



Library News

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Director's Column by Chad Leinaweaver

'Tis the season for gift giving, and at the risk of sounding like a Scrooge, don't we all have a person in our life for whom it is impossible to buy a gift? Lacking inspiration? Stumped for ideas? The Christmas and Hanukkah gift giving season can be stressful for many. A trend of recent years has been to make a donation to a group or charity of special significance to loved ones. A donation to the Friends of the MMT Library in recognition of a family member or friend might be the perfect idea. People can

also purchase a book in honor of someone, especially in a topic or area of interest to the person being honored. The Library puts a special bookplate inside the book celebrating that person and everyone who reads it will see its significance. Another recent gift-giving trend has been books! Specifically, vintage or antique books, of which there are many in the Friends of the Library Used Book Sale. Visit the book sale this holiday season for a one-of-a-kind gift your recipient will be sure to enjoy. Proceeds go directly to the Library to fund programming for children and adults as well as other special projects. Season's greetings to all of our MMT patrons!

President's Message

by Linda Muse-Deo

It's November, and the holiday season is underway with lots to look forward to through the end of 2024.

We invite you to come to the used book sales held by the Friends of the Library on Tuesdays and the first and third Saturdays of the month between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM to take advantage of the bargains. During the months of November and December, books about holidays, travel and cooking are being offered at half of the marked price.

The Friends of the Library are an active group of volunteers who give their time at Tuesday and Saturday used book sales. If you are looking for something satisfying and productive to fill a few hours at your convenience, please consider joining us. You will be working with dedicated people who are helping our local Library offer the programs that have become so important to all of us. You would help with pricing donated books, shelving in the Bookstore room, assisting patrons and checking out purchases.

If you are looking for something different to do during this season, try using one of the museum passes offered by the Library. Anyone with a library card can choose from a list of local and some NYC museums and obtain a visitor's pass for free. Some museums allow small groups to visit with one pass, others only one person. For the list of participating museums, please check the Library website under Services.

We look forward to seeing you at the Library and at our sales.

Valentine's Day Concert Saturday Night Fund-Raiser

Join us on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 7:00 PM for a jazz concert featuring David Humm's Library Allstars! David and his band will play a variety of romantic and popular songs for a special mid-winter evening.



The event will be held in the Media Wing and light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 PM. No advance ticket sales are available. Cash or check only please.

This program is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Library. All proceeds benefit the Library. Snow date is Saturday, February 8.

Please Join the Friends!

The Friends will be conducting their annual Membership Drive in early 2025. If you are a member, please consider renewing your membership. Your donation funds the wonderful programs offered here every week.

The programs include Yoga, Qigong, Book Clubs, Cooking demonstrations, Children's Craft Storytime and Book Clubs, Teen Programs, Chess Club, Film Series, Lectures on a variety of subjects, and many more.

If you are new to the Library, become a Friend to keep these programs going for all to enjoy.

Thank you for your past support of the Friends! We hope you will continue to help us support the Library.

Our book sales will continue throughout the winter, so come in and see our excellent selection. We hope to see you soon at the Library.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

- Just for Teens (page 2)
- The Children's Room (page 2)
- On the Shelf (page 3)
- Everybody Needs a Friend! (page 3)
- MMT Library Contact Information (page 4)
- New MMT Employees (page 4)
- Día de los Muertos (page 4)
- Become a Friend of the Library! (page 4)



Just for TEENS!

by Abigail Hsu

Need an escape from the chilly winter weather? Take a trip to one of the island destinations featured in the YA books below.



***This Vicious Grace* by Emily Thiede:** When eighteen-year-old Alessa's power to slay demons mysteriously disappears, she hires Dante, a cynical outcast marked as a killer, to become her bodyguard. She soon discovers he is either the one person who can help her master her gift or the one who destroys her.



***The Depths* by Nicole Lesperance:** After suffering a near-fatal free diving accident, seventeen-year-old Addie Spencer tags along on her mother's honeymoon to a private island where she unearths dark secrets — a child ghost, moody flowers, and a deep pool where no one feels pain — before realizing the island might not be willing to let her go.



***Postcards from Summer* by Cynthia Platt:** Seventeen-year-old Lexi travels to her late mother's majestic summertime home to learn of the romance — and the tragedy — that changed her life forever.



***Attached at the Hip* by Christine Riccio:** Looking for change, Orié Lennox unwittingly joins the cast of an experimental romantic reality show on a South Pacific island, where her high school crush is also a contestant, leading to a mix of surprising alliances and blossoming relationships.



***Dragonfruit* by Makiia Lucier:** Hanalei of Tamarind is the cherished daughter of an old island family. When her father steals a sea dragon egg meant for an ailing princess, she is forced into a life of exile. One day, an encounter with a female dragon offers her what she desires most — a chance to return home, and to right a terrible wrong.



***It Waits in the Forest* by Sarah Dass:** Inspired by Caribbean folklore, eighteen-year-old Selena gets pulled into a string of mysterious murders on her island home.



The CHILDREN'S ROOM

by Arlene Sprague

During the pandemic, we stopped all of our programs, even after we reopened. While closed, like many other businesses and organizations, we started doing curbside service. Patrons could request books and have them delivered to their car. The Children's Department wanted to do something extra for our families and we started offering a craft kit to go with the books. We took the leftover crafts from various storytimes and bundled all the pieces needed to complete the project into brown bags. We called them *Take and Make Crafts*. Once we reopened to the public, we delayed active programming, but continued to bag crafts for people to take home. Now, four years later, we are still brown bagging crafts for children. These simple crafts remain very popular, with more than 6,700 craft kits taken through October — almost matching our total for all of 2023. Flower cards, sparkly spiders, 3-D haunted houses, and foam star wands are just a few of the projects included.

Some may wonder why, now that all of our services have returned, we continue with the take and makes. The reason is simple. Craft projects are beneficial to child development. Crafts help develop fine motor skills. As adults, we take for granted being able to pick up a pencil or use a pair of scissors, but these are skills children need to learn. Using craft supplies helps to build muscles in young hands and fingers, helping to develop fine motor skills. Arts and crafts help with cognitive skills, teaching children to recognize patterns, to follow directions, and problem solve the steps involved with completing their project. Learning the shapes in each craft, counting the pieces, and using spatial reasoning to lay it out reinforces burgeoning math skills. Completing the craft can reinforce a child's self-esteem by building confidence in their own abilities and instilling pride with a finished product. Finally, these little projects are often a shared activity between a child and a parent, or a child and a grandparent, forging a bond over a simple craft. Perhaps that is why they remain so popular, and why we continue to produce them, long after the original need and purpose.



The Take and Make Crafts remain a popular item with children — and their caretakers — after the pandemic is over.

Want to know more about what is happening at your Library?
Visit the Library's website for more information!

MMTLibrary.org

ON THE SHELF



NONFICTION by Stephen Brunskill

***Disney High: The Untold Story of the Rise and Fall of Disney Channel's Tween Empire* by Ashley Spencer**

If you watched Disney Channel Tween-TV in the early 2000s, the most-watched cable channel in primetime introduced us to the talents of Hilary Duff, Raven-Symoné, Zac Efron, Miley Cyrus, Selena Gomez, the Jonas Brothers, Demi Lovato, and Zendaya, among others! This unauthorized look into the inner workings — and ultimate breakdown — of Disney's massive media machine, shows the highs, lows, and everything in between of this division of the House of Mouse.

***Cats of the World* by Hannah Shaw**

Shaw, an award-winning kitten rescuer, author, and unwavering animal advocate journeys across the globe to reveal a celebration of cats in every form, exploring what they mean to the people who love them most. This book includes gorgeous photos by her husband, Andrew Marttila, and interviews with people in 30 countries.

***Bobby Flay: Chapter One* by Bobby Flay**

This artful book of 100 recipes from one of the world's most well-loved chefs chronicles Bobby Flay's and his fans' favorite dishes, many of which have never been documented before. A must read for foodies, especially those who follow Flay's career or enjoy creative food photography.

***Open Wide: A Cookbook for Friends* by Benny Blanco**

From the mind of pop music-producer, actor, and consummate food freak Benny Blanco, this book shares his personal view on how to enjoy life and throw great dinner parties. The multi-platinum, multi-hyphenate Blanco offers his humble advice on what makes well-prepared food better. A great blend of food and fun for his many fans!

Into the Taylor-Verse: Taylor Swift's Songwriting Eras

by Satu Hämeenaho-Fox

Going from album to album, this book offers a comprehensive overview of the megastar's works and her life, including little-known precious tidbits that Swifties will love reading more about.

New Fiction & Memoirs in All Formats by Mary Lynn Becza

The following titles are available in multiple formats, including Large Type, Audio and Downloadable. The Nonfiction books are only available in print format.

***Lazarus Man* by Richard Price**

Price returns with his first book in ten years. The acclaimed screenwriter and novelist is a master of dialogue and character in contemporary urban settings. Highly anticipated!

***The Restless Wave* by James Stavridis**

The first in a highly anticipated historical adventure series following the protagonist Scott Bradley James and his naval exploits during World War II. Stavridis is a retired four star U.S. Navy Admiral and former NATO commander.

***The Heart of Winter* by Jonathan Evison**

Abe and Ruth come to a crisis in their 70-year marriage on Bainbridge Island. The heartwarming story of a mismatched couple who defies the odds to stay together. Evison is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven acclaimed novels including *Lawn Boy* and *This is Your Life Harriet Chance*.

***We All Live Here* by Jojo Moyes**

Moyes's latest contemporary novel serves up more of what she is famous for — humorous and poignant tales of contemporary women at a crossroads in life. Her legions of fans can't wait for this one!

***Source Code: My Beginnings* by Bill Gates**

The early life of the world's most famous technology pioneer. Gates shares stories of his family and childhood and insights into how he became one of the world's wealthiest entrepreneurs and most generous philanthropists.

***Brooke Shields Is Not Allowed to Get Old: Thoughts on Aging as a Woman* by Brooke Shields**

The famous model and actress known for her great beauty as well as her acting talent, addresses a topic much in the news currently — the human aging process as it applies to women in our critical American society.

***Cher: The Memoir: Part One* by Cher**

The fascinating tales of "a life too immense for one book." This book covers Cher's life through her partnership and marriage with Sonny Bono. There is sure to be more than one scandalous revelation in this book!

Morris County and State Historic Grants

Help Maintain the 1917 Wing by Chad Leinaweaver

Thanks to grants from the Morris County Preservation Trust and the New Jersey Historic Trust, with matching funds supplied by the Morristown & Morris Township Library Foundation, the Library has had contractors working on the 1917 wing of the Library building this year. Paragon Restoration has repaired parts of the stone flashing and masonry in order to stop leaks and maintain our lovely historic façade and plaster interior. Patrons may have noticed that our original 1917 Miller Road doors (now used as an emergency exit) have been missing this fall, as Chautauqua Woods, a specialist company that works with antique wooden doors, has been repairing and protecting these southward facing beauties which take a beating from the sun year-round. This coming winter the Library will work with Femenella & Associates, specialists in windows and leaded glass restoration, who will remove multiple 1917 windows for offsite repairs to prevent leaking and seasonal drafts. We hope to have this complete restoration project wrapped up in the spring of 2025.

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



New Employees by Mary Lynn Becza

Miranda Braemer, a new part-time Library Assistant in the Children's Department, received their BA from American University and is currently working toward getting an MFA in poetry. Miranda grew up loving and spending all of their time in the library reading and is very excited to be a part of the MMT team.



Miranda Braemer



Ava Ikbal

Ava Ikbal is a new Library Assistant in the Children's Department. She has a BA from Seton Hall University and is experienced working with children of all ages. While originally from Seattle, she has lived in New Jersey for almost 10 years and has no plans to leave! In her spare time Ava loves reading, baking cookies (*Please send her any adored recipes to try!*) and trips to Manhattan for a good Broadway show.

♥ **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 Friends@MMT.Mainlib.org.

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

You can find this form on the Library's website at mmtlibrary.org.

Click on "ABOUT US" and then click on "JOIN THE FRIENDS."

Felix Vallovera, our newest Reference Librarian, is a recent graduate of the Rutgers University Library Science Master's program. She began her career in libraries at Montclair State University working as a student Library Assistant while studying literature. Afterward, she joined Main working for our neighbors at the Florham Park Library for several years, and is excited to grow her career with us here at MMT Library. In her spare time, she plays video games and watches tons of horror movies!



Felix Vallovera

Dia de los Muertos

by Mary Lynn Becza

On November 1, the Library was excited to participate again in the second annual Morristown-wide festivities of the Mexican holiday *Dia de los Muertos* or *Day of the Dead*, which is a joyful celebration of loved ones who have passed away. Local businesses and organizations such as ours created offrendas and hosted events in honor of the holiday. Our altar or *offrenda*, was in memory of favorite writers who are no longer with us. MMT Library staff member Tim Lynch created a fabulous offrenda with paper mâché figurines of Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway and William Shakespeare. Library visitors were encouraged to write their own favorite deceased authors names on cards to place on the offrenda. Some favorites included Dr. Seuss, J.R.R. Tolkien and Mary Higgins Clark. We are looking forward to celebrating again next year!



The Library's beautiful offrenda, created by staff member Tim Lynch.