

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

 **Important News**

(1) A Special VIP Invitation Just for Being a Friend -- A quick reminder...to show our deep appreciation for your support -- all current Friends members (those who have paid their 2024 membership dues) are cordially invited to a special "Friends Preview Book Sale" Event from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on April 9, 2024.

This will give you an opportunity to shop our Book Sale before the official sale opens to the public on April 10, 2024. We hope you will be able to join us and we look forward to seeing you at this special sale event.

Haven't renewed your membership yet? No problem.

You can renew before the special Friends Preview Book Sale Event:

- Membership Renewal Forms are available online on our website at: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org or directly by clicking on [this link](#). For your convenience you also 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: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org

You can also renew when you arrive for the special Friends Preview Book Sale Event.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Friends Member Preview Book Sale will take place on the second floor of our library (which you can access by stairs or elevator via the library's Terner Art Gallery).

(2) HELP WANTED -- The next Friends of the Township of Ocean Library book sale will be open to the public on April 10, 2024 - April 11, 2024. (See item one in the "Keeping Up With The Friends" section below for more details.) We need volunteers to help at the sale -- specifically on April 11, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you can help during that time frame please contact us at your earliest convenience. (Simply RSVP to this email and we'll be in touch.) Don't worry if you have never volunteered at a sale before. You will be partnered with someone with book sale experience. We hope you will consider giving a few hours of your time to help us support our town's library. Thank you!

 **Keeping Up With The Friends**

We have a lot of exciting news for you this month so be sure and check out the items below so you don't miss a thing!!!

(1) Book Sale -- our next book sale is scheduled for April 10 and April 11, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. We literally have thousands (!!!) of hardback and paperback books, as

well as DVDs and CDs all in good or better condition available for purchase. This is our first sale since our huge Book Donation Day last fall so our inventory features many new items - including a vast selection of beautiful art books, classics, cookbooks, fiction and non-fiction books, biographies, children's books and so much more.

Be sure to spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors so they don't miss our super big sale.

(2) Early Arrival -- Last month we told you that the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library, as part of our mission to support and enhance the programs and resources of our library, purchased two assistive adaptive chairs that will make it easier for library visitors to access lower library book shelves when browsing for their next great read. We are happy to report that the bright red chairs have been delivered -- ahead of schedule -- and are ready for library patrons to use. The chairs are located in the adult area of our library (one is specifically located near the large print book section). **Be sure to check them out when you next visit our branch.**

(3) Ready, Set, LIBRARY! -- April 7, 2024 - April 13, 2024 is National Library Week and this year the American Library Association's theme is "Ready, Set, Library!" The theme was selected to help remind us that libraries give us "a green light to something very special and unique -- a place to connect with others, grow our imaginations, and even learn new skills".

As the American Library Association said..."No matter where you find yourself on life's journey -- preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family -- a library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs." How true! **And, whether it is children's books, DVDs, audio books, author talks, workshops, movies, e-books, computers, short-story book clubs, large print books, programs for children and young adults, magazines, newspapers, musical performances -- our branch offers it all.**

We hope you will use National Library Week as an opportunity to explore all the wonderful programs, resources and services our branch has to offer.

(4) Thank You -- April 9, 2024 is National Library Workers Day and a perfect time to express heartfelt thanks to our amazing library staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of the residents of Ocean Township. The staff plays an essential role in keeping our library such a vibrant part of our community. **If you are in the library this month, be sure to thank our staff for their hard work and dedication.**



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.

As a reminder, due to the terms of the Monmouth County Library's license agreement with the movie distributor, we can only provide you with a link to the movie information posted on the Monmouth County Library's EventKeeper site. You will need to go to the site to see which films are being offered each month.

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 April. As a reminder, movies at our branch are shown every Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

(2) In-person Short Story Discussion -- Our branch manager, Mary Patterson, is moderating a Short Story Discussion Group at our branch again this month. The discussion will be held at our branch on April 11, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The story, "Rope" by Katherine Anne Porter, is about tension between a husband and wife that escalates when a coil of rope and forgotten coffee become the objection of their frustration. 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

(3) Calling All Artists -- To celebrate National Library Week, the Monmouth County Library is looking for talented local artists of all ages to help design the library's new bookmarks. Use your creativity, imagination and artistry to depict what you love most about our library. Then, submit your design as a JPEG file to MonCoLibrary1922@gmail.com with the subject line "Bookmark Challenge" for the chance to be featured on the library system's next printed bookmarks. Entries will be accepted from April 1, 2024 until April 30, 2024. Artwork categories include Grades K-4, Grades 5-8, Grades 9-12, and Adult.

Here are the entry guidelines:

- Limit of one entry per person
- Entries may not include licensed characters, or any copyrighted art or logos
- Email submissions must include the artist's name, home library branch and artwork age category.
- Design can be vertical or horizontal and must fit final size as shown in examples [here](#).

(4) Spring Musical Interlude -- We hope you will plan to join Sandy Sasso and Band on April 17, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. for a toe tapping spring musical interlude. Their performance will feature a variety of musicians, instruments, and song selections from the Great American Songbook, as well as some smooth jazz and Latin Sounds. (This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.)

(5) 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

Did you know that being an Influencer doesn't mean you have to have a million followers on Facebook or "X" (formerly Twitter)? **In fact, you can be a Friends of the Township of Ocean Library Influencer with just a simple recommendation.**

Have you read a book recently that you just couldn't put down? A book that made you feel that you just couldn't wait to read more by a particular author? Well you can help influence other members of the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library to check out a book or author that you recommend.

It's easy to do, simply reply to this message with the:

- **Name of the book and author**
- **Give us one or two sentences about why you really enjoyed the book.**

That's it...it's as simple as can be. We'll take your recommendation and feature it in an upcoming newsletter as a "Friends' Pick" making you an official Friends Influencer!

So take a moment and become an Influencer -- we look forward to seeing your recommendations!

Hope you find this tip helpful.



Happening Around Town

(1) Mark Your Calendar: Green Fest 2024 -- You won't want to miss the Township of Ocean Green Team & Environmental Commission's annual Green Fest Event on May 19, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine) at the Joe Palaia Park. The event promises loads of family fun, vendors, music, food, special activities for children and the first annual Ocean Parks 5K too!

If you are interested in participating in the 5K run, you'll find race registration details at: www.runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Ocean/OceanParks5K.

Vendors interested in participating at the event should contact greenteam.oceantwp@gmail.com

(2) Early Voting -- Early voting for New Jersey's 2024 Primary Election will take place between May 29, 2024 and June 2, 2024, according to Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon. There are 10 designated early voting polling sites for this year's primary election. (Please note some of these sites have changed from prior elections). To see the full list of early polling locations you can go to: <https://oceantwp.qscendcms.com/ckfinder/connector?command=Proxy&lang=en&type=Files¤tFolder=%2F&hash=c245c263ce0eced480effe66bbede6b4d46c15ae&fileName=Early%20Voting%20Locations%202024.pdf>

Voters who decide not to take part in early voting, can still vote in the 2024 New Jersey Primary Election on Election Day (June 4, 2024) at their usual designated polling location or they can choose to vote by mail. For more information visit www.MonmouthCountyVotes.com

(3) 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 of these programs take place at 615 West Park Avenue in the Oakhurst section of town.

Dazzling Smile -- On April 4, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. come and discover the keys to a radiant smile and lifelong oral health at Monmouth Dental Arts' enlightening Lunch & Learn session designed to address the unique dental needs of older adults, ensuring your smile shines bright for years to come. **Registration is required. To register simply click on this link: [Monmouth Dental Arts - Lunch & Learn \(google.com\)](#)**

Keep Your Brain Healthy -- Unlock the secrets to a healthy brain when you join Kimberly Myers of the Brain Injury Alliance for a "Jeopardy"-style workshop designed exclusively for older adults on April 11, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 pm. The categories will include: Mental Health, Physical Activity, Nutrition, Substance Use and Smoking, Cognitive Engagement, and Social Engagement. **Registration is required and light refreshments will be served. To register click on this link: [Brain Injury Alliance \(google.com\)](#)**

Scam Prevention -- Be a savvy senior and safeguard your golden years by attending a scam prevention presentation by Kearny Bank on April 18, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Protect yourself and your loved ones from financial exploitation with this empowering session designed specifically for seniors, offering valuable insights and practical tips to keep your hard-earned savings secure. **Registration is required. To register click on this link: [Kearny Bank - Lunch & Learn \(google.com\)](#)**

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) Short & Sweet -- A short story discussion will be held at our branch on April 11, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The story, "Rope" by Katherine Anne Porter, is about tension between a husband and wife that escalates when a coil of rope and forgotten coffee become the objection of their frustration. The discussion will be moderated by our branch manager, Mary Patterson. 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](#)

(2) Plan Ahead & Register This Month for More Short & Sweet -- Another short story discussion will be held at our branch on May 9, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The story, "Desiree's Baby" by Kate Chopin, is about a beautiful day in mid-nineteenth century Louisiana when a wealthy French Creole plantation owner drives to the neighboring plantation to visit her adopted daughter Desiree and her daughter's new baby. The discussion will be moderated by our branch manager, Mary Patterson. Registration begins April 11, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. 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.](#)

(3) A Friends' 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 Harriet Cook.

Harriet recently read *"The Last Thing He Told Me"* by Laura Dave. This 2022 Audie Award Finalist and Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick was also an instant #1 New York Times bestselling mystery. The book tells the story of a woman who forms an unexpected relationship with her 16-year-old stepdaughter while searching for the truth about why her husband has mysteriously disappeared.

According to Harriet..."This thrilling mystery leads the reader to some thought-provoking circumstances and so easily kept my interest. I looked forward to finding out what was next and it tied the issues together very well. There were some interesting adventures in the plot and I really enjoyed the book. A page turner for sure!"

(4) Answer the Age Old Question -- It has been debated by movie buffs and book buffs for ages -- which is better -- the book or the movie? Well, you have a chance to decide for yourself when it comes to this year's Academy Award Best Picture nominees. Forbes Magazine has created a list of the books that were the basis for this year's nominees -- including Oppenheimer, Poor Things and American Fiction -- to help you answer that age old question: book or movie. To check out the book list simply go to:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tonifitzgerald/2024/03/05/oscars-2024-these-books-inspired-5-best-picture-nominees/?sh=7703aab765fa>

(5) Encouraging Girl Power -- Linsey Davis is a familiar face to anyone who watches ABC news. And, she is also a notable author of children's books. Her latest New York Times bestselling book *"Girls of the World: Doing More Than Ever Before"* is designed to inspire and empower young girls to use their voices, talents, and intelligence to help the world. The book's message to young girls? "You can do it, you can be whatever you want when it comes to your profession and beyond." This book is a perfect read (or read aloud to) book for the young girls (ages 4 - 8) in your life. It features a heartfelt story, uplifting rhymes that help girls be strong and curious about the world and the role they can play in it.

(6) Spring is In the Air -- And, that of course means that readers are eagerly awaiting not only the warmer weather, but the new spring crop of books slated to be released. If you want to get a head start on making your spring "must read" book list, then be sure to check out the AARP's list of "Twenty Eight of Spring's Top Reads". With new spring releases slated to be issued by the likes of Stephen King, David Baldacci, Salman Rushdie, Erik Larson, Lyn Slater, RuPaul, Anna Quinlan, and more -- there is something for nearly every reader. To find the list simply go to:

<https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/info-2024/new-spring-books-preview.html>

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

April 17, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club and author talk to discuss *"The Warsaw Sisters"* by Amanda Barratt. Author Amanda Barratt joins in to discuss her novel which is inspired by true stories of ordinary individuals who fought to preserve freedom and humanity during a dark period in history. The book tells the story of Antonina

and Helena Dabrowska who send their father off to defend Poland against the German invasion in 1939. When Antonina's beloved, Marek, is forced behind ghetto walls along with the rest of Warsaw's Jewish population, Antonina becomes a part of a daring network of women risking their lives to save and shelter Jewish children. Meanwhile, Helena is drawn to join the ranks of Poland's secret army fighting to free Poland from occupation. But, the secrets both must keep threaten to tear the sisters apart.

****Registration is required to participate in these book discussions. 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 April to the Monmouth County Library System...

The Monmouth County Library system will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including: several author talks (by the likes of Smithsonian Curator Paula Johnson, Joy Harjo, Xochitl Gonzalez, Colum McCann and Diane Foley), yoga sessions, poetry readings, lectures (on topics such as Frank Sinatra, The Sky by Day and Night, Growing a Herb-licious Garden, The Hindenburg Experience, Kandinsky Creations of Modern Abstract Art, Strategies to Overcome Health Literacy Challenges, Growing a Vegetable Garden, One Hit Wonders, Exploring America's National Treasures: National Parks Unveiled, Prohibition in Monmouth County, Remembering Poe, Preserving Your Family Records and Historic Document Conservation at the Monmouth County Archives, The Life and Many Loves of Robert Mantell, Dementia Conversations, Andrew Carnegie: From Steel to the Building of Libraries, White House Brides, Eternal Spring, Talkin' Baseball: 9 Innings of Graves, Homes and Sites From Our National Pastime, Wellness Initiative for Senior Education, etc.), a music performance by the Asbury Park Concert Band, writing workshops, English as a Second Language classes, art 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 April.**

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