages 4 - 8), and *"Stacey Abrams and the Fight to Vote"* by Traci N. Todd and Laura Freeman (geared for ages 4 - 8).

**We hope you'll find reading about this pivotal law and its role in America's history, of interest.**

**(4) You Can Never Have Too Much Kindness -- If that's a lesson you are hoping to teach the little ones in your life, you may want to check out the book series "The After-School Kindness Crew" by Academy Award-winning actress Goldie Hawn and New York Times best-selling author Lin Oliver.** The books, *"The After-School Kindness Crew: Pooch on the Loose"* and *"The After-School Kindness Crew: Slam Dunk Day"*, are inspiring with their message of friendship, community, and the power of kindness. **The books, which earned a 4.1 rating (out of 5.0) on Amazon are geared for ages 7 - 10.**

**(5) Pack the Cooler, the Blanket, and Don't Forget...the Book -- Yes, a good book can be the perfect addition for your summer picnic basket.** And, if you are looking for some suggestions on just the "right" light, enjoyable read -- never fear, BookBub has your back. **That's because BookBub has compiled a list of 29 books that will be a splendid addition to any picnic. The list includes -- mysteries, romances, fantasies, and family sagas -- so you are sure to find one to enjoy. To check out the list go to: <https://www.bookbub.com/blog/springtime-picnic-books?position=0&source=multicontent&target=title>**

**(6) It's Barbeque Season -- If you are getting ready to break out the grill and enjoy some summertime barbeque, you might want to check out "The Husky and Handsome Guide to Grilling" a new cookbook by two of the biggest names in comedy today -- Anthony Anderson and Cedric The Entertainer.** These two authors, the hosts of A&E's popular series Kings of BBQ, have gathered their favorite recipes (many passed down through generations) to create an entertaining cookbook that is bound to take your barbeque to the next level. **The cookbook is organized by region (e.g., St. Louis, Memphis, the Carolinas) and also includes recipes for some tasty "sides" (think hush puppies, macaroni salad, etc.) and desserts (peach cobbler, etc.). There's even a whole chapter on different rubs and sauces. So fire up the grill and get ready to enjoy some mouthwatering barbeque. This cookbook has a 4.7 rating (out of 5.0) on Amazon.**

**(7) Have You Ever Wanted to Live Within the Pages of a Book? -- Then you won't want to miss "The Astral Library" by New York Times best-selling author Kate Quinn.** Alix Watson has learned one lesson from her lonely childhood in the foster-care system: unlike

people, books will never let you down. Working three dead-end jobs, Alix takes refuge in the Boston Public Library where she dreams of far off places as she reads her favorite novels. That is, until she meets the Librarian an ageless guardian of a hidden library where the desperate and the lost can escape to new lives inside their favorite books. But, before Alix can escape to her new life, an enemy emerges that threatens everyone who has been helped by the Astral Library. Aided by a dashing costume-shop owner, Alix and the Librarian flee to the drawing rooms of Jane Austen, to the back alleys of Sherlock Holmes, and to the parties of the Great Gatsby. But, who is the enemy after? Alix? The Librarian? Or the Astral Library itself? You'll have to pick up a copy of the book to find out! **This book has a 4.0 rating (out of 5.0) on Amazon.**

**(8) For Fans of NCIS -- If you are one of the millions of fans of the TV show NCIS, you won't want to miss the new book, "*The Ghosts of Sicily: The True Story of the Naval Intelligence Agents Who Courted the Mob to Fight Nazis in America and the Battlefields of Italy*" by Mark Harmon (aka Leroy Jethro Gibbs) and Leon Carroll, Jr.** In New York City in 1942, America is at war and German U-boats are sinking ships just miles off the shore. Washington, DC officials are convinced spies on the waterfront are providing intelligence to the Germans to aid them in targeting ships. To combat the threat, the office of Naval Intelligence reaches out to those with the most power on the docks in Brooklyn and Manhattan -- the mob. The result will be one of the most successful -- and controversial -- operations in what is now known as NCIS history. In this book you'll find powerbrokers, American heroes (like George Patton) and a host of NCIS agents and gangsters hunting spies not only in the U.S., but also on the frontlines of Italy. **This book has a 4.5 (out of 5.0) rating on Amazon.**

**(9) Noteworthy Debuts -- Good news book lovers -- 2026 will have a huge variety of debut novels hitting book store and library shelves this year. So, if you are feeling a bit adventurous -- why not try out a book by a brand new author?** You never know...the author might just become one of your all-time favorites. **To help you get started on your adventure into the world of new debuts, Goodreads has created a list of 51 noteworthy debut novels set to be published this year.** The list includes sweeping family sagas, historical fiction, science fiction, and more. **So begin your adventure by checking out the list at :** [https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/3099-new-voices-alert-51-new-upcoming-debut-novels?ref=pe\\_3097180\\_1375823210&rto=x\\_gr\\_e\\_nl\\_general&utm\\_campaign=May052026&utm\\_content=NewDebut&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter](https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/3099-new-voices-alert-51-new-upcoming-debut-novels?ref=pe_3097180_1375823210&rto=x_gr_e_nl_general&utm_campaign=May052026&utm_content=NewDebut&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter)

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

- **June 17, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join a hybrid (in-person or on Zoom) Book Discussion of "*The Cloisters*" by Katy Hays.** In this novel Ann Stilwell arrives in New York City, expecting to work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, but instead finds herself assigned to The Cloisters, a gothic museum renowned for its medieval art collection. Escaping a painful past, Ann is happy to indulge researchers' theories about the history of fortune telling. But, what begins as an academic study quickly becomes an obsession when Ann discovers a hidden 18th-century deck of tarot cards that may help predict the future. **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 June -- The Monmouth County Library System will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including:**



- **"250th ": [Camping Out with the Colonials](#) -- Ogden's First NJ Regiment, a key Continental Army unit, makes camp at the Monmouth County Library! **Experience Revolutionary War life through authentic reenactments as soldiers prepare for battle.** You'll hear firsthand accounts of military life, watch a surgeon demonstrate period medical practices and observe camp followers managing daily necessities. You also can join hands-on activities, period games, and demonstrations that bring Colonial America to life for all ages. **(This program will be held at the MCL's Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury on June 6, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. and at the MCL's Headquarters in Manalapan on June 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.)****



- **"250th ": [All History is Local: The Significance of the Battle of Monmouth](#) -- Join Dr. David Martin for a presentation about the Battle of Monmouth which took place on June 28, 1778. A turning point in the war, the battle had American forces standing up to the British. The American's show of strength persuaded the British to undertake a new path. While the battle was technically a draw, it cemented George Washington's position as commander-in-chief for the remainder of the war. **(This program will be held at the MCL's Branch in Howell on June 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.)****



- **"250th": Revolution in Harmony** -- Come enjoy a lively Sunday afternoon concert by MadRegalia as they perform music from the Revolutionary era. You'll hear songs depicting iconic moments from the American Revolution in addition to music that was popular at the time. (This program will be held at the MCL's Headquarters in Manalapan Branch on June 28, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.)
- **Author Talks (Smithsonian Curator Mary Savig, Matt Dinniman, Ted Page, and a rebroadcast of a talks with Dr. Jeffrey Post and Jernard Wells)**
- **Lectures** (Nutrition: Spring Reset, Unearthing Ancient Troy, Lead All In!: Energy, Clarity & Sustainable High Performance, Healthy Brain Habits: Strategies to Improve Brain Health, A Look at Italian Art, Then and Now: Sandy Hook's Golden Age Resort, AI Disinformation, Ecology of Native Plants, Earth in Flames: How an Asteroid Killed the Dinosaurs -- and How We Can Avoid a Similar Fate, Our Lenape Heritage, Great Gardens of the Garden State, Tick Talk, The History of Classical China, etc.)
- **Jamming with the Jug-Band**
- **Decades of Groove**
- **Create a Diamond Art Book Cover**
- **Create a Hummingbird Habitat**
- **Fish and Whistle Bluegrass Band Concert**
- **Free Vision Screening**
- **Travel Sketching**
- **Social Dance Club**
- **Jersey Shore Prostate Cancer Support Group**
- **International Day of Yoga**
- **Board Game Learn and Play**
- **Vinyl Traction: A Summer Acoustic Rock & Pop Duo Concert**
- **PAS-1 Workshop (Property Tax Relief Program Help)**
- **Introduction to Qigong and Tai Chi**
- **PONKS -- Parents of Neurodivergent Kiddos Support Group**
- **Circle of Origami Paperfolders**
- **Teen Book Club**
- **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 June to the New Jersey State Library System (NJSLS) -- **The New Jersey State Library System offers "NJSLS 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 June from the NJSLS:

- **Beyond the Ladybugs** -- June 2, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Genealogy of a Patriot: The Stories of Benjamin Flynn and Oliver Cromwell** -- June 9, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Leading Across the Generations: Building Effective Multi-Generational Teams** -- June 12, at 12:00 p.m.
- **Retirement Planning for PERS and TPAF Members: State Employees** -- June 16, at 12:00 p.m.
- **The Princeton Fugitive Slave: The Trials of James Collins Johnson** -- June 24, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- **The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse: The Last Great Revolutionary War Battle in the North** -- June 30, 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](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 Green**

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

**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!**