



Library News

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2026**

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Director's Column by Chad Leinaweaver

My hardhat is coming out of storage! The Library is going to be undertaking a new series of renovations both indoors and outside this summer. Beginning in June, we will work on revamping the back entrance/courtyard area with new sidewalks, fencing and lighting. Up next will be repairs to the South Street entrance structure. Indoors, we will be replacing carpet in the 2006, 1987 and 1930 wings on both the

first and second floors in August. Patrons have asked for more quiet meeting and study space and their requests have not gone unheeded! We will be creating a beautiful new small meeting space in the 1917 Willis Wing by enclosing the Marian Gearhart Room as well as adding a movable partition divider wall to our Technology Training/Study space in the 2006 wing. This will enable us to offer both large and smaller quiet spaces when required. Last, but not least, our Assistant Director Mary Lynn is most excited about a new storage closet on the second floor. Yes, a closet is her favorite part of the project! With all of the patron events our various departments present, we needed more space for programming supplies. Our goal is to make the Library more accessible, functional, and attractive for our patrons. We look forward to sharing these upcoming improvements with you in the coming months.



MMT Library staff member Miguel tries out the new lawn furniture which he just assembled. Patrons enjoy using the tables and chairs to read, chat, eat lunch, hold study sessions and enjoy the sunshine on our beautiful grounds. We are happy to be able to extend the Library outdoors!

President's Message

by Linda Muse-Deo

After what seemed like a never-ending winter and a slow start to warm weather, it is finally Spring!

Our Tuesday sales, in addition to the sales held on the first and third Saturdays of the month (except in July and August) continue to bring in the funds that allow us to support multiple library programs. In addition to the sales on the library's lower level and on the second floor, there is a cart named in honor of one of our former presidents, Norma, in the Circulation department. It is stocked with CDs and DVDs and books of special interest for which you can pay at the Circulation desk.

One of our outstanding programs is the Marian Gerhart Annual Scholarship which awards scholarships to members of the library staff who are pursuing degrees in library science. This year, we awarded two scholarships at our annual board meeting on May 18. All current members were invited to this meeting.

The Friends of the library are especially proud of the selection of childrens, middle readers and young adult books on the second level of the library in the Children's department. Many lovely books have been donated recently. Please stop and take a look the next time you come in. We hope you will also take advantage of the numerous programs for children that are funded by the Friends.

As the weather gets warmer, we are planning to expand some sale days to include carts of books outside the front entrance of the library. Outside sales increase our visibility and draw members of the community and visitors to the library.

Please continue to drop off your generous donations of large trade paperbacks and hard cover books in good condition as well as media of all kinds. We are unable to take small paperback books.

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**In July & August the Friends are running a
HALF PRICE SPECIAL!**

**Every book priced at \$1 or more in the
Book Store (Library's Lower Level)
will be 50% off.**

It's time for Summer Reading! Get your books at a great price and help your Library at the same time!





Movies at MMT!

by Mary Lynn Becza

Film events are always popular here in the Library. For many years we have hosted themed film series, film discussions both in person and on Zoom, film festivals and our popular Oscar Night Parties. (Pssst . . . the party is returning in 2027!) This summer we are excited to be hosting two new film programs as well as our returning programs. We have just begun *Wednesday Matinees*, a monthly new movie event at 2:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month. June 10 we will watch *The Choral* (2026). The World Cup in NJ this year of course means we are holding our first *Soccer Film Fest!* Look for that in July — dates and films TBA.

Our returning film events will begin with our Media Librarian Tim Lynch's offering in June *You Say You Want A Revolution? Films about the American Revolutionary War*. These films will be celebrating America 250 and are held on Thursdays at 6:30 PM, May 21 through June 18.

Our annual Pride Month film series will be held on Wednesdays in June beginning on the 3rd. This series features both hybrid and in-person participation and incorporates our *Foreign Film* series in June. We will be offering a topical series *Images of War* which will be incorporating our "Studio Ghibli" series with live-action films in July.

And get excited for a family Muppet-themed movie series with singalongs in the fall!

As always, we serve light refreshments at each movie program. Visit our website for more details about the above events. Registration is required for Zoom programs.



The Children's Department by Abigail Hsu

When kids and teens hear the word "summer," they think of ice cream, trips down the shore, sleepaway camps, and lots of time spent with friends and family. Reading? Maybe not so much. Maintaining a consistent reading habit can be difficult when school is out, so the Children's Department at the Morristown & Morris Township Library always prepares an exciting schedule of activities to encourage families to keep reading through the summer months.

This year, the 2026 Summer Reading slogan is *Unearth a Story*. Programs for children and teens will run from June 24 through August 15. Summer reading participants can earn prize raffle tickets by tracking how many minutes they read and completing a reading chart. Is your child looking for something new to read? Try our kids' and teen summer book clubs, which are open to rising 2nd through 12th grade students. As a special incentive, book club participants receive a paperback copy of each book they sign up to read and get to keep those books afterwards.



What if your child isn't old enough to read by themselves yet? Come join us at *Baby Stories & Songs*, *Children's Storytime*, and a seasonal favorite, *Lunch with the Librarian*, an outdoor storytime that meets at the Macculloch Hall Gardens. Bring a picnic blanket and a snack, and get ready to go on a bear hunt through the gardens at the end.

We haven't forgotten the teens! In addition to book clubs, we have several new young adult programs this summer. For the performers, they can try *Storytelling: 'Round the Campfire* where they will write and tell their own scary stories. Feeling crafty? Come to the *Junk Journal* program and use recycled materials to make a memory box. And for a bit of nostalgia, sign up for the *Summer Camp Classics*, a program series where teens will make friendship bracelets, duct tape wallets, sand art, and more.

For more details and to register, please see the events list for children and teens at the Library's website mmtlibrary.org.



Teen Retro Crafts! by YA Librarian Nancy Ort

Step back in time and into the spirit of summer with our Teen Retro Crafternoons! As part of this year's Summer Reading theme *Unearth a Story*, we are "digging up the past" and bringing back the best classic-camp creativity we can think of. We will meet each Tuesday, July 7 through August 4. For these five weeks, think friendship bracelets, lanyard keychains, duct tape wallets, dream catchers, and sand art! Each week celebrates the creativity and traditions of summers gone by with one of these amazing crafts. More than just a craft program, *Retro Crafternoons* offer a chance to unwind, to get nostalgic and to create something that will spark conversation

— whether you are reliving your favorite camp memories or discovering these throw-back crafts for the first time, Teen Retro Crafternoons blend hands-on fun with conversation and a little camp-style nostalgia. Join us as we "unearth" classic summer memories, both old and new. Tuesdays, July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4 at 3:00 PM in the Meeting Room.



ON THE SHELF



FICTION BOOK REVIEWS

by Library Staff

This is a fantastic summer for new books from some of the Library staff's favorite authors. Here are a few we are looking forward to reading on our vacations!

Villa Coco by Andrew Sean Greer

Pulitzer Prize winner Greer sets this sun-soaked, coming-of-age story about the enduring power of friendship in the Italian Tuscan countryside. An ode to a life well-lived, whether you are young, old or in-between. Read with wine and some focaccia!



Land by Maggie O'Farrell

O'Farrell, the bestselling author of *Hamnet*, returns with the story of a 19th century land surveyor and his son set in an Ireland ravaged and emptied by the Great Hunger. A magical tale of survival in a spellbinding landscape marked by tragedy and recovery, colonization and rebellion and separation and reunion.



The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett

In 1933 Oxford, Mississippi, Prohibition is on the wane, and the Depression is tightening its grip. Poor and rich alike have fallen on hard times, but the old social order remains. When the fates of three struggling women converge, they come up with an audacious plan to take back control of their lives. Another Southern saga by the author of the book club classic, *The Help*.



Man Overboard! by Kathleen Rooney

An inventive, slyly hilarious, and inspiring novel about a young former college swimmer who falls off a cruise ship and must keep treading water to stay afloat as memories and regrets wash over him. An exploration on what it means to be alive, stay alive, and what keeps us going no matter how choppy the waves of our journey become. Maybe don't take this book to the beach!



Summer Reading Clubs For All

Everyone is encouraged to sign up for our annual **Summer Reading Activities** — Adults, Teens and Kids. Clubs for all ages begin on June 20 and offer participants the opportunity to win prizes and have a lot of fun! This year's theme is *Unearth a Story!*

The *Summer Kickoff program for Kids* ages 4-12, *Dinosaurs Arise!*, is on June 24. The popular book clubs and most programs for *Kids and Teens* begin July 1 and end the week of August 16. Registration is required for all Kids and Teens Summer Reading activities. The Adult Club ends on Labor Day, September 7 and patrons can register at the Circulation or Readers Advisor desks. Visit our website or stop by for more information about our various activities.



NONFICTION BOOK REVIEWS

by Library Staff

Beach reads aren't all fiction! Here are a few new nonfiction titles which are just as much fun under an umbrella with a cold drink!

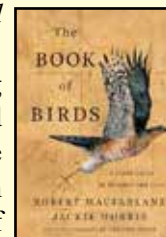
The Wreck of the Mentor by Eric Jay Dolin

Bestselling maritime historian Dolin's latest adventure is the story of the American whaleship Mentor, wrecked in 1832 on a remote reef in the western Pacific. This history vividly reconstructs the gripping saga of cultural collusion, tribal wars, and dashed hopes of the doomed voyage and the fraught naval rescue mission that followed.



The Book of Birds by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris

A dazzling celebration of birdlife, re-imagining a classic field guide for a new generation of bird and nature lovers. The naturalist creators of the bestselling *The Lost Words* have created both a love letter to the splendors and mysteries of birdlife, and a clarion call to halt the loss of birds from land, sea and sky.



No Dumb Questions, and All of Our Dumbest Answers by Jason & Travis Kelce

Brothers and Super Bowl Champions Jason and Travis Kelce are as surprised as everyone else that they are now also published authors. The New Heights podcast hosts attempt to tackle some of life's dumbest questions on topics like sports, relationships, parenting, gorilla fights, and many more quandaries that man has pondered since he first gazed upon the stars. This is a collection of the wisest, funniest, and most electric debates that could only come from the collected wisdom of a combined twenty-seven head-battered seasons in the NFL.



Lightning Beneath the Sea: The Race to Wire the World and the Dawn of the Information Age by James M. Tabor

In 1854, the American entrepreneur Cyrus Field set out to lay a 2,000-mile telegraph cable across the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. He knew nothing about telegraphy, ships, or oceans, and science itself still lacked a universal theory of electricity. But he believed that wiring the world for near-instantaneous communication would bring about peace on Earth. In 1866, after enduring over a decade of global scorn, catastrophic failures, staggering losses, and brushes with death, Field would finally lay his great cable, ushering in the global information age. From acclaimed adventure author James M. Tabor, this is a tale of unwavering determination and triumph against overwhelming odds that transformed life on Earth forever.



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



Booked on Reality – A Nonfiction Book Club

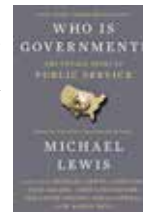
Booked on Reality meets monthly on the **second Wednesday** of each month from 7:00-8:00 PM in the F.M. Kirby Gallery. Refreshments will be served.

Booked on Reality is a new nonfiction book club aimed at readers who love exploring history, science, memoirs, and more through engaging conversation. It meets the second Wednesday of every month, starting in June, from 7:00-8:00 PM in the F.M. Kirby Gallery. Refreshments will be provided.

On June 10, for our first meeting, we will be reading *Who is Government?* by Michael Lewis. Who works for the government and why does their work matter? Michael Lewis invited his favorite writers to join him in writing about someone doing an interesting job for the government. The stories they found are unexpected, riveting, and inspiring, including a former coal miner devoted to making mine roofs less likely to collapse, saving thousands of lives; an IRS agent straight out of a crime thriller; and the manager who made the National Cemetery Administration the best-run organization, public or private, in the entire country.

The selection for our July 8 meeting, *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson, is a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Fort Sumter. A reserved copy of the book can be picked up at the Circulation Desk.

For more information about this new book discussion group, speak to one of our Reader's Advisors on the second floor of the Library or visit our website at: mmtlibrary.org/bookgroups.



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!

To learn more 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 join the Friends of the Library online! Find this form on the Library's website at mmtlibrary.org.

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



This year's Marian Gerhart scholarship recipients. The scholarships were presented during the Friend's Annual Board Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2026.

From left to right: Rachel Reinhart; Linda Muse-Deo, President of the Friends; Jill Hammaren

Have you checked the Library's website recently?

Did you know you can access the *NY Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* newspapers as well as *Consumer Reports*? You can print from home on your own device. There are things to do locally — like passes to museums, including five from New York City! Do you enjoy the theatre? You can get discounted tickets for the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey at your Library! You can look at upcoming events. There is something for everyone at your Library! Yoga, book clubs, qigong, stamp club, tech help, films, lectures, discussion groups . . . and more! Check it out today at MMT.Library.org.