

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

Important News

(1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library will be closed on May 29, 2023 in observance of Memorial Day.

Keeping Up With The Friends

(1) **Super Successful Spring Sale** -- We are thrilled to report that our April book sale was a rousing success. **We earned \$1,398, which we can use to enhance our library and support its programs.** There are so many individuals we need to thank for the success of this sale. Thank you to all the wonderful Friends members and very enthusiastic volunteers from the Ocean Township High School who gave of their time to help out. Thank you to our town's residents who came to purchase the books and DVDs we offered. And, lastly, a special note of appreciation to Mickey Manna and Lynn Librizzi for their efforts in organizing and planning our sale.

(2) **We Need Realtors!** --If you are a realtor we would love to partner with you on a new pilot program we are launching in Ocean Township. **As you know, our library is an important hub of our town and a terrific resource. We want to ensure new residents know about it and the many adult, young adult, and children's programs it offers.** So, we are producing a postcard that highlights our library. **We will provide the postcards (at no cost) to any realtor who is willing to give it to new residents when a home is purchased. If you are interested in helping us reach out to new residents simply RSVP to this email and we'll be in touch.**

(3) **Annual Meeting** -- The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library will be holding its annual meeting and election of officers on June 14, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at our town's library. **We are looking for individuals who are interested in volunteering to serve as recording and correspondence secretaries for our group.** If you'd like to learn more about these two openings or are interested in serving in these positions, please contact us at friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com by May 20, 2023. Thank you!

Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) Welcome! -- We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our library's new branch manager Mary Patterson. Mary, currently the branch manager in Hazlet, is actually returning "home" as she started in our branch at the circulation desk before going on to become a librarian, children's librarian, and then a branch manager. Mary brings a wealth of experience to the job. We look forward to working with her as she continues to grow our library to meet the needs of our town's residents.

(2) Movies...Movies....Movies -- Interested in enjoying a good movie? Then look no further than our library, where a number of movies are being shown this month. All the movies are free to attend!

May 4, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- Moonrise starring Sonya Balmores, Rose Bianco, and James Healy Jr. (2022) (Rated PG)

May 11, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- A Man Called Otto starring Tom Hanks, Mariana Trevino, Rachel Keller, and Manuel Garcia-Rulfo (2022) (Rated PG-13)

May 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- The Fabelmans directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Gabriel LaBelle, Michelle Williams, Seth Rogen, Judd Hirsch and Paul Dano (2022) (Rated PG-13)

May 23, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. -- 5000 Blankets starring Anna Camp, Carson Minniear and Rob Mayes (2022) (Rated PG-13)

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

(3) Medicare Counseling -- Have a question or problem involving Medicare? Then, you will want to register for one-on-one assistance with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides confidential, unbiased information and assistance for evaluating health insurance options and dealing with claims. **SHIP volunteers will be at our branch on May 2, 2023 and May 16, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please note: An appointment is required. You can register for an appointment by calling 732-728-1331.**

(4) Spring Isn't The Only Thing in Bloom -- At our library branch poetry is also in bloom. On May 16, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. plan on celebrating nature with Jersey Shore poets Evelyn Hampton (who happens to be both a member of the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library and a resident of our town) and Flora Higgins as they present a reading of nature poems by famous poets, as well as some of their own original poems. Audience members are welcome to read their favorite nature poem at the conclusion of the program and a packet of flower seeds will be given to each attendee.

(5) A Spring Musical Interlude -- Come enjoy an hour of music as our branch welcomes the very popular Charlie's Band on May 17, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Charlie's

Band will be performing song selections from the Great American Songbook, as well as some smooth jazz and Latin musical numbers. You won't want to miss their performance! **(This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.)**

(6) The Turner Art Gallery, located within our library, **will be featuring new artwork later this month. The talented artist Anthony Russo will have his work on display beginning on May 21, 2023. Be sure to stop by to enjoy the gallery's offerings.** Please note that some of the artwork will be available for purchase.

(7) Join a Knitting/Crocheting Group -- that is now meeting at our library on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of knitting and/or crocheting. This month, the group is meeting on May 23, 2023. All levels are welcome. Please bring your own yarn, needles and/or hooks. Those interested in learning how to knit or crochet also are welcome (just be sure to bring some chunky yarn along with your needles).

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

Monthly Tip

(1) Are you looking for a quiet place to sit and enjoy a good book undisturbed? Then you may want to stop by our library's Quiet Room (located near the reference desk). Just ask at the reference desk and they will direct you to the Quiet Room where you can get some uninterrupted reading done. We hope, in partnership with our wonderful library staff, to give this Quiet Room some TLC in the months ahead to make it even more conducive to peaceful reading. Stay tuned for updates.

Happening Around Town

(1) Don't Forget to VOTE!!! -- May 9, 2023 is election day in Ocean Township and with it comes your opportunity to vote for members of our Town's Council and help determine the future of our town. There are nine candidates currently vying for the five open seats on our Town Council. During this election you can select five individuals to vote for and you can choose among ANY of the nine

candidates running for Town Council to fill the available five seats. Be sure to exercise your right and vote on May 9th.

(2) Summer's Coming -- And our town intends to herald its arrival with a fun Memorial Day Weekend Kick-off Concert presented by the Township of Ocean Community Celebration Committee on May 24, 2023 at the Mike Cernigliaro Fairgrounds at Joe Palaia Park . The concert will feature one of New Jersey's premier dance bands -- So Watt. **Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 per car.** Register/Pay online, in-person or by mail. Please note: no pets are permitted and bring your own snacks (and take home your trash too please).

To register online go to: <https://register.communitypass.net/oceantwp> Call Jennifer Nordstrom at 732-531-2600 ext.6220 or email her at her JNordstrom@OceantTwp.org Make checks payable to Township of Ocean and mail to Department of Human Services, [601 Deal Road, Ocean NJ 07712](https://www.oceantwp.org/601-Deal-Road)

(3) Honoring Our Heroes -- Please join veterans and local dignitaries on May 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. for a Memorial Day Ceremony honoring our country's heroes. The ceremony will be held at the new site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located at the rear of our town's library (601 Deal Road).

(4) Did You Know? -- That there is free round-trip transportation via Monmouth County SCAT four times a month for Ocean Township seniors age 60 and above to Wegmans and ShopRite? To learn more and register go to: www.oceantwp.org/seniors

(5) If you are a senior living in Ocean Township, you won't want to miss the interesting senior programs offered through the Department of Human Services.

Here is what is coming up this month:

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

(6) Recycling Center Summer Schedule -- Our town's recycling center is now operating on its summer schedule. The center, located at 3602 Sunset Avenue, will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please note the center is closed on Sundays.

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) National Book Critics Circle Award Winners -- If you are looking for a good book to tackle this month you might want to check out the recent National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) Award winners for some inspiration. The NBCC, a group consisting of more than 600 critics and book review editors throughout the country, recently selected their 2022 award winners for best books. **Among the winners -- Beverly Gage's "*G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century*" won for best biography; Ling Ma's book "*Bliss Montage*" won the best fiction prize; Hua Hsu won for best autobiography for "*Stay True*", and Isaac Butler won the best nonfiction award for "*The Method: How the Twentieth Century Learned to Act*".**

(2) Mysteries Abound -- If a good mystery is your thing then you won't want to miss the recent book recommendation lists that Goodreads has compiled for mystery lovers.

The first, is the top 80 mysteries released in the last three years and includes everything from cozy mysteries to domestic thrillers. To search the list go to: https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/2566-the-80-most-popular-new-mysteries-on-goodreads?rto=x_gr_e_nl_mystery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mystery_newsletter&utm_campaign=April2023Mystery&utm_content=Top.80.Mys&ref=pe_3652430_706549620

The second, is a list of 96 thrillers and mysteries that take place in specific locations (e.g., in locked rooms, in the air, at work, etc.) and includes many new releases as well as classics. To find the mystery based in your preferred setting go to: https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/2544-96-mystery-and-thriller-recommendations-by-mood-and-setting?rto=x_gr_e_nl_mystery&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mystery_newsletter&utm_campaign=April2023Mystery&utm_content=Mys.This.That&ref=pe_3652430_706549620

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

May 17, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club to discuss "*The School for Good Mothers*" by Jessamine Chen. Frida Liu is struggling. Only with her daughter does Frida finally attain the perfection expected of her. That is until Frida has a very bad day and a host of government officials will now determine whether she is a candidate for an institution that measures the success or failure of a mother's devotion. Frida must prove she can learn to be good and that a bad mother can be redeemed.

May 18, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club to discuss "*Finlay Donovan is Killing It*" by Elle Cosimano. Finlay Donovan is a stressed-out single-mom of two and a struggling novelist. When she is overheard discussing the plot of her new suspense novel, she's mistaken for a contract killer and discovers that crime in real life is a lot more difficult than fiction.

May 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual short story discussion to discuss "*Eveline*" by James Joyce. Will a young woman's only chance for love be foreshadowed by a family promise? (Please note the link to the story PDF is included in your registration.)

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

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

More To the Story

Coming in May, the Monmouth County Library will host a wide range of virtual programs including several virtual author talks, cooking classes with Chef Rob, yoga sessions, writing and art workshops, lectures (on topics such as photography, coastal birds, beneficial insects, Antarctic exploration, shipwrecks of the Jersey Shore, Chinese art and symbolism, etc.), 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 May.**

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 (click on Departments on the left hand side of the home page and then on the Department of Human Services)

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 -- especially about our redesigned newsletter -- please send an email to friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com