



LIBRARY NEWS

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

973-538-6161



Director's Column by Chad Leinaweaver

The season from Thanksgiving through New Year's has lots of high points for many people but can also include low points for many. The Library is here for our patrons, with lots of resources for different needs. Looking for a way to entertain friends or family? Borrow a Museum Pass! Bad weather keeping you indoors and bored? Borrow a jigsaw puzzle or an item from our Library of Things! Many are experiencing their first holiday after the loss of a loved one or a lifechanging event, and we have a large variety of types of books to help with healing and grieving.

Believe it or not, the holiday season can be a busy time for our Library staff when we have many out of town visitors to the History and Genealogy Department and extended families taking the opportunity to enjoy days off together in the Children's Department. This year on December 1, we are holding a special Friday night benefit concert with your favorite holiday music. We look forward to helping all of our patrons around the holidays, no matter what your needs might be. Stop by and see us!

The Friends have lost a wonderful friend

by Eileen Duch

Norma Mortimer passed away on September 9, 2023 at the age of 93. Born on August 18, 1930, she was a mother, grandmother, teacher, college professor, actor, playwright, world traveler and a Friend to this library.

She wrote 33 full length plays and 19 one act plays. She received the Branch County Community Theatre Robert J. Pickering Award for Playwriting Excellence in 2011. The award was presented after the closing night performance of *Daddy's Girls*. She drove to Coldwater, Michigan from Morristown to see her play and pick up her award.

Two of her plays were produced and shown at the American Theatre of Actors in New York City from March 2-13, 2022. The plays, *Run the Course* and *Daddy's Girls*, were well received by the audiences each day. A dramatic reading was done at this library in March, 2017, of Norma's play *My Second Best Friend*, which is a semi-autobiography of her relationship with her ex-husband's gay partner. The event was very well attended.

Norma was Director for the Volunteer Guild at Playwrights Theatre in Madison, New Jersey for more than 15 years. She recruited volunteers to take tickets, hand out programs and work the concession stand.

Norma had two degrees from Temple University and worked for a time at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, where she wrote and presented workshops for their group customers.

She loved to travel, and experienced excursions such as river cruises in Europe. Norma was planning another trip this past spring before taking ill.

Norma was a lector and parishioner at St. Thomas More Church in Madison, New Jersey, for many years. She was part of the Women's Guild and would read her plays to eager audiences there. Father Tom Fallone, the pastor, described her as a "beautiful, artistic soul" and envied her "artsy" talent. He wished he possessed it!

She was a Friend at this library and served as President. After her term ended, she continued to be active in the weekly book sales. She was Co-Treasurer at the time of her death. She never hesitated to volunteer when someone was needed to fill in when another board member could not be present. She would occasionally do the Secretary's job and always "performed" it with a certain flair! Norma enjoyed talking about her writing when

(Friends have Lost a Wonderful Friend continued on page 2)



Norma Mortimer

President's Message

by Linda Muse-Deo

The days are getting shorter as daylight savings time has come to an end, but we have been blessed with extra weeks of mild weather. However, it is autumn, and we can expect the cooler weather to be with us for some time. Halloween celebrations have taken place in Morristown, and the holiday season will be here very soon.

The Friends' weekly used book sales continue to be held every Tuesday and the first and third Saturdays of every month from 10 AM to 2 PM. Saturday sales have now expanded to two locations within the Library. In addition to the Bookworm Room, which is accessible through the Reference Department, the Meeting Room on the lower level will be stocked with carts and tables with many genres. We have been fortunate to attract more volunteers to help us with sales and other activities, such as sorting and pricing, that are needed to prepare for the sales.

The proceeds are passed on to the Library and fund many of the programs that are so popular with patrons. We can only continue to do this work that we love if you donate your unwanted books that are in good condition. We take most genres except textbooks, magazines, and small paperbacks. Children's books are especially welcomed as well as middle readers and young adult books.

In keeping with the holidays, the Friends' book sale for the month of November will have holiday books and media, along with cookbooks and travel, available at half of the marked price. In December, art, law, finance, business, and inspirational books will be on sale.

We recently received the sad news of the passing of one of our former presidents, Norma Mortimer. Norma served as President from 2008 to 2012 and continued to serve on the Board as Co-Treasurer for the Friends until earlier this year. Norma will be missed for her vibrant personality and extraordinary talents.

News from the Old Department . . .

The Caroline Rose Foster, North Jersey History and Genealogy Center by James Lewis

We're not just local history! Looking for articles about historical events or places outside of the state of NJ and from long ago? Search **Heritage Hub** by doing a keyword search for the event of interest, or search for an obituary for someone that died out of state. You can also search for articles from across the Mid-Atlantic by going to **ProQuest's Historic Northeast Newspapers**. For more local events, you can search for **Daily Record** articles dating from 1974-2010 in **ProQuest's Historic Northeast Newspapers**.

Looking for photos of old buildings in Morristown or Morris County? Look no further — we have them! Also, we are always looking to add new photos to our collection. Please contact the **Caroline Rose Foster North Jersey History and Genealogy Center** if you would like to donate old photographs of the area. E-mail us at njhgc@mmt.mainlib.org, call us at 973-538-3473, or visit us in the Lower Level of the Library.

Archivist Jeff Moy has processed the Ford Family Papers, 1693-1979, which includes records created by Rev. Edwin Shephard Ford, Abigail Condict Ford, Alfred Ford, Demas Ford, Rev. Henry Ford, and Samuel Ford, Jr. The Fords maintained long ties to Morris County where they owned taverns, iron works, mills, and were teachers and clergymen, among other occupations. The papers consist of correspondence, land records, genealogy notes, photographs, and ephemera. Maybe you know someone from this prominent family?

In October, Jeff Moy spoke at the **Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference** in Saratoga Springs, NY, where he recounted his experience opening a time capsule found in the cornerstone of a 1784 stone schoolhouse. Our staff often speaks at local and regional conferences and meetings of archival and library professionals — we have a lot of expertise!

The CHILDREN'S ROOM by Arlene Sprague

The popular question of “what new books do you have?” is often countered with the question “what classics should my child know?” While answering the first with a list of new books is easy, answering with a list of classics is more complicated. First, what exactly a classic story is. Classic books are well-written, appeal to adults and children, evoke feelings, and have withstood the test of time. Name the books your parents shared with you, that you now share with your children or grandchildren, and you will probably name books considered classics. Robert McCloskey's *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Blueberries for Sal* exemplify classic picture books. Both books feature family-oriented stories expressing parental love and parents protecting their children. In Munro Leaf's *The Story of Ferdinand*, Ferdinand remains true to his authentic self. He is a pacifist and would rather smell the flowers than fight. Published 87 years ago, this book touches on themes of self-expression and following your own path that are prevalent in current picture books. Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day* is a groundbreaking classic. One of the first children's books to feature an African-American protagonist, it explores the wonder of the world through a child's eyes as he plays in the snow. This is a beloved title, and it bears the distinction of being the most circulated book ever from the New York Public Library. Another common theme between classic and contemporary literature is the search for a safe, loving home. Don Freeman's *Corduroy* tells the story of a bear longing for a home and a person of his own. Corduroy finds love and a place he belongs by the end of the book. In Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, Max travels away from the safety of home, becomes King of the Wild Things, only to want to return home where dinner is waiting for him. Although he misbehaved, he is still loved and wanted. In the *Frog and Toad* series by Arnold Lobel, children meet two friends that share and support each other through life experiences. Each character is allowed individual characteristics and unique feelings, but their friendship is enduring as they explore their world.

The themes of many classic stories are present in modern books destined to become classics. *The Elephant and Piggie* series by Mo Willems highlights the friendship between two very different characters, much like Frog and Toad. Kevin Henkes' *Kitten's First Full Moon* sends a young kitten out exploring the world, but just like Max in *Where the Wild Things Are*, he returns home to find food waiting for him. In the *Last Stop on Market Street*, Matt de la Peña, like Ezra Jack Keats, gives us diverse characters finding wonder and joy in the world, highlighted by the loving bond between a curious young boy and his grandmother. The similarities between older and contemporary classics are found in the common themes of love, family, friendship, and home.



Rotary Club Awards Grant to Library



The Library received \$2,500 recently from The Rotary Club of Morristown to help fund collections for children, in particular for more Wonderbooks and Launchpads, very popular with patrons since the pandemic. Wonderbooks are books that contain a computer chip and children can have the book “read to them,” while Launchpads are self-contained computer tablets that concentrate on various subjects and themes including grade level math and science information on dinosaurs.

“We are excited to have the support of The Rotary Club of Morristown,” says Library Director Chad Leinaweaver. “The Rotarians help with all sorts of community building projects and I know the residents in our community are thrilled about having additional resources added to these collections. Kids and parents check out Wonderbooks and Launchpads all of the time and are always asking for additional titles to explore.”

The new items will be added soon and will contain bookplates thanking the Rotary Club for their grant support. Check them out for yourself in the Children's Room!

The Friends have lost a wonderful friend (continued from page 1)

taking a break at the weekly book sale, and was a good person to partner with. She will be missed at our monthly board meetings as she always livened up the meeting! She was cheerful and upbeat, and just nice to be around.

Norma was a fantastic friend and “Friend.” We loved you Norma, and will miss you!

ON THE SHELF

NONFICTION by Stephen Brunskill *Game Changers: the Video Game Revolution* Edited by Emilia Terragni

A beautifully illustrated visual history on everything video games, this is a great book for anyone with an even passing interest in all types of video games. You will gain a new appreciation of the gaming industry, as it covers the very beginning of the technologies right through to the present day. With a focus on the advances within the industry up until now, this study features information on innovative technology and gameplay as well as the stories of the people who created the games.

The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA by Liza Mundy

A fascinating new perspective on how women contributed to spy work in the nascent intelligence age by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Code Girls*. This amazing history explains how women who started working for the new Central Intelligence Agency in the 1940s as clerks, secretaries, or unpaid spouses, rose to become some of their most skilled operatives and built the CIA from the ground up to the advanced organization it is today, despite being undervalued and ignored.

Fear is Just a Word by Azam Ahmed

This is the story of a courageous mother and her fight against the drug cartels' rise and violence in her formerly peaceful hometown in Mexico. Ahmed is the former *New York Times* bureau chief in Mexico and his masterful book of investigative journalism offers a gripping narrative that will keep you hooked from beginning to end! For readers with an interest in both true crime and current events.



Ruth Vanderpoel, a Board member and Friend, cutting her cake and celebrating 90 years young.

LARGE-PRINT by Louis Muñoz Jr. Edited from Publishers Weekly

Sisters Under the Rising Sun by Heather Morris

Morris, the author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, tells a story of women in war: a novel of sisterhood, bravery and friendship in the darkest of circumstances. During World War II, Englishwoman Norah Chambers and Australian nurse Sister Nesta James survive the destruction of the merchant ship they are traveling on and reach the beaches of a remote island, only to be captured by the Japanese and held in a notorious POW camp. Sisters in arms, Norah and Nesta fight side by side, helping whoever they can, and discovering in themselves extraordinary reserves of courage, resourcefulness and determination.

The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts by Loren Grush

Grush tells the stories of female astronauts enduring claustrophobic and sexist media attention, undergoing rigorous survival training, and preparing for years to take multi-million-dollar payloads into orbit. Together, the Six helped build the tools that made the space program run. One of them, Judy Resnik, sacrificed her life when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded. Everyone knows of Sally Ride's history-making first space ride, but each of the Six left an indelible mark.

The Oceans and the Stars by Mark Helprin

A novel about the majesty of the sea, a life dedicated to duty, honor, and country, and falling in love. Stephen Rensselaer, a decorated Navy captain near retirement, lives by the laws of conscience, decency, and sacrifice. He makes an enemy of the President, who intends to humiliate him with what may be a doomed assignment on a warship prototype. Rensselaer takes the assignment and meets a brilliant lawyer, Katy Farrar, with whom he falls in love. Soon after, he is deployed on a mission that subjects his integrity, morality and skill to the ultimate test.

The Little Liar by Mitch Albom

This novel, set during the Holocaust, interweaves the stories of Nico, his brother Sebastian, and their schoolmate Fanni, who miraculously survive the death camps and spend years searching for Nico, who has become a pathological liar, and the Nazi officer who radically changed their lives. As the decades pass, they reveal the consequences of what they said, did, and endured. A moving parable that explores honesty, survival, revenge and devotion, and the power of love to ultimately redeem us.

FICTION by Louis Muñoz Jr.

Edited from Library Journal & Publisher's Weekly

Absolution by Alice McDermott

McDermott's riveting novel confronts the unresolved mysteries and ironies of America's tragic interference in Southeast Asia. In Saigon in 1963, two young American wives, Tricia and Charlene, form a wary alliance. Charlene sweeps Tricia into a cabal of well-dressed do-gooder American wives. Armed with candy and toy filled baskets, they descend on hospitals, orphanages and a leper colony, determined to relieve suffering, no matter the cost. Sixty years later, Charlene's daughter reaches out to Tricia, now widowed and living in Washington. As the two relive their shared experience in Saigon, they come to terms with the ways their own lives have been shaped and stunted by Charlene's pursuit of "inconsequential good."

Northwoods by Amy Pease

The dark underbelly of an idyllic resort town is revealed in the aftermath of a murder with ties to America's opioid epidemic. This thrilling debut novel is perfect for fans of James Lee Burke and William Kent Krueger. The Northwoods of Wisconsin may be a vacationer's paradise, but amidst the fishing trips and campfires, something sinister is taking shape. When a teenage boy's body is found in the lake, it sets in motion an investigation that leads Eli North to a wealthy enclave with a violent past, a pharmaceutical salesman, and a missing teenage girl. Soon, Eli and his sheriff mother, along with a young FBI agent, are on the hunt for more than just a killer. If Eli solves the case, could he finally get the shot at redemption he so desperately needs?

The Women by Kristin Hannah

From a master storyteller comes a novel of a turbulent, transformative era in America: the 1960s. Nursing student Frankie McGrath, age 20, has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. Green and inexperienced, she is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America. Her story shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way to help others, and whose sacrifices and commitment to their country has all too often been forgotten.

The Morristown & Morris Township Library

One Miller Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

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

Follow the Morristown & Morris
Township Library on Social Media



Holiday Hours at the Library

by Mary Lynn Becza

The MMT Library is proud to have the greatest number of hours open each year of any library in the Main Alliance! That said, we do need to give our hardworking employees a break to enjoy the holidays. Because of weekends, the MMT holiday schedule changes yearly.

Our holiday hours for 2023 are: early closing at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, November 22; closed on Thanksgiving; closed Friday, November 24; closed Christmas Eve; closed Christmas Day; closed New Year's Eve and closed New Year's Day. Looking forward to seeing everyone on January 2, 2024!

We wish all of our patrons an enjoyable holiday season.

New Employees

by Mary Lynn Becza

Jill Hammaren is a new Library Assistant in the Media department. She enjoys meeting and helping all of the MMT patrons who visit. Jill has background in education and public health and also works as an education professional in a local school district. In her spare time, she enjoys film and photography, and discussing books, poetry, and short stories. She is writing a book of her own!



Samantha Lockery, a new Library Assistant in the Circulation Department, is a retired Federal government employee who lives locally and is excited to be here. As a child, Sam would go to the library with her mom and help paste the charge pockets in the backs of new books. It took her a while to get back to working in a library, but she loves being at MMT, talking to patrons about their latest reads and working with the Circulation crew!



Haunted Houses on Display

Where would you feature haunted house books and films to borrow? In a haunted house, of course! Our October display included all types of haunted house stories, from *Beetlejuice* to *The Haunting of Hill House*. Using recycled materials, staff member Jen Harter turned shelves into a haunted house, with a roof of old business envelopes turned inside out, walls of cardboard, and windowpanes made from trimmed book jackets. Everyone loved the creative and sustainable seasonal display!



Art History Series on Zoom

Winter is a great time for the indoor pleasures of visiting art museums. Join local educator and popular lecturer Mallory Mortillaro for a series of live virtual lectures on Zoom to put you in the mood! Email marylynn.becza@mmt.mainlib.org for the Zoom codes.

■ *How to Steal a Masterpiece* - Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Enter the underworld of stolen art as we examine the little-known stories of some of history's greatest art heists. We will review the most significant art theft of the past 150 years, while questioning and discussing how the legitimate art market has managed to pique the interest of so many criminals.

■ *Exciting Discoveries in Art History* - Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Who doesn't love learning about a priceless painting found in an attic? After finding herself in the middle of an important art history discovery when she uncovered the provenance of a Rodin sculpture sitting in Madison, NJ's town hall, Mortillaro learned just how many times this has happened before. Her talk explores the stories of different important and valuable works of art that have been rediscovered in unexpected places, reviewing how the pieces were created, lost and then found.

■ *How to Read a Painting* - Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Have you ever looked at a painting and wished you could understand it more? This talk serves as a guide to basic visual analysis, explaining some of the more common symbols and tropes seen in Western painting. We will examine a variety of paintings, improving our visual literacy and increasing our appreciation of art!



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



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

☐ **Individual: \$15** ☐ **Family: \$30** ☐ **Patron: \$60 & up** ☐ **Benefactor: \$100 & up**

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

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,
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