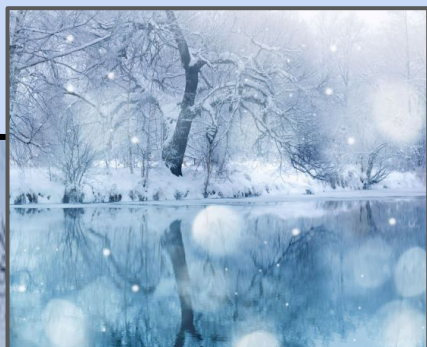


JACKSON FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023



Leadership

Board Members:

President:	Linda Lafer
Vice President	Sue Milo
Treasurer:	Laura Reeves
Recording Secretary:	Sheila Sokoloff
Corresponding Secretary:	Sheila Sokoloff

Standing Committees:

Book Sale:	Rochelle Blum & Dave Whelan
Hospitality:	Carol Whelan
Membership:	Rochelle Blum
Business Liaison:	Ralph Giordano

Newsletter:	Jessica Molte
Social Media:	Peggy Gorge

Members at Large:	Ira Blum Tom Ammirata
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Watch for our annual book sale from May 9 to May 13.

Donations are now being accepted.



President's Message

I would like to extend a Happy, Healthy New Year to all of our readers. The beginning of any new year is an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous twelve months, as well as to plan for even greater achievements in the near future. All events are designed to support the Jackson Library through funding programs and other capital improvements.

The Jackson Friends of the Library had a very busy 2022! The following is a list of the activities held during this period:

Teen bundle book sale – January
Pop-up book sale – February
Early Jackson photos framed and hung – March
Annual book sale, recyclable tote bags, and bookmarks – May
Purchase of new tables and chairs for the quiet study room – June
Beach read pop-up sale – July
Ice cream social – August
Musical program – September
Tail gate book collections – September
Community clean-up participation – April and September
Fall pop-up book sale – October
Friends open house – October
Restaurant week – October
Holiday pop-up book sale – November-December
Quarterly newsletters

The key to any successful organization is the men and women volunteers who share in its vision. We are fortunate and grateful to have very dedicated and capable members who have contributed their time and energy to making all of the Friends' accomplishments possible. Please consider joining this productive group so that the Jackson Friends can continue its very worthwhile mission.

More information can be found on our social media:

Facebook - Jackson Friends of the Library
Visit the library, bring a friend, and be a Friend!
Linda Lafer, President

Join us for our in-person monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.

What is a “Friend”?

Rochelle Blum

To be a member of Jackson Friends of the Library is to be someone who has a unique relationship with our library. You become part of a special group of volunteers who, through your membership donation, help us to:

- ENHANCE the Jackson Library facilities and environment.
- OFFER quality programs that appeal to a wide variety of ages and interests.
- SHARE information through our newsletter.
- ADVOCATE for the Jackson Library throughout the community.

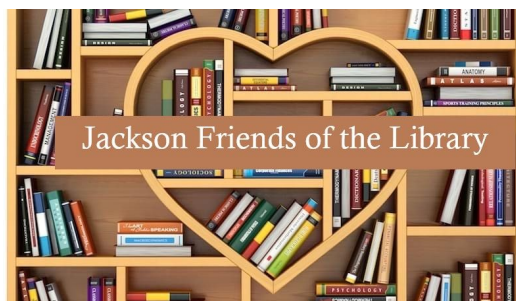
We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the community room at 4:00 pm.

Not all members are able to attend our meetings, but we are supported by quite a few who actively participate and assist from home. What are some areas in which members volunteer?

- Book Sorting/Book Sale
- Hospitality
- Membership
- Publicity/Outreach
- Fundraising
- Newsletter
- Other (areas in which you might have an interest)

How can you join? Look for our membership brochure with an application in the library or an application in this newsletter, and follow the directions. Feel free to email me with any specific questions.

friendsofjacksonlibrary@gmail.com



The time to join is now!

A Winner, A Friend

Rochelle Blum

October was National Friends of the Library Month. To pay tribute to that, Jackson Friends of the Library held a drawing for a gift basket. Anyone who renewed their membership or joined Jackson Friends during that month was eligible. I am pleased to share with you that our winner was Linda Werner, a new Friend.

Linda began her career as an RN in New York City. In time, she returned to college and majored in English, which has always been her passion. As a result, she earned her BA. Her plans to become an English professor were detoured, however, due to marriage and family. She has no regrets on the path that life took her, and has now found Jackson Friends, where she can follow her love of books, literature, and libraries.

Linda resides in Four Seasons at Metedeconk, where she co-founded the community's chapter of Brandeis, an educational, social, and fundraising organization. Additionally, she started a Cultural Committee, which plans and offers bus trips to cultural venues.

Community involvement provides Linda with a sisterhood and a structure to her life. She is looking forward to meeting new people and extending participation by becoming an active member of Jackson Friends of the Library.

We welcome you, Linda, to Jackson Friends!



Organizing Jump Start: A 10 Day Declutter Challenge

Linda Lafer

Have you ever thought about reorganizing some of your stuff, but instead find excuses to delay such a task indefinitely? A January 18 Zoom workshop, presented by Jamie Novak, inspired thirty participants to act now on such an objective. Ms. Novak is the author of *Keep This Toss That*, as well as a speaker on numerous virtual programs regarding how to declutter with a humorist twist. This Friends-sponsored event identified 10 practical “tidy tips.” The 10 categories for consideration were mail, cookbooks, water bottles and travel/coffee mugs, wallet, iPhone, electric cords, bathroom space such as medications and beauty products, C.U.T.E. (Can’t Use This Ever), shoes and brown/plastic bags. The speaker gave specific suggestions, as well as additional resources to pursue during this reorganization process. The key takeaway is to concentrate on one area at a time so that the decluttering challenge will not become overwhelming.



I have already started to discard expired medications from my overcrowded medicine cabinet and appreciate having Ms. Novak provide the catalyst for such an activity. What a great way to start the new year!

Saul and Ruby's Holocaust Survivor Band

Rochelle Blum

Saul Dreier and Ruby Sosnowicz are two friends who are Holocaust survivors. The 97- year- old Floridians met late in life, shared a love of klezmer music, and decided to bring some joy into the world, while reminding audiences to “Never Forget.” Saul plays the drums and Ruby plays the accordion and keyboard. This unique documentary is their story. It is about having the courage to live one’s dream. Their dream was to bring their band to Poland and play in memory of the six million Jews who died there.

How could they afford to do this? They played locally, in synagogues, parks, and wherever they were invited, raising money as they did so. Their reputation grew to where they were invited to perform at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage. The vision of these survivors came to fruition when they ultimately played in Warsaw and Auschwitz. They also were honored with an invitation to dinner with Poland’s dignitaries at the Presidential Palace.

Saul and Ruby’s story shows us that one can find a meaning for life at any age. The power of music is universal, and they used that power to speak out against anti semitism and bigotry. “We’re all humans. We’re all the same. We all need love and peace for the world.”

If you enjoy documentaries and foreign films, you can find a large selection available to you through the Ocean County Library System. Look for digital services on their website and then select Kanopy.

There are many other opportunities that the library has to offer.

Holiday Pop-Up Book Sale

Susan Milo

Located in the lobby of the Jackson Library from November 26, 2022 until January 4, 2023, the Holiday Pop-Up displayed festively-tied book bundles for purchase. The pop-up was organized by Friends volunteers who work twice weekly on the third floor of the library. The "Attic Crew" assembled three to four similarly themed books and arranged them on a table just inside the library doors. Patrons were able to select from holiday books, children's books, fiction, non-fiction, large print, teen, holiday CDs, DVDs, and cookbooks for \$1.00 per bundle.



Sales were brisk! A volunteer schedule was maintained so that bundles could be restocked daily. Some patrons returned several times throughout the month to view the new additions. Not surprisingly, children's book bundles were the best seller, followed by adult fiction.

The Holiday Pop-Up was a resounding success, earning over \$500.00 to support our library. We thank the Attic Crew for organizing the sale, the library staff for their unfailing support and diligence in handling the monies, and of course all the Friends and other patrons who contributed to this endeavor.

Did You Know?

Marguerite Dugas

There are so many things you can do with the databases and digital materials offered by the Ocean County Library. Here are a few that you may be surprised to discover:

New York Times Digital Access through our Databases page gives you all the online content associated with the newspaper. You will be prompted to create an account and sent a link to today's edition. Access our Digital Materials page to get a subscription and link to *New York Games*, with the daily crossword and other puzzles. Do it again tomorrow!

Creativebug has video art and craft classes with easy-to-follow video instructions. Sew, quilt, knit, and crochet. Learn a new skill every day. There are decorating and food lessons and a pattern library for free downloads.

Freegal has streaming music available 24 hours a day. You can listen while you craft!

Remember lynda.com? It is now called *LinkedIn Learning* or *Library*. You expect sophisticated classes in business, technology, graphic design, photography, and animation. However, did you know that you can take music lessons for jazz piano, rock guitar, banjo, and mandolin?

Taking a deep dive into our databases and digital materials you are bound to come up with some pearls of wisdom.

Meet the Staff - Rachel Montanez

Linda Lafer

Today's librarians do a lot more than just organizing shelves and processing the taking out and returning of books and other materials. They develop programs, provide resources, and assist with technology in order to satisfy the patrons' interests and needs.

One such efficient and knowledgeable staff person at the Jackson Library is Rachel Montanez. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Upon completion of Brooklyn Technical High School with a major in electronics, Rachel attended Long Island University where she specialized in accounting and finance. While continuing her college education part time, she secured employment as a bank teller. Later, Rachel was invited to work in the sales division of the same establishment selling securities.

During the development of her career, Rachel married and raised two sons in Queens, New York. Concurrently, she pursued various volunteer opportunities, including participating with a local Friends group. Eventually, Rachel and her family moved to Jackson where she became employed as a bookseller. During that time, one of her peers suggested that Rachel should consider working in a library since she had such an expertise in books. Motivated by this idea, Rachel turned her attention to this field and was subsequently hired at the Brick branch as a Library Assistant.

While working for over twenty years, Rachel completed a Bachelor of Science in Library and Information Services degree through the University of Maine at Augusta online. Inspired to learn more about her chosen profession, she then secured a Masters in Library Science from Drexel University. Upon finishing her masters, Rachel accepted a position at the Toms River branch as a librarian in Information Services, as well as the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) liaison to reach out to the business community.

Rachel was reassigned to the Jackson Library as an Adult Services Librarian in 2020. Her current responsibilities include planning, promoting, and leading adult programs in such areas as business and crafts. In addition, she assists customers with filling out resumes and other types of technology-driven tasks.

Rachel's goals are to continue to reach out to the community by offering exciting and relevant programs and to help patrons with technology concerns. She is a member of the American Library Association (ALA) and a volunteer editor for library guides published by Reference User Services Association (RUSA). Her favorite hobbies include crocheting, quilting, reading, and crafts. She also enjoys visiting museums in the New York Metropolitan and Washington D.C. areas. The Jackson Library, as well as the Jackson Friends, are grateful to have Rachel Montanez as part of the Ocean County Library System!



Staff Picks

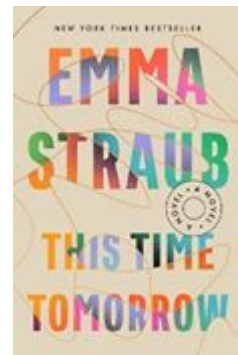
Please enjoy a selection of books, movies, tv shows, and databases hand chosen by the Jackson staff.

Title: This Time Tomorrow

Author: Emma Straub

Why we recommend it: Alice likes her life. She likes her job, her childhood best friend, and her relationship. Everything except the fact that her father is dying. But on her 40th birthday, she wakes up in 1996, reliving her 16th birthday and spending time with her once healthy father. If you could go back and change anything, would you?

Who we recommend it to: Lovers of Fiction with a little bit of Science Fiction mixed in through time travel. A great story that centers on father/daughter relationships.



Title: A Flicker In The Dark

Author: Stacy Willingham

Why We recommend it: A psychological thriller about the daughter of a serial killer and the copycat killer who has emerged 20 years later with one twist we didn't see coming. This debut novel was already optioned as a limited series by actress Emma Stone.

Who we recommend it to: This book is for lovers of the psychological thriller genre or for fans of Gillian Flynn and Karin Slaughter.



Title: Remarkably Bright Creatures

Author: Shelby Van Pelt

Why We recommend it: A feel good read that traces the relationship of a widow and a giant Pacific octopus.

Title: The Girl from the Well

Author: Rin Chupro

Why We recommend it: Spooky book for young adults. A chilling ghost story.

Title: Winterwood

Author: Shea Ernschaw

Why we recommend it: Nora is a teenage witch living on the edge of a cursed forest, by a bottomless lake, in the Pacific Northwest. Her neighbors are the Jackjaw Camp for Wayward Boys and seasonal tourists. One desolate, winter night, a blizzard blows in and blocks the road. One boy from the camp goes missing—another dies. A spine-tingling mystery unfolds.

Why We Recommend It: Curl up with this YA novel on a dark winter night if you like star crossed love, hauntings, and terrifying twists.

TV Shows: Detectorists (Hoopla) / Plants Behaving Badly (Hoopla)

Movies: My Old Lady (Kanopy) / Hearts Beat Loud (Kanopy)

Databases: Creativebug

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FIND OUT ABOUT THE FRIENDS!

Facebook: JacksonBranchFriendsoftheLibrary
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.
Address: Jackson Friends of the Library
2 Jackson Drive, Jackson, NJ 08527



JACKSON FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Make checks payable to: Jackson Friends of the Library
Mail to: Jackson Friends of the Library, 2 Jackson Drive, Jackson, NJ 08527

Name(s) _____
Please Print

Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How did you hear about the Friends? _____

Membership Level

Individual ☐ \$10 Family ☐ \$15 Patron ☐ \$25 Benefactor ☐ \$50

Champion or Business Sponsor ☐ \$100 Other Donation Amount ☐ \$ _____

As required by IRS regulations, we provide the following information: Jackson Friends of the Library is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our federal tax identification number is 43-2024282. As no goods or services have been provided in connection with this gift, the full amount is deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Please indicate your interest in joining one or more of the Friends committees:

☐ Book Sales

Participate in our annual book sale - set up, selling, breakdown, sorting book donations during the rest of the year.

☐ Hospitality

Provide refreshments for select programs. Baking not a requirement. President will contact you with details.

☐ Membership

Participate in membership drives and renewal program. Make personal visits to potential Business Sponsors.

☐ Publicity/Outreach

Visit local community organizations to promote the Library and the Friends. Maximize donation opportunities for groups and individuals.

☐ Fundraising

Participate in a major annual fundraising event as well as smaller events throughout the year.

☐ Social Media

Manage social media accounts for the Friends to promote the Library, reading, and the Friends organization.

☐ Newsletter

Contribute to the writing and editing of the Friends quarterly newsletter.

☐ Other - Please let us know what skills or strengths you might have to offer us!

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 Facebook: Jackson American Legion Post 504
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