



# LIBRARY NEWS

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Morristown & Morris Township Library*

**WINTER 2021**

[www.MMTLibrary.org](http://www.MMTLibrary.org)

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

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## Director's Column by Chad Leinaweaver "Community and Collaboration"

When thinking about this column, it's clear that a community is not just a place, it is a feeling. A feeling of togetherness, helpfulness, and connection. The Library is both a physical place and that feeling for so many people, including the staff who work here. We strive to provide both a welcoming center for the residents of Morristown and Morris Township as well as a great feeling for them when they come in. We hope that everyone who checks out a book, asks a question in the History Center, uses a computer, or attends a story time leaves with a positive connection with the community. As with all communities, we would be nothing without our neighbors and collaborators. The MMT Library is always thrilled to work with members of our community on different projects such as: our recent "Little Free Library" installations with the Girl Scouts, participating in and enjoying the fun of the Morristown Fall Festival, helping to host and organize the Morristown Festival of Books, and even driving our beloved bookmobile in the yearly St. Patrick's Day parade. We look forward to even more collaborations with our neighbors in the future — we cherish our friendships, both old and new!

## Steven B. Wiley, Notable Morristonian by Mary Lynn Becza

The Library is thrilled to be the home of a new commemorative statue of Morristown native son, **Stephen B. Wiley**, donated to the residents of Morristown by the Community Foundation of New Jersey. Our lawn is a fitting place for this statue as Wiley, who passed away in 2015 at the age of 86, was instrumental in raising funds and awareness for the preservation and improvement of The Mayo Performing Arts Center, the Vail Mansion and its grounds, and the Library itself. His tireless efforts on behalf of these landmarks was instrumental in revitalizing the downtown Morristown landscape which we all enjoy today.

Steve, as he was known, was a major figure in the history of Morristown as the leader and lawyer for the effort to integrate the school districts of Morristown and Morris Township, winning the case he argued before the State Supreme Court fifty years ago. This case is still a landmark for school integration efforts throughout the nation.

In addition to having a very successful long career as a lawyer, he also was an astute businessman, founding the First Morris Bank and Trust as well as Morris Cablevision. As a politician and community advocate Steve served in the NJ State senate and helped found the Morris Educational Foundation and the Morris United Way. He also was a major fundraiser for many Morristown institutions including the Morristown Medical Center. Later in his life, Steve became an accomplished poet, publishing three books of poems that are in the MMT Library.

A wonderful dedication ceremony for the statue was held on July 10, 2021. It was attended by many friends, colleagues, family members and local residents who came to acknowledge Steve and his accomplishments. The many heartfelt speeches honoring Steve was a fitting tribute to a man who gave tirelessly of himself to improve the town he loved.



The slightly larger than life-size statue of Wiley holding a book of his poems was built by StudioEIS of Brooklyn, NY. It is bronze with a wax patina and weighs 700 pounds.

## President's Message

by Susan Kleemeyer

Greetings! The lovely autumn days are coming to an end and with that, so too, are our outdoor book sales. We have been working diligently with sales, every Tuesday and on the first and third Saturdays from 10 to 2. However, as the weather gets colder we must move indoors. We are still unable to manage the sales in our Bookworm Room downstairs due to the lack of sufficient ventilation and confining space, what with Covid still lingering. The sales will take place upstairs in the Gallery. Donations of books, especially children's books, are being readily and gratefully accepted. We ask that no textbooks, other than math, and no small paperbacks are to be donated, please.

The Friends hosted the entire Library staff to a lovely luncheon in the Gallery a few weeks ago in order to show our appreciation for all they do. Many staff members have gone out of their way to help on Book Sale days. Thank you all.

This year we have given two young women, working here at the Library, scholarships to continue their education for degrees of Master of Information. *Rachel Schraer* and *Jordan Aussicker* are the happy recipients. It has been quite a while since the Friends have had the opportunity to give two scholarships in one year, but we were delighted to award them.

The Friends of the Library are always looking for volunteers, so if you have a few hours to spare, won't you join us to sort, price or sell books? If yes, please email us at [morristownlib.booksale@gmail.com](mailto:morristownlib.booksale@gmail.com).

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## Just for TEENS! by Abigail Hsu

The weather may be getting dreary, but there are always exciting things to do at the Library! Here are our teen programs for the winter of 2022:

Teen book club will continue in the new year with the following titles: *Raybearer* by Jordan Ifueko, *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson, and *Jackpot* by Nic Stone. We meet once a month (January 11, February 8, March 8, 2022 at 5:00 PM) to chat about what we have read. Registration is required; books will be provided by the Library. **Book club will be held in a hybrid format until further notice.**

On February 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM, the Library will host a virtual webinar, *The Art of the Appeal*, for parents with teens in high school. This workshop provides detailed guidance for families on how to appeal for more financial aid from colleges and how to improve the likelihood of a successful appeal. Registration required.

Feeling crafty? Grab a *Take & Make* craft kit from the Teen Space! Projects available this winter include yarn-wrapped birds, suncatcher mandelas, and light-up Valentine cards.

All programs are open to teens in 7th grade and up unless otherwise noted. For more information or to sign up for the programs, contact the YA Librarian Abbi Hsu at [abigail.hsu@mmt.mainlib.org](mailto:abigail.hsu@mmt.mainlib.org) or visit the Teen section on the Library's website at: [www.mmtlibrary.org/teens](http://www.mmtlibrary.org/teens).

## Welcome David Greene!

The Library is pleased to welcome *David Greene* as our new *Head of Reference and Adult Services*. Over the past ten years, David has worked in a variety of library settings across California and Massachusetts: academic, legal, prison and public. Most recently, he served Contra Costa County in California as their Librarian Specialist for Adult Services, where he coordinated countywide library programming for 26 branches. During the pandemic, David led the library's efforts to provide equitable library services and programs to nearly 1 million residents, struggling to maintain the library as a constant during a period of tumultuous change. Before his time in public libraries, David was a librarian at a maximum-security prison in California, served as an archivist at the Federal Reserve in Boston and dabbled in Boston law libraries.

A Morris County native, David at one time lived in Morristown and worked at the old Starbucks on the Green. He is deeply committed to providing equitable access to the public library for every resident of Morristown and Morris Township. We welcome him back to New Jersey and look forward to working with him!



## Girl Scouts Build Little Free Libraries

In a collaborative community effort between Girl Scout Troop 6163, the Morris Township Parks and Recreation Department and the MMT Library, three "Little Free Libraries" have been installed. One is at Ginty Field near the firehouse and the Ginty pool in the Township; the second at Cornine Field near the Streeter Pool in the Township; the third at Deidre's House on Court Street in Morristown. The Little Free Libraries are filled with donated books that members of the public can take and read for free, no donation required. Some books were collected by the Girl Scouts but the majority have come from the book donations to the Friends of the Library. The Girl Scouts designed, built and painted the beautiful Little Free Libraries as a Silver Award project and Morris Township Parks and Recreation staff installed them at the playing fields. The Girl Scouts and the Library Bookmobile Driver, Leila Uhl, maintain the book collections throughout the year. The Little Free Libraries are a wonderful way to reach children, teens and adults who may not be able to come to the Library in person during our regular operating hours. We hope to install more "LFLs" in the Town and the Township.

From left to right: Township Mayor Jeff Grayzel, Noelle Alexander, Head of Parks & Recreation Bill Foelsch, Elva Sivertsson, Ella Delatush, Library Director Chad Leinawever, Emily Bongo and Library Assistant Director Mary Lynn Becza at the dedication of Troop 6163's Ginty Field Little Free Library.



## The CHILDREN'S ROOM

by Arlene Sprague



STEAM materials are some of the most requested items in the Children's Department, and we continue to purchase items in order to build a strong collection for our patrons. STEAM education combines science, technology, engineering, the arts and math to help children learn the skills needed to develop the skills necessary for creative solutions to problem solving. Ideally, STEAM skills will help students learn how to take thoughtful risks, engage in meaningful learning activities, appreciate collaboration and work through the creative process.

Crayola just released a new series called Crayola Colorful STEAM activities. This is a multi-volume set for elementary students with hands-on activities. Students learn to experiment with color to grow crystals with paint and salt, use kitchen ingredients to create works of art, and more — all illustrated with colorful pictures.

*STEAM Projects 101* by Ana Dziengel is an excellent source of experiments for preschoolers, including ideas on how to create pattern projectors, color mixing labs and painted marshmallow circuits. STEAM materials are also available for fiction fans. Picture books like *How to Code a Sandcastle* by Josh Funk, *If I Built a Car* by Chris Van Dusen, or *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty all include a mixture of problem solving, science and creativity. The Zoey and Sassafras chapter books by Asia Citro combine science and magic in a well-written series where Zoey uses her science skills to assist magical creatures needing help. The *Frank Einstein* books by Jon Scieska are centered on Frank, a genius inventor. These books are entertaining stories filled with humor, technology and science. In addition to the books we have available, the Children's Room has recently started offering monthly STEAM *Take and Make kits*. Each month, patrons can grab a brown-bagged activity to make at home with projects so far ranging from marble mazes, hovercrafts, and airplane launchers. You can find them on our *Take and Make* table next to the crafts. So stop in and check out our collection to kick-start your child's interest in STEAM.

## ON THE SHELF

**NONFICTION** by Stephen Brunskill***My Wild and Precious Life: a Memoir of Africa*** by Susanne Rheault

Susanne Rheault shares tough realities in this engaging memoir, living alongside families in desperate poverty, and highlighting the extraordinary warmth of the people she met in Tanzania during her work in the past decade. This is a story of people working together, always striving towards common goals, always persisting with hope.

***Rude Talk in Athens: Ancient Rivals, the Birth of Comedy, and a Writer's Journey Through Greece***

by Mark Haskell Smith

Through conversations with historians, politicians, and other writers, Mark Haskell Smith — a witty novelist, screenwriter, and comedy writer — probes with humor and irony how comedy in ancient Greece worked then compared to how it does in the political, social and cultural circles of today.

***The Storytellers: Straight Talk From the World's Most Acclaimed Suspense and Thriller Authors***

Edited by Mark Rubinstein

Have you ever wondered, while reading a suspense novel, how an author comes up with this stuff? Over five years, Mark Rubinstein — physician, psychiatrist, and a mystery/thriller writer — got to ask well-known authors just how they do it. With his interviews from many accomplished authors, you can find out their thoughts, their inspirations, their candid opinions on how it's done.

***Troy: The Greek Myths Reimagined***

by Stephen Fry

Stephen Fry, known for his acting roles in British televisions *Fry & Laurie*, *Jeeves and Wooster* and *Blackadder*, is also a talented writer. In *Troy*, one of a trilogy of books he's authored on Greek mythology, he captivatingly retells the Iliad's story full of tragic heroes, intoxicating love stories, and the unstoppable force of fate. With a helpful index that clarifies the characters (people, gods and monsters) this beautifully illustrated book invites you to explore this world with a brilliant storyteller as your guide.

**LARGE-PRINT** by Jen Harter***Appleseed*** by Matt Bell

In the vein of Neal Stephenson and Jeff VanderMeer, *Appleseed* is an epic speculative novel from Young Lions Fiction Award–finalist Matt Bell, a breakout book that explores climate change, manifest destiny, humanity's unchecked exploitation of natural resources, and the small but powerful magic contained within every single apple.

***The Christmas Promise***

by Richard Paul Evans

Identical twins Richelle and Michelle Bach couldn't be more different, and their paths diverge as they embark on adulthood. At their father's behest, they both come home for Christmas, and what happens then forever damages their relationship. In their father's last days, he asks Richelle to forgive Michelle, a deathbed promise she never fulfills as her twin is killed in an accident. Now, alone and broken, Richelle has one last dream: to be an author. It is not until she meets a man who harbors his own loss, that a secret promise is revealed, and Richelle learns that the story she is writing is not about her sister, but about herself.

***How the Word Is Passed*** by Clint Smith

A revealing, contemporary portrait of America as a slave owning nation. Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks — those that are honest about the past and those that are not — which offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves.

***Island Queen*** by Vanessa Riley

A sweeping historical novel based on the incredible true life story of Dorothy Kirwan Thomas, a free woman of color who rose from slavery to become one of the wealthiest and most powerful landowners in the colonial West Indies. From the bustling port cities of the West Indies to the forbidding drawing rooms of London's elite, *Island Queen* is a sweeping epic of an adventurer and a survivor who answered to no one but herself as she rose to power and autonomy against all odds, defying rigid 18th-Century morality and the oppression of women and people of color.

**FICTION** by Jen Harter***The Best American Short Stories 2021***

Edited by Jesmyn Ward

These stories immerse the reader in powerfully imagined worlds, allowing them to bring some of that power into their own lives. The stories are poignant reminders of the possibilities of fiction: as you sink into world after world, become character after character, “you can,” as Ward writes, “forget yourself, and then, upon surfacing, know yourself and others anew.”

***Cloud Cuckoo Land*** by Anthony Doerr

The heroes of this book are children trying to figure out the world around them, and to survive. In the besieged city of Constantinople in 1453, in a public library in Lakeport, Idaho, today, and on a spaceship bound for a distant exoplanet decades from now, an ancient text provides solace and the most profound human connection to characters in peril. Dedicated to “the librarians then, now, and in the years to come,” it is about the power of story and the astonishing survival of the physical book. It is a hauntingly beautiful and redemptive novel about stewardship — of the book, of the Earth, of the human heart.

***Edge Case*** by YZ Chin

When her husband suddenly disappears, a young woman must uncover where he went — and who she might be without him — in this striking debut of immigration, identity and marriage. Poignant and darkly funny, *Edge Case* is a searing meditation on intimacy, estrangement and the fractured nature of identity. In this moving debut, Chin explores the imperfect yet enduring relationships we hold to country and family.

***The Magician*** by Colm Tóibín

In a stunning marriage of research and imagination, Tóibín explores the heart and mind of a writer whose gift is unparalleled and whose life is driven by a need to belong and the anguish of illicit desire. *The Magician* is an intimate, complex portrait of Thomas Mann, his magnificent wife, Katia, and the times in which they lived. This is a man and a family fiercely engaged by the world, profoundly flawed and unforgettable.

## The Friends 2021 Scholarship Recipients

The Friends of the Library are thrilled to present two scholarships this year to staff members of the Library who are both currently studying for their graduate degrees in the Rutgers University Masters of Information Science program.

**Jordan Aussicker** is a first-year graduate student who received her Bachelor's Degree in 2020 from Drew University. She has worked in the Circulation Department at the Library as a Library Assistant since July of 2019, and in addition has been employed in our Local History & Genealogy Department since May of this year. She is very grateful for this opportunity to both advance her education and continue to do the work she loves so she can one day become a full time librarian!

**Rachel Shraer** graduated from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in English, as well as minors in History and Russian Studies. Rachel first began working at the Library as a volunteer in the History Center, and then started working as a page shelving books all around the Library in March, 2018. Later in 2018, she also started working as a Library Assistant in the Children's Room where she enjoys planning craft programs, conducting story times, and helping patrons find and check out books. She likes working with young people and is excited to continue her career in libraries!

In their mission to support MMT, one of the Friends of the Library's most notable activities is to provide monetary scholarships to eligible staff members and volunteers. We are all thankful that they so generously fund librarianship in the state of New Jersey. We wish the best of luck to Jordan and Rachel in their graduate studies.



Wondering what all the mess is by the South Street door? The Library is updating 104-year-old sanitary and water lines to the staff restrooms in the Willis Wing. Aero plumbing is replacing all of the old cast iron piping and we are hoping the new lines last for the next 104 years!

Rachel Shraer (left) and Jordan Aussicker (center) are delighted to receive their scholarship checks from Friends of the Library President Susan Kleemeyer.



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 Mayo Performing Arts Center.

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

Visit the Library's website for more information:  
**MMTLibrary.org**

Follow the Morristown & Morris Township Library on Social Media



Become a **FRIEND** of the Morristown & Morris Township Library!



Belonging to the **FRIENDS** is worthwhile.

Please join us as we work to help **YOUR** Library!

\_\_\_\_\_ **NEW** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL**

\_\_\_ Individual: \$15

\_\_\_ Patron: \$60 & up

\_\_\_ Family: \$30

\_\_\_ Benefactor: \$100 & 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](mailto:morristownlib.booksale@gmail.com).

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

Friends of the Morristown/Morris Township Library  
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