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Library News

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

**SUMMER
2025**

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Director's Column

by Chad Leinaweaver

Springtime is often a time of change — change in the weather, change for new college graduates, and this year — lots of changes at the Library! We will be replacing positions in four different departments as staff members have retired, new people are in the process of being hired, and current staff members have changed jobs.

We are also making changes to our building and grounds as we continue to maintain and update the Library and its landscaping to offer a safe, welcoming, and attractive environment for patrons. Our Main Library Alliance will be welcoming new members in 2025, beginning this month with the addition of the Warren County Library system. Lastly, Main has replaced the existing computer system for its Alliance members, something which is done periodically as software products change and become outdated. Though sometimes staff finds these changes to be a bit disruptive, we are very happy to be able to improve our services for the community.



(ABOVE) Jazz in July musicians Bob McHugh, Ron Naspo and David Humm at the Library.



Jazz in July . . .

Starting in 2004, bandleader David Humm and his bandmates entertained us with their interpretations of American classic jazz at their Jazz in July concerts. The yearly concerts, sponsored by the Friends, were popular events at the Library.

President's Message by Linda Muse-Deo

The year 2025 has gotten off to a good start for the Friends of the Library. Sales have been well attended, and the proceeds of those sales have enabled us to continue to support multiple programs offered by the library. We can do this because of your generous donations of used books. We encourage you to continue to drop them off at the library Circulation desk or in the Media area. As a reminder, we take large trade paperbacks and hard cover books in good condition. We are not able to take small paperbacks. You can also donate used media of all kinds.

We have been fortunate to add enthusiastic new volunteers to our group. The volunteers assist members of our Board in activities associated with weekly used book sales. We go through the donated books that are delivered to the library and price them before they are shelved in our bookstore room. Fiction books are shelved alphabetically by the authors' last names. Non-fiction books are shelved by category. There are clear signs at the end of each row to direct patrons to the subjects they are interested in.

As the weather gets warmer, we are planning on expanding some sale days to include carts of books outside near the front entrance of the library.

At our Board meeting in May, we will be awarding scholarships to two members of the library staff who are pursuing degrees in library science. This program is also funded by the proceeds of our weekly sales.

Some sad news was received recently about the passing of David Humm. David was the husband of one of our past Presidents, Laurie Humm. David was a musician, a drummer, who played with other jazz musicians at various local venues including our Library. **Jazz in July** was a popular event that attracted many local residents.

We look forward to seeing you soon.





Teen Books by Abigail Hsu

“So what’s your favorite book?” I am often asked this when I meet new people and introduce myself as a librarian. It’s a difficult question for any avid reader to answer — in fact, it invites more questions in response. What genre? For what type of audience? In what format? As I close out the YA Librarian chapter of my career, I would like to share my personal favorite books written for the young adult audience.

The Thief (1996) by Megan Whalen Turner

The king’s scholar, the magus, believes he knows the site of an ancient treasure. To attain it for his king, he needs a skillful thief, and he selects Gen from the king’s prison. The magus is interested only in the thief’s abilities. What Gen is interested in is anyone’s guess. Their journey toward the treasure is both dangerous and difficult, lightened only by the tales they tell of the old gods and goddesses.



The Raven Boys (2012) by Maggie Stiefvater

Every year, Blue Sargent stands next to her clairvoyant mother as the soon-to-be dead walk past. Blue herself never sees them — not until this year, when a boy emerges from the dark and speaks directly to her. His name is Gansey, and Blue soon discovers that he is a rich student at Aglionby, the local private school. Blue has a policy of staying away from Aglionby boys. Known as Raven Boys, they can only mean trouble. But Blue is drawn to Gansey, who is on a quest to find the burial place of a long-dead Welsh king.



Scythe (2016) by Neal Shusterman

Hunger, disease, war, misery. Humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now scythes are the only ones who can end life — and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe — a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.



Six of Crows (2015) by Leigh Bardugo

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz’s crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction — if they don’t kill each other first.



The Children’s Room

by Jen Harter

Summer Reading Starts June 17!

Readers of all ages — kids, teens and adults — join our summer reading programs! Every book you read (or listen to) earns you a chance to win fun prizes all summer long. This year we have an artistic theme, *Color Our World*. For more information or to sign up, contact the Library at 973-538-6161.



New Computer System & Main Alliance Libraries

by Mary Lynn Becza

Many patrons have recently experienced having to change PINs/passwords to access various Library accounts recently, as well as some momentary blips with using our different apps. This is because of a switch to a new Main Library Alliance computer system, or ILS (Integrated Library System) in librarian parlance. One reason we have had a slightly bumpy transition between computer systems is because at the same time we are also adding new libraries into the Main family. Welcome Warren County Libraries! Warren County Libraries includes branches in Blairstown, Stewartsville, Belvidere, and Independence, so if you travel to those towns and visit their libraries you will be able to use your MMT Library card to check out books there. Be sure and look out for more new Main Libraries joining our Alliance later on in 2025. We are happy to be able to offer more books and materials to share with MMT patrons from these locations.

Spring to Life Through Art

Students of the Unity Charter School in Morristown brought spring to life through art in an exhibit at the Library. Each piece celebrates the new season and reflects the school’s commitment to sustainability. Natural and repurposed materials were gathered from school grounds to create eco-friendly works of art. The display can be viewed now through early June in the F.M. Kirby Gallery.

Support YOUR Library — Be a FRIEND!



The Friends have mailed reminder cards to those who have yet to renew their membership for 2025. It is important to help fund Library programs by joining and maintaining a membership with the Friends. We are so grateful to those who donate to us annually so we can support this amazing Library. If you have yet to renew your membership, fill out the reminder card, or use the back of this newsletter to do so. We thank you for your contributions to the Friends!

ON THE SHELF



Nuevos Títulos en Español (editado de Penguin Libros)

Tinta y ceniza de Andrea Tomé

“En el Londres de 1938 las noticias del conflicto bélico iniciado por Alemania son, para los jóvenes británicos, un simple eco, un tema de conversación más. Apenas dos años después, sin embargo, nadie habla de otra cosa. Mientras sus dos mejores amigos se alistaban al ejército, Vera aspira a cambiar su puesto actual en el Telegraph por el de corresponsal de guerra. Pero cuando comprende que no van a permitirle por su condición de mujer, la joven no duda en embarcarse como enfermera para vivir de cerca el combate... Aunque eso pueda significar presenciar la muerte del hombre al que ama.”

Un hombre con un arma de Rubén Orozco

“Ignacio Cienfuegos es un investigador privado que lleva una existencia solitaria y mira el mundo con desesperanza. Cuando llega a su puerta el caso de la misteriosa muerte de un poeta, Cienfuegos inicia sus pesquisas, y para descubrir la verdad tendrá la ayuda de un joven y entusiasta asistente. A través de una narración apasionante y con su humor característico, Rubén Orozco nos adentra en una historia que desemboca en giros inesperados. Muy consciente de la tradición en la que se inscribe, el autor evoca personajes legendarios del cine y la literatura -James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, Hércules Poirot y Columbo, entre otros- y añade a ese repertorio un dúo detectivesco inolvidable.”

Fuego en la garganta de Beatriz Serrano

“Una mañana de 1993, la vida de Blanca se rompe cuando su padre le anuncia que su madre no regresará. A partir de entonces, Blanca teme que pueda tener un don insólito: la capacidad de obrar milagros, aunque el primero sea provocar la muerte de una niña que se burla de su situación familiar. Con el peso de la culpa sobre sus hombros y las ansiedades propias del abandono, Blanca busca en internet personas con las que hablar y conecta con un grupo de chicas que también se encuentran solas y perdidas.”

Todo arde de Juan Gómez-Jurado

“Esta es la historia de tres mujeres que lo han perdido todo. Mari Paz Celeiro: Una gallega de las duras, capaz de plantar grelos y de alistarse al cuerpo de élite de la Legión. Curtida en muchas batallas, hace cinco años que atraviesa una mala racha (básicamente, vive en el coche). Sere Quijano: Ingeniera informática y bruja del caos. Su superpoder es sacar de quicio a cualquiera. Su debilidad no te la vamos a contar aquí. Es muy inteligente, pero está como un cencerro. Aura Reyes: Hasta hace poco, era una ejecutiva de éxito, dueña de un lujoso chalet y madre de dos niñas ma-ra-vi-llo-sas (así, separando mucho las sílabas). Ahora, espera un ingreso en prisión por fraude a gran escala y blanqueo de capitales. Siempre ganan los mismos, es hora de cambiar las reglas.”

New Adult Books by Tanya Seaward

LARGE PRINT FICTION

The Jackal's Mistress by Chris Bohjalian

In 1864 Virginia, Union Captain Jonathan Weybridge is saved by Libby Steadman and her family, who risk their lives to hide him from Confederate soldiers. As he heals, a bond forms between them, despite the dangerous secrets they must keep. Inspired by true events, this gripping story explores survival, loyalty, and unexpected connections during wartime.



Midnight Black by Mark Greaney

Ex-CIA operative Court defies the belief that his lover, Zoya, is dead, embarking on a dangerous mission to rescue her from a Moscow prison. Betrayed by the Romanian mob, he teams up with Ukrainian forces and Russian insurgents for a high-stakes plan to save her. Greaney delivers intense action and showcases Court's humanity, making this one of the series' best.



NEW FICTION

Dream Count by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

In Dream Count, Nigerian travel writer Chiamaka reflects on her past lovers and regrets during the pandemic, while her best friend Zikora faces betrayal, and cousin Omelogor questions her identity. Meanwhile, Kadiatou, Chiamaka's housekeeper, struggles with a hardship that threatens her dreams. Adichie's novel explores love, self-honesty, and the choices we make, with poignant, powerful prose that solidifies her as a standout literary voice.



Last Twilight in Paris by Pam Jenoff

In 1953 London, housewife Louise uncovers a necklace linked to a mysterious death during her time with the Red Cross in Nazi-occupied Europe. Following the trail to Paris, she teams up with her former lover, Ian, uncovering a dark history tied to a Nazi prison in a once-glamorous department store. This is a gripping mystery that explores sacrifice, resistance, and love's power to endure through the darkest times.



NEW NONFICTION

I'll Have What She's Having by Chelsea Handler

Chelsea Handler's memoir is a wildly entertaining journey through her unapologetic life, from spiking lemonade at age ten to sharing psychedelics in Spain and asking Woody Allen a bold question at dinner. Known for her outrageous adventures and candid moments, she also reveals a more vulnerable side, reflecting on love, family, and personal growth. With humor and heart, Handler delivers a memoir that's as thought-provoking as it is fun.



Before Elvis by Preston Lauterbach

Preston Lauterbach finally gives long-overdue recognition to the Black artists who shaped Elvis Presley's music. Through new research and interviews, Lauterbach highlights the contributions of Little Junior Parker, Big Mama Thornton, Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup, and Calvin Newborn, while exploring the injustices they faced in a segregated industry. This insightful book sheds light on the origins of rock 'n' roll and the ongoing conversations about music and cultural appropriation.



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



♥ 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."

New Employee by Mary Lynn Becza

Jessie Best, our new Reference and Adult Services Librarian, earned her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from Rutgers University. She worked most recently at the Hunterdon County Library System as a Library Associate in the Adult Services Department. In her spare time, she enjoys crocheting, talking to her plants, and hanging out with her cat. We are thrilled to welcome her to our staff!



Landscaping Volunteer Projects at the Library

by Mary Lynn Becza

The Morristown & Morris Township Library is happy to be working with two local community groups on beautifying the Library grounds this spring. On Saturday, May 3, we welcomed volunteers from the Presbyterian Church of Morristown who helped us clean, weed, maintain and plant on our shared property median between the Library and the PCOM Parish Hall parking lots. It looks great!

Later in the month we will be working with local nonprofit *Morristown Beautiful* which is supplying us with a grant to improve the corner of Miller Road and South Street with new shrubs and plants. Thanks to all who helped! When you are in the area, don't forget to stop and admire how wonderful it looks.



Volunteers from the Presbyterian Church of Morristown hard at work improving the parking lot median.