



# MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

4 Municipal Plaza  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831  
(732) 521-5000  
[www.monroetwplibrary.org](http://www.monroetwplibrary.org)

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-9:00pm  
Friday 9:30am-5:00pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

## FEBRUARY 2024 HAPPENINGS



### UNEARTHING TEA: TEA TALK & TASTING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
2:30 P.M.

Discover tea through its history! Learn where tea is grown and how it is produced. Understand the differences between varieties. Taste teas from top tea-producing countries. Presented by *Tea-For-All*. This is an in-person program. Registration is required.

ADULT SPECIAL NEEDS SOCIAL HOUR

### MIX & MINGLE SOCIAL FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
5:00 P.M.

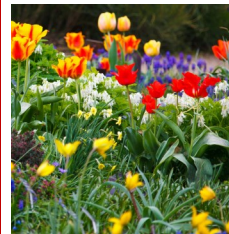
Adults 18+ with developmental or cognitive disabilities and their parent or caregiver are invited for a fun, themed social hour on the second Tuesday of the month. Registration is required in person at the Youth Services Desk.



### BLACK HISTORY MUSIC CONCERT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
2:30 P.M.

The Universal Singers will perform popular hit songs and selections from celebrated Negro Spiritual and Traditional Black Gospel songs. *Sponsored by Friends of the Library*. This is an in-person program. Registration is required.



### SPRING GARDENING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17  
11:00 A.M.

Presented by **Anne Hoban**, Master Gardener with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County. Sponsored by *the Monroe Twp Environmental Commission*. This is a hybrid program. Registration is required.



### PAUL ROBESON, RENAISSANCE MAN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 2:30 P.M.

Actor **Marvin Jefferson** brings Paul Robeson to life in a first-person historical narrative. Robeson, the son of a former slave, was one of the most well-known African-Americans of the 20th century. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library*. This is an in-person program. Registration is required.

## Health & Wellness

### Sound Meditation

**Wednesday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m.**

Join Mayor Dalina's Wellness Commission Sound Meditation Event for a unique relaxation experience. You will be guided through meditation while listening to various instruments and singing bowls. Tuned to different frequencies, these sounds will help align and heal the body, relax the mind, and allow for deep states of relaxation. Bring a yoga mat or towel. Registration is required. To register, email [ebiennas@monroetwp.com](mailto:ebiennas@monroetwp.com), or call 732-521-4400 ext. 114.

### Blood Pressure & Cholesterol Screening

**Tuesday, February 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

February is American Heart Month! Sign up for a free blood pressure and cholesterol screening and take care of your health. Screenings will be provided by nursing staff at Saint Peter's University Hospital and held at Monroe Library. Registration is required. Space is limited. Call 732-521-5000 ext. 132 to register and schedule an appointment.

## Music

### The Music Lounge

**Thursday, February 8 at 2:30 p.m.**

Each month, we pick a musician, listen to a couple of their songs, and read the lyrics. Then, we'll talk about what makes the writer and their music so timeless. Like a book discussion, but for music! This month's focus will be Sam Cooke. In person. Registration required.

### Boheme Opera NJ

**Thursday, February 29 at 1:00 p.m.**

Boheme Opera returns to Monroe Township Library with a lecture performance focusing on the origins and story behind Bizet's opera, "Carmen". Sponsored by Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission. Registration is not required. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

## On Display

*The Art of Black Joy: A Celebration of Life, Happiness and Culture* is on display in the Fine Arts Gallery.

Artwork of **George Ivers** will be on display in the Lobby Display Case from mid-February through March 2024.

## Meetings

The Library Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 27 at 4:00 p.m.

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

## Holiday Hours

The Library will be closed on **Monday, February 19, 2024** in observance of Presidents Day.

## Craft Programs

### Sit-N-Stitch

**Fridays, February 2 & 16 at 10:30 a.m.**

Socialize with stitchers & crafters of all skill levels. Bring your own supplies. In person. Registration required.

### Crafty Creations

**Wednesday, February 7 at 3:00 p.m.**

Let's celebrate Valentine's Day by making a fun travel Tic Tac Toe personalized game using rocks and a burlap bag. This program is for adults ages 18 and over. All materials will be provided. In person. Registration required.

### Learn to Sew: Pillowcases

**Monday, February 26 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, February 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Students must bring 2 yards of fabric to class. This will make 1 pair of standard size pillow cases. Please register for just one session. In person. Registration required.

### Learn to Crochet

**Wednesdays, February 28, March 6 & 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Learn to crochet with us in this three-session program. Using the Creativebug video-learning site, this program will introduce participants to the basics of crochet, including the foundation stitches and how to combine those stitches to create different shapes and textures. \*\*Participants should bring their own crochet hook size H /8 (5.00mm) and worsted weight yarn. Please plan to attend all three sessions.\*\* For Ages 18 and over. In person. Registration required.

## Technology

### 3D Printer Demonstration

**Sunday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m.**

Did you know that the library has a 3D printer? A 3D printer is a machine that can take a digital design from your computer and "print" it out into a solid three-dimensional object. During this session you'll see a 3D printer in action, understand how it works, and learn how it is used at the library. All ages welcome. In person. Registration required.

## Teens

### Online Practice SAT

**Saturday, February 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

The SAT is going digital, using a new platform! Take a real practice test from The Princeton Review and self-score the same day. This practice test can be done from home, or if you want to get a more realistic experience, bring your device and take the SAT in the library's meeting room. Registration required.

## Continuing Programs

**Poetry Group Workshop, Monday, February 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

In person. Registration required.

**Socrates Café, Monday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

In person. Registration required.

**Photography Club, Tuesday, February 13 at 3:30 p.m.**

In person. Registration required.

**Caregiver Support Group, Wednesday, February 14 at 11:00 a.m.**

In person. Registration is not required.

**Creative Writing Workshop, Wednesday, February 14 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

In person. Registration required.

**Genealogy Club, Wednesday, February 14 at 2:00 p.m.**

In person. Registration required.

**Mahjong Club, Friday, February 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

In person. Registration required.

## Films

**International Film Discussion**

**Thursday, February 8 at 2:30 p.m.**

***Antonia's Line*** (1995, Dutch, Comedy/Drama, R, 1h 42m) A Dutch matron establishes and, for several generations, oversees a close-knit, matriarchal community where feminism and liberalism thrive. Hosted by the Friends of the Monroe Township Library. Films are available to stream for free on Kanopy, accessible with your library card online at [monroetw.kanopy.com](http://monroetw.kanopy.com). The discussion is virtual and will be held via Zoom. Register to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.

**Friday Afternoon Movie**

**Friday, February 23 at 2:30 p.m.**

***Akeelah and the Bee*** (2006, PG, 1h 52m, Drama/Family) A young girl from south Los Angeles tries to make it to the National Spelling Bee. In person. Registration required.

## Pop-Up Shops

The Monroe Township Library Foundation provides Pop-Up Shop rental space on select Saturdays between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Local residents who have their own direct sales businesses are welcome to submit an application to sell their merchandise. This space is not intended to sell a service. Interested vendors should visit one of our service desks or download the application to rent the Pop-Up Shop space at the Library.

**Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. *Backer Farm***

**Saturday, February 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

***Three Bs Soap, Sweet Birch Warehouse, Blake's Chocolates, Bow Wow Buddies***

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

# Book Discussions

## **Book Café, Wednesday**

**Wednesday, February 7 at 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.**

Find your next great read or share what you have enjoyed. Hybrid. Registration required.

## **Virtual Author Talk: Tessa Bailey**

**Thursday, February 8 at 8:00 p.m.**

Join us as the #1 New York Times bestselling author Tessa Bailey talks about the launch of her new super-hot sports romance duology with a rom-com about a bad boy professional athlete who falls for his biggest fan in her new book Fangirl Down. Virtual. Registration required.

## **Page Turners**

**Thursday, February 15 at 11:00 a.m.**

The theme for this session is **Presidential Families** – stories about presidents and their families, fiction and non-fiction. Hybrid. Registration required.

## **All You Need Is Love Book Discussion**

**Friday, February 16 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will discuss “Fortune's Rocks” by Anita Shreve. Hybrid. Registration required.

## **Coffee and a Book**

**Tuesday, February 20 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will discuss “Take My Hand” by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. Inspired by true events that rocked the nation, a profoundly moving novel about a Black nurse in post-segregation Alabama who blows the whistle on a terrible wrong done to her patients. Hybrid. Registration required.

## **Virtual Author Talk: Jason Mott**

**Tuesday, February 20 at 4:00 p.m.**

You're invited to join us as we talk to New York Times bestselling author Jason Mott about his recent novel “Hell of a Book”. This magnificent work of fiction is deeply honest, at times electrically funny, and is a book that goes to the heart of racism, police violence, and the hidden costs exacted upon Black Americans and America as a whole. Virtual. Registration required.

## **Short Story Discussion Group**

**Thursday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m.**

We will discuss “The Key” by James Alan McPherson in “The Best American Short Stories of the Century” edited by John Updike and “Seams” by Olga Tokarczuk, translated from the Polish in The Best Short Stories 2022 edited by Valeria Luiselli. In person. Registration required.

## **Virtual Author Talk: Kim Scott**

**Wednesday, February 28 at 2:00 p.m.**

Why is feedback so difficult, and how can we make it easier? Kim Scott, New York Times bestselling author of “Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity”, will explain how you don't have to choose between being a pushover and a jerk. Keep your humanity while living your life. Virtual. Registration required.

# February 2024 at a Glance

FRI	2	10:30	Sit-N-Stitch	In-person
SAT	3	9:00 - 1:00	Online Practice SAT	Virtual
SAT	3	10:00 - 4:00	Pop-Up Shop	In-person
WED	7	11:00	Book Café	Hybrid
WED	7	1:00	Book Café	Hybrid
WED	7	3:00	Crafty Creations	In-person
WED	7	5:30	English Language Learners Class for Adults	In-person
WED	7	6:00	Sound Meditation Event	In-person
THU	8	2:30	International Film Discussion	Virtual
THU	8	2:30	Music Lounge	In-person
THU	8	8:00	Virtual Author Talk: Tessa Bailey	Virtual
FRI	9	2:30	Unearthing Tea: Tea Talk & Tasting	In-person
SAT	10	10:00 - 4:00	Pop-Up Shop	In-person
MON	12	11:00	Poetry Group Workshop	In-person
MON	12	7:00	Socrates Café	In-person
TUE	13	10:00 - 12:00	Blood Pressure & Cholesterol Screening	In-person
TUE	13	3:30	Photography Club	In-person
TUE	13	5:00	Mix & Mingle Social for Adults with Special Needs	In-person
WED	14	11:00	Caregiver Support Group	In-person
WED	14	12:30	Creative Writing Workshop	In-person
WED	14	2:00	Genealogy Club	In-person
THU	15	11:00	Page Turners	Hybrid
THU	15	2:30	Black History Concert of Celebrated Music Artists	In-person
FRI	16	10:30	Sit-N-Stitch	In-person
FRI	16	11:00	All You Need Is Love Book Club	Hybrid
FRI	16	2:00	Mahjong Club	In-person
SAT	17	11:00	Spring Gardening	Hybrid
MON	19		<i>Library Closed</i>	
TUE	20	11:00	Coffee and a Book	Hybrid
TUE	20	4:00	Virtual Author Talk: Jason Mott	Virtual
TUE	20	6:30	Library Board of Trustees Meeting	In-person
THU	22	2:00	Short Story Discussion Group	In-person
FRI	23	2:30	Friday Afternoon Movie	In-person
SUN	25	1:00	3D Printer Demonstration	In-person
MON	26	3:00	Learn to Sew: Pillowcases	In-person
TUE	27	4:00	Friends of the Library Board Meeting	In-person
WED	28	2:00	Virtual Author Talk: Kim Scott	Virtual
WED	28	2:30	Paul Robeson, Renaissance Man	In-person
WED	28	6:30 - 8:00	Learn to Crochet	In-person
THU	29	1:00	Boheme Opera NJ "Carmen"	In-person
THU	29	6:30	Learn to Sew: Pillowcases	In-person

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