

"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE" FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS DECEMBER 2024



Important News

(1) The Township of Ocean Library will be **closed on:**

- December 25, 2024 for Christmas
- January 1, 2025 for New Years Day

Please note that all Monmouth County Library branches will be closing at 5:00 p.m. on December 24, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

(2) **Exciting Cozy Corner Update** -- As we mentioned last month, the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library are busily working to create a bright, cheery reading nook in the children's section of our library to honor one of our group's founding members, past president and vice president, **Phyllis Fyfe**, who left behind an incredible legacy of promoting literacy and education -- not only through her tireless work on behalf of the Friends, but also during her over 46 years as a school librarian.

When finished, this space will create a welcoming reading area for our town's children and a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman who gave so much of her life to promote a love of reading to generations of young people.

This month, we want to provide you with an update on our progress with "Mrs. Fyfe's Cozy Corner", located behind the children's librarian's desk.

We are happy to report that the reading nook is freshly painted in shades of blue, a new base rug is installed, and a fun story-time rug and bright new comfortable cushions are in place too. **We are very appreciative for the help we received from the outstanding Department of Public Works team who both painted the reading nook and laid the new carpet.**

And, thanks to Kevin Stevens, **owner of All Surface Painting and Powerwashing**, intricate book tree decals (nearly 7 feet tall) now grace each of the columns leading into the reading nook area. **We'd like to express our deepest gratitude to Kevin, who has been in business in our town for over 20 years, for giving his time and sharing his quality workmanship to add such a special touch to the Cozy Corner.**

Special Sneak Peek: **If you can't wait to see the changes in person, you are in luck because we just posted several photos on the homepage of our website that will give you a birds eye view of the progress that's been made. Just go to our website at www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org and take a peek. We hope that you'll be as excited as we are at how the Cozy Corner project is progressing.**

If you are interested in supporting this tribute to Phyllis and you'd like to contribute in Phyllis' memory, we still are accepting donations. Just mail your donation to:

The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library
c/o The Township of Ocean Library
701 Deal Road
Ocean Township, NJ 07712

We will keep you updated on this project as work continues. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us by responding to this email. **Thank you.**

(3) Our Membership Drive Is Underway -- As the last days of 2024 tick down, please take a moment to renew your membership in the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library. And, as a special thank you, anyone who joins or renews between now and January 15, 2025 will be automatically entered in a special prize basket giveaway!

Our 100% volunteer-driven, member-supported, non-profit 501(c) (3) group relies on fund raising efforts and membership dues (**our annual dues are only \$5.00**) to provide services, fund programs, support our library, promote literacy, and keep you informed of what programs, events and services are available to you.

But, we need your help if we are to or continue to provide these services going forward. How can you help?

(A) If your membership has lapsed, please renew today (remember it only costs \$5.00 annually). If your membership is current (memberships run from January to December of each year), plan ahead and pay your 2025 membership dues now. Membership Renewal Forms are available online at : https://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org/files/ugd/ebfcd1_1e5079c9d7d24e45a0aa9ca1f2248cbe.pdf

(B) If you find the services we provide helpful, let your friends, family and neighbors know about the Friends of the Ocean Township Library and ask them to consider becoming a member. Simply print out a copy of our membership form located at: https://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org/files/ugd/ebfcd1_1e5079c9d7d24e45a0aa9ca1f2248cbe.pdf for them and ask them to return it to the address provided on the form. And, be sure to let them know they will be automatically entered into our special prize basket giveaway when they sign up!

Please note: 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). Simply go to our website to renew: <https://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org>

We appreciate your support and thank you!

 **Keeping Up With The Friends**

(1) Browse For Some Holiday Favorites While Supporting The Friends -- The sale cart located near the front desk in our library is now brimming with many holiday-related books (including cookbooks, children's books, and more) that were donated at our last book donation day.

When you next visit our library, be sure to browse the cart for a holiday favorite (or two!). **And remember that all proceeds from the sale of these books go to the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library to help us support our library and fund programs.**

So every time you make a purchase from the sale cart you are not only going home with a good book or DVD, but you're also making a difference for our library.



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.

And, this month's movies include some classic holiday favorites -- so be sure to check them out.

You can find details about the movies available this month by clicking [here](#) Once on the site, simply select our branch, the current month and the current year from the drop-down boxes at the top left of the page. Then scroll down to check out all the wonderful movies you can see in December. As a reminder, movies at our branch are shown every Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

(2) In-person Short Story Discussion -- Please note that our branch's short story discussion group is on hiatus in December, but be sure to check out the "Grab a Book and Sit Awhile" section below to see what's on tap for the short story group in January.

(3) Book Club -- The Ocean Township Library Book Club will be meeting on December 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss Kate Quinn's New York Times bestseller "The Alice Network". In this amazing book two women -- a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 -- are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption. The discussion will be moderated by librarian Debbie Bagchi. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk. Please note: Registration is NOT required.

(4) Mark Your Calendar For Some More Toe-Tapping Music -- We are thrilled to tell you that Charlie's Band with Sandy Sasso will be back at our branch on December 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. They will be performing song selections from the Great American Songbook, as well as some smooth jazz and Latin musical numbers. If you haven't yet experienced the sounds of Charlie's Band, mark your calendar for their upcoming performance and enjoy a mid-week show.

(5) Help the Environment AND Our Library -- **You may have noticed the new garden recently planted to the left of our library's front door.** The garden is the talented work of The Ocean Township Garden Club which wanted to create a special space for library patrons and town residents to enjoy.

But the Garden Club isn't done yet. They just joined the Nextrex Recycling Challenge Program in hopes of receiving a new donated Trex Bench for the library garden area.

And you can help them achieve their goal!

To receive a free Trex bench, a group must donate 1,000 pounds of plastic bags, film and pallet wrap. The local Kohl's store on Route 35 (and Deal Road) has agreed to serve as a collection point for the project.

Please take the opportunity to participate by bringing any of the following types of clean/dry plastic film to the white NexTrex "Recycle Beyond the Bag" bin at Kohl's Customer Service Desk:

- Produce Bags
- Store Bags
- Ice Bags
- Ziploc(R) and Other Reclosable Bags
- Cereal Box Liners
- Bubble Wrap
- Dry Cleaning
- Newspaper Sleeves
- Plastic E-Commerce Mailers
- Case Overwrap

If you have a large quantity that you'd like to donate, please contact Carol Doyle at cadoyle3@gmail.com. For more information about the NexTex program you can go to: <https://www.nextrex.com/>

Thank you for your help and donations!

(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 programs involving exciting stories, song singing and even craft making. 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

Resources Galore -- Be sure to explore the passageway behind our library branch's front desk the next time you visit our library. **When you do, you'll find a host of helpful information -- including information about:**

- **Monmouth County Library Programs and Events**
- **Monmouth County's Parks & Programs**
- **The Legal Aid Society**
- **Voting & Elections (including how to register and how to sign up for a mail-in ballot)**
- **Federal & State Taxes (during tax season)**
- **Monmouth County Senior Housing Resources**
- **Senior Citizens Activity Network (SCAN) programs**
- **Tips On How to Stay Healthy & Avoid Being a Victim of a Scam**
- **AARP and AmeriCorp Volunteer Opportunities**
- **Family and Children's Services programs, and more!**

You'll also find test preparation books for GED, AP Biology, AP US History, MCAT, etc. There's also a copy machine in the passage way for library patrons to use.

We hope you find this tip helpful!



Happening Around Town

(1) **Urgent Notification** -- Due to the statewide Drought Warning declared by Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey American Water has issued a **mandatory conservation notice for all customers across the state, including here in Monmouth County, to reduce water usage.** Customers **must** limit all non-essential water use, including all outdoor watering.

(2) **Another Urgent Notification** -- Because of the extremely dry weather, **Stage 3 fire restrictions remain in effect.** All open fires are prohibited, except those in elevated stoves using propane, natural gas, or electricity. **Wood, charcoal, and kerosene torches are not allowed.** These measures are important to limit fire risk.

(3) **A Holiday Extravaganza** -- **Ocean Township is once again pulling out all the stops to welcome in the holidays at the town's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event. The fun begins at 3:00 p.m. on December 7, 2024 on the grounds of the Township of Ocean Historical Museum (703 Deal Road).** There will be a gingerbread house obstacle course, an ice carving artist, trackless train rides, marshmallow roasting, a musical performance by Cathy D., a giant toboggan slide, and more! Santa is expected to arrive at approximately 5:15 p.m. And, that's not all. The evening of fun will be capped off with the lighting of the Christmas tree. **(PLEASE NOTE: The rain date for this event is December 8, 2024.)** Plan to bring the whole family to this special family-friendly, fun kick-off to the holiday season!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: THERE WILL BE NO ONSITE PARKING. ALL PARKING WILL BE AT JOE PALAIA PARK USING THE DEAL ROAD ENTRANCE. GUESTS WILL USE THE PATH ALONG DEAL ROAD TO WALK TO THE MUSEUM.

(4) Happy Hanukkah -- **Plans are in the works for our town's special menorah lighting.** Once the details are finalized they will be posted on our town's website. Be sure to keep checking at www.oceantwp.org so you can join other town residents in a joyous celebration of The Festival of Lights.

(5) If you are a senior 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.**

- **Party! -- Come celebrate the season with old and new friends at our town's annual Senior Holiday Party on December 12, 2024 from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Bring a dessert to share! This is a FREE event sponsored by the Township of Ocean Department of Human Services for seniors in Ocean Township. The party will be held at the West Park Recreation Center (615 West Park Ave). **Registration is required.** Click here to register: [Senior Holiday Party - 2024](#)

(6) Caregivers & People with Memory Loss -- **The Monmouth County Park System will be conducting two free programs in 2025 offering help and support.** The programs will be held at the Dorbrook Recreation Area Activity Center, [353 Route 537](#) in Colts Neck.

- **Caregiver Workshop Series -- Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or other related dementia? Find comfort, camaraderie, and support with others on a similar journey.** This is a free program, however registration is required. **The sessions will be held from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: January 14, February 11, and March 11, 2025.**
- **Memory Cafe -- Providing a comfortable, safe environment for people with memory loss and their care partners to laugh, learn, and remain socially engaged with others traveling the same journey.** Please contact Anne Simon for more information at 732-460-1167 Ext.4643. **This is a free program, however registration is required. The sessions will be held from 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: January 28, February 25, and March 25, 2025.**

To register for either of these programs please call 732-842-4000 Ext. 1 from Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or visit: www.MonmouthCountyParks.com



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) **A Friend's Pick -- As part of our Friends monthly newsletter, we occasionally feature a "Friend's Pick" -- a book or author that one of our members would like to recommend to other members of our group.**

This month's recommendation comes from Friends member Marcia Sacks.

Marcia is recommending "The Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America" by Amanda Jones. This national bestseller tells the story of Amanda Jones, a small town Louisiana librarian, who decided to speak out at a local public hearing against efforts to ban stories representing minority groups. She describes what happened next as a **nightmare that is still ongoing to this day** "The Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America" has received 4.3 stars from Amazon readers.

According to Marcia...**"If you love our library and librarians -- in fact all libraries and all librarians -- take the time to read "That Librarian" by Amanda Jones. She is a librarian under siege in Louisiana for fighting against book banning. She has been falsely accused of grooming children and encouraging children to engage in sex acts -- something she has never done -- all because she is fighting book banning. I found it heartening to read about her fight and sad that she has to fight at all."**

(2) Join The Ocean Township Book Club -- "The Ocean Township Library Book Club" kicks off this month! The first discussion, of Kate Quinn's New York Times bestseller **"The Alice Network"**, will take place on **December 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** In this amazing book two women -- a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 -- are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption. **The discussion will be moderated by librarian Debbie Bagchi. Please note: No registration is required to participate.**

(3)The Ocean Township Book Club January Preview -- The Ocean Township Library Book Club will meet on January 9, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "The Other Einstein" by New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Marie Benedict. This book covers the story of a not-so-famous scientist who not only loved Albert Einstein, but also shaped the theories that brought him lasting renown. The discussion will be moderated by branch librarian Debbie Bagchi. Copies of the book will be available for pick up beginning December 5, 2024 at our library's circulation desk. **Please note: No registration is required to participate.**

(4) Coming Soon -- More Short & Sweet -- A short story discussion, moderated by Branch Manager Mary Patterson, will be held on January 16, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. The story is "Dead Men's Path" by Chinua Achebe. This story centers on a young idealistic man who is sent to an under-performing village school in Nigeria to clean up its image, but cultural conflict arises between modern ideas and traditional beliefs. **Registration is required.**

To register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Scroll down to the date for this event and you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description. (IMPORTANT NOTE: Changes are coming to the Monmouth County Library's Eventkeeper site in January...so if you are interested in participating in this short story discussion please register by December 31, 2024.)

(5) Closing Out 2024 -- If you enjoy reading biographies or memoirs, then the year is closing out on a high note for you. Recent releases that you may want to check out include **"Carson The Magnificent"** by Bill Zehme, **"Sonny Boy"** by Al Pacino, **"Reagan: His Life and Legend"** by Max Boot, **"From Here to The Great Eternity"** by Lisa Marie

Presley and Riley Keough, and *"You Never Know"* by Tom Selleck. Hopefully you'll find the perfect book to add to your holiday reading stack.

(6) Spreading That Christmas Spirit -- If the little one in your life is eager to get into the Christmas spirit -- why not suggest a great book? **Reader's Digest makes it easy to find just the right book thanks to their list of the "40 Best Christmas Books for Kids to Read This Holiday Season"**. The list includes a host of festive favorites including *"The Night Before Christmas"* by Clement Clark Moore, *"I Got the Christmas Spirit"* by Connie Schofield-Morrison, *"The Snowman"* by Raymond Briggs, *"Mickey's Christmas Carol"* by Megan Roth and many, many more. To browse the full list go to:
<https://www.rd.com/list/christmas-books-for-kids/>

(7) Spreading Light -- If the little one in you life is looking forward to celebrating the Festival of Lights -- why not set the stage for them with a wonderful book? **To get started you can browse a list of 43 Best Hanukkah book suggestions from Goodreads**. The list includes *"The Eight Nights of Hanukkah"* by Judy Nayer, *"The Dreidel that Wouldn't Spin: A Toyshop Tale of Hanukkah"* by Martha Seif Simpson, *"Is It Hanukkah Yet?"* by Chris Barash, *"A Dreidel in Time: A New Spin on an Old Tale"* by Marcia Berneger and many more. **You'll find the full list at:**
https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/110301.Best_Hanukkah_Books_for_Kids

(8) Cold Weather? Curl Up With a Cozy Mystery! -- As the temperatures drop it becomes the perfect time to curl up with a cup of tea (or a marshmallow-laden hot chocolate) and the perfect accompaniment -- a cozy whodunit. And, there are many cozy mysteries just waiting for you to lose yourself in this winter season. **To help you find just the perfect mystery, Reader's Digest has compiled a list of the "26 Best Cozy Mysteries to Curl Up with Right Now"**. The list includes *"The Maid"* by Nita Prose, *"The Bullet That Missed"* by Richard Osman, *"Arya Winters and the Tiramisu of Death"* by Amita Murray, *"Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone"* by Benjamin Stevenson, and many more. **So put the tea kettle on (or dig out that large bag of marshmallows) and start perusing the list at:** <https://www.rd.com/list/cozy-mysteries/>

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

December 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join a hybrid (in-person or on Zoom) History Book discussion of *"Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C."* by Diane Carlson Evans. What is the price of honor? It took ten years for Vietnam War nurse Diane Carlson Evans to answer that question. She told Congress in 1983 that "Women didn't have to enter military service, but we stepped up to serve believing we belonged with our brothers-in-arms and now we belong with them at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. If they belong there, we belong there. We were there for them then. We mattered." Ms. Evans' impassioned story of serving in Vietnam is a crucial backstory for her fight to honor the women she served beside.

****Registration is required to participate in this book discussion. 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. (IMPORTANT NOTE: Changes are coming to the Monmouth County Library's Eventkeeper site in January...so if you are interested in participating in this short story discussion please register by December 31, 2024.)**

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



More To the Story

(1) Coming in December -- **The Monmouth County Library System will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including:**

- **Author Talks (By the likes of Dr. Jeffrey Post and Laura Dave)**
- **Yoga Sessions**
- **Lectures:** (including on Salvador Dali and on Wellness Wisdom: Occupational Well-Being)
- **Holiday Violin and Piano Concert**
- **'Tis The Season Holiday Music: From Broadway to the Movies**
- **Tim McLoone & The Shirleys & The Atlantic Coast Band Holiday Concert**
- **Almost New Year's Eve Concert with the Sentimental Journey Band**
- **Chef Rob's Virtual Holiday Recipe Series**
- **State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) One-on-One Q&A**
- **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 **here**. Once on the site, simply select this month and year from the drop-down box at the top left of the page and **check out all the wonderful programs you can take advantage of in December.**

(2) Coming in December 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 December from the NJSL:

- **Successful Holiday Networking Strategies** -- December 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
- **Introduction to Proposal Writing** -- December 10, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

For a description of each webinar's content and to register -- simply go to: **<https://www.njstatelib.org/>** Scroll down to the listing of Upcoming Events and click on the program you are interested in attending.



Looking for Links?

Here are some links for our town, county, and state that we hope will help you stay connected:

Ocean Township:

Friends of the Township of Ocean Library: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org

Ocean Township Department of Human Services website -- 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

Ocean Township Town Website -- www.oceantwp.org

Monmouth County:

Monmouth County Department of Health -- www.visitmonmouth.com

Monmouth County Library -- www.MonmouthCountyLib.org

New Jersey:

New Jersey Official State Web Site -- www.nj.gov

**Thank you again for your continued support of
The Friends of The Township of Ocean Library
You truly are making a difference!**

We love hearing from you. If you have a comment please send an email
to friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com