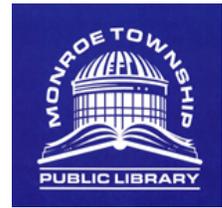


LIBRARY LINES



The Free Public Library of Monroe Township Newsletter

January 2022

Gentle Yoga at the Library!: Wednesdays, 12:30pm

Back by popular demand! Weekly yoga sessions are available on Wednesdays at 12:30pm **starting February 2nd** here at the Monroe Township Library. Certified yoga teachers from Relax Mind & Body located at 621 S. Main Street in Williamstown will be here teaching gentle yoga, chair yoga and stretching which is suitable for adult beginners and older adults. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing. Space is limited and registration is required. Sign up online at monroetpl.org or call 856-629-1212, x206 to register. Learn more about Relax Mind & Body on their website: www.relaxmb.com

Computer Classes: Microsoft Word: Saturday, 1/8, 12-1pm

In our monthly computer class series, we'll explore a variety of different computer-related topics to help you improve your technological skills and familiarity. This month, we will get comfortable with the basics of word processing in Microsoft Word. We'll cover basic page formatting, font styling, inserting images, margins, templates, and more! Register online at monroetpl.org or call 856-629-1212, x206.

Born & Raised in CENTER CITY, PHILADELPHIA Chat: Tuesday, 1/18, 1-2pm & 6-7pm

Drop by a walk down memory lane with the city of Philadelphia as your backdrop. Trudi Clark, the author of "Born & Raised in Center City, Philadelphia" will be here to discuss and sign her memoir. The stories within are centered around the iconic architectural structure where the children in the neighborhood played. Trudi will be sharing her charming and nostalgic memories growing up in Philadelphia in the 50s— maybe you will have some of your own to share? Join us to reminisce in the afternoon at 1pm or in the evening at 6pm... Or both!

Contact Us

The Free Public Library of
Monroe Township
713 Marsha Ave
Williamstown, NJ 08094
(856) 629-1212

Circulation Desk

Ext. 210 or 211

Reference Desk

Ext. 206

Teen and Youth Services

Ext. 209

Administration

Ext. 203

info@monroetpl.org

Visit us on the web at
<http://www.monroetpl.org>



The Monroe Library Welcomes You!

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- Teen Programming
- **NO Tween or Children's Programming in January**
- Short Story Contest Winner

The Free Public Library of Monroe Township
713 Marsha Ave
Williamstown, NJ 08094

Library Hours
Monday-Thursday 11AM-9PM
Friday & Saturday 10AM-3PM
CLOSED SUNDAY

Library Closings
Saturday, January 1st
Monday, January 17th



Call 856-629-1212, x206 to register for programs!

Adult Programming

Needle Arts Group: Wednesday, 1/5 & 1/19, 6:30-8:30pm

Do you like to knit or crochet? Like to do embroidery, needlepoint, beading, quilting, or other needlework? Bring a current project to work on in a fun, informal atmosphere. All levels of experience are welcome. This is not a class, however sharing of tips and experience is encouraged. Registration not required.

***Inkwell* Writers Group: Wednesday, 1/12, 6:30-8:30pm**

An adult creative writing group looking for fun, creative, artistic writers who find it hard to stay motivated to write. Join us as we encourage each other in maintaining a writing schedule with the goal of using writing as a tool of empowerment, healing & personal discovery. Critique sessions, writing prompts, artistic encouragement. For writers of any genre. To register, contact the group facilitator Jerome Jackson at 609-372-8908.

Hunt a Killer: *Murder Mystery*: Thursday, 1/13, 6pm

Calling all true crime fans! Join us for an episodic murder mystery game in six parts. Each month we'll receive new, clues, and puzzles that will take us closer to solving the murder. New members are always welcome! We will recap the previous events at the beginning of each meeting. Registration is required. Sign up online or call 856-629-1212, x206.

Paint Night for Adults with Gina Martucci: Tuesday, 1/18, 6:30pm

Adults of all ages can come and create their own painting with local artist Gina Martucci! Sign ups are required due to limited space, so please visit our events calendar at www.monroetpl.org to register.

Library Board Meeting: Wednesday, 1/19, 7pm

The Library Board Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 7pm. The Board Meeting Minutes are posted on the library website after the review/approval of the Library

Craft for Adults: Wine Glass Snowman: Thursday, 1/20, 1:30pm

Adults of all ages are invited to make an adorable snowman out of a wine glass! Visit www.monroetpl.org to sign up online at our events calendar, or call 856-629-1212, x206.

Bingo for Adults: Saturday, 1/22, 11:30am

Bingo is back! Adults of all ages are invited to play a few games. You could win books to take home or other great prizes. Please sign up online at our events calendar on our website www.monroetpl.org or call 856-629-1212, x206.

***NETFLIX* Film Discussion Club: Thursday, 1/27, 7pm**

Join us for our next movie discussion! This month we will be discussing *The Machinist* (2004): An industrial worker who hasn't slept in a year begins to doubt his own sanity. Rated R. Reminder: Please see Netflix Film Discussion Club movies on your own time— This will be a movie *discussion*, NOT a viewing and the library does NOT have a Netflix membership. Sign up through our website or call 856-629-1212, x206 for more information.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

There's no better way to start off the New Year than by celebrating one of the kindest and gentlest men ever to live--Fred Rogers. Bring your lunch (beverages provided) and enjoy two recent movies that celebrate the life and legacy of this great man. No signups required.



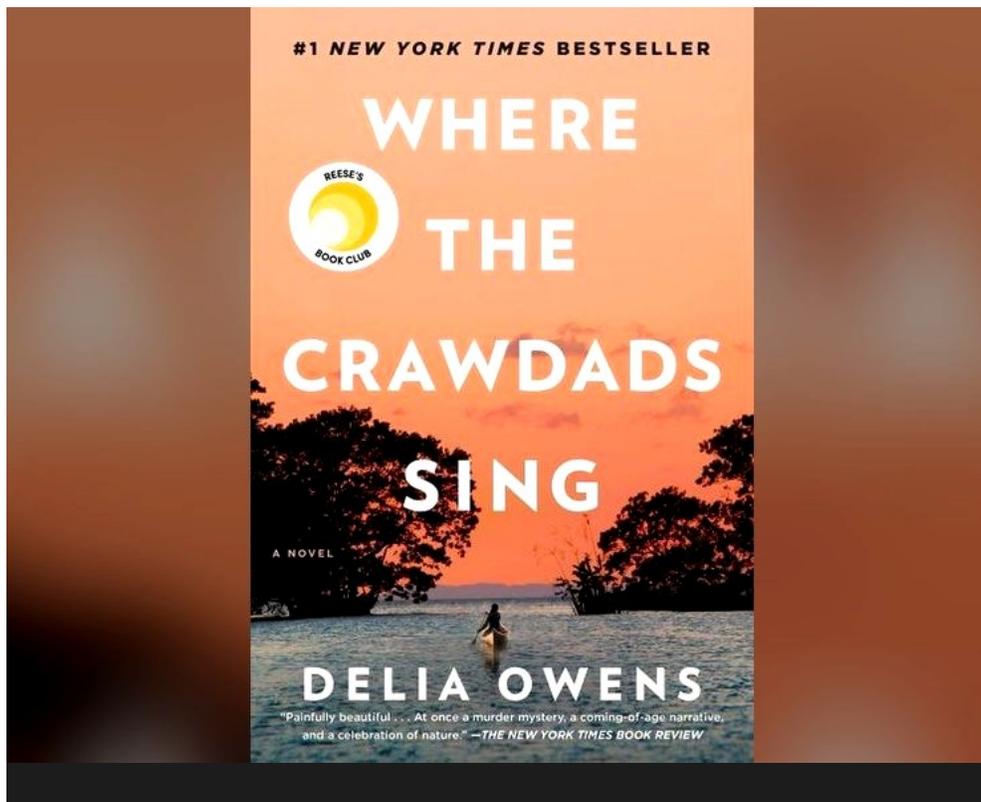
Lunch and a Movie

Won't You Be My Neighbor? (2015): Monday, 1/10, 12pm

This acclaimed documentary takes us through the life and career of Fred Rogers, the childhood that shaped him, and his desire to do as much good as possible with his children's television show--discussing difficult topics in ways children could understand, and even defying some of the racial taboos of the pre-civil rights era. Lots of classic clips from his show are featured, as well as interviews with Fred's family and friends as they remember this remarkable man.

A Beautiful Day In the Neighborhood (2019): Monday, 1/24, 12pm

In this delightful movie, based on a true story, cynical journalist Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys) is assigned to interview Mr. Rogers (Tom Hanks). He is skeptical of Fred's image, figuring no one could be that nice in real life. But Fred, in his quiet way, gets Lloyd to open up and deal with his insecurities as a new husband and father and his resentment of his deadbeat dad--and Lloyd begins to realize that such kindness not only *can* exist in this world, but *needs* to.



Adult Programming cont'd...

Bookworms Book Club: Wednesday, 1/19, 1pm

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens: For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life— until the unthinkable happens...

Bookmarks Book Club: Tuesday, 1/25, 7pm

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict: Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich’s plans while at her husband’s side, understanding more than anyone else would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy. She had an idea that might help the county fight the Nazis... if anyone would listen to her.

Teen Programming (ages 12-19)

Teen New Years Short Story Contest: Saturday, 1/1 through Monday, 1/31

All submissions due to kcasser@monroetpl.org by January 24th— Anything goes! Must not exceed 1,000 words. Grand prize winner will win a gift card and be published in our Library Lines Newsletter!

Teen Hot Cocoa Crafts: Monday, 1/10, 4:30pm

Get your own mug to decorate and a specialty hot chocolate spoon to take home and enjoy! Materials and snacks provided. For ages 12-18. Registration required. For any questions, contact kcasser@monroetpl.org.

Teen Creative Writers Club: Monday, 1/24, 4pm

Let your creativity flow!! Monthly writing prompts can help inspire something new... or bring in your own work to share and discuss. This is a safe, encouraging, nonjudgmental space for all writers looking to have fun, use their imagination, grow their writing, and enjoy some snacks with some like-minded artists. For ages 12-19. Registration encouraged—not required.

Teen Advisory Board: Saturday, 1/29, 1-2:30pm

Do you want a say in what events the library has and what books we put on the teen shelves? Have an idea for a program you'd like to see (or even help run!) for you and your friends? Are you looking for volunteer hours? Then come join our Teen Advisory Board! TAB is the perfect place for you to make a difference here at your library, get involved in your community, and let your voice be heard! Registration is required. For questions and more information, email kcasser@monroetpl.org.

Teen Trivia: Jeopardy: Monday, 1/31, 6-8pm

It's Teen Jeopardy Night! Enjoy some snacks and show off your miscellaneous trivia genius! Snacks provided. Winning person (or team) will win a gift card of your choice!! For ages 12-18. Registration is strongly encouraged! For questions or more information, email kcasser@monroetpl.org.

Teen Holiday Short Story Contest Winner: Alexandra Ramos

It was Christmas in Boston, where people were out shopping, eating dinner, and spreading Christmas cheer, while a lonely boy named Angelo Diack was sitting in his room, to block out all the noise of his parents arguing downstairs. All of a sudden, he hears a loud thump on his window. As he looks outside, he sees a gleaming light below. Having done this a million times before, he sneaks out his window, landing on the ground, almost perfectly.

He tripped, and fell exactly where the light was coming from. A small crystal ball that looked broken. The boy picked up the small crystal ball, yet as soon as he blinked, he appeared in the middle of a huge city.

Just moments ago, he was in bed relaxing. Now, he's in the middle of Chicago, as the sign read, which may be because he picked up a glowing orb that was as bright as a star on a tree.

Freaked out, he ran.

Like he knew he was coming, a chubby man wearing a red suit with a puffy white beard appeared in front of him as he was running towards an alleyway.

"You found it, Angelo!" He said cheerfully.

Angelo dwelled to stay here any longer, "Who- Who are you?!" He exclaimed.

The man smiled. Angelo cursed silently.

Then realization hit. "SANTA?!" He said, backing away. "That's me" he gave a slight smile. "I'm running out of time, so I'll tell you this quickly."

Santa told his instructions clearly; to get back home, you need to hold the same crystal ball that got you here, wish, and wish hard. Wish for your heart's deepest desire, and hope for it. Hope fueled the crystal, just as the crystal fueled the sled.

Angelo knew exactly what to wish for.

He took the crystal in his hands, closed his eyes, and wished.

When he opened his eyes, he saw his room. The same dark, unjoyful room he slept in every night.

He wondered if all he had experienced had just been a dream. That's when he heard a knock on the door.

He quickly grabbed clothing he had scattered around the room, and went bolting to the door, ignoring his still irritated parents.

"Hi." He said, out of breath.

"Hey- Woah- are you okay?" It was Kami, Angelo's closest friend since childhood.

"Yeah. Yeah, yeah- I'm fine. Did you need anything?" Angelo asked reluctantly.

"Mhm. Uhm- I was uh- Kinda wondering, I dunno- If you wanted to stay over? My family's got something for yah. We really think you'll like it." He paused. "And I want you to be there with all of us." He said.

"Oh.. okay." Angelo agreed because he really had nothing else to do, plus he wanted to get Santa and everything else out of his head, not to mention, he'd love getting out of this gloomy place he's forced to call home.

"Great!" A slight smile appeared on Kami's lips.

Once they were in the car, they hit the road.

Usually in situations like these, where there were only two people, and it was as silent as Christmas night, Angelo would feel awkwardly dreadful. However, Angelo didn't feel that feeling. Instead, he felt a gleam of happiness. Hope, even.

When they finally reached Kami's home, he dragged Angelo out of the car and into the house excitedly. Angelo rarely ever saw Kami smile this big, but when he did, he couldn't help but smile himself. Today was no different.

Angelo saw everyone waiting in the living room. He saw their faces light up when he saw him.

"You ACTUALLY managed to convince him?" Kate, Kami's little sister said in disbelief.

"You know how persuasive I am!" Kami gave a playful wink. His sister rolled her eyes.

Meanwhile, I was getting a warm hug from Kami's mother, Octavia.

"I haven't seen you in so long!" She said. She pinched my cheeks happily. "And look how big you've gotten!" She continued.

"Oh please, mom. You're acting like an old granny." Kammi said, jokingly.

"I am not. Would you like me to pinch yours mister?" His mother teased.

"Nah, I think I'm good." Kami said, accepting defeat and stepping back.

"Anyway, we just wanted to give you a little something." His mother handed me a small box with my name on it.

I opened it slowly, and saw a little necklace that looked like a piece of a heart. "Is this...?" I started, but my words trailed off. I could feel my eyes getting watery. "You're one of us now!" Kami's sister exclaimed, holding out her part of the necklace.

"I'm not exactly sure if that's a good thing." Kami replied jokingly.

"There can never be no teasing, huh? Octavia said, smiling.

We all laughed, and gave each other the biggest hug I've ever gotten. I smiled wide, thanked Santa for granting my wish, and mustered to myself;

"Merry Christmas."