

**"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"  
FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS  
JANUARY 2022**



**Important News**

- (1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library will be closed on January 1, January 2, and January 3, 2022 in observance of New Year's Day.**
  
- (2) All branches of the Monmouth County Library also will be closed on January 17, 2022 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.**
  
- (3) Time To Act -- Membership in The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library runs from January to December of each year. If you haven't yet done so, please take a moment to renew your membership today.** Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) or directly by clicking [here](#)

**Also, 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 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: For your convenience you can choose to pay your 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: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org)

- (4) Just a reminder that although we hope to host two book sales this year, we are still unable to accept any book donations at this time.** We will let you know as soon as we can begin accepting donations. Thank you!



### Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

**(1) Masking Up -- Due to the rapidly spreading COVID Omicron variant, which is proving to be highly contagious, our library is now encouraging visitors -- whether vaccinated or unvaccinated -- to kindly wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces.** In addition, our town also has decided to implement stricter rules regarding the use of library meeting rooms.

**(2) Challenge Changes Coming -- After many years, our branch's staff has decided to discontinue the monthly Reading Challenge** which was featured on the small display table in our library. **Instead going forward the table will be used to feature past best sellers and special themes (such as "Banned Books Week").** If you visit our library, please stop by the table to check out this month's featured reads.

**(FYI -- The annual Summer Reading Challenge sponsored by the Monmouth County Library remains unchanged and will continue this year.)**

**(3) All the News! -- Newspaper subscriptions resume this month at our branch. Newspapers and magazines also are available online on the Monmouth County Library website at [www.monmouthcountylib.org](http://www.monmouthcountylib.org)**

**(4) Story Time Schedule -- Exciting stories and song singing continue this month with children's story time. Please note that during the month of January the Monday afternoon story time session will be held from 2:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. The remaining story time schedule remains unchanged (Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday afternoons 4:15 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.) Registration is required and sign-ups begin one week in advance of each date. Face coverings for everyone over the age of two is recommended when attending this event. (To find our branch's story time schedule and to register simply go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Scroll down to the date of the Story Time event you are interested in and you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the description.)**



### Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators

(1) The Township of Ocean Historical Museum -- [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](#) will be closed on Sunday, January 2, 2022 for the New Year holiday weekend. The museum will be open on all other Sundays in January from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.



### Happening Around Town

(1) Jersey Central Power & Light will be performing infrastructure upgrades throughout Ocean Township to enhance reliability. The work will include replacing existing poles that were installed in the 1970s and 1980s. For more information on the upgrades go to: [Infrastructure Upgrade Project JC-121326 \(firstenergycorp.com\)](#)

(2) The Italian American Association Township of Ocean and the Greater Ocean Township Chamber of Commerce will hold a joint blood drive on January 12, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at 1110 Route 35 South (The Renaissance) in Ocean Township.



### 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) **Best Books of 2021 -- The winners of Goodreads 13th Annual Choice Awards (the only major book awards decided by readers) for 2021 have been selected.** So, if you are looking for a "best" read that you may have missed last year, be sure to check out the winners from categories including fiction, mystery, horror, biography, humor, science fiction and so many more. To browse the list simply go to: [https://www.goodreads.com/choiceawards/best-books-2021\\_ref=pe\\_2701710\\_616390940&rto=x\\_gr\\_e\\_nf\\_gca\\_2021&utm\\_campaign=winners&utm\\_content=choice-header&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=choice\\_awards](https://www.goodreads.com/choiceawards/best-books-2021_ref=pe_2701710_616390940&rto=x_gr_e_nf_gca_2021&utm_campaign=winners&utm_content=choice-header&utm_medium=email&utm_source=choice_awards)

**(2) More of the Best -- The AARP asked 11 top authors for their "Best Books of 2021 Top Picks" and their choices are guaranteed not to disappoint.** You'll find recommendations from David Baldacci, Louise Penny, Anthony Horowitz, Brad Thor, Janet Evanovich and more. **To browse the recommended reads go to: <https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/info-2021/authors-pick-top-books.html?intcmp=AE-ENT-BOK-BB>**

**(3) Your Next Read Could Be Just a Click or Two Away -- You can access a host of great books through NoveList Plus with just your library card.** NoveList Plus is an extensive database of book recommendations designed to help you find what to read next. **So, be sure and [Check out NoveList Plus](#) for recommended reads with your valid library card!**

**(4) Consider Joining The Monmouth County Library's Virtual Book or Short Story Discussions This Month\*\* --**

#### **Book Club Discussions:**

**January 20, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.** -- Join this virtual book club to discuss **"The Boy in the Woods" by New Jersey native Harlan Coben.** This thriller is about a man whose past is shrouded in mystery, but who must find a missing teenager before her disappearance causes disastrous consequences.

#### **Short Story Discussions:**

**January 27, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.** -- Join the discussion of the short story **"I Bought A Little City" by Donald Barthelme.** A man buys a city, reshapes the landscape and controls the government. But, he takes on a different view of ownership after discovering there are limitations to being in control.

**\*\* ([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.)**

**(5) Check Out a Celebrity Virtual Book Club -- Looking to kick off the new year by joining a celebrity to find your next good book? Well look no further. **Here are two popular book clubs hosted by some of today's biggest celebrities.****

**(A) Hello Sunshine is the name of Reese Witherspoon's book club** which focuses on books written by female authors. **Reese's club can be found at: <https://www.instagram.com/reesesbookclub/?hl=en>**

**(B) For many years Oprah Winfrey has launched the careers of countless authors while amplifying their work. [Oprah's Book Club](#) unveils her pick each month and**

features an interview with the author. She also has a newsletter where she recommends other books.

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



### Other Helpful & Fun Library Offerings\*\*

**(1) Still Feeling That Magical Holiday Spirit?** -- You are not alone! And, to keep that spirit going just a little bit longer you may wish to **check out "A Holiday Medley" by the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra. Virtual performances are available for you to enjoy through January 6, 2022.** No registration is required. **To access go to the Monmouth County Library website at: [www.MonmouthCountyLib.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyLib.org)**

**(2) New Year - No Clutter** -- Did you make a New Year's resolution to declutter your home this year? Well, to get started you won't want to miss this virtual program on **January 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.** when best-selling author and humorist **Jamie Novak** describes how to organize the top five clutter "catch-all's." Be sure to join Ms. Novak as she makes tidying-up easy and fun.

**(3) Do Your Plants Need Help?** -- Then you won't want to miss **Diane Larson**, Monmouth County Horticulturist of the Rutgers Master Gardeners, **on January 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** when she will answer your gardening questions and provide assistance. Please email your questions by noon on January 12, 2022 to Ms. Larson at [MonCoLibrary2022@gmail.com](mailto:MonCoLibrary2022@gmail.com)

**(4) Winter Food Virtual Festival** -- Join **Chef Rob** on **January 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.** as he whips up some tummy-warming and tasty items **LIVE on the Monmouth Library's Facebook Page** -- which can be accessed through the Library's website at: [www.MonmouthCountyLib.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyLib.org)

The menu includes:

**Baked Ravioli with a Spinach and Artichoke Sauce**

**Freshly Baked Provolone and Sun Dried Tomato Bread**

**Warmed Marble Pound Cake with Mascarpone, Apricot Preserves & Almonds**

(You will receive emailed recipes and photos when you register.)

(If you miss the LIVE Facebook event, this program will be rebroadcast on the Monmouth County Library's YouTube [Food Festival Playlist](#) after its initial airing.)

**(5) Explore Cultural Experiences** -- Whether you are interested in a Master Class, the Nutcracker Ballet, the Vienna Philharmonic New Years Concert, or a host of other cultural experiences -- **now you can experience it all FREE with just your valid library card and [medici.tv](#). [Medici.tv](#)** is the leading streaming service for classical music, opera, and dance. **To start your exploration simply go to: [enjoy on medici.tv](#)**

**(6) Encore! Encore! Encore!** -- If you missed author and historian **Greg Caggiano's** lecture "**January 16, 1920: The 18th Amendment is passed, and with it begins: Prohibition**" you can catch an **encore presentation on January 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** You'll hear stories (with a focus on Monmouth County) of mob violence, corruption, local legends and how towns built up for religious retreats exploded into underworlds of crime. No registration is required. **This encore presentation can be viewed on the Monmouth County Library's website at [www.MonmouthCountyLib.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyLib.org)**

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

**January 19, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. -- The Buzz with Bees: Native and Managed Pollinators. Join Mike Haberland, Associate Professor/Agriculture & Natural Resources County Agent II and the County Extension Department Head from the Cooperative Extension of Camden County, part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, as he discusses the biology, ecology and habitat of native and managed bees in New Jersey and what you can do to support them.**

**\*\*[\(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) COVID Boosters** -- Booster shots are now approved for individuals ages 16 and older.

**Everyone 16 years or older should get a booster shot if they received their one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine two months ago or if they received their second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine six months ago.** The recent emergence of the Omicron variant showcases the importance of vaccination, boosters and other preventive efforts to protect yourself and those you love. If you haven't yet

scheduled your booster there are several easy ways to find and book an appointment. **The federal government has set up a system that allows you simply to text your zip code to 438829 to find available appointments. You also can locate appointments at [www.covid19.nj.gov/finder](http://www.covid19.nj.gov/finder)**

**(2) Free At-Home COVID Testing is Available -- The New Jersey Department of Health and Vault Medical Services are partnering to offer a free, at-home COVID-19 saliva test kit to every New Jersey resident who thinks they need a test** (whether or not you are experiencing symptoms at this time). The kit will be shipped to you through UPS next-day delivery. Once you receive your kit, you will be asked to connect via Zoom with a Vault health care professional who will explain how to use the test and answer any questions you may have. When you complete the test, you simply send it back in a prepaid package via UPS next-day shipping. You will receive your test results within 24 - 48 hours after your sample arrives at the lab. **To request your free at-home testing kit go to:**  
**[https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/testing-and-treatment/how-do-i-get-a-free-at-home-covid-19-saliva-test?utm\\_campaign=20211217\\_nwsltr&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/testing-and-treatment/how-do-i-get-a-free-at-home-covid-19-saliva-test?utm_campaign=20211217_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**

**(3) Monmouth County Launches The Health Department App --** The Monmouth County Health Department has launched a new app that provides residents real-time news and information about services offered through the County Health Department. The app features information on many topics including health resources, emergency preparedness, clinics, and other events. **The App is available in the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#).**

**(4) Free Rabies Clinics --** If your furry friend is due for their rabies vaccination, then you'll want to check out the **Monmouth County Health Department's FREE vaccine clinics**. The clinic schedule is:

**January 15, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Oceanport Firehouse (433 Myrtle Avenue)**

**January 22, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Freehold Township at the Michael Tighe Park (65 Georgia Road)**

**February 5, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Township Municipal Building (1979 Crawford Street)**

**Thank you again for your continued support of  
The Friends of The Township of Ocean Library  
You truly are making a difference.  
We wish you a very happy and healthy New Year!**

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