

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



**Important News**

(1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library will be closed on February 20, 2023 for Presidents' Day.

(2) Have Books, CDs or DVDs to Donate? -- Just hold on to them a little bit longer. **We are not currently accepting donations, but some great news - we are planning on having a donation day very soon at our library. So keep those books, CDs, and DVDs in a safe, dry space and we will send you more details as soon as we have a date finalized.** Thank you in advance for your support!

(3) It's NOT Too Late, But You Need To **Act Fast!** -- As we mentioned last month, thanks to a generous donation by Patricia and Robert Smilon, **we are having an exciting giveaway of two tickets to a very special performance of the NJ Symphony Orchestra at the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank on February 24, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.** The performance entitled "The Best of John Williams" will be conducted by Damon Gupton.

**How do you enter for the drawing?** Simply join the Friends or ensure that your Friends membership is current. All members (those who have paid their 2023 dues) will be automatically entered. **The drawing is scheduled for February 6, 2023 so you need to act fast if you haven't yet renewed your membership.**

How do you renew or join?

**If you haven't yet renewed your membership in the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library membership, it is super easy to do:**

Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org) or directly by clicking [here](#)

And, don't forget...if you find the services we provide helpful, spread the word! Let your friends, family and neighbors know about the Friends of the Ocean Township Library and ask them to consider becoming a member. Simply print out a copy of our membership form (located on our website: [www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org)) for them and ask them to return it to the address provided on the form.

**Please note:** For your convenience you can choose to pay your \$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](http://www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org)

We appreciate your support and a special thank you to all the members of the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library who have already renewed!

(4) Love is in the Air -- Everyone knows February 14th is Valentine's Day, but did you know that the month of February is also National Library Lover's Month? It's true. And, our library offers a great deal to love - books (print, audio, e-books), DVDs, magazines, and computers, as well as fun and interesting special programs -- such as author talks, book clubs, musical performances, and free hit movies. There are even special fun programs just for children and teens -- a great way for your family members to make new friends. Stop in and find out more -- and, while you are there, be sure to thank our library staff for helping make



our library a place we all love .



## 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 movies are being shown this month. **All the movies are free to attend!**

**February 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** -- **Gigi and Nate** starring Marcia Gay Harden, Diane Ladd, Jim Belushi, and Josephine Langford (2022) (Rated PG-13)

**February 9, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** -- **Amsterdam** starring Christian Bale, Margot Robbie, Chris Rock and John David Washington (2022) (Rated R)

**February 16, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** --**The Good House** starring Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline, Morena Baccarin, and Rob Delaney (2021) (Rated R)

**February 23, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** -- **The Banshees of Inisherin** starring Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, and Kerry Condon (2021) (Rated R)

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

**(2) A Musical Interlude** -- **Come enjoy an hour of music as our branch welcomes the very popular Charlie's Band on February 15, 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 sponsored by the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library.)**

**(3) 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 February 28, 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).

**(4) 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 February.** Select the event you are interested in and you you will see a small "Register" box at the bottom of the presentation description



### [Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators](#)

**(1) The Township of Ocean Historical Museum -- [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](#) will be open on Sundays in February from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**(A) Don't Miss the Museum's Winter Speaker event "The Historical and Cultural Context of the War in Ukraine" on February 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Park Recreation Center (615 West Park Avenue).** This talk, by Michael Andrec, archivist at the Ukraine History and Education Center in Somerset, NJ, will present an introduction to the history of Ukraine, along with an overview of the country's diverse culture and linguistic landscape.

**(B) Looking For Volunteers -- The Museum is once again opening its doors to Ocean Township elementary school classes** for the first time since the COVID pandemic shut down the program three years ago. Due to changes in state curriculum standards, the program is now going to be offered to second grade students. And, **the Museum is looking for some volunteers to read "The Story of the Old Farmhouse" to the young visitors, and other volunteers to help guide the students through the galleries.** Volunteers will receive training, a printed guide, and will be given ample opportunity to observe and practice. **Approximately 12 to 14 class visits will happen from April through May, usually between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** Volunteers can sign up for as many or as few sessions as they wish.

**The first volunteer training session is scheduled for February 21, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Museum** (attendance at the session doesn't commit you to becoming a volunteer). **If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more email the Museum [here](#).**

**(C) Make Time To Explore Local Archaeological Discoveries:** The Township of Ocean Historical Museum is currently featuring a mini-exhibit of historical artifacts that were unearthed during a 2019-2020 archaeological study of the former site of the Eden Woolley House on the corner of Deal Road and Route 35. The study provides insights into the time period, settlement patterns, and activities of Native Americans who occupied the site. Among the artifacts uncovered are remnants of tools, shards of ceramic containers, burned rock and more. **Be sure to visit our town's Museum to view the exhibit and learn more about early life at the Eden Woolley Farmstead.**

Additional fascinating details about the exhibit and archaeological dig, including a slide show, can be found [here](#).

(2) **Turner Art Gallery -- The Turner Art Gallery, is hosting an exhibit, "Dedicated Effort", through February 23, 2023, featuring the work of the talented students of artist Theresa Trocchia.** Please note: some of the displayed art is available for purchase.

(3) **Day Brightener -- One thing that makes our community so special is how residents reach out to help others in town. A great example is happening this month thanks to The Township of Ocean Garden Club. They are making more than 70 beautiful floral arrangements for a local retirement center and for residents who participate in our town's Meals on Wheels Program.** Kudos to the Garden Club for helping to brighten the day for others! **Interested in learning more about the Garden Club and its activities? Reach out to John Lubisco via the Garden Club's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/597553924494267/>**



### Happening Around Town

(1) **St. Patrick's Day Celebration -- The Township of Ocean Mayor and Council together with the Community Hope Fund invite you to join them for a St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at The Renaissance (1100 Highway 35) honoring former Mayor**

Christopher Siciliano. The event includes a buffet dinner, music and dancing. The cost is \$40 per person if you register before February 15, 2023 and \$45 per person for registrations after February 15th. **You must send in your payment and completed registration form no later than March 3, 2023. For your convenience, you'll find the registration form attached to this newsletter.**

**(2) How Do I? -- Have Questions? Find Answers!** Wondering how to request senior transportation, determine whether you need a building permit, find out how to sign up for recreation programs or even locate your home's garbage/recycling schedule? Look no further. **These and a host of other questions are answered on our town's website: [www.oceantwp.org](http://www.oceantwp.org)** Simply go to the website and **click on the "How Do I?" button** on the right hand side of the home page to get started.



### Helpful Tip

**(1) If you'd like to download free library e-books to your device, here are some helpful tips geared to specific devices. [The following links provide step-by-step directions:](#)**

**[For Kindle \(but not Kindle Fire\)](#)**

**[For Nook](#)**

**[For Ipad, Android, iPod touch, Kindle Fire, Nook HD and others](#)**

Hope you find this tip helpful.



## 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) Insights** -- Books can help us explore other perspectives and life experiences and grow in the process. *The Wall Street Journal* has compiled a stand-out list of twelve books, including poetry, novels, folktales and cookbooks, to help enrich your understanding of the Black experience during this Black History Month. To find the list go to [this link](#).

**(2) A Very Good Year** -- 2023 is gearing up to be a fantastic year for book lovers -- with exciting new releases coming in nearly every genre. But, where to start? Look no further than Goodreads which has made the task super easy by compiling a list of the "Most Anticipated Books of 2023" -- including one of the books most buzzed about "*Chain Gang All Stars*" by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah. To find the full list go to [this link](#).

**(3) Calling All Sleuths** -- 2023 is going to be your year! There are going to be many, many murders to solve this year, if the list of new mysteries set to be published this year is any indication. To get ready, be sure to browse Goodreads' list of "2023's Most Anticipated Mysteries & Thrillers" so you don't miss a single crime that needs solving. The list can be found [here](#).

**(4) Learning from Lincoln** -- This month we celebrate Presidents' Day and a Pulitzer Prize-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author believes President Lincoln can teach us a great deal today as we also deal with a divided nation. Jon Meacham's new book "*And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*" examines President Lincoln's leadership and how he faced the daunting task of sticking to his convictions while trying to bring together a divided nation. Recently AARP sat down with the award-winning author to discuss his new book and

how the challenges Lincoln faced more than 150 years ago still exist today. To read more about the book and Jon Meacham's perspective go to: <https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/info-2023/jon-meacham-interview.html>

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

**February 8, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club to discuss "*Defending Britta Stein*" by Ronald H. Balson.** Popular Chicago restaurant owner, Ole Henryks, is set to be honored in 2018 by the Danish/American Association for his many civic contributions. Most consider him a hero for his actions in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II -- however, Britta Stein definitely does not. The 90-year old woman levels public accusations against Henryks by spray-painting "coward," "traitor," and "collaborator" on the walls of his restaurant. Stein is charged with a crime and faces a defamation lawsuit by Henryks and his son. Now Stein's attorney must reach back in time to locate evidence to prove Stein's innocence.

**February 16, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club to discuss "*Magnifico: The Brilliant Life and Violent Times of Lorenzo de' Medici*" by Miles Unger.** Il Magnifico (The Magnificent) Lorenzo de' Medici was the foremost patron of his day and also a renowned poet. He befriended the greatest artists and writers of his time -- Leonardo, Michelangelo, and Botticelli, among others. Yes, he was the leading statesman of his age, but he was also a cunning and ruthless political operative.

**February 23, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual short story discussion to discuss "*Shooting an Elephant*" by George Orwell.** The town's sub-divisional police officer has serious concerns about shooting an elephant that has been terrorizing his community.

**\*\* ([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!!





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

(Unless otherwise noted, all of these programs require registration. Instructions for registering can be found at the end of this section.)

(1) **Music and Romance** -- With love in the air, as we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, be sure and tune in for a virtual performance "Rhythm and Romance: a Journey of Musical Discovery" by pianist and vocalist **Jay Daniels**. The show will take you through the music of the early 20th century -- including love songs by Irving Berlin, Oscar Hammerstein & Jerome Kern, and George and Ira Gershwin. **This performance is available for viewing throughout the month of February on the Monmouth County Library's website at: [www.MonmouthCountyLib.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyLib.org)**

(2) **Need Tax Help?** -- Free income tax preparation provided by the AARP Foundation/Tax-Aide Volunteers is now available for SIMPLE FEDERAL and NEW JERSEY returns ONLY at several Monmouth County Library branches. **Please note that all taxpayers must be present when their tax return is prepared (if filing a joint return BOTH taxpayers must be present).**

More information regarding Tax Forms and documentation requirements is available [here](#).

Tax preparation help is available:

(A) At the Monmouth County Library's Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury between February 1, 2023 and April 15, 2023.

**Important Note:** **You MUST make an appointment for tax preparation help at this branch. To make an appointment go to: <https://tinyurl.com/TaxAideEasternBranch>. Do not call the library, they will not be able to make an appointment for you.**

Tax preparation help is available at the Eastern Branch on:

Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Fridays from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Face masks are required during all appointments.

(B) At the Marlboro Branch between February 2, 2023 and April 13, 2023 on the following days:

Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Important Note: **No appointments are required for this branch. Walk in, first come, first served.** Face masks are required during all appointments.

(C) At the Wall Township Branch between February 3, 2023 and April 14, 2023 on the following days:

Mondays from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Fridays from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Important Note: **No appointments are required for this branch. Walk in, first come, first served.** Face masks are required during all appointments.

(3) Gardening Helpline -- some expert virtual advice is available on February 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to address your horticulture and garden questions thanks to Rutgers Master Gardener **Diane Lawson**. Spring isn't too far off so get a jump start this month by having your gardening questions answered. Please email all questions in advance (by February 1, 2023 at noon) to Ms. Lawson at [MonCoLibrary1922@gmail.com](mailto:MonCoLibrary1922@gmail.com)

(4) **Unclutter Your Life** -- with some help thanks to a series conducted by **Jamie Novak**, organizing humorist and author of the book *"Keep This, Toss That"*. You'll pick-up many helpful tips and by the end of the series you'll be on the way to living clutter free. **These virtual sessions will be held:**

**February 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. -- Collectibles**  
**February 22, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. -- Photographs**

**(5) Heart Health Month -- February also is Heart Health Month and you can pick up some great information and strategies to fine tune your heart health on February 9, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. with a live Zoom presentation "Cooking Your Way to a Healthy Heart" with Rachel Tansey of the Family & Community Health Sciences Department, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Monmouth County. You'll learn how to improve your heart health by stocking your pantry, menu planning, and cooking skills.**

**(6) Quick Bites -- Join Chef Rob for a series of virtual Quick Bites as he provides tips to create something savory or sweet this month. These virtual quick bites are available to view on the Monmouth County Library's website at: [www.MonmouthCountyLib.org](http://www.MonmouthCountyLib.org)**

**Here is the Quick Bites Schedule:**

**February 4, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- Pretzel Rolls for the Big Game**  
**February 11, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- New York-Style Garlic Knots**  
**February 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. -- Bang Bang Chicken Lettuce Wraps**

**Recipes are available on the Monmouth County Library's Eventkeeper site by clicking [here](#)** Simply scroll down to the date of the Quick Bite session you are interested in viewing and you'll find instructions on how to access the recipe.

**(7) Supporting Our Right to Vote -- On February 14, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. learn more about the League of Women Voters as they mark the organizations' 103 birthday. There are three ways to attend -- In-person at the Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury, in-person at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan, or via Zoom. No registration is required for in-person attendance. Please contact the League of Women Voters at [www.LWVMonmouth.org](http://www.LWVMonmouth.org) for Zoom instructions and participation.**

**(8) Wonderful Watercolors -- Join artist Lynn Cummings via Zoom as she teaches a contemporary approach to watercolor painting that frees artists to explore new materials and new methods of applying paint in a special three-part series.**

**February 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. -- Introduction to Watercolor** -- will provide a focus on terminology, basic materials, and color theory, followed by a demonstration on creating an exciting wash.

**February 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. -- Negative Painting** -- will provide a demonstration on painting the first layer.

**February 28, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. -- Finishing the Painting** -- will provide a demonstration on mixing colors and making foreground subjects "pop".

**Each of the three sessions builds upon the last. And, once you register for one, you'll automatically be signed up for all three.**

**A detailed list of the required supplies you will need can be found on the Monmouth County Library's Eventkeeper site by [clicking here](#) Simply scroll down to the session's date/time for the complete list of materials.**

**(9) Henri Matisse Inspired** -- Learn how to draw a goldfish in a container based on the artwork of Henri Matisse in this virtual art class with **Barbara Freiberg on February 28, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.** You'll need the following supplies to participate: pencil, eraser, ruler or straight edge, one piece of 9x12 white drawing or sketch paper, and crayola markers or similar brand.

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

**February 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. -- Join Joni and Larry Jones**, the original founders of POAC (Parents of Autistic Children), **as they present a virtual program "Success in Autism: Filling in the Gaps"**. The discussion will include diagnosis and intervention, breaking through plateaus, sibling issues, parental mental health issues, dealing with disagreements over a plan of action and care, and other matters. A question and answer segment will follow the presentation.

**February 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. -- Join Susan Puder**, photographer and environmental activist, **for "Birding 101: A Virtual Program"**. You'll learn the basics of bird watching, how birds evolved, their importance, and their

declining populations. The presentation will also include a discussion of binoculars, feeders, and food.

**February 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. -- Join Bernadette Rogoff, Director of Collections for the Monmouth County Historical Association, for "Julia's Wardrobe" a presentation about Julia Norton Hartshorne, the wife of Benjamin Minturn Hartshorne a native of Monmouth County who ran a successful steamboat company along the West Coast. In 1868 Julia ordered an entire new wardrobe, only to fall ill and die in February of 1869.** Thanks to the generosity of the Hartshorne family descendants, **Julia's wardrobe is now part of the Monmouth County Historical Association's historical textile collection. During this presentation you will explore Julia's style and personality with an enjoyable virtual fashion show.**

**February 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. -- Join documentary filmmaker Craig Dudnick for a virtual roundtable discussion of his film "Evanston's Living History: The Fight to Escape Racial Discrimination". This documentary shares the story of one community's struggle for justice after the horrific lynching of one its prominent citizens, Anthony Crawford.** The film follows the lives of Crawford's descendants as their fought for passage of U.S. Senate Resolution 39 which apologized for the Senate's failure to enact anti-lynching legislation.

**This documentary is available to view via Kanopy streaming movie service -- which is included with your Monmouth County library card. [Here is the link.](#)**

**(11) Encore! Encore! Encore!** -- If you missed this earlier Monmouth County Library virtual offering, now is your chance to catch it during its special encore presentation...

**February 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. -- Celebrating Black History: Power of African American Stories in Art of Bisa Butler -- Join historian and cultural activist Thelma Armstrong for a rebroadcast of this story of the impressive works and images of American fiber artist, Biba Butler.** Butler is an American artist known for celebrating Black life through her portraits and designs. Her art has been exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum of American History, EPCOT, and the National Underground Railroad Center.

Please note: To view this encore performance, go to the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking [here](#) Scroll down to the date for the encore event you are interested in viewing and follow the instructions provided in the presentation description.

(12) Self Care -- If you are interested in meditation or yoga, then be sure to check out the Monmouth County Library for a host of self-care programs they are offering each month. For a list of the sessions and to register simply go to: [the Monmouth County Library EventKeeper site by clicking here](#)

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



[Help Our Community](#) -- Want to do your part to help our community? Here are simple ways you can make a difference

(1) DEADLINE Extended! -- If you haven't yet applied for New Jersey's property tax relief program, ANCHOR, it is not too late. The deadline for submissions has been extended to February 28, 2023. As a reminder, the new ANCHOR program can provide up to \$1,500 in property tax relief. To be eligible you must have occupied your primary resident on October 1, 2019 and met income limits. You must also file (or be exempt from) NJ income taxes. Payments will be sent out no later than May 2023. **Please note that hundreds of thousands of renters are also be eligible to receive \$450 in tax relief.** To find out more about the ANCHOR program, including how benefits are calculated and paid and answers to frequently asked questions, you can visit: [https://www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor/index.shtml?utm\\_campaign=20220916\\_nwsltr&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor/index.shtml?utm_campaign=20220916_nwsltr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

**(2) New Liability Requirements -- New Jersey vehicle owners must now carry a minimum of \$25,000 in liability insurance and uninsured/under-insured motorist coverage.** This change went into effect on January 1st of this year. Be sure to check with your insurance company to ensure that you are carrying the new required insurance coverage on your vehicle.

**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 about or a suggestion for our newsletter -- send an email to [friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoceantwplibrary@gmail.com)