



LIBRARY NEWS

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The Morristown & Morris Township Library, 1 Miller Road, Morristown, NJ

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Director's Column by Chad Leinaweaver

Is there anything left to say which hasn't already been said about living through these strange pandemic times? As you can imagine, the Library staff has been working hard, both from home and in the building to offer curbside delivery, virtual programming, increased downloadable materials and online Summer Reading Clubs for all ages. We were able to visit the municipal pools with the Bookmobile following social distancing guidelines. Taking care of our historic building is important to us and we took advantage of the time we were closed during the pandemic to paint a few areas and continue with our important behind the scenes maintenance. The Circulation Room and Children's and Teen Rooms have never looked better! We have heard from many of our patrons via email and telephone over the past few months and I think it's safe to say that we all have one important thing in common-we have missed each other! The Library's phased reopening started on August 31. It went very well and we were thrilled to see our patrons again. We will continue to offer curbside delivery for patrons for whom visiting the Library in person is not possible. Our services will be somewhat limited in the coming months and up-to-date information about hours and amenities available will be posted on our website MMTLibrary.org. But for now, we are excited to be back and look forward to seeing you all again!

President's Message

by Susan Kleemeyer

It has been a very strange spring and summer for the whole world! So different and unusual from anything we have ever known. Hopefully, we will soon be back to life again in a somewhat normal (?) manner. But somehow I doubt that life will ever be completely as we knew it before Covid.

The Friends cannot wait to get back to our work and once again holding sales of used books. Speaking for myself, I miss the camaraderie of our busy bees down in the Bookworm Room and workroom.

Please hold us in your thoughts and if you haven't done so, please join and support the Friends of the Library.

Check out our website for more information on the programs and events at the Library!
www.MMTLibrary.org

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The Friends need YOU!

by Eileen Duch, Newsletter Editor

As you know, the Library has been closed due to Covid since March, and we can use some more FRIENDS. The Friends of the Library have been unable to host our book sales. Members' donations have been our only source of revenue. We are grateful if you have already joined us. If you wish to help, the form on page 4 can be used to send a donation to us or to become a FRIEND. Remember the Friends support the programs offered by the Library, and those will be returning in 2021.

Please remember to renew your membership in the new year and thank you for your support this year!

The Library Goes VIRTUAL! by Louis Muñoz Jr.

The Library has been having meetings and events throughout the pandemic! Libraries everywhere had to suspend public programs and close to the public this spring, but that didn't stop us from continuing to offer some of our most popular programs and even starting some new ones! First we took our beloved Monday evening and Friday morning *yoga classes* with Munah Hayes online, as well as our *Mindful Meditation* classes with meditation instructor (and new father!) John Madden. (Our yoga classes are now on the Library's lawn, weather permitting.) Next, our Readers' Advisor Sue Lipstein took her long-running monthly "*Book Lovers' Circle*" online, meeting not just once but twice a month.

In April we started a new online book club, the "*Virtual Classics Book Club*." We've had fun discussing such literary greats as *Little Women* and *Wuthering Heights*. The bimonthly meetups have been led by a variety of staff members, including Director Chad Leinaweaver, Jim Collins, and Louis Muñoz. This fall, we will be discussing *Song of Solomon*, *Lolita*, *Moby-Dick* and *Frankenstein* (for Halloween, natch).

Our "*Foreign Film Series*," hosted by Louis, moved online in late spring, every other Wednesday night as the "*Foreign Film Lovers Club*" to discuss foreign films from around the world. Our "*Pride Month Film Series*" also went online. Louis, Stephen Brunskill, and Abigail Hsu have picked up new skills and dusted off old ones to create a series of *book and movie reviews* for kids, young adults, and adults, most featuring titles that are available free to our patrons through Cloud Library and Kanopy on our website. We also launched our very own *YouTube* Channel in April. Type in MMTLibrary.org to find lots of great videos from staff and their families. At the Children's Department, Arlene Sprague, Beth Pettigrew, Rachel Shraer and special guest "Miss Elise" have created many enjoyable virtual storytimes, craft demonstrations and how-to videos, as well as a chapter read-aloud of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. The Reference Department and the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center have created some informative videos on how to use our databases from home and other subjects. (Please like and subscribe!) Last but not least, we are also offering *virtual author talks* such as one on September 8 featuring Maryanne Melloan Woods and her debut YA novel, *Lazarus*.

All of our virtual events are free and easy to join through the **GoToMeeting** platform. More information about upcoming events can be found in this newsletter as well as our Events Calendar on our website, www.mmtlibrary.org. We hope you will join us for these and future opportunities to meet and share together!

A Pandemic Peak by Mary Lynn Becza

When you are the caretakers of a building which is 103 years old, the maintenance work never ends! We are constantly planning for needed updates like new energy-efficient heating and air conditioning units as well as reacting to unexpected developments (*hurricanes, snowstorms and power outages, anyone?*) throughout the year. The Library recently began working on developing a series of long-range building and grounds projects and plans. These include the unseen projects such as replacing an outdated HVAC unit in our historical archives and prominent public projects such as beginning a multi-phase landscaping design and improvement plan.

We are currently very excited about a project which was moved ahead by a few months to take advantage of the Library being closed. Everyone knows how disruptive a major painting project can be in their own home but when painting a large public building those disruptions go to a whole other level! Whilst the building was closed in May and staff was still working exclusively from home, we were able to take advantage of the quiet and paint several areas of the building. This greatly decreased the amount of time and energy needed to undertake this type of painting project when the building is open. Working with a palette of colors chosen to complement both the 1917 Willis Wing and existing building furnishings, the 1935 Circulation Room and F.M. Kirby Gallery and the 2006 Teen and Children's rooms were all painted. Fresh new colors now highlight the architecture and brighten up these spaces beautifully. We hope you take a new look around (*and up at the ceiling!*) the next time you are in the Library!

Photos show painting done in the spring in the Circulation Room while the Library was closed.



News from the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center by Jeff Moy

Like many repositories around the country, this spring and summer we have been working from home to make New Jersey history available through our online outlets for the benefit of researchers, genealogists, educators, and students. Twitter followers of @NJHistoryCenter gain access to vintage postcards, photos of historic events and local neighborhoods, genealogy tips, and historic maps and atlases. We regularly post to the Library's Facebook page and publish articles in the MorristownGreen.com online news outlet. The History Center's online digital collections are continuously updated for visitors to the Library's website, MMTLibrary.org.

History Center staff members are also connecting virtually with the world through the Library's **YouTube** channel. Our YouTube videos explore specific collections, offer tips for researching family histories, revisit past presentations by local historians, and share insight on how to preserve family documents and papers.

The North Jersey History & Genealogy Center recently acquired the records of the Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County (GAAMC). Formed during the aftermath of the 1969 Stonewall Riots, Gay Activist Alliance chapters organized within several states to push for an end to discriminatory laws, offer support services, and provide a venue for social activities. GAAMC remains active and is New Jersey's largest operating organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. We are happy to continue to offer access to this and other important regional history archival collections available nowhere else in New Jersey.



ON THE SHELF

FICTION

by Valerie Cauley

In these trying times a book by a favorite author can give you solace, make you laugh, and transport you to a different place. Here is a list of tried and true authors who have new books coming out in the fall. Let's look forward to reading some of them!

SEPTEMBER

The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett

Monogamy by Sue Miller

All the Devils Are Here by Louise Penny

OCTOBER

Magic Lessons by Alice Hoffman

Just as I Am by Cicely Tyson

A memoir as interesting as fiction!

The Searcher by Tana French

The Sentinel by Lee and Andrew Child

Modern Comfort Food by Ina Garten

Might as well be fiction for us home cooks!

In the Lion's Den by Barbara Taylor Bradford

NOVEMBER

Piece of my Heart by Mary Higgins Clark and Alafair Burke

DECEMBER

Perestroika in Paris by Jane Smiley

NYPD Red by James Patterson

Hush-Hush by Stuart Woods

LARGE-PRINT by Louis Muñoz Jr.

Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters by Jennifer Chiaverini

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*, as well as the popular *Resistance Women*, returns to her most famous heroine, Mary Todd Lincoln, in this story of love, loss, and sisterhood rich with history and suspense.

Where We Come From by Oscar Cásares

A stunning and timely novel about a Mexican-American family in Brownsville, Texas, that reluctantly becomes involved in smuggling immigrants into the US. Tackling the crisis of immigration policy from a deeply human angle, this book explores the ways that family history shapes us, how secrets can burden us, and how finding compassion and understanding for others can ultimately set us free.

The Secret Wife of Aaron Burr by Susan Holloway Scott

Inspired by a woman and events forgotten by history, Susan Holloway Scott weaves together carefully researched fact and fiction to tell the story of Mary Emmons and the place she held in the life and heart of the notorious Aaron Burr. Sold into slavery as a child in India, brought to an America torn by war, and toughened by the experiences of her young life, Mary is intelligent, resourceful, and strong. She quickly gains the trust of her new mistress, Theodosia Prevost, and becomes indispensable in a complicated Colonial New Jersey household filled with intrigue — especially when Theodosia marries Colonel Aaron Burr. As Theodosia sickens with a fatal disease, Mary and Burr are drawn together into a private world of power and passion, and a secret, tangled union that would have shocked the nation.

Food Fix: How to Save Our Health, Our Economy, Our Communities, and Our Planet — One Bite at a Time by Mark Hyman, M.D.

Pairing the latest developments in nutritional and environmental science with an unflinching look at the dark realities of the global food system and the policies that make it possible, *Food Fix* is a hard-hitting manifesto from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Mark Hyman, MD, that will change the way you think about — and eat — food forever, and will provide solutions for citizens, businesses, and policy makers to create a healthier world, society, and planet.

NONFICTION by Stephen Brunskill

The Silver Swan: In search of Doris Duke by Sallie Bingham

Bingham offers a revealing portrait of Doris Duke, exploring her professional forays into war correspondence, environmentalism, investment and philanthropy, and extracting the reality behind this complicated person's famous and often scathing public image.

Tiny Habits: the Small Changes That Change Everything by BJ Fogg, PhD.

Bestselling author and founder of *The Behavior Design Lab* at Stanford University, Fogg claims that motivation doesn't have to be hard. His book offers perspectives on developing habits which can help you deal with weight loss, personal safety, and even build better relationships too!

Bad Data: Why We Measure the Wrong Things and Often Miss the Metrics That Matter by Peter Schryvers

So much is being touted as being driven by "big data" and algorithms today. This book offers a key to better understanding many aspects of contemporary life, with a big dollop of "information hubris" that reveals important insight on finding the right metrics to evaluate it. An expert in environmental design and city planning, Schryvers delves into many issues affecting us — health, professional productivity, education, the environment, economics, and overall well-being — and also examines how odd metrics lead to bad outcomes.

Gay Like Me: a Father Writes to His Son by Richie Jackson

When his son, born through surrogacy, comes out to him at age 18, the author, in his 50s, successful and happily married, writes to him. This collection of notes to his son reveals his own progress and growth as a gay man, exploring his coming of age and ultimately redefining gay identity in his own eyes with a warning that nothing can be taken for granted.

Ultimate Veg: Easy & Delicious Meals For Everyone by Jamie Oliver

World-renowned Jamie Oliver brings his brilliantly easy, delicious, and flavor-packed vegetable recipes stateside. In addition to his unique takes on curries and traybakes, he also shares insights into more familiar common fare, offering hints, tips, and nutritional data throughout. You don't have to be a vegan or vegetarian to enjoy this book!

Who Is Alex Trebek? A Biography by Lisa Rogak

In the wake of Trebek's recent stage-four cancer diagnosis, this book reflects on who this one-of-a-kind game-show legend is, and what *Jeopardy!* means to him. Rogak explores Trebek's pre-*Jeopardy!* days, sharing his tribulations with divorce and depression, and celebrates the man who found himself again, becoming a better person today.

Character: the History of a Cultural Obsession by Marjorie Garber

Can you teach it? Can you claim it? What is the stuff that makes it? Garber offers an investigation into the seemingly enduring human obsession and concept of character in literature, psychology, politics, and everyday life.

Just for TEENS! by Abigail Hsu

Staying connected and well-informed is more important than ever in our current era of social distancing! Be sure to check out the Library website's Teen section (MMTLibrary.org/teens) for curated book lists, recommended websites, and upcoming VIRTUAL teen events. For reading suggestions, fill out our online **Curbside Concierge** form and a librarian will select books and media according to your preferences.

TEEN PROGRAMS FOR THE FALL:

Register online by searching for "Events" on the Library's website (www.MMTLibrary.org) or the Library's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MMTLibrary).

Author Talk with local author Maryanne Melloan Woods (Tuesday 9/8 from 7:00–8:00 PM)

Join us for a chat with Maryanne Melloan Woods about her debut YA novel, *Lazarus*, a thrilling mystery that features a young woman and the ghost of her boyfriend as they investigate a recent murder in their small town. Maryanne, who is also a screenwriter and playwright, will be sharing about the process of writing *Lazarus* as well as offering advice for aspiring writers.

Scholarship Seminar with Jean O'Toole

(Monday 9/21 from 7:00–8:00 PM)

Jean O'Toole is a Scholarship strategist, speaker and author specializing in empowering young people and their families to take a unique approach to the outside scholarship search. In a one-hour seminar, she will discuss scholarship myths and misconceptions, where to find scholarships, how to identify scams and more. The seminar is suited for students and their parents/guardians.

College Funding Workshop with Jodi Bloom

(Tuesday 10/13 from 6:30–8:00 PM)

Jodi Bloom is a College Planning Expert and the founder of Cornerstone College Solutions. Her 90-minute workshop is designed to help families figure out how to pay for college without jeopardizing retirement. Learn the "ins and outs" of the financial aid system, how to develop a college plan with proven strategies and financial alternatives, and more! The workshop is best suited for parents/guardians of middle school and high school students.

Teen Book Club

(Tuesdays 10/6, 11/3 from 3:00–3:30 PM)

**The CHILDREN'S ROOM** by Arlene Sprague

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time we were patting ourselves on the back after a busy, successful summer. Now, instead, we are planning for a fall with limited service options. Yet, with both scenarios, we worked hard at providing our patrons with essential materials. Story time was moved online to the Library's **YouTube** channel. Many publisher's graciously granted librarians and teachers temporary permission to record stories for remote watching. Our online story times also include a craft idea to try and keep story time as "normal" as possible. Many companies have extended the deadline, once again, through the end of December. We will keep recording story time as long as possible and our story times will remain available until permission is stopped.

Instead of encouraging children to be creative at our indoor craft tables, we instituted *Take and Make* to allow families to pick up story and craft packages, or just craft bags for older children. Instead of brown bag lunches, we served *brown bag crafts*. We plan on continuing to have brown bag crafts accessible even after we reopen our doors. Among the choices were fire engine crafts accompanied by fire fighter books, fish crafts accompanied by fish books, and bear crafts accompanied by bear books.

Books were available through curbside delivery. When unsure of a title or author, we happily selected titles for families. Many families borrow 15 to 20 books a visit for nightly reading over the month loan period. They were surprised to call and find we would choose books based on their preferences and set them aside — even if they wanted 20 books. Along with the Adult Department, the Children's Department purchased additional titles for the Cloud Library. Ebook demand grew when our doors were closed, and we responded to the need by making more books available electronically. New print books were also purchased and those titles were available with curbside pickup.

For summer reading, the State Library purchased the READSquared program for libraries to use. Readers recorded the minutes they read and worked towards earning badges that awarded them small prizes. They also earned raffle tickets towards larger prizes. The program was similar to others we have done in the past, only this year the program was totally online. So while circumstances changed, our mission never did. We found ways to provide story time, crafts, programming and books to our patrons whether our doors are open or closed.

Belonging to the FRIENDS is worthwhile. *Have you considered it?*



Everybody
Needs
a Friend

YES, I would like to become a FRIEND
of the Morristown & Morris Township Library!

_____ NEW _____ RENEWAL

_____ Individual: \$15.00

_____ Patron: \$60.00 and up

_____ Family: \$30.00

_____ Benefactor: \$100.00 & up

Make checks out to "Friends of the Morristown & Morris Township Library"

Name: _____

Address*: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

*If you know your 9-digit zip code, please include it.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE FRIENDS!

_____ YES, I would like to volunteer with the Friends of the Library!
Please contact me with more information!

For more information about the Friends and opportunities to participate,
please email morristownlib.booksale@gmail.com.

Please leave this form at the Library Circulation Desk or mail to:

Friends of the Morristown/Morris Township Library, 1 Miller Road, Morristown, NJ 07960-5234

Follow the Morristown &
Morris Township Library
on Social Media!



The Morristown & Morris Township Library is located at One Miller Road in Morristown, on the corner of South Street and Miller Road directly across from the Community Theatre.

How to reach us: General: 973-538-6161
Reference: 973-538-2592
Local History: 973-538-3473
Library email: info@jfpl.org