MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

December 2023 Happenings

BOOK SALE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Purchase gently-used books at bargain prices. Plus new and pre-loved jewelry and evening bags. Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

HOW TO HIRE A CONTRACTOR
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
11:30 A.M.

Monroe Township Construction Department staff will explain construction applications and permit procedures and provide tips to avoid unscrupulous contractors. This is an in-person program. Registration is not required.

HOLIDAY SHOP
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Shop for literary-themed gifts for everyone on your holiday list! Drop in to shop during library hours. Proceeds benefit the New Jersey Library Association.

HOLIDAY CONCERT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
2:00 P.M.

Get into the holiday spirit at this festive concert performed by the Monroe Township Chorus. All ages are welcome. Registration is required. The performance will be held at Monroe Township Library.

NEW! CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
12:30 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Join this small group, instructor-led workshop to improve your writing skills, give constructive criticism and get feedback on your work. Bring a typed copy of your work (1,500 words or less). Whether it is a complete short story or a piece of a larger project, be prepared to read your work to the group and receive feedback. We will meet monthly. Space is limited. This is an in-person event for adults 18 or older. Registration is required.

*Select programs require registration. Register online at www.monroetwplibrary.org/calendar, at the Welcome Desk, or by phone at (732) 521-5000.

11/17/2023

Craft Programs

Sit-N-Stitch
Fridays, December 1 & 15 at 10:30 a.m.
Socialize with stitchers & crafters of all skill levels. Bring your own supplies. This program is held in person. Registration is required.

Crafty Creations
Wednesday, December 6 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Let's get crafty and make a winter ornament using quilling! For ages 18 and over. All materials will be provided. This program will be held in person. Space is limited. Registration is required.

Open Sewing
Monday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. OR Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.
Students will bring their own projects on which to work – there is not a planned project; everyone will be working on their own. Students must take the Meet Your Sewing Machine class or have prior machine sewing knowledge to take this class. Ages 18 and over. Registration is required. Please register for just one session.

Crafty Creations
Wednesday, December 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Create a Christmas tree centerpiece, made by folding a book. For ages 18 and over. All materials will be provided. This program will be held in-person. Space is limited. Registration is required.

Film

International Film Discussion
Thursday, December 14 at 2:30 p.m.
We will discuss "I'm Your Man" (Germany, 2021, Rated R, 1h, 48m). In order to obtain research funds for her studies, a scientist accepts an offer to participate in an extraordinary experiment: for three weeks, she is to live with a humanoid robot, created to make her happy. Films are available to stream for free on Kanopy, accessible with your library card online at monroetw.kanopy.com. The discussion is virtual and will be held via Zoom. Register to receive the link to the Zoom meeting. Hosted by the Friends of the Monroe Township Library.

On Display

Mixed media abstract art by Monroe resident **Audacity Markoff** will be on display in the Fine Arts Gallery through December 2023.

Watercolor paintings by local artist **Louise Palagyi** will be on display in the Lobby Display Case through December 2023.

Meetings

The Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Library
will not meet in December.

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Holiday Hours

On Friday, December 1, the Library will open at 10:00 a.m. for staff development.
The Library will be closed on Sunday, December 24 and Monday, December 25 for Christmas.

Technology

Device Advice
Mondays at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.
Thursdays at 3:45 p.m.
Need some tech help? Register for a one-on-one 45-minute session with a librarian to get advice about your device. Sessions are held in person. Registration is required.

Teen Tech Buddies: Get Help With Your Device
Tuesday, December 26, Wednesday, December 27 & Thursday, December 28
Drop in any time between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Our teen volunteers are back for Winter Break sessions of Tech Buddies. Get help with your phone, tablet, laptop and more. Teen volunteers can help you with:
-texting, calling, adding contacts
-adding and using apps
-downloading library materials
-and more!
Registration is not required. Drop in for a 30 minute session.

Health

Diabetes Self-Management and Support Workshop
Monday, December 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
The Middlesex County Office of Health Services presents a 6-week program designed to provide tools for people at risk of developing diabetes, or already diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Topics include dealing with pain and fatigue, healthy eating, medication usage, working with your health care professionals, and exercise. The program will be held in person. Registration is required. Please attend all 6 sessions (October 30 - December 4).

Pop-Up Shop

Bundle Up Babe Boutique
Saturday, December 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Start your holiday shopping early! Pick up purses, handbags, ponchos, capes, vests, hats, gloves, and scarves for women and men. This vendor accepts cash, credit cards, Venmo, Zelle, and Cash App. The Monroe Township Library Foundation provides Pop-Up Shop rental space on select Saturdays. Local residents with their own direct sales businesses may visit one of our service desks or our website for an application to sell merchandise.

Continuing Programs

English Language Learners Class for Adults
Wednesdays, December 6 & 13 at 5:30 p.m.
Practice your English language skills with a certified ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher. Classes will take place in person at the Monroe Township Library for 6 consecutive weeks (November 1 through December 13 . No class on November 22.) . Please attend all 6 sessions. Space is limited. Registration is required. Open to adult Monroe and Jamesburg library card holders.

Socrates Café
Monday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Socrates Café are gatherings around the world where people from different backgrounds get together and exchange philosophical perspectives based on their experiences, using the version of the Socratic Method developed by founder Christopher Phillips. Moderated by **Dr. Allan Cooper**. This is an in-person program. Registration is required.

Photography Club
Tuesday, December 12 at 3:30 p.m.
This monthly club is open to Township residents ages 12+ and welcomes all skill levels. No experience is necessary to join. Bring a camera (smart device is acceptable) and share your love of photography. This is an in-person program. Registration is required.

Caregiver Support Group
Wednesday, December 13 at 11:00 a.m.
A Caregiver Support Group meets in person at the Library monthly on the second Wednesday of the month. This group is intended for caregivers only; no solicitation and no distribution of promotional materials. Led by **Kat Verdi**, MAT CDP, CADDCT, Certified Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Trainer, of The Gardens at Monroe. Her mission is to educate, empower and encourage caregivers. Registration is not required.

Genealogy Club
Wednesday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m.
Beginner and experienced genealogists welcome to discuss research, share findings and resources. This program is held in person. Registration is required.

Mahjong Club
Friday, December 15 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Join us for some casual, non-competitive rounds of traditional Chinese mahjong. There are no joker tiles in this style of play. Brush up on your skills, become more confident with your gameplay, and meet players of all levels. Mahjong sets are provided. This program will be held in-person. Registration is required.

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Book Discussions

Virtual Author Talk: Victoria Aveyard, Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.
Join us as the instant #1 New York Times bestselling author of the "Red Queen" and "Realm Breaker" series, Victoria Aveyard, chats with us about YA fantasy fiction, world-building, and her incredible body of work! This is a virtual program. Registration is required.

Book Café, Wednesday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
What have you been reading? We want to know! Join other book lovers for a lively discussion. Book Café is a perfect place to find your next great read or share what you have enjoyed. This is a hybrid program. Join us via Zoom or in person. Registration is required.

Book Theme, Thursday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m.
Welcome to our Book Club with a twist! Each month, a book is selected based on a theme (space, western, animals, etc.). This month's theme is **Families.** The key is to have fun and think outside the box when sharing your favorite books. This program is held in person. Registration is required.

All You Need Is Love Book Club, Friday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m.
Join our modern romance book group to discuss "The Flatshare" by Beth O'Leary. This is a hybrid program. Join us via Zoom or in person. Registration is required.

Virtual Author Talk: Stephanie Land, Tuesday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m.
You're invited to an afternoon chat with New York Times bestselling author Stephanie Land as she talks to us about her new memoir, "Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education". This is a virtual program. Registration is required.

Coffee and a Book, Tuesday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m.
Join us for a discussion about "Counterfeit" by Kirstin Chen. This is the story of two Asian American women who band together to grow a counterfeit handbag scheme into a global enterprise--an incisive and glittering blend of fashion, crime, and friendship. Money can't buy happiness... but it can buy a decent fake. This is a hybrid event. Registration is required.

Page Turners, Thursday, December 21 at 11:00 a.m.
Looking for something to read or add to your reading list? Library staff will present and recommend a variety of titles pertaining to a different topic, both new and old titles. The theme for this session is 2023 Wrap Up – books read in 2023, including input from library staff and we'll ask attendees to share their favorite books read in 2023, not necessarily published in 2023. This is a hybrid program. Join us via Zoom or in person. Registration is required.

Short Story Discussion Group, Thursday, December 21 at 2:00 p.m.
We will discuss "The Rotifer" by Mary Ladd Gavell in <u>The Best American Short Stories of the Century</u> edited by John Updike and "Rainbows" by Joseph O'Neill in <u>The Best Short Stories 2022</u> edited by Valeria Luiselli. This program is held in-person. Registration is required.

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December at a Glance

FRI	1	10:00	Library opens at 10:00 a.m.	
FRI	1	10:00 - 4:00	Book Sale	In-person
FRI	1	10:30	Sit-N-Stitch	In-person
SAT	2	10:00 - 4:00	Book Sale	In-person
MON	4	10:30 - 1:00	Diabetes Self-Management & Support Workshop	In-person
TUE	5	11:30	How to Hire a Contractor	In-person
TUE	5	7:00	Virtual Author Talk: Victoria Aveyard	Virtual
WED	6	11:00	Book Café	Hybrid
WED	6	1:00	Book Café	Hybrid
WED	6	3:00 - 5:00	Crafty Creations	In-person
WED	6	5:30	English Language Learners	In-person
THU	7	3:00	Book Theme	In-person
FRI	8	9:30 - 9:00	Holiday Shop	In-person
FRI	8	11:00	All You Need Is Love Book Club	Hybrid
SAT	9	10:00 - 5:00	Holiday Shop	In-person
SUN	10	10:00 - 5:00	Holiday Shop	In-person
MON	11	3:00 - 5:00	Open Sewing	In-person
MON	11	7:00	Socrates Café	In-person
TUE	12	2:00	Virtual Author Talk: Stephanie Land	Virtual
TUE	12	3:30	Photography Club	In-person
TUE	12	6:30	Library Board of Trustees Meeting	In-person
WED	13	11:00	Caregiver Support Group	In-person
WED	13	12:30 - 2:00	Creative Writing Workshop	In-person
WED	13	2:00	Genealogy Club	In-person
WED	13	5:30	English Language Learners	In-person
WED	13	6:00 - 7:30	Crafty Creations	In-person
THU	14	2:30	International Film Discussion	Virtual
THU	14	6:30 - 8:30	Open Sewing	In-person
FRI	15	10:30	Sit-N-Stitch	In-person
FRI	15	2:00 - 4:00	Mahjong Club	In-person
SAT	16	10:00 - 4:00	Pop-Up Shop: *Bundle Up Babe Boutique*	In-person
SAT	16	2:00	Monroe Township Chorus Holiday Concert	In-person
TUE	19	11:00	Coffee and a Book	Hybrid
THU	21	11:00	Page Turners	Hybrid
THU	21	2:00	Short Story Discussion Group	In-person
SUN	24		Library Closed	
MON	25		Library Closed	
TUE	26	2:00 - 4:00	Tech Buddies	In-person
WED	27	2:00 - 4:00	Tech Buddies	In-person
THU	28	2:00 - 4:00	Tech Buddies	In-person

We are pleased to announce that the Monroe Township Poetry Group Workshop is returning to the Monroe Township Public Library in January! Join us the second Monday of each month to read, write, and discuss poetry. This is an in-person program. Registration is required. Register online at www.monroetwplibrary.org/calendar, at the Welcome Desk, or by phone at (732) 521-5000.