

"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"
FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS
FEBRUARY 2022



Important News

(1) All branches of the Monmouth County Library will be closed on February 21, 2022 in observance of President's Day.

(2) Book Sale Update -- Good news! We are once again able to access our book sale storage room to begin organizing our inventory for a book sale, hopefully in April. We are sorry that we are still unable to accept any donations at this time since our storage room is full. We will let you know as soon as we are able to accept donations. Thank you for your understanding.

(3) Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your Friends membership! Our membership drive continues... How can you help?

(A) It Is Not Too Late -- If you haven't yet renewed your membership in the Friends of the Library it is not too late to do so now. As you know, membership in the Friends runs on a calendar year. Membership dues are one of our major sources of funding now -- especially with our inability to hold book sales due to the pandemic. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2022 today.

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

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

(B) If you find our services, like this newsletter and our website, helpful, let your friends, family and neighbors know about the Friends of the Ocean Township Library and ask them to consider becoming a

member. Simply direct them to our website or print out a copy of our membership form located on our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org for them and ask them to return it to the address provided on the form.

We appreciate your support and thank you!



Updates from the Township of Ocean Library

(1) In-Person Story Time Suspended -- Effective immediately in-person story time is suspended until further notice due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases. However, please be sure to check out the Monmouth County Library's selection of virtual programs for children. You can access the schedule of virtual children's programs at www.monmouthcountylib/kids.

(2) Masking Up -- Due to the rapidly spreading COVID Omicron variant, which is proving to be highly contagious, **our library is now encouraging visitors -- whether vaccinated or unvaccinated -- to kindly wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces.**



Updates from Our Cultural Collaborators

(1) The Township of Ocean Historical Museum -- [The Township of Ocean Historical Museum](#) hopes to be open on Sundays in February from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. However, due to the fluid nature of the latest COVID surge, we recommend that you call ahead to confirm the museum is open before heading over to visit. The museum's phone number is 732-531-2136. **Please Note: As a result of the current COVID-19 surge masks are required for all visitors regardless of vaccination status.**



Happening Around Town

(1) As a result of rising COVID cases in our state, our town's municipal offices are closed to the public. The town's staff continues to be available to assist residents and conduct business Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through drop-off points and via email and telephone (732-531-5000). **You can find the latest information regarding the status of municipal office operations at the town's website: www.oceantwp.org**



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) Celebrate Our Presidents -- This month we celebrate President's Day which is a perfect time to check out Goodreads list of the the "Best Presidential Biographies". The list, which contains over 400 suggestions, will help you explore the lives of Harry Truman, Franklin Roosevelt, John Adams, John F. Kennedy, James Madison, Ronald Reagan and more. You are sure to find a book that both interests and enlightens. **To browse the list simply go to: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/7572.Best_Presidential_Biographies_no_fiction**

(2) Create Your Own Book Club or Join Another Club -- Amazon has launched "Amazon Book Clubs" a FREE feature that allows you to create your own book club or join an already established public Amazon Book Club. The process of joining or creating a club is easy -- all you need is an Amazon.com account to get started.. **To learn more go to: www.amazon.com/amazonbookclubs and click on the "How It Works" tab on the top left of the home page.**

(3) Explore Black History -- February is Black History Month and if you are interested in finding an excellent read for not only Black History Month, but anytime, **then be sure to review Esquire's list "16 of the Most Essential Books on Black History to Read Before, During and Well After Black History Month".** You'll

find classic masterpieces as well as books by contemporary and up and coming Black authors. **You can find Esquire's list at:**

<https://www.esquire.com/entertainment/books/g35566365/black-history-books/>

(4) Don't Put 2021 in the Rear View Mirror Just Yet -- Until you check out The Washington Post's 10 Best Books of 2021 to see if there is a great read you may have missed. (You can click on each book listed to read a synopsis too.) To check out the list go

to: https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/169151.The_Washington_Post_10_Best_Books_of_2021

(5) Anticipation -- Eager to know what are some of the most anticipated books being published this month? Then you need look no further than Goodreads list of "February 2022 Releases". You'll find over 100 books hitting the shelves this month. To see the full list go to: <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/february-2022-releases>

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

February 9, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this new virtual romance book club to discuss **"Good Company" by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney.** This romance is about a woman who has been happily married for more than 20 years. But, everything she believed is upended when she stumbles upon an envelope containing her husband's wedding ring -- the one he claimed to have lost.

February 17, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual history book club to discuss **"Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland" by Patrick Radden Keefe.** In 1972 Jean McConville, a mother of ten, was dragged from her home by masked intruders as her children clung to her legs. Her children never saw her again. McConville's abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of the armed conflict known as "The Troubles". This book uses what happened to McConville as a starting point for a discussion of a society wracked by a violent war -- a war whose consequences have never been fully reckoned with.

February 23, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. -- Join this virtual book club to discuss **"Malibu Rising" by Taylor Jenkins Reid.** This book transports you to August 1963 as Nina Riva is planning her annual end-of-summer party -- a party that everyone want to attend to see the famous offspring of the legendary singer Mick Riva. But, by the time the party ends and the sun rises on the next morning, the Riva mansion will be destroyed by flames and the secrets and loves that shaped this family for generations will have all come to the surface.

**** ([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) Want a Good Laugh? -- Then be sure to tune in from February 1, 2022 to February 15, 2022 to view the Classic Radio Players' Virtual Comedy Program which brings back to life the Golden Age of Radio with recreations of classic radio programs. The Classic Radio Players renditions include "My Favorite Husband," "The Bickersons," and "Baby Snook." No registration is required. The program is available for viewing on the Monmouth County Library website at: www.MonmouthCountyLib.org

(2) Need a Perennial Primer? -- Then you won't want to miss Debbie LaGattuta's presentation on February 3, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. During the program Ms. LaGattuta, a Rutgers Master Gardener, will discuss perennials, how and where to plant them, how to care for them, and how you can make wise decisions when purchasing perennials for your home landscaping.

(3) Find Out What's Buzzing -- Do you want to know more about honey bees? Have you ever wondered if beekeeping is for you? Then be sure to join Mike Haberland, Associate Professor/Agriculture from Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station's Cooperative Extension of Camden County, on February 10, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. for an introduction to the honey bee. You'll learn how these bees organize their colony, make honey, and what tools you'll need to become a beekeeper.

(4) Enjoy Some Movie Night Munchies -- Join Chef Rob on February 26, at 3:00 p.m. as he whips up some tasty snacks for a fun family movie night LIVE on the Monmouth Library's Facebook Page -- which can be accessed through the Library's website at: www.MonmouthCountyLib.org

The menu includes:

Shrimp Scampi Flatbread

Pizza Nachos

Cinnamon White Hot Chocolate with Chocolate Marshmallow Stirrers

(You will receive emailed recipes and photos when you register.) **And, don't forget to stop by our library branch to pick out the perfect flick to watch while enjoying these tasty snacks!**

(If you miss the LIVE Facebook event, this program will be rebroadcast on the Monmouth County Library's YouTube [Food Festival Playlist](#) after its initial airing.)

(5) Attend a Poetry Reading -- On February 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. join poet David Mills for "Boneyard: Poems About Slavery in NYC". Mills will read from his poetry collection, "Boneyard", the first-ever book of poems about slavery in New York City. Mills creatively tells the tragedies and triumphs of New York's enslaved and free Black community -- from those who sailed the Atlantic, to those who toiled as cooks and child chimney sweeps, to those who served as soldiers in the Revolutionary War, to those who built the "wall" where Wall Street gets its name.

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

February 15, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. -- "Lincoln: From Rail-Splitter to President" Join author and professional storyteller Lou Del Bianco as he portrays Lincoln as Civil War President, frontiersman and storyteller in this interactive dramatic program. During this presentation, Lincoln's values, honesty, education, perseverance and quest for social justice come shining through. **This program will be rebroadcast on the Monmouth County Library's website on February 18, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. To view go to: www.MonmouthCountyLib.org**

February 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. -- "Pencil Shavings and Eraser Crumbs" Join Kate Norris, Copy Editor at *The New Yorker*, for a presentation on copy-editing and how it is done at *The New Yorker*. You'll learn what goes into producing a renowned publication and you will have an opportunity to ask questions about grammar and language.

February 16, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. -- "Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat" Join Kristen Hock, New Jersey Audubon Habitat Outreach Coordinator, as she discusses why native plants are important, how to attract pollinators and songbirds, and how to be a responsible steward of the land.

February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. -- "Visiting Graves of Vice Presidents" Join T. J. Fallon, of the Dead History Channel, as he recounts his 2020 journey visiting the grave sites of every former U.S. Vice President. Hear about Fallon's fascinating -- and humorous -- journey to learn more about our country's "seconds in command".

February 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. -- "The Marion Thompson Wright Reader" Join acclaimed historian, professor and author Graham Russell Gao

Hodges for a fascinating lecture on Marion Thompson Wright. Hodges' newest book, "The Marion Thompson Wright Reader", **provides a scholarly accessible introduction to Marion Thompson Wright's classic book, "The Education of Negroes in New Jersey" and her full body of scholarly works.** Marion Thompson Wright's book (first published in 1941 and now long out of print) and her life are significant for the histories of New Jersey, African-Americans, local and national, women's and education history.

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Help Our Community -- Want to do your part to help our community? Here are simple ways you can make a difference:

(1) Donate Blood -- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a historic nationwide shortage of blood donations. These donations are needed to provide life-saving assistance to people injured in accidents or undergoing life-saving surgery. **If you can, please consider donating blood at one of the American Red Cross' blood drives in March. The blood drives are held at the Jersey Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross (1540 West Park Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ). To find the blood drive schedule and register just go to: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>**

(2) Get Your Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests -- Every home in the United States can now order up to FOUR FREE at-home COVID-19 tests from the federal government. The tests are completely free -- there are no shipping costs and you don't need to provide a credit card number. **To order your free tests simply go to: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>**
Once the government begins mailing out the test kits, you should expect to receive your order in 7 - 12 days.

(3) Get Boosted -- Booster shots are now approved for individuals ages 12 and older. **Everyone 12 years or older should get a booster shot if they received their one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine two months ago or if they received their second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine FIVE months ago.** The recent emergence of the Omicron variant showcases the importance of vaccination, boosters and other preventive efforts to protect yourself and those you love. If you haven't yet scheduled your booster there are several easy ways to find and book an

appointment. **The federal government has set up a system that allows you simply to text your zip code to 438829 to find available appointments. You also can locate appointments at www.covid19.nj.gov/finder**

**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