

LIBRARY NEWS

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www.MMTLibrary.org

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

973-538-6161



Director's Column by Chad Leinaweaer "New Staff, Same Service!"

When our staff changes, it is always a bittersweet time. Even as we are sad to see them leave, we are happy for our departing colleagues as they move on to different job challenges, living situations and retirement plans. In the past 18 months, many of our business neighbors in our community and beyond have struggled with hiring employees to fill open positions, resulting in supply chain issues, reduced hours and other changes we all have had to get used to. We have experienced a little bit of that too as the past year has brought changes to our staff with five retirements and a few people moving on to different and exciting positions elsewhere. Some of our patrons will have already noticed some new faces around the Library. One constant, which never alters with staff changes, is great service for our patrons. We strive to hire friendly and helpful people and think we do a great job with it! I tell many candidates for positions how serious we are about customer service and that service culture has been strong here at the Library for decades in order to serve our patrons who rely on us for reading material, computer access, tax forms, study space, Wi-Fi, online services and so much more. Please join us in welcoming all of our new staff members and we thank you for your patience as they learn their new jobs, who you are, and what you need. We are sure that you will enjoy getting to know our new team members as much as they will enjoy getting to know you!

Tony Turner: Dance Photography Exhibit

"As an artist, my approach to photography has always been to create images that are visually stunning, tell the story of my subject and capture the emotion of the moment," writes local photographer Tony Turner, whose photography of dancers is currently on view in the F.M. Kirby Gallery until March 17. His work focuses on the human form, in particular as it appears in musical events and dance. Tony has a genuine love for people which shows in his commercial work as well, where he specializes in casual parties and headshots. We are excited to reopen the Gallery, closed since 2020, with this interesting exhibit. Tony lives in northern New Jersey with his family. To see more of his photography, visit www.tonyturnerphotos.com.

The F.M. Kirby Gallery is located on the second floor of the Library and can be visited during the Library's operating hours. This exhibit is a co-production of the Morris Arts Collaborative, which in 2022 is featuring all things "Dance" in the Morris County community. Stay tuned for future Library events this year covering the theme of dance and dancing.



New Databases! by James Lewis

The North Jersey History and Genealogy Center is happy to announce that we recently acquired two great research databases that MMT Library patrons can conveniently access remotely. **Heritage Hub** is a collection of obituaries collected from newspapers from across the country dating back to the 1770s. This is a tremendous new resource for genealogists. (*Note that due to the nature of dealing with old papers there are some gaps in the years covered by Heritage Hub.*) We also are able to offer you access to the **Newark Star-Ledger** full text electronic newspaper archive dating back to 1989. To access these databases and learn about our other historical and genealogical resources available at home, click: mmtlibrary.org/nj-history-genealogy/research-sources-databases/.

In other important research news — The North Jersey History and Genealogy Center is now a **FamilySearch** Affiliate Library! This means that once you have created a login and password to FamilySearch (*available only in the Library, not remotely*) you can access the wide variety of international records that they have digitized. There are over 400 MILLION records that are only accessible at a FamilySearch Affiliate Library. These records have a camera with a key above the camera icon. To use FamilySearch collections, or any of our other History and Genealogy Center materials, call us at 973-538-3473 or e-mail us at njhgc@mmt.mainlib.org to make an appointment.

Book Discussions Galore! by Mary Lynn Becza

The Library has five popular book clubs which we have been offering for the past year on Zoom. Staff members host the different clubs and we really enjoy our discussions! There is something for everyone in our monthly picks and we offer a variety of genres. The **Morning** and **Evening Book Clubs** discuss the same title (*though not always in the same month*) so if you miss one date you might be able to make another. Those choices include current fiction and nonfiction books which have wide appeal. Our **Virtual Classics Book Club** (VCBC) reads a broad selection of the "classics," both modern and traditional. **Book Lovers Circle** is a monthly club at which a staff member talks about the newly published titles of note the Library wants to highlight, and then all attendees are

President's Message

by Susan Kleemeyer

It has been an eventful winter! We have been quite busy with our book sales every Tuesday from 10 to 2 — outside, weather permitting, or inside on the second floor Gallery. Our sales continue on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 10 to 2.

Our book donations are increasing, so that every week we can offer "new" books for sale. There are many categories from which to choose — fiction, non-fiction, historical, biographies, science, etc., plus an assortment of children's books. Hopefully, we will be able to move back downstairs to the Bookworm Room in the near future.

If you have not yet joined the Friends, I urge you to do so, because the funds collected go to the Library, which in turn benefit you, the patrons!

(**Book Discussions Galore!** continued on page 3)



The CHILDREN'S ROOM by Arlene Sprague

Award lists are one tool used to select quality children's books. The American Library Association awards a variety of prizes yearly to children's books deemed the best books published in the previous year.

This year, Donna Barba Higuera is a double winner for her book *The Last Cuentista*. Higuera not only won the Newbery Medal for "the most distinguished contributions to American literature for children," but also the Pura Belpré Award, "which honors Latinx writers and illustrators," for best author. *The Last Cuentista* tells the story of 12-year-old Petra who escapes Earth during a disaster. She and her family are part of a small group sent to help colonize a new planet to ensure humanity's survival. However, during the journey, Petra learns that a group called The Collective has taken over the ship and is erasing memories of Earth and its diversity. Petra, following in the tradition of her grandmother, becomes a cuentista, using storytelling to save humanity and remind her companions of the histories that were taken from them. *Publishers Weekly* called it "suspenseful and gut-wrenching", saying the book "explores how story can awaken empathy, hope, and even resistance in an audience. Gripping, euphonious, and full of storytelling magic."

Jason Chin is also a double winner with his illustrations for the book *Watercress*. Chin not only won the Caldecott Medal for "the artist of the most distinguished American picture book," but also the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, "promoting Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage." He shared the Asian/Pacific award with the book's author, Andrea Wang. *Watercress* was also recognized with a Newbery honor as well. It tells the story of a Chinese American family that stops and picks wild watercress from the side of the road. A young girl is embarrassed by her family's actions until her mother shares the story of her family's difficult past in China, enabling the girl to view the food on her table with new appreciation and understanding. According to *Horn Book Magazine*, "Chin's expressive watercolors created their own narratives to complement the different layers of Wang's story. One spread visually connects the family's present and past; as readers' eyes move from left to right, they experience two completely different spaces and times—cornstalk morphs into bamboo, and the scene changes from Ohio to China, present to past."

Author Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrator Floyd Cooper are the winners of the Coretta Scott King Awards "recognizing an African American author and an African American illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults" for their book *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*. Cooper also received a Caldecott Honor accolade for his artwork. Both Weatherford and Cooper contributed to this powerful look at the Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history. *Unspeakable* traces the history of African Americans in Tulsa's Greenwood district and chronicles the devastation that occurred in 1921 when a white mob attacked the Black community, spurring a 16-hour massacre that destroyed thousands of homes and businesses and left as many as 300 people dead. *Kirkus Reviews* says "Author Weatherford and illustrator Cooper join forces to present this important story with sensitivity and care for younger readers. Weatherford's measured prose depicts the events in a clear-eyed, age-appropriate narrative. Oklahoma native Cooper's muted palette and oil-erasure style effectively portray first the achievement and then the devastation that followed."

While Higuera, Chin, Weatherford and Cooper are the most recent additions to award lists, many of the awards have been around for decades. The first Newbery was given in 1922 and the first Caldecott was given in 1937. The first Pura Belpré Award was given in 1996 and the first Coretta Scott King award was given in 1970. For anyone searching well written, or beautifully illustrated books, these lists offer a jumping off point for excellent children's materials.



Just for TEENS! by Abigail Hsu

Each winter, the American Library Association (ALA) honors the top literature and media produced for children and young adults published the previous year. Committees composed of librarians along with literature and media experts select titles for the Youth Media Awards, which include the prestigious Newbery, Caldecott, Printz, and Coretta Scott King Book Awards. This year's award winners and honor titles represent a wide range of identities and experiences including: a coming-of-age story set in 1950s San Francisco about a Chinese American teenager learning to understand herself, her sexuality, and her culture; a multimedia #OwnVoices novel featuring a deaf teenager finding her place in a mildly dystopian near future; and a novel-in-verse about two teens on a road trip seeking to reconnect with the ghosts of their Black and Native American ancestors.

In this current climate of rising book bans and attempts to censor library collections, these awards reaffirmed the excellence and importance of diversity, authenticity and nuance in books for young readers.

Below are a few standout award winning and honor titles from the Young Adult category:

Last Night at the Telegraph Club by Malinda Lo: Against the backdrop of the Red Scare, Lily Hu, age 17, comes to terms with her sexuality and her Chinese American identity.

How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland: Mexican American Moon Fuentez discovers love and profound truths when she goes on a cross country road trip as her social-media-famous siblings' "merch girl."

The Words in My Hands by Asphyxia: In a near-future version of Australia where food is scarce and the environment is nearing collapse, a deaf teen named Piper figures out her relationship to the hearing and deaf worlds.

Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger: Elatsoe, a Lipan Apache teen, explores her power to raise the ghosts of dead animals while trying to solve the murder of her beloved cousin.

Me (Moth) by Amber McBride: Moth, a Black teen who has lost her family in an accident, meets Sami, who is seeking his Navajo roots. Together, they take a road trip that has them chasing ghosts and searching for ancestors.

The City Beautiful by Aiden Polydoros: Set during the Chicago World Fair of 1893, a teenage boy is possessed by the dybbuk (evil spirit) of his murdered best friend and must track down the killer before the spirit takes over him completely.

ON THE SHELF**LARGE-PRINT** by Louis Muñoz Jr.*The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson

A rare and intimate look at the nature of hope and into the heart and mind of a woman who revolutionized how we view the world around us and has spent a lifetime fighting for our future. There is still hope, and this book will help guide us to it.

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

Soon to be a major television event based on the true story of a forgotten hero, this is the triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours.

Honor by Thrity Umrigar

While journalist Smita is in India to cover the story of Meena, a Hindu woman whose marriage to a Muslim man shames her family and suggests the violence shaping women's lives there, she is forced to acknowledge her own family's painful departure from India and the tremendous benefits granted to her simply because she is an American citizen.

The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of World War II

by Major General Mari K. Eder;

For fans of *Radium Girls* and history and WWII buffs, this book takes you inside the lives and experiences of 15 unknown women heroes from the Greatest Generation who served, fought, struggled, and made things happen during WWII — both in and out of uniform. Theirs is a legacy destined to embolden generations of women to come.

A Ballad of Love and Glory by Reyna Grande

A Long Petal of the Sea meets *Cold Mountain* in this sweeping historical saga following a Mexican army nurse and an Irish soldier who must both fight, at first for their survival and then for their love, amidst the atrocities of the Mexican-American War.

FICTION by Valerie Cauley*The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis

Another historical winner by the popular Ms. Davis! This story takes place first in 1919 when the Frick Museum was still the family home of Henry Clay Frick, and then it shifts to 1966 when it is a prestigious art museum.

A Line to Kill by Anthony Horowitz

This is the third in the *Hawthorne and Horowitz* murder mystery series (following *The Word is Murder* and *The Sentence is Death*) in which the author has written himself into the story as a character. Very clever indeed!

NONFICTION by Stephen Brunskill*Somewhere in the South Pacific: The Story of a Young Couple Separated by the Second World War, as Told in Their Letters and Journals* by Leina 'ala Jackie DeRoxroto

This is a story centered on newlyweds separated by World War II as told in their letters and journals as well as their small town middle-class Italian American extended family, all dealing with the crisis of war.

All of the Marvels: A Journey to the Ends of the Biggest Story Ever Told by Douglas Wolk

If you need a truly interconnected Marvel Comics story to get you through the past 60 years of American culture, this is the one! A huge treat for Marvel Comics' fans, as well as for the newbies who want to know more about this amazing cinematic and graphical epic.

When my Time Comes: Conversations About Whether Those Who Are Dying Should Have the Right to Determine When Life Should End by Diane Rehm

The renowned radio host and one of the most trusted voices in the nation offers this book — the basis for an acclaimed PBS series — to answer many misconceptions and misrepresentations of end-of-life care, using an interview format (covering both pros and cons) on this highly divisive issue.

Tinderbox: HBO's Ruthless Pursuit of New Frontiers by James Andrew Miller

With more than 700 interviews with key sources, award-winning journalist Miller captures the boardroom drama (and some off-camera perspective) as HBO created new daring content and set up a new standard for television entertainment forever.

Time Smart: How to Reclaim Your Time and Live a Happier Life by Ashley Whillans

This consultant gives strategies through her research and brings them to life through the stories of people making the shift — or just trying to make matters a little easier. Includes assessments, checklists, and activities which can help you right away!

The Summer Getaway by Susan Mallery

The new romance by this author has the heroine having her own "getaway" from the problems of her difficult ex-husband and adult children. Everyone needs a break!

A Sunlit Weapon by Jacqueline Winspear

In 1942 Britain investigator Maisie Dobbs looks into attacks on planes flown by women pilots. The latest in this fan favorite long-running and absorbing mystery series.

The London House by Katherine Reay

Boston to London — letters and diaries — WWII to present day — a family's secret. They all add up to a great read!

Book Discussions Galore!

(Continued from page 1)

invited to briefly speak about the books they are each reading. We all love to share our favorite new (*and old*) finds! From *Page to Screen* is our newest book club in which we discuss a popular book as well as the film or television show it inspired.

All patrons are welcome to attend as many book club events as they would like. We describe our book clubs as "low stress." No pressure to finish a book and if you don't like something, we especially want to hear from you! Below is a list of upcoming book club books and titles. To be put on the email list for any or all of the groups, email morristownreaders@gmail.com and you will receive the Zoom codes each month.

All book clubs are on the following dates and times of each month, unless otherwise noted:

■ Book Lovers' Circle

(1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM)
March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2

■ Morning Book Club

(2nd Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM)
March 10: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray; April 14: *The Women's March* by Jennifer Chiaverini; May 12: *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline; June 9: *The Prophets* by Robert Jones Jr.

■ Virtual Classics Book Club

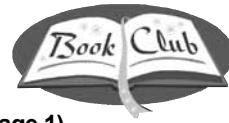
(2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM)
March 10: *Passing* by Nella Larsen; April 13: (note date change) *Death Comes to the Archbishop* by Willa Cather; May 12: title TBA; June 9: *Orlando* by Virginia Woolf

■ Evening Book Club

(3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM)
March 17: *The Women's March* by Jennifer Chiaverini; April 21: *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline; May 19: *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris; June 16: *The Prophets* by Robert Jones Jr.

■ From Page to Screen

(Periodic program, approximately quarterly)
April 28: *Waiting for the Barbarians* book by J.M. Coetzee and film by Ciro Guerra; June: (date TBA) *Carol* by Patricia Highsmith and the companion film *The Price of Salt* by Todd Haynes



Friends of the Library

One Miller Road
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How to reach us:

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

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

FRIENDS We Will Miss

Margaret Cushing by Norma Mortimer (8/30/35–7/7/21)

To the Friends, Margaret Cushing was always Margaret, but to her family, she was Marge. No real matter which name, she was loved by everyone who knew her. Though a Summit resident, Margaret was a Friend of the MMT Library, so it was a distinct compliment that she selected our library in which to give her time. After retiring from the Friends' Board she continued to work for our book sales by preparing the donated books for us. One special project she initiated was to organize all our paperback books. Hundreds of them were organized into categories, such as romances, mysteries, etc. What a treat that was for our customers!

Under the influence of two Friend Board members, Margaret tacked on music alongside her love of books and reading. Tosca was her favorite.

A few years ago, Margaret developed a nerve or vision problem and was unable to drive. Not a problem since Molly Wagner, a fellow Summit member, provided assistance. Her sister, Lauren Hearn, wanted her to move to a retirement community which wasn't able to happen.

Margaret Cushing, a quiet woman with a quiet passing on her terms.

Peter Bardes by Susan Provence (6/30/1951–6/24/2020)

Peter Bardes, a Friend of the Library for over a decade, was a devoted son and member of his community. He traveled by train from Newark to help the Friends once a week, then twice a week when he retired. He was always there to assist with whatever was needed, putting out and bringing in sale signs, moving carts and heavy books. He cared and thought about others, setting aside books that the Friends were unable to sell or purchasing a few that were special books for his mom that she wanted as well as carrying bags of these books on the train to many that would enjoy having them. Even after cancer surgery he still came to help. The Friends are grateful for having had Pete in their lives for the fine human being he was as well as for all he contributed and for his selflessness.



New Employees at the Library

Trink Prinz is a new part time Library Assistant at our Circulation Desk. After a career of working with people in crisis at local institutions such as Market Street Mission, Morris County Jail and Homeless Solutions, she is happy to join the Circulation staff



We are happy to welcome **Saudia Reid** to our Reference & Adult Services Department as a full time Reference Librarian. Saudia is proud to be a Brooklyn, NY-born and raised librarian, passionate about equity and accessibility. She completed her MLIS at the University of South Florida.



Amanda Murphy is new but not new to us! She has been working at the MMT Library as a part time Library Assistant in the Circulation Department for nearly four years but we are happy to say she is now a full time Library Assistant in our Technical Services Department.



Bilingual Restorative Yoga

FREE CLASSES ONLINE

Mondays at 6:00 PM

February 21–April 25



Email address for Zoom link:

marylynn.becza@mmt.mainlib.org

With our busy schedules, our bodies need deep rest and replenishment. Restorative yoga helps to regulate the nervous system and promote relaxation through gentle floor movement followed by longer-held static poses. Many restorative yoga postures are supported by yoga blocks and bolsters, which can be substituted with common household items such as books, pillows, and blankets. This class is accessible to people of all ages, abilities and levels of yoga experience and offered in both English and Spanish. Presented by the MMT Library and Long Hill Library.

Our Instructor: Restorative yoga is taught by Megan Biondi, professor of Italian and Spanish at County College of Morris and a certified Yoga Alliance RYT 200.

Become a FRIEND of the Morristown & Morris Township Library!

Please join us as we work to help YOUR Library!

NEW RENEWAL

Individual: \$15 Patron: \$60 & up

Family: \$30 Benefactor: \$100 & up

Please 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