

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

Important News

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

- **May 25, 2026** in observance of Memorial Day

(2) **Friendly Reminder -- The Township of Ocean Department of Human Services recently announced the start of weekly social activities in the Don & Marie Curtis Senior Center** (615 West Park Avenue)! **This welcoming space will provide Township residents ages 60 and older with a special place to gather, socialize, and enjoy a variety of activities together. The center now offers a wide range of social opportunities, including card games, puzzles, bingo, crafts, guest speakers, light exercise, and seasonal celebrations. The senior center is open every Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** For more information, please call 732-531-2600 or visit www.oceantwp.or/seniors for calendar and event details. **Be sure to stop by and check out all the fun!**

(3) **Summer Concert Series -- You don't have to travel far to enjoy some wonderful music this summer. Just pop over to our library for the Summer Concert Series coming this year!** Four fun, toe-tapping shows are planned that you won't want to miss. Check out the "Updates from the Township of Ocean Library" section below to see the full schedule.

(4) **"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** -- including one for the children in your life -- just browse the "More to the Story" section below and look for the special "250th🎂" symbol.

(5) **Have the Monmouth County Library at Your Fingertips -- Don't miss the Monthly Tips section for information about the incredible things you can do with the Monmouth County Library's app and how you can download it to your phone.**

(6) **Coming This Month -- Short story and book club discussions, wonderful movies, fun children's programs (including a visit by an adorable micro Highland cow and two mini Harlequin sheep -- yes, really!!!), 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 May to our branch.

Keeping Up with The Friends

(1) 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:

- Branch Manager, Mary Patterson, requested new bookcases for behind the reference desk. We were happy to purchase the three bookcases she needed.
- The sound proofing materials we purchased for the children's activity room have been delivered. We are excited to report that our library's Teen Advisory Board will be designing the placement of these bright and cheery materials so that the sound proofing can be installed in the next few weeks.
- Great news! We just received township approval to install a "Little Free Library" at the community pool. We will be purchasing the little library and the necessary installation materials -- and stocking it with some great books -- so it hopefully should be in place soon for pool visitors to enjoy.

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

(3) A Blow-out Success -- In a word -- **INCREDIBLE!! Our April Book Sale was a smashing success thanks to the support of book lovers in our town. **The two-day event raised \$4,289 -- which we will use to support our library's programs and provide much extra resources.****

This success would not have been possible without the many town residents who stopped by to purchase that "perfect" book, CD, and DVD, **the generous Friends volunteers who donated their time to set up and staff the sale, the members of our Book Inventory Committee who spent countless hours sorting and categorizing our inventory to make the shopping experience more enjoyable, **and -- most importantly -- our Book Inventory Committee chairperson, Lynn Librizzi, whose organizational skills, dedication and leadership put us on solid footing for a highly successful event.****

We thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts!

(4) **Hot Off the Presses** -- We hope you saw the wonderful article in the April 16, 2026 issue of *The Coaster* about the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library. The article provided a great summary of our group's history and the many ways we are promoting literacy and supporting our library.

Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) **On-Site Help** -- If you need help with state services, plan on stopping by our library on May 26, 2026 to connect with staff from Senator Gopal, and Assemblywomen Donolon and Peterpaul's offices. **The legislative staff members will be available from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to not only help with state services, but tax relief program applications, veterans benefits, and more. No appointment necessary. Please note the legislators will not be in attendance.**

(2) **Calling All Fans of Book Clubs** -- Our branch's book club will be meeting on May 7, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey. This book is about six astronauts aboard the International Space Station who circle earth over a single day, witnessing sixteen sunrises as they reflect on love, loss, and the fragile beauty of the planet below. Copies of the book are available at our library. **Please note no registration is required.**

SNEEK PEEK: 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 the book are available at our library.

(3) **Join a Short Story Discussion** -- A short story discussion will be held on May 14, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. The story is "*The Tip-Top Club*" by Garrison Keillor. Join other fans of short stories for a discussion of a warm and witty tale that captures the charm of community life as a small-town club, devoted to life's simple pleasures, leads to laughter, friendship, and a few delightful surprises. **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) **Summer Concert Series Schedule** -- Get out your calendar and mark down the dates -- you won't want to miss these summer sounds coming to our branch:

- **July 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.** -- **Sawmill Run Old Time String Band** Introducing America's Authentic String Band Music. 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.
- **July 29, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.** -- "*Stroll in the Piazza: Italian Music Collection*" *Benvenuti in Italia! Welcome to Italy!* Acclaimed International Concert Violinist Dr.

David Podles presents the most poignant and celebrated Italian pieces from the classical beauty of Vivaldi and Paganini to traditional tarantellas and mazurkas -- plus Italian-American music created by immigrants to the U.S. flanked by Opera greats such as Rossini and Puccini.

- **August 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. -- The Angel Cats** Get ready to tap your toes and sing along! The Angel Cats are returning with their signature harmonies and high-energy style, bringing you a fun, feel-good mix of hits from the '60s through the '90s.
- **August 19, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. -- Phil Bruschi's Favorite Doo Wop Love Songs** Phil Bruschi closes out our summer concert series with his "Favorite Doo Wop Love Songs." During this 2-hour performance you'll step back into the 1950s and early '60s, when doo wop filled the airwaves and teens danced to the unforgettable sounds of The Flamingos, The Platters, and The Five Satins.

(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 performances by Benedict Cumberbatch, Zendaya, Keanu Reeves, Seth Rogen, Keke Palmer, Sandra Oh, Will Arnett, Laura Dern, Bradley Cooper, Amanda Seyfried, and more!](#)

You can find details about the movies available this month by clicking on [this link](#) Once on the site, simply type in "movies" in the "search for event" box and select our branch from the drop-down box at the top of the page, and click on the search button. You then will be able to scroll down to check out all the wonderful movies being shown this month.

(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 May 27, 2026 due to a special program \(see next item\).](#)**
- **Meet Toby the Highland Cow and Friends on May 27, 2026 from 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. --Geared for ages 5 and up (with parent/caregiver). [Get ready for an unforgettable visit from Toby, the adorable micro Highland cow, and his delightful friends, Laverne and Shirley, two mini Harlequin sheep!](#) This unique library event combines education, interaction, and creativity for a one-of-a-kind learning experience. **[This special program will be held outside near the gazebo behind our library.](#)****

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

Did you know that the Monmouth County Library has an app that makes it really super easy for you to:

- Search the library catalog, place holds, and join waitlists
- See upcoming new books that are set to be released and place holds in advance
- Renew items (as long as there isn't a waitlist) or cancel holds
- View your checked-out items and any fines
- Browse the event calendar by date, location, or subject
- Access library hours and directions?

Among the other useful tools available through the app is a handy barcode scanner feature so if you're at a bookstore, book sale, or a friend is showing you a book, you can scan the barcode to see if it's in the Monmouth County Library system. You'll be able to see which branches have the book you are interested in, how many copies are available, and you can place a hold right from there for pickup at your preferred library location.

And, there's more to what the app offers! **It also provides access to eLibrary resources, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines, Kanopy, and more. You even can connect to research tools like EBSCO, Gale resources, Rosetta Stone, Universal Class, and LinkedIn Learning.**

The app also puts your library card right at your fingertips -- there's a digital version of your library card in the app that you can show at checkout or use at the self-check machines. You can also use mobile printing to send documents from your phone or computer to a library location for pickup. The instructions for printing are included in the app, making it very easy; and black-and-white copies cost only \$0.15 each.

In addition, the app links to the library's social media accounts and website, and includes a "Contact Us" option (currently phone only).

Getting the app is simple:

For Apple Phone users go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/monmouth-county-library-mobile/id121643773>

For Android and other users (Google Play):

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.capiratech.monmouth&hl=en_US

We hope you find this tip helpful!

Happening Around Town

(1) Meet the Author -- Congregation Torat El will host another of its highly popular "Meet the Author" sessions on May 3, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at its Social Hall ([301 Monmouth Road](#) in the Oakhurst section of town). **The guest author, Alyson Richman, will discuss her book "The Missing Pages". The novel tells the story of Harry Widener, a passionate book collector, who boards the Titanic tightly holding a priceless volume he's just purchased. After the Titanic tragedy occurs, Harry's last known words are that he must return to his cabin to save his latest treasure. His mother later builds the Harry Widener Memorial Library at Harvard to house his book collection and ensure his legacy. Decades later, mysterious things begin to happen in the library and a young woman working there wonders if Harry's ghost is trying to communicate with her and asking her to uncover a long-buried secret that he took to the grave. **Copies of the book are available at our library branch and also will be available for purchase at the Meet the Author event. The event costs \$20 per person if pre-paid, and \$25 at the door. A light brunch will be served. Registrations can be made at www.torat-el.org or by calling 732-531-4410.****

(2) Now Hiring -- The Township of Ocean is now hiring for summer recreation positions including supervisors, craft specialist, and bus drivers. Detailed job descriptions and applications can be found at www.oceantwp.org/jobs If you have questions you can contact Aaron Miller at AMiller@oceantwp.org

(3) Spring Cleaning -- May is the perfect time to tackle a bit of spring cleaning around the house -- and around our town too. **In fact, our town will be hosting its annual Spring Clean Sweep Event on May 16, 2026 from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. -- kicking off at the Oakhurst Firemen's Field (74 Larkin Place). Come join other residents helping to keep the township clean and litter-free. If you'd like to participate, contact Clean Communities at 732-531-5000 ext. 3391.**

(4) Honoring Our Nation's Heroes -- Our town's Memorial Day ceremony will take place on May 25, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the Veterans' Memorial located behind our library.

(5) Prevent a Theft -- The Township of Ocean Police Department is once again reminding residents to lock your vehicles, remove all valuables and do not store spare keys inside. **If you see any suspicious activity please call the department at 732-531-1800.**

(6) 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.**

- **Encompass Health Move with Marjorie -- Join other town seniors on May 7, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. for an hour-long class that will incorporate dance/rhythmic**

movement (modified for all levels and abilities) **to promote improved coordination, flexibility, and overall function.** During this class, you can experience how music and movement aid in your overall mental and physical well-being. **No registration required.**

- **Bingo!** -- **Come enjoy some fun and games and a chance to win prizes on May 18, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** **Click here to register on [Community Pass](#) to sign into your account.**
- **Spring Fling** -- **Come welcome in the season at the annual Spring Fling Senior Party on May 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.** At this casual afternoon gathering you can mix and mingle with old and new friends while enjoying fun, games and light refreshments. **Bring a dessert to share.** [Click Here to Register](#)
- **Be Prepared** -- **By attending the Monmouth County Emergency Preparedness Event**

on May 28, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. At this event, the Monmouth County's Sheriff's

Office/Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in partnership with the Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities & Veterans Services (MCADVS), will discuss how first responders can better assist you during emergencies or evacuations. Join Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Gene Hannafey and Joe Corcione (MCADVS) to learn about programs for residents with access and functional needs:

- **E.V.A.C.S. (Emergency Vulnerability & Assistance Coordination System)**
- **E.V.A.C.S. ID card** (Please bring your ID and an emergency contact number)
- **Ready-Go Documents Bag Program**

E.V.A.C.S. is a free, voluntary program that helps first responders identify and support residents who may need additional assistance during emergencies. **Registration is required for this event.** [Click Here to Register](#)

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) Pick Your Poison -- **If you are a fan of the author Freida McFadden (the pen name of Sara Cohen, a practicing physician specializing in brain injuries), then you'll want to be sure to check out her most recent release "The Dinner Party".** **The book offers 22 possible endings depending on what YOU decide to do.**

Just imagine. You are broke and about to be evicted. Then your friend tells you about a job working as a waitress at a party at an isolated mansion. The pay is enough to cover two months rent and some other expenses. The money offered is great -- but almost too good to be true. You should probably pass on the offer, right? Here's where things get REALLY interesting. Because the choice is YOURS. YOU get to decide if you want to work the creepy dinner party or stay home and read a good book. YOU get to decide if you want to give a lift to that unkept hitchhiker. YOU get to choose to go left or right at the fork in the road. Every decision is entirely up to YOU. So, what are YOU going to do?

Well, you just might want to start by picking up a copy of McFadden's newest book and becoming the central character in the pages of this exciting thriller. Remember...it's all up to YOU!

(2) GOAL! -- This summer some 6 BILLION viewers globally (about 51% of the world's population) are expected to watch the 2026 FIFA World Cup in some form. If you are one of those who can't wait until the games begin, then you may want to check out one of the top ten Best Soccer Books of All Time (as compiled by Shortform) to tide you over until the first match kicks off. The list includes *"Inventing the Pyramid"* by Jonathan Wilson, *"Fever Pitch"* by Nick Hornby, *"Soccernomics"* by Simon Kuper, *"Booked"* by Kwame Alexander, *"The Ball is Round"* by David Goldblatt, *"Kulti"* by Mariana Zapat, *"The Miracle of Castel Di Sangro"* by Joe McGinniss, *"How Soccer Explains the World"* by Franklin Foer, *"Brilliant Orange"* by David Winner, and *"Soccer in Sun and Shadow"* by Eduardo Galeano and Mark Fried. **No doubt these great reads will have you shouting GOAL! long before the World Cup begins!**

(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 life and legacy of Margaret Chase Smith who served as a U.S. Congresswoman from 1940 - 1949 and a U.S. Senator from 1949 - 1973. During her tenure in Congress, Smith developed a strong interest in issues concerning national security, our military and America's space program.

Margaret Chase Smith was widely mentioned as a possible vice presidential running mate for General Dwight D. Eisenhower. At that time, when a reporter asked her what she would do if she woke up and found herself in the White House, she famously replied "I'd go straight to Mrs. Truman and apologize. Then I'd go home."

However, she is probably best known for her fifteen minute "Declaration of Conscience" speech on the Senate floor in opposition to the tactics of Joseph McCarthy. While she didn't name McCarthy directly in the speech, she did denounce "the reckless abandon in which unproven charges have been hurled..." She went on to say that McCarthyism had turned the Senate into a forum "of hate and character assassination" and she strongly defended every American's "right to criticize...right to protest...right to hold unpopular beliefs...right to

independent thought..." Of her political party she also added that she didn't want to see it ride to "political victory on the four horses of calumny -- fear, ignorance, bigotry, and smear".

Smith later observed, "If I am to be remembered in history, it will not be because of any legislative accomplishments, but for an act I took as a legislator in the U.S. Senate when on June 1, 1950 I spoke in condemnation of McCarthyism, when the junior senator from Wisconsin had the Senate paralyzed with fear that he would purge any Senator who disagreed with him."

There are many excellent books available to learn more -- *"Politics of Conscience: A Biography of Margaret Chase Smith"* by Patricia Ward Wallace, *"Margaret Chase Smith: Beyond Convention"* by Patricia L. Schmidt, *"No Place for a Woman: A Life of Senator Margaret Chase Smith"* by Janann Sherman, *"Declaration of Conscience"* by Margaret Smith, and *"Margaret Chase Smith's Skowhegan"* by Frank H. Sleeper.

If you are interested in making your exploration of the life of Margaret Chase Smith into a family affair, there also are a few well-written children's books about her -- *"She Persisted: Margaret Chase Smith"* by Ruby Shamir and Chelsea Clinton (geared for ages 6 - 9) and *"Margaret Chase Smith"* by Lynn Plourde (geared for ages 8 - 12)

We hope you'll find reading about this remarkable individual, and her pivotal role in America's history, of interest.

(4) Put a Spring in Your Step -- Spring is the perfect time to put the doldrums and darkness of winter in the rearview mirror. It's also the perfect time to open a window wide and allow the fresh air and endless possibilities of a new season into your home and life. The same can be true for your reading list. The 2026 spring season has a whole crop of new books featuring many uplifting stories about family, friendship and love for you to enjoy. Thankfully, BookBub has compiled 21 new releases that are just the perfect bit of fresh air your reading list needs this Spring. The list includes books by Debbie Macomber, Sally Hepworth, Susan Mallery, Brenda Novak, Tolani Akinola, and James & Susan Patterson, to name a few. **So, take a break from your spring cleaning and check out BookBub's list for a great fresh read:** <https://www.bookbub.com/blog/uplifting-books-spring-2026?position=0&source=multicontent&target=title>

(5) Make Your Own -- If you crave comfort classics like lasagna, cakes, and burgers, but are striving to eat more healthy -- well, you're in luck. A new cookbook "Make Your Own" by Javant Brown shows you how to make 120+ easy, healthy, and plant-based versions of your favorite foods. From creamy curry sweet potato soup, to mango buffalo wings to key lime cheesecake and vegan bacon cheeseburgers -- this cookbooks offers recipes that are minimally processed, oil-free, wheat-free, sugar-free and plant-based. **"Make Your Own" was an instant New York Times best-seller and has a 4.9 (out of 5.0) rating on Amazon. So enjoy transforming your diet while enjoying healthy and tasty comfort foods.**

(6) The Beauty of Poetry -- Awaits you thanks to the talents of Joy Harjo -- the first Native American Poet Laureate of the United States (2019 - 2022). Harjo is a winner of the National Humanities Medal and is the inaugural Artist-in-Residence for the Bob Dylan

Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A citizen of the Muscogee Nation, she is heralded for blending Native oral traditions, social justice themes and jazz influences in her poetry. **There are eleven collections of her poetry that you can explore including "An American Sunrise", "Crazy Brave", "Poet Warrior", "Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings", "Remember", "Girl Warrior" and "Catching the Light". There's even a volume for the children in your life - "For a Girl Becoming" which is geared for ages 4 - 8 years.** If you enjoy poetry you are sure to find Harjo's stirring verses both remarkable and memorable.

(7) Dystopian Storytelling -- Fans of the Hunger Games know the name Billy Ray. Ray is the award-winning screenwriter who adapted the first Hunger Games film and the upcoming prequel Sunrise on the Reaping. What you may not know, is that Ray just published his debut young adult novel *"Burn the Water"*. The novel is set in 2425 in London, which is now underwater. Two houses -- the Crowns and the Rogues -- have been at war for three centuries. Rafe is the Rogue's fiercest captain and Jule is the Crown's deadliest soldier. They are vicious killers, beloved by their houses and sworn enemies. That is, until they fall in love. As they try to keep each other alive in this war-torn world, they soon face threats not only from within, but also from mysterious foreigners who appear on their shores. **This book has a 4.4 (out of 5.0) on Amazon.**

(8) From Woodstock to 1930's Hollywood to 1850s South Carolina, and Beyond -- That's what awaits you this Spring if you are a fan of historical fiction books. A whole new batch of these novels are set to be released -- and they are guaranteed to transport you to distant times and distant shores. **Fortunately, BookBub has compiled a list of the top 14 of these novels to help you find your next great read. So settle down into your most comfortable reading chair and start browsing the list at: <https://www.bookbub.com/blog/historical-fiction-spring-2026?position=1&source=multicontent&target=title>**

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

- **May 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. -- Join an online Gothic Literature Book Club to discuss "Gothictown" by Emily Carpenter.** In this novel, Billie Hope is lured to a charming town in Georgia when she finds out that for just \$100 she can own a grand Victorian home there. Eager for a fresh start, she takes the plunge and soon finds herself with not only a new home, but a business grant, a new restaurant, and a better life for her family. It feels like a dream come true. But, in this town, every dream comes with a price. Soon Billie learns that you can have it all -- for a price. **Registration is required.**
- **May 21, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join a hybrid (in-person or on Zoom) Murder They Wrote Book Discussion of "The Fraud" by Zadie Smith.** Set in Victorian England this book is based on the real-life Tichborne Claimant trial, a sensational case where a butcher claimed to be a missing baronet. The story follows Eliza Touchet, a housekeeper, as she watches the trial, which becomes a lens for exploring truth, deception, race, class and colonialism. **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 May -- The Monmouth County Library System will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including:

- **"250th 🎂": The Deadly Divide: New Jersey's Revolutionary War at Home** -- Join historian John Schneider as he draws on original research, maps and visual material to show how loyalty and rebellion split families, communities and towns along the Bayshore -- often violently and often quietly. **(This program will be held at the MCL's Eastern branch in Shrewsbury on May 9, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)**
- **"250th 🎂": A Child's Life** -- Join a costumed interpreter from NJ History Alive for an enlightening and interactive comparison of Colonial and modern life. This unique program includes show-and-tell artifacts. **Geared for Grades K and up. (This program will be held at the MCL's Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury on May 14, 2026 at 3:45 p.m.)**
- **"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 May 30, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.)**
- **Author Talks (Marja Kamali, Dr. Vivienne Ming, Nir Eyal, and a rebroadcast of a talk with Dr. Michele Harper)**
- **Lectures (Spring Cleaning Series: Treasure in the Attic -- What to Do with Sentimental Stuff My Kids Don't Want, Mealtime with the Victorians, Saving Your Family Photos, New Jersey Quilts and Textiles, Murdered in Monmouth County, Spring Cleaning Series: 7 Easy Ways to Declutter When You are Overwhelmed, Drama Queens: Dark Beauties (Dark-hued Plants) The Hindenburg Experience, Shipwrecks of New Jersey, Taking Care of Your Home, Spring Cleaning Series: Stop Procrastinating: How to Sort Out Your Home this Spring, Emergency Preparedness, Turtles of New Jersey, The History of Zeppelins: From a Weapon of War to an Aeronautic Marvel, Botanicals and Booze: Herbs and Plants in Liquor Production, Spring and Summer Coastal Birding, etc.)**
- **100 Years From Today: The Songs of 1926**
- **The Poetry of Tennyson**

- Paul Anka: The Times of His Life
- Rutgers Master Gardeners Q&A Thyme
- A Poetic Celebration of Motherhood
- Mother-Daughter Vision Boarding Workshop
- Introduction to Qigong and Tai Chi
- PONKS -- Parents of Neurodivergent Kiddos Support Group
- One-on-One SHIP Questions and Answers
- QPR Gatekeeper Training
- Author Visit: Steven Ujifusa -- *"The Last Ships from Hamburg"*
- Here, There and Everywhere: A Tribute to the Beatles
- Circle of Origami Paperfolders
- Rocking with the Randal Graves Band
- 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 May 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 May from the NJSL:

- [The "Real Stolen Election": Frank Hague and New Jersey's 1937 Race for Governor](#) -- May 12, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- [Communicating Effectively With Dementia](#) -- May 14, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- [Financial Planning for Mid-Career Professionals](#) -- May 19, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- [Financial Side of College Graduation](#) -- May 27, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
- [Cancer Information Session](#) -- May 29, 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

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 Green

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

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!**