

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



Important News

(1) The Township of Ocean Library will be **closed on:**

- **November 5, 2024 for Election Day**
- **November 11, 2024 for Veterans Day**
- **November 28 and 29, 2024 for the Thanksgiving holiday**

Please note that all Monmouth County Library branches will be closing at 5:00 p.m. on November 27, 2024.

(2) **Honoring a Lifetime of Service -- Last year our group's founding member, past president and vice president, Phyllis Fyfe, passed away after a valiantly-fought health battle.** Phyllis left behind an incredible legacy of promoting literacy and education -- not only through her tireless work on behalf of the Friends, but also during her over 46 years as a school librarian.

To recognize Phyllis' lifetime of service, her commitment to our town, and her love of children, The Friends of the Township of Ocean is planning a special tribute.

We have designed a warm and inviting reading nook for the children's section of our library. The reading nook, aptly named "Mrs. Fyfe's Cozy Corner" will be located behind the children's librarian's desk.

The space will feature new bright cheery durable cushions, reupholstered small chairs, new carpeting, a fun story-time rug, fresh paint, colorful wall decor and more. **In fact, thanks to the hard work and dedication of a team of Friends members, led by Barbara Saint John, and a wonderful group of professionals from our town's Department of Public Works, you'll notice that the transformation has already begun.**

When finished, this space will create a welcoming reading area for our town's children and a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman who gave so much of her life to promote a love of reading to generations of young people.

As a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, we are accepting donations to help fund this initiative. If you'd like to contribute in Phyllis' memory, you can mail your donation to:

**The Friends of the Township of Ocean Library
c/o The Township of Ocean Library
701 Deal Road
Ocean Township, NJ 07712**

We will keep you updated on this project in future newsletters. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us by responding to this email. **Thank you.**

(3) Membership Drive Kicks Off -- As 2024 begins to wind down, please take a moment to renew your membership in the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library. And, as a special thank you, anyone who joins or renews between now and January 15, 2025 will be automatically entered in a special prize basket giveaway!

Our 100% volunteer-driven, member-supported, non-profit 501(c) (3) group relies on fund raising efforts and membership dues (**our annual dues are only \$5.00**) to provide services, fund programs, support our library, promote literacy, and keep you informed of what programs, events and services are available to you.

But, we need your help if we are to or continue to provide these services going forward. How can you help?

(A) If your membership has lapsed, please renew today (remember it only costs \$5.00 annually). If your membership is current (memberships run from January to December of each year), plan ahead and pay your 2025 membership dues now. Membership Renewal Forms are available online at our website: www.friendsofoceantwplibrary.org or directly by clicking [here](#)

(B) If you find the services we provide 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 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. **And, be sure to let them know they**

will be automatically entered into our special prize basket giveaway when they sign up!

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

We appreciate your support and thank you!



Keeping Up With The Friends

(1) Sunny Skies and a Fantastic Response -- With a picture perfect fall day as a backdrop, a dedicated band of **Friends members gathered last month for our town-wide Book Donation Day**. And, with the bright skies came many residents eager to donate their unwanted books, DVDs, and CDs.

As a result, we will have plenty of new inventory -- CDs, DVDs, biographies, classics, history books, novels, and more -- for our next book sale (in the Spring of 2025).

A sincere thank you to all the volunteers, including several from our town's high school, who volunteered to help. And, a special note of thanks to Lynn Librizzi, the chair of our Book Inventory Committee, who did an outstanding job getting us organized so the day ran smoothly.



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.

And, this month's movies include some classic romances and comedies -- so be sure to check them out.

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 November. 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 again this month. The discussion will be held at our branch on November 14, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The story is "*Hands*" by Sherwood Anderson. This story centers on Wing Biddlebaum, a man living in seclusion in a small town, who is haunted by a mysterious past. As he struggles with fear and shame, his expressive hands, once a symbol of his passion, have become a source of anxiety. **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) Exciting New Program Coming Soon! -- Our library branch will soon be introducing "The Ocean Township Library Book Club"! The first discussion, of Kate Quinn's New York Times bestseller "*The Alice Network*", will take place on December 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. In this amazing book two women -- a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 -- are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption. **The discussion will be moderated by branch librarian Debbie Bagchi.** Copies of the book will be available to pick up beginning on November 1, 2024. **Please note: Registration is NOT required.**

(4) Mark Your Calendar For Some More Toe-Tapping Music -- We are thrilled to tell you that Sandy Sasso and Band will be back at our branch on November 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. They 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.)

(5) **Artist Showcase** -- The Turner House Gallery, located within our library, continues to host the exhibit, "**Paintings from the Brushes of Manasquan River Group of Artists**," through at least November 8, 2024. If you haven't yet done so, be sure to stop by during our library's normal hours of operation -- to browse the beautiful work of these talented artists.

(6) **Did You Know** -- **That when you purchase books or DVDs from the cart located near the front desk in our library the money raised goes to the Friends of the Township of Ocean Library?** We use the sale proceeds to support our library and fund programs. So every time you make a purchase from the sale cart you are not only going home with a good book or DVD, but you're also making a difference for our library.

(7) **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

Wondering What's Next? -- Well, wonder no more! Thanks to the **What's Next™: Books in Series Database** if you want to find out what book is next in a series, you simply enter the title of the book, the author, or the name of the series and you'll get a list of the books in that series in the correct order. **And, accessing the database is as easy as can be.** Just go to: <https://monmouthcountylib.org/?s=novelist> and click on the "The What's Next™" button to get started.

We hope you find this tip helpful!



Happening Around Town

(1) **VOTE! VOTE!** -- Don't forget that Election Day is November 5, 2024. In addition to voting for President, Congressional Representative, and Senator, you'll also have an opportunity to cast your ballot to fill the one open seat on our Town Council and the three open seats on our town's school board. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. You can find your polling location at www.MonmouthCountyVotes.com or on the sample ballot you received in the mail.

(2) Honoring Our Town's Heroes -- The Township of Ocean will be hosting a Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at Town Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Please plan on joining other residents, veterans, and town officials as they recognize and thank our country's heroes for their service and sacrifice.

(3) It's Not Too Late... -- for you to help make Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need. The Community Hope Fund and the Township of Ocean Department of Human Services are hosting their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. You only have until November 15, 2024 to make a donation, so please act fast.

You can donate individual items or a complete box of food to accommodate a family of 4 - 6 people. Items most in need include: stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned soup, instant gravy, canned fruits/vegetables, instant potatoes, hot/cold cereals, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauces, instant hot chocolate and coffee, cookies, fruit snacks and crackers. Please check expiration dates on all food before making a donation.

If you wish to make a monetary donation to allow for the purchase of perishable items, gift cards, and turkeys, please make your check payable to the Community Hope Fund. (The Community Hope Fund is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and support the charitable needs of our community.)

All donations should be dropped off at the Department of Human Services building at 601 Deal Road by November 15, 2024. You can also drop off food donations from November 5, 2024 through November 8,

2024 at our Town's Municipal Gym (1100 West Park Avenue, across from the Township of Ocean Intermediate School). **For more information please call 732-531-2600.**

SPECIAL NOTE: Please consider giving some of your time to help as well. Volunteers are needed to help deliver the boxes of food throughout our community on November 23, 2024. **For more information and to volunteer, please call 732-531-2600 or reach out via email to mrudolph@oceantwp.org**

(4) **Calling All Photographers --** Our town is once again looking for submissions for the 2025 Township of Ocean calendar and website. **Specifically, our town is looking for photos depicting "the beauty and unique qualities of our township in all seasons, photos of volunteers in action at community events, or photos that speak to you and will show others what the Community of Gracious Living is all about".**

But ACT FAST! All photos must be e-mailed no later than November 10, 2024 to Tracey Berkowitz at tberkowitz@oceantwp.org and should include "2025 Township Photos" in the subject line. Photos must be a high resolution for printing. The town will give credit for all contributions that are used, so be sure to include your full name in your e-mail.

(5) **Adopt A Family --**The Township of Ocean Community Hope Fund is once again sponsoring its annual "Adopt a Family Holiday Gift Program". You can help brighten the holidays for families in need in our community. Sponsors are needed to provide gifts and necessities for children and their families. **If you are interested in helping and for more information, please call 732-531-2600 or reach out by email to mrudolph@oceantwp.org.**

(6) **Shop 'Til You Drop --** The immensely popular Township of Ocean Holiday Craft and Vendor Show returns on November 23, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Gym (1100 West Park Avenue -- across from the Intermediate School). **Over 50 crafters and vendors will be on hand and there will be visits and photo opportunities with The Grinch. And if all the shopping and fun gets you hungry -- The Robeanery Mobile Barista will be on hand with coffees and desserts. Be sure to drop by -- and happy shopping!!**

(7) More Shopping Fun -- Don't miss out on more shopping fun when the Township of Ocean Historical Museum hosts its highly popular Doll Clothes Sale -- just in time for the holidays. The sale will take place at the Museum (703 Deal Road) on November 9, 2024 and November 10, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more information go to: <https://www.oceanmuseum.org/>

(8) 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.

November 21, 2024 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. -- Join other town seniors for a Lunch & Learn presentation by Home Foot Care Services, whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for their clients by providing compassionate, professional, and personalized foot care in the comfort of their own homes. Their commitment is to make foot care accessible, convenient, and tailored to meet the unique needs of every client, helping them maintain mobility and independence with confidence. To register click on: [Lunch & Learn - Home Foot Care Services \(google.com\)](#)

November 25 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. -- It's BINGO! Join other town seniors for fun and games and a chance to win prizes at the West Park Recreation Center. Registration is required. To register click on [Community Pass](#) to login to your account.



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, moderated by Branch Manager Mary Patterson, will be held on November 14, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The story is "Hands" by Sherwood Anderson. This story centers on Wing Biddlebaum, a man living in seclusion in a small town, who is haunted by a mysterious past. As he struggles with fear and shame, his expressive hands, once a symbol of his passion, have become a source of anxiety. **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) Join The Ocean Township Book Club -- Next month our library branch will introduce "The Ocean Township Library Book Club"! The first discussion, of Kate Quinn's New York Times bestseller "The Alice Network", will take place on December 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. In this amazing book two women -- a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 -- are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption. The discussion will be moderated by branch librarian Debbie Bagchi. Copies of the book will be available to pick up beginning on November 1, 2024. Please note: No registration is required to participate.

(3) From Book to Screen -- With the growing popularity of streaming services, 2024 has seen a bumper crop of book-to-screen adaptations. For book lovers such adaptations offer two great benefits -- first, to have an opportunity to assess whether the adaptation is as good as the book and, second, a chance to unearth a previously undiscovered book after seeing the film or series. To help you get started, Goodreads has compiled a list of 45 books that have been adapted into feature films or TV series this year. The list includes "The Wild Robot", a children's book by Peter Brown, "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles, "Shogun" by James Clavell, "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan, "Capote's Women" by Laurence Leamer, "Bad Monkey" by Carl Hiaasen, "We Were the Lucky Ones" by Georgia Hunter, and more. To check out the full list go to: https://www.goodreads.com/blog/show/2849-the-biggest-book-to-screen-adaptations-of-2024?ref=pe_3097180_1059179030&rto=x_gr_e_nl_general&utm_campaign=October152024&utm_content=Book.to.Screen&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter

(4) Holiday Magic -- 'Tis the Season -- a special time spent with family and friends enjoying traditions and, of course, eating! Whether this is your first time playing host -- or your 30th -- it is always fun to experiment with new recipes and menu plans while picking up a tip or two along the way for making your entertaining extra special. To help you create some holiday magic, check out ThriftBooks "25 Must-Have Cookbooks for Holiday Entertaining". The list contains more than your usual traditional holiday cookbooks -- you'll find books that are cuisine

specific (think Korean American, Vegan, Chinese, Jewish, Mexican, Southern, etc.) **and even pop-culture-based** (think Star Wars, Harry Potter, the Hallmark Channel, Downton Abbey, etc.). **There are recommendations for books on holiday baking and even cocktail making. And, yes...you'll even find some traditional holiday cookbooks on the list as well. It's never too early to get in the holiday spirit, so start browsing the list at: <https://www.thriftbooks.com/blog/21-must-have-cookbooks-holiday-entertaining/>**

(5) Traveling Back in Time -- If historical fiction is your thing, but you're ready to explore a place and time other than the WWII era (which has inspired so many great novels), then you are in luck. The AARP has compiled a list of 10 fiction books, all written within the last ten years, where the settings include pre-Civil War America, Victorian England, the 1960s during the Civil Rights marches, the Colonies in the 1660s, 19th Century Ireland, and more. Who needs a time machine when a good book is at hand? To get started on your journey into the past go to: <https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/info-2024/historical-fiction-novels.html>

(6) Coming This Month -- If the book stack on your nightstand is getting low or you are just looking for something brand new to read, be sure to take a peek at The Library Journal's "Prepub Alert: The Complete List/November 2024 Titles". The list contains all the new books -- sorted by genre -- that publishers are releasing this month. You'll find new titles coming from Rhys Bowen, Michael Connelly, Danielle Steel, Janet Evanovich, Mike Lupica, David Baldacci, James Patterson, and more. So get a pad and pencil and start perusing the list and noting your next great reads. You'll find the full list at: <https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/Prepub-Alert-The-Complete-List-November-2024-Titles>

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



More To the Story

(1) Coming in November -- The Monmouth County Library System will host a wide range of virtual and in-person programs this month including:

- **Author Talks (By the likes of John Irving, Stanley Milford Jr., Victoria Aveyard, Jamie Beck, Javier Zamora, Elizabeth Acevedo, Mona Susan Power, and Kate Beaton)**
- **A special author talk (conducted in Spanish) with Javier Zamora**
- **Yoga Sessions**
- **Lectures:** including Stop Bugging Me: Avoiding Ticks in the Cooler Seasons, Wednesday Wisdom: On Intellectual Well-Being, Show Me The Monet (When He Was Young), Thanksgiving Table Talk, The Holmdel Horn Antenna, Welcome to Your National Parks, How to Tidy Up Quickly When Company Is on the Way, Historically Speaking: The Pilgrims and the Mayflower, The Brew That Was True in the Ancient Middle East and Egypt)
- **Monmouth Civic Choir Salute to Veterans**
- **The West African Kora (Harp) and Its Music**
- **1964: Year in Review Concert**
- **New Orleans Musical Gumbo with Zydeco-a-Go-Go**
- **Chef Rob's Virtual Holiday Recipe Series**
- **State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) One-on-One Q&A**
- **Rutgers Master Gardeners: Houseplants -- Know Your Roommates**
- **What's New to Medicare in 2025**
- **Writing Workshops**
- **English as a Second Language 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 November.](#)

(2) Coming in October 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 November from the NJSL:

- **Legacy of Remembrance: A History of WWI Monuments in New Jersey -- November 12, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.**
- **Introduction to Finding Grants -- November 19, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.**

- **Financial Aid Information Session** -- November 20, 2024 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 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