

Friends of the Township of Ocean Library

"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"

FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2020



Important News

(1) With the hectic holiday period soon upon us, we've decided to produce a combined November/December newsletter this time so that you can mark your calendar in advance and not miss a thing.

We will resume our normal monthly newsletter schedule in January. Rest assured that we will email you with any major news that may come up.

(2) All Monmouth County Library Branches will be closed on the following days in November and December 2020:

- November 3 - Election Day,
- November 11 - Veterans Day,
- November 25 - (Branches close at 5 p.m.)
- November 26-27 - Thanksgiving
- December 24 - (Branches close at 5 p.m.)
- December 25-26 - Christmas
- December 31 - (Branches close at 5 p.m.)
- January 1, 2021

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

(4) The Friends of the Ocean Township Library membership drive continues... How can you help?

(A) If your membership has lapsed, please renew today. If your membership is current, plan ahead and pay your 2021 membership dues now. Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org or directly by clicking [here](#)

(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 on our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) for them and ask them to return it to the address provided on the form.

Please note: This year for your convenience you can choose to pay your membership dues either by check/money order or via our new electronic payment option (which allows you to pay with PayPal or with a Debit or Credit Card). Simply go to our website to renew: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org
We appreciate your support and thank you!

(5) A Special Thank You to our town's hardworking Department of Public Works employees -- Last month the Township of Ocean Historical Museum and The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library co-sponsored a safe, socially distant recognition lunch to thank the DPW team for their exceptional support throughout the year -- but particularly during this challenging time. The DPW team work long hours in good weather and bad and have faced the challenges of the current Coronavirus situation with extreme dedication. You'll find some photos of this event at the end of this newsletter.



Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) The Stats are In -- The Township Of Ocean Library has been racking up the numbers! During September alone, and with only four half days of availability per week, some 569 township residents took advantage of our Library's curbside service. This puts our branch, slightly behind the Headquarters branch with 749 curbside users and ahead of the Eastern Branch with 492.

In addition, our town's library is averaging 160 walk-in visitors per day even with the reduced in-person schedule.

And, that's not all. Just for the first two weeks of October, our library staff fielded over 230 calls with reference questions.

Kudos to our library staff for more than rising to the challenges brought on by this pandemic.



Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators

(1) The Township of Ocean Historical Museum -- The museum is sponsoring a **Doll Clothes Sale** just in time for the holidays. **The sale will be held on Saturday, November 14th and Sunday, November 15th from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. outside on the porch and grounds of the museum.**

The museum will also be hosting its **36th Annual Holiday Weekend on Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6th from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

And, don't miss out on the museum's 2020 Holiday Quilt Raffle. The hand quilted "**Roundabout Stars**" is a beautiful masterpiece of blue, white and gray. To order quilt raffle chances go to the museum's website at: www.oceanmuseum.org and click on the link for the 2020 Quilt Raffle. The drawing for the quilt will be on **Sunday, December 6th at approximately 3:00 p.m. (Winner need not be present.)**

The museum continues to be open on Sundays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE: Face masks are required** of all staff and visitors. **No more than six guests will be permitted inside at any one time.** Hand sanitizer will be available for visitors.

(2) The Township Cultural Arts Committee has cancelled the art show originally scheduled for November 22nd.

(3) The Township of Ocean Garden Club -- As you may know, each year for the past over 20 years, **The Township of Ocean Garden Club** sells beautifully decorated wreaths, swags and grave blankets at a special holiday sale on the porch of our town's historical museum. All the materials are harvested from fresh, locally grown greens and assembled by club members. **Sadly, this year, the Garden Club has made the difficult decision to cancel this popular holiday sale due to the Coronavirus situation.** The club looks forward to seeing everyone next year with a holiday sale that is bigger and better than ever!



From Around Town

(1) The town's Veteran's Day ceremony will take place at Town Hall on **November 11th at 11 a.m.** to honor the brave men and women who served our country.*

(2) The town's annual Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for **December 6th at 4:30 p.m.** on the grounds of the museum. There will be music, crafts, treats and a special visit from Santa.*

(3) The town will **light the first candle on the Menorah on December 10th**. Festivities start at 5:00 p.m. There will be songs, games and treats.*

(* Due to these uncertain times, please be sure to check the town's website for any updated information regarding these three events.)



[Grab A Book and Sit Awhile](#)

Looking for a good book to read this month? No problem! This month we once again are spotlighting several different ways you can locate recommended books in just about every genre.

(1) Take November & December's Virtual Reading Challenges -- For both November and December our library's round table of suggested reading based on a monthly theme is going **BOTH in person and virtual**.

November: Don't let the pandemic cause you to miss out on some great "Black Friday" deals -- this month's theme "**Black Friday Deals All Month Long**" features great reads with black covers.

December: Let our library's staff help you find the perfect book with this month's theme "**Staff Picks**". Our library staff has done the reading and now they are doing the recommending. Be sure to check out their fave picks.

Debbie Bagchi (one of our library's reference librarians who normally selects the challenge book selections each month) has compiled a list of great reads that fit the themes for both months (available as e-books and audio books and as printed books on the round table inside the library)

So, if you are up for exploring some early "Black Friday" deals or a book our staff highly recommends check out Debbie's recommended books for November and December on our website: www.friendsofcoastwplibrary.org

(2) Explore A Good Read You May Have Missed -- Think you may have missed out on a great book that came out last year? No problem! Goodreads has issued its **Choice Awards Best Books of 2019**. Browse the list and find out that something old can be new again. Simply go to: <https://www.goodreads.com/choiceawards/best-books-2019>

(3) Check Out What's Ahead -- From **Goodreads Listopia** comes the new "**Millions Most Anticipated Books For The Second Half of 2020**". Find out what highly anticipated books are hitting the shelf before the end of the year so you can get your reading list together as the cold weather sets in. You'll find the list at: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/150700.The_Millions_Most_Anticipated_The_Great_Second_Half_2020_Book_Preview_September_December

(4) During Times Like These We Can All Use Some Peace of Mind -- Need a little calm and quiet in your life? Check out **Goodreads** list of comfort reads featuring 12 books to help promote peace of mind. Just go to: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/152576.COMFORT_READING_12_BOOKS_FOR_PEACE_OF_MIND

(5) Looking For A Good Paperback Book? -- Well, then you may want to browse the **Washington Post's** latest list of the 13 new paperback books they recommend. You can find the list by clicking here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/new-in-paperback-13-september-releases-worth-reading/2020/09/28/252918ea-fd10-11ea-b555-4d71a9254f4b_story.html

(6) Consider Joining One Of The Monmouth County Library's Virtual Book Discussions This Month --

On **Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.** this virtual book club will be discussing "**Pieces of Her**" by **Karin Slaughter**. In this mystery Andrea thinks she knows everything about her mother. But, all that changes when a trip to a mall explodes into violence and Andrea suddenly sees a whole new side to her mother. Because it turns out before Andrea's mother was her mother she was someone completely different. For nearly thirty years she has been hiding from her previous identity. But now she's exposed and nothing will ever be the same again. This discussion will be moderated by Jeanmarie Kantor.

On Wednesday, November 18, 2020 beginning at 10:30 a.m. the virtual book club will be discussing "Never Anyone But You" by Rubert Thomson. The true story of a love affair between two women, this book recreates the surrealist movement in Paris and the horrors of two world wars. This discussion will be moderated by Beth Miller.

On Thursday, December 10, 2020 beginning at 10:30 a.m. the virtual book club will be discussing "Hymns of the Republic: The Story of the Final Year of the American Civil War" by S. C. Gwynne. In this book the author focuses on the period when Ulysses S. Grant takes command in March 1864 to the surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox a year later. Gwynne offers new insights about major components of the war including the battle between Grant and Lee; the advent of 180,000 black soldiers, the rise of Clara Barton, and the dramatic final events of the war, including the murder of Abraham Lincoln. This book club discussion will be moderated by Jeanmarie Kantor.

On Tuesday, December 15, 2020 beginning at 6:45 p.m. the virtual book club will be discussing "Lady Clementine" by Marie Benedict. This book is the ferocious story of the brilliant and ambitious woman besides Winston Churchill, the story of a partner who did not flinch through the sweeping darkness of war, and who would not surrender either to expectations or to enemies. This book discussion will be moderated by Stephanie Laurino

Registration for these book discussions is required. The link to register can be found on our website: www.friendsofcoastwplibrary.org or, for more information or to register: contact mcl@monmouthcountylib.org, or phone 1-866-941-8188. **Internet access is required to participate.** Event access information will be emailed to you prior to the start of the event. If you have questions you can email mcl@monmouthcountylib.org

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



Grab Some Popcorn & Binge Watch a Movie

The Monmouth County Library is now offering **Point Of View Virtual Movie Discussions**. You simply watch the film at your leisure and then join a virtual discussion. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays in November and December at 2 p.m. Here is a list of the films and the date for each discussion:

November 17, 2020 -- Hav Faith (2016) (NR) moderated by Kristen Harvey

December 1, 2020 -- The Last Treasure Hunt (2016) (NR) moderated by Kristen Harvey.

December 15, 2020 -- Gold (2014) (NR) moderated by Lynne Myerson

You can watch Hav Faith, The Last Treasure Hunt, and Gold **for free on Access Video on Demand with your library card:** <https://monmouthcountylib.org/research-databases-articles/>

To register use this [link](#) to the County EventKeeper and click the Register box at the bottom of the film listing.



Other Helpful Library Offerings

(1) Attend A Virtual Health Seminar --

(A) All About Tea: Drink To Your Health -- This program includes a lecture on the history, culture, and health benefits of tea and recommendations for tea drinking. Seminar and Q & A session will be conducted live on Zoom on **Tuesday, November 10th from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Internet access is required to attend. **Registration also is required** so if you are interested you can go to: mcl@monmouthcountylib.org.

(B) Find Out What's New For Medicare in 2021 -- Samantha White, SHIP Coordinator for Monmouth County from Family & Children's Services of Monmouth, will share the latest information on Medicare to prepare for the new year on **Tuesday November 10th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** (Another session will be held on **Wednesday, December 2nd beginning at 11:00 a.m.**) She will also review Part D Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage options for 2021, along with the basics of Medicare and Medicare Savings Programs. Sessions will be conducted on WEBex. **Registration and internet access are required to attend. Register at mcl@monmouthcountylib.org**

(C) Focus On Fungi: Mushrooms and Their Health Benefits -- Did you know that mushrooms and other fungi affect every facet of human life? Learn how to cook with mushrooms and receive some tasty mushroom recipes during this seminar. Seminar and Q & A session will be conducted live on Zoom on **Tuesday, November 24th from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Internet access is required to attend. **Registration also is required**, simply go to: mcl@monmouthcountylib.org.

(D) Is Chocolate The New Health Food? -- Learn more about the "food of the gods" in this informative program where you will explore, not only the possible health benefits of chocolate, but also the past, present and future of chocolate. Seminar and Q & A session will be conducted live on Zoom on **Tuesday, December 8th from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Internet access is required to attend. **Registration also is required**, simply go to: mcl@monmouthcountylib.org.

(2) Experience Virtual Knitting and Crocheting with the "Knit Wits." -- This group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. Registration is required, simply go to <http://bit.ly/MonCoLibraryKnitting>

You will then receive an email with the link so you can join in. Please note that the group recommends having size 8 knitting needles and yarn and you will learn to make a scarf. Please note that the group uses WEBEX teleconferencing and they encourage you to download the WEBEX app before the class so you can join on time.

(3) Attend A Concert (Virtually!) -- On Thursday, November 19th, at 7 p.m. the Monmouth Troubadours, Lisa Frost-Goodall and Steven Russell, will perform together on alto recorders, and sing, in a concert of music from Renaissance Leipzig and London, and Baroque Hamburg. To view this live performance, please visit www.MonmouthCountyLib.org and click on the slide.

(4) If You've Suffered A Loss -- The Library is offering Bereavement Group Virtual Meetings. When you experience the loss of a loved one navigating through your emotions, making decisions, and finding a new daily rhythm can be both stressful and overwhelming. Beth Stamp, support facilitator, offers workshops which can help. The virtual meetings are held Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. **Lost and Found Bereavement Support meets Wednesdays, 6:45pm. For login information and to register contact: the Library Reference Staff 732-431-7220x7222 or email to: mcl@monmouthcountylib.org**



A Few Reminders:

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

(2) The Township of Ocean Library has reopened with 25% limited capacity.

(3) The library's in-person times are:

Monday - Thursday: 1 - 9 p.m.

Friday: 1 - 5 p.m.

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

(4) Curbside pickup is now available:

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

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

No curbside service will be available on Friday or Saturday. (Please visit our website: www.friendsofoceanwplibrary.org for helpful information on the curbside pickup process.)

(5) Need help remembering the new operating hours? No problem! The library staff has created a handy bookmark that lists the new walk-in and curbside pick-up times. You can pick up the bookmark at our library.

(6) If you need to use our library's computers, please remember: THAT A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED TO USE THESE COMPUTERS. APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE AND YOU ARE ONLY PERMITTED ONE USE (OF NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR) PER DAY.

You should call the Ocean Township branch library (732-531-5092) up to two days in advance to make your reservation.

Please plan on arriving no more than 10 minutes before your scheduled computer appointment. Upon arriving at the library, go to the reference desk to check in and receive permission to begin your computer session. Please also note that the hour limit must be used in a single sitting. (So for example, you can't use 10 minutes and then come back later to use up the remaining 50 minutes.)



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

(1) Don't Forget To VOTE! -- The deadline for casting your ballot is November 3, 2020. In order to ensure the timely reporting of election results, The County Clerk's Office is strongly encouraging New Jersey residents to vote early.

According to the Monmouth County Board of Elections, **if you plan to place your ballot in one of the county's secure ballot boxes you must do so BEFORE 8 p.m. on election day in order for your vote to count.** (Please note that a secure ballot box can be found at Township of Ocean Town Hall, 399 Monmouth Road).

If you are mailing your ballot via the U.S. Postal Service, your ballot MUST be postmarked no later than November 3rd.

If you plan to drop off your ballot at The Board of Elections office in Freehold, you must do so on or before November 3rd. And, lastly you can also drop off your ballot on election day at one of the limited polling sites this year.

You can track your ballot to make sure it has been received. The State of New Jersey has two options for tracking your ballot. You can call 1-877-NJ-VOTER or go to the State Division of Elections website at: trackmyballot.nj.gov

The Township of Ocean League of Women Voters is now the Southern Monmouth County League of Women Voters. You can find non-partisan, updated information on voting, links to helpful resources, sign-ups for webinars, and online forums featuring candidates up for election. To see all this active group has to offer visit their website at LWVSMC.org.

(2) Support The Township of Ocean Community Hope Fund's Thanksgiving Drive -- Each year schools, businesses, public employees, families and neighbors work together to ensure that people in need in our community are remembered during the holidays. This effort is coordinated by The Community Hope Fund and the Department of Human Services.

You can donate individual items or a complete box of food to accommodate a family of 4 - 6 people. Items most in need include stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned soup, instant gravy, canned fruits/vegetables, instant potatoes, hot/cold cereals, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauces, instant hot chocolate and coffee, cookies, fruit snacks and crackers. **Please check expiration dates on all food before making a donation.**

All donations must be received no later than Friday, November 13. If you wish to make a monetary donation to allow for the purchase of perishable items, gift cards, and turkeys, please make your check payable to the Community Hope Fund.

All donations should be dropped off at the Department of Human Services building at 601 Deal Road.

(3) Adopt a Family -- Our town's Community Hope Fund's Adopt-A- Family Program is seeking individuals, families and businesses who are interested in being matched with a needy family to provide gifts, food and even friendship.

If you can't adopt an entire family, you can still help by making a donation. Individuals or families can donate NEW, unwrapped toys or gift certificates. Companies or groups can coordinate toy drives or cash donations.

For more information please call 732-531-2600 x6225. We hope you'll consider sharing the blessings of the holidays with needy families in our community.

Thanks for standing up for New Jersey!

Thank you again for your continued support of

The Friends of The Township of Ocean Library.

You truly are making a difference!

Have A Wonderful Holiday and A Happy And Healthy New Year

And, please continue to take care and stay safe!



We love hearing from you. If you have a comment about our newsletter -- send an email to friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com