



# Friends of the Metuchen Library

480 Middlesex Avenue Metuchen NJ 08840-1457 732-632-8526

A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

Fall - Winter 2013

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## Annual Meeting and Author Event

It's that time again! You're invited to our annual meeting on October 15, 2013, at 7PM. After a short business meeting where we will elect next year's officers to the Friends Board, and the presentation of our annual gift to the Library, we will be entertained (and informed) by two of our local Metuchen authors: Nicole Chinchar and Rebekah Peebles Massengill. After their presentations, you will have a chance to meet the authors, socialize with the Board and members, and enjoy some light refreshments.

**Elections:** all but one of our Officers and Trustees have agreed to continue to serve next year so we are looking for nominations to fill the post of Vice-President (currently held by Bern Bransfield).

### Friends Board

President	Sondra Flite
Vice-President	TBA
Treasurer	Alisa Schleif
Recording Secretary	Marilyn Silver
Corresponding Secretary	Rosemarie Schwarzman

### Trustees

Karen Alexander • Mary Kearns-Kaplan • Dorothy Obropta • Dominic Walker

**Author Event:** Nicole Chinchar, writing as Nikki Bannister, has crafted a story of life, love, and the self-discovery that comes with approaching middle-age. Her debut novel, *Some Kind of Jersey Girl*, released in January of this year and is available in paperback and ebook.

Rebekah Peebles Massengill is a cultural sociologist whose work has been published in scholarly journals and national media. She has taught at Princeton and Swarthmore, worked for the Pew Research Center, and currently serves as Director of Studies at Mathey College at Princeton University. Her first book, *Wal-Mart Wars: Moral Populism in the 21st Century*, was published by NYU Press in March of this year, and has been described by Library Journal as "first-rate sociology, deftly packaged to offer insight for both academic and popular audiences."

Both authors will do short presentations which will be followed by light refreshments and a chance to meet the authors and purchase their books.

We hope you'll join us for what promises to be an enjoyable, and informative evening!

~ Sondra Flite



## Keeping Up Appearances

Have you noticed the lovely gardens surrounding our beautiful library?

Daffodils, lily of the valley, and iris in the spring; black-eyed susans, sedum, and varieties of hosta (recently enhanced by a contribution from Penny Stankewicz), and more all summer long; magnificent holly in the winter; dogwoods and weeping pine at the library entrance; and so much more...All this plant life needs maintenance and that's where you come in! We gather for an hour or so from 8 to 9AM, weather permitting, to weed, plant, prune, and generally spruce up the gardens. It's amazing how much we can get done in such a short time. We chat, giggle, and get to know each other while doing an important community service.

Want to get in on the fun? Please leave your name and number at the library's front desk and we'll contact you.

### And a Thank You

The following people deserve a big thank you for their hard work with the gardening: Dorothy Obropta, Louis Kuhn, Kathy Glaser, Bern Bransfield, Grace Schackney, Patricia Lagay, Sondra Flite, Jane Palmeter, Sharon Goldman and Marilyn Schmeid.

~ Kathryn Glaser



### From the Library Board of Trustees

Melody Kokola retired this summer after 27 years as Director of the Metuchen Public Library. The Board of Trustees would like to welcome Anne M. Roman as Interim Director. Ms. Roman brings with her a wealth of experience. After retiring in 2008 as Director of the Piscataway Public Library, she has served as Interim Director in Warren township, Old Bridge, and Springfield. She will also be assisting the Board in the search for a new Director.



### President's Message

Buona sera! I've just returned from my imaginary trip around the world with Mango Languages. I followed the link at Metuchen Library's website at <http://www.metuchennj.org>, typed in my library card number, and created an account. Now I can study a language—as quickly or as slowly as I want—from any computer I like. I can also learn about the countries where these languages are spoken with another on-line resource, AtoZ World Culture.

I'll never get around to using all the library's online resources. So far, all I've learned is to say buona sera, and reserve a book, but I'll be learning more. Our society is built on the free exchange of information. As people the world over seek the freedoms we enjoy, they also seek access to reliable information. Here in Metuchen, the library's online resources open the door to research that would have been impossible in a small town a generation ago. Please, logon and join me in exploring the world in 2014. Arrivederci!

~ Sondra Flite, President

Can't sleep? It's never too late to make your tax deductible donation to the Friends, visit our website at: [www.fotml.org](http://www.fotml.org) click on the DONATE button, and use your credit card—anytime, day or night!

The Friends of the Metuchen Library is a membership organization. Each member donates their annual fee, and many also volunteer their time, to help the Friends. Volunteers work at the annual book sale, help sort books for the year-round lobby book sale, plan and present the annual meeting, write and edit the newsletter, serve on the Board of Trustees, and are stalwart supporters of our hometown public library. These are just a few of the ways that our members are generous with their time, talent, and commitment.

Some members choose to distinguish themselves through giving a financial gift above and beyond their membership fee to the Friends. Gifts from these generous Friends help us achieve our shared goal of creating a Metuchen Public Library that is a welcoming, attractive and engaging for users of all ages, with resources, programs, and services that enrich our entire community. We want to sincerely thank the following:

Bernard Ackerman & Penny Frankel - Rajeev Aggawal - Bill and Nancy Ainslie - Karen Alexander  
 Hussain Safi & Tara Ali-Khan - The Artman Family - Lorraine Bachman - Swathy Bansal  
 Kayla Bashe & Family - **Susan Bernstein** - Jennene Bertucci - Gwen Besson - Dr. Judith A. Bland  
 Mr. & Mrs. T. Borri - Donna R. Bowen - Tom & Kathryn Boyd - MaryChris Bradley - Bernice Bransfield  
 Claire Bransfield - **Edward Chang** - Carol Christiansen - Frances & Wallace Christine  
 Robert & Carmen Collins - Marilyn Court - John Cronen - Linda B. Crownover - Joanne Devereaux  
 James F. Dougherty - Patricia Dreyer - Janet Drosdick - Lavina Dsouza - Jean Bray & Robert Duffell  
 Rick & Eileen Dyas - Jeffrey Falkenstein & JoAnn Sabatino-Falkenstein - Evelyn B. Finck - Sondra Flite  
 Irene, John & Kenneth Gazda - Daniel & Cynthia Gladis - Kathryn Glaser - The Grant-McKiernan Family  
**Ronald Grayzel** - Daniel & Marilyn Greenburg - Harriet Greenspan - Gloria Guida - Doris Gulotta  
**The Ham-Lipshitz Family** - Grace Hammesfahr - Dorothy Hansen - Audrey Hansser  
 Fred & Mary Hopke - **Robert & Jean Hyde** - Allison Insero - Helen Iskowitiz - Melissa Israel  
 John Jennings & Judy Weitzel - Mr. & Mrs. Martin Jessen - **Richard Johnstone** - **Jessica Kaimo**  
 Stephanie Kandel - Anastasia Kangos - Mary Kearns-Kaplan - James & Martha Keller - Barbara Kieser  
**Sang Kim** - Sally D. Kinyon - Richard & Helen Klawunn - John Koskoski & Magda Nelson - Louis Kuhn  
 Patricia Lagay - Melissa Lauer & Denise Williams - Marilyn & Russel Lawyer - Daniel Lebar - Lewis Levy  
 Susan & Ed Levinson - Brenda Lewis - **Ping Li** - **Kathy & David Liss** - Lillian L. Liss - Suzanne Manley  
 David & Sara Marcus - Carol Ann Martinez - **Henry & Yvonne Maskin** - Tara & Michael Matise  
 Andrea Garofolo-May - Spencer McLane - Audrey V. Miller - Joan Mistrough - Doris Moskal  
 Sandra Moss - Rena Mullin - The Nguyen Family - Audrey C. Noyes - Dorothy Obropta - Patricia Painter  
 Lawrence Paone - Saeryon Park - Grace C. Phillips - **Jonathon Schleif & Alisa Stevens**  
 Sally, Gail & Stan Slobodien - Rosemarie Schwarzman - Grace Schackney - Ben & Marci Small  
 Ellen Smelas - Florence R. Speck - Helen A. Stapley - **The Suss Family** - Sylvia Taylor  
 Cathy & Peter Tomolonis - Stuart & Susan Topper - Nancy Torok - Carla Trolaro - Annette Vasquez  
 Evelyn & Karl Wahl - Dominic Walker - Laura Walshin - Nikki Walter - Theresa Ward  
 Elmer & Constance Waters - Ann Watts - Donald & Joyce Wernik - Mr & Mrs. Richard Wolff  
 Amy & Dany Wong - The Wyetzner Family - The Zatonski Family - Linda Zey  
 Interim Director Ann Roman & the entire Library Staff

**Special thanks** to David Copperfield for his gift of \$500 toward the restoration of the children's room, and Linda B. Crownover for her gift of \$500 for the purchase of an additional public access computer.

*~ Karen Alexander, Trustee*

Names in **bold** indicate members who have participated in their employer's Matching Gifts program

\*If there are any omissions or errors, please contact us at: friends.of.metuchen.library@gmail.com



## Library Hours

The Library has resumed Winter Hours

Monday-Thursday 10AM - 9PM

Friday-Saturday 10AM - 5PM

Sunday 1PM - 5PM

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When in doubt, check it out: Call us at 732-632-8526

\*For a list of holiday closings, visit [www.metuchennj.org/library\\_hours.html](http://www.metuchennj.org/library_hours.html)

## Free Museum Passes

The Friends offer FREE passes to all Metuchen Library card holders, as well as, card holders from the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium.

Passes are available to:

- **The Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum:**

<http://www.intrepidmuseum.org>

Library pass entitles free admission for six people total once per day

Hours: M-F 10-5, Sat/Sun 10-6

Final entry one hour prior to closing



- **The Children's Museum of Manhattan:** <http://www.cmom.org>

2 Library Passes available, each admitting people (1 adult + 3 children OR 2 adults + 2 children)

Hours: Tues/Sun, 10-5

Closed: New Year's Day, Fall Spruce Up, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

- **The Morris Museum** located in Morristown: <http://www.morrismuseum.org>

Library Pass entitles free admission for an entire family (up to 2 adults, 3 children).

Hours: Weds, Fri, Sat: 11-5

Thur: 11-8 Sundays: 1-5

Closed to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays.

For more information: [http://www.metuchennj.org/museum\\_passes.html](http://www.metuchennj.org/museum_passes.html) or call the Library at: 732-632-8526. This gift was made possible by your donations to the Friends of the Metuchen Library.

## Save These Dates

Saturday, Oct 5, **Annual Used Book Fair**, Library Lawn, 9AM-3PM

Tuesday, October 15, **Annual Friends Board Meeting and Author Event**, 7PM

## Thanks...

to our Consultants for the work they do all year:

MaryChris Bradley

Jeanne Cowhey

Joanne Devereaux

Kathy Glaser

Grace Shackney

Barbara Smith

Lee Liss

Ada Reusch

Louis Kuhn

Graphic Arts / Newsletter

Mailings

Membership

Printer Liaison

Publicity Support

Office Supplies

Museum Trips

Annual Meeting Support

Buildings and Grounds



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of the Metuchen Library for supporting our summer reading club. The theme of this year's Summer Reading Club was Dig into Reading. Our menu of programs included storytimes for children 18 months-5 years, book review clubs for Kindergarten through 5th grade, storytime at the Metuchen Pool, and craft programs.

We had two Thursday morning book clubs with Miss Glynis, and two One-and-Done evening book clubs with Mrs. Young. For our Campbell School aged children, there were three Crafty Kids craft mornings with Mrs. Young.

Wacky Wednesday programs featured Puss in Boots presented by Family Stages and Bollywood dancing with Explore India. Two of a Kind presented I Dig Reading and Piccirillo Scienctetelling presented the Bugs of Blackwood for our After Dinner Adventures.

Our summer reading participants, including children and their special adults, logged many hours of reading. Prizes were awarded at different levels; ten hours of reading earned a prize from the Prize Basket. Children who read 15 hours earned a collapsible water bottle, and earned a raffle ticket for each additional five hours of reading recorded.

Our popular summer games returned. We did Word of the Week, Reference Desk and Quest. Game players earned Chamber of Commerce gift certificates, Barnes and Noble Gift cards, reference books, and almanacs.

Thanks again for making our summer reading club a success!

~ Glynis Brookens, Children's Librarian and June Young, Assistant Children's Librarian



## Award-winning Young Adult Author, Paul Volponi, to Visit the Metuchen Public Library



On Sunday, October 13th at 2PM., the Metuchen Public Library will kick off Teen Read Week with A Visit with Paul Volponi. He is the author of 11 novels for young adults, primarily in grades 7-12. He is a writer, journalist, and teacher living in New York City, who from 1992 to 1998 taught incarcerated teens on Rikers Island. That experience was the inspiration for his critically acclaimed novels *Black and White* and *Rikers High*. From 1999 to 2005, Volponi taught teens recovering in drug treatment programs, inspiring his ALA award-winning novel *Roofstop*. But Mr. Volponi's novels are diverse and transcend labels such as time, place, ethnicity, race and gender. The author confronts issues that teens face on their journey to adulthood—identity, prejudice, justice, courage and morality.

His works are highly relatable and current. *The Final Four* (2012) focuses on basketball and March Madness. Volponi brings together four college players from different backgrounds in a single moment on the court. Part of the story is told through a series of flashbacks that reveal the characters' lives and motivations. The action on the court is enhanced with newspaper articles, interviews and a play-by-play broadcast. In the introduction in the novel, the author writes: "A major theme in the book is the hundreds of millions of dollars the real Final Four produces in revenues. None of the money goes to the players, without whom there would be no NCAA Basketball Tournament." *Crossing Lines* (2011) takes place at suburban Central High, where a student (Alan) begins to explore his gender identity with clothes and makeup. The novel is told from the point of view of Adonis, a varsity football player who strives to fit in with his teammates, tries distancing himself from Alan, yet is forced to make tough choices when the bullying escalates.

The Author Visit is paid for by the Friends of the Metuchen Library. In anticipation of Volponi's presentation, two English classes at Metuchen High School are reading *Crossing Lines*. At Saint Joseph's High School, the Book Club will be reading *The Final Four*. Those students reading Volponi's novels will be among the special guests at the event. The Friends and the Metuchen Municipal Alliance have paid for a class set of books for Metuchen High School and for the novels for St. Joe's Book Club.

A Visit with Paul Volponi is a family event and all pre-teens, teens and parents are welcome to attend, along with teachers, sports fans and writers, and those who work with adolescents. The author's talk will be followed by a Question and Answer session with the audience.

The titles mentioned in this article will be available for purchase at the event. Refreshments will be served, courtesy of the Alliance. For more information, write [KLiss@Lmxac.org](mailto:KLiss@Lmxac.org) or call the Library on 732-632-8526.

~ Katherine Liss, Young Adult Librarian

## Fall Calendar of Events

Monday, Sept 30 **Edna Newby International Film Festival** *A Separation* (Iran), 2 & 7:30PM

Saturday, Oct 5 **Annual Used Book Fair**, 9AM–3PM, Rain date Oct 12

Saturday, Oct 12 **Children's Drop-in Craft**, All ages, 2-4PM

Sunday, Oct 13 **A Visit With the Author, Paul Volponi**, 2PM

Tuesday, Oct 15 **Annual Friends Meeting & Local Author Event**, 7PM

Monday, Nov 4 **Edna Newby International Film Festival** *The Sapphires* (Australia), 2 & 7:30PM

Tuesday, Nov 19 **Friends Board Meeting**, 7PM

Monday, Dec 2 **Edna Newby International Film Festival** *The Matchmaker* (Israel), 2 & 7:30PM

Tuesday, Dec 3 **Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art**, 8:15AM



### Employer Matching Gifts Can Double Your Contribution!

Does your employer participate in an employee matching gift program? By providing your employer's matching gift form with your donation, you can double your contribution to the Friends of the Metuchen Library. Your employer, or your spouse's, will send us a contribution for the same amount that you give, dollar for dollar. Simply provide the completed form with your gift, and make at least the minimum contribution required by the program. Some corporations will match gifts made by retirees. The entire amount of dues plus gifts will be matched. Our web site includes a list of employers that we know participate: <http://www.fotml.org/join-the-friends.html>. Not certain if your employer has this type of program? Contact your Human Resources Department.

~ Alisa Schleif, Treasurer

### Annual Used Book Fair October 5th, 9AM - 3PM

Mark your calendars for our Annual Used Book Fair, October 5th—the same day as the Metuchen Country Fair. Shopping starts at 9AM on the lawn of the Library, so hurry in for the best selection.

The quality of donations was high this year so most books are crisp and bright. We've held our prices steady with hardcovers at \$1 and paperbacks at 50¢. Looking for children's books? Get there early, they sell out *fast*. Movies and audiobooks? Yep, we've got 'em in CD and DVD formats. VHS and cassette tapes? We have those too. And don't forget to check out the "unique" table, where we offer the best, oldest, smallest, and strangest books, all individually priced. This is a perfect opportunity to try a new author, read a classic, or pick up a few Holiday gifts!

The Friends appreciate the kind assistance of Lewis Levy of A Quick Print, for once again providing the outdoor sign announcing the sale. Friends, like Mr. Levy, keep our organization strong.

The Friends thank the community for their generous donations of books throughout the year.

NOTE: We cannot accept book donations from now until November 1st as we prepare for the Book Fair, however, clean bags for use at the sale can be donated anytime!

Have you always wanted to learn French, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin, or Thai? Well, Mango Languages is here to help you achieve that goal!



The Friends are pleased to announce that, thanks to a bequest by our former President, Anthony Arlotto, we have funded a one-year subscription to the online Mango Languages database. With your Metuchen Library card in hand, you can choose from over 50 languages. Sharpen your conversational skills anywhere, anytime, using a personal computer or a mobile device, all at no cost to you!

Mango Languages puts the Brainy Boro on the world map. Go wild with Mango and invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you in a language challenge!

### To find the Mango Languages database:

Go to <http://www.metuchennj.org/e-resources.html>. Scroll down and select “Mango Language Courseware.” Enter the barcode on the back of your Metuchen Library card and select the button “Start Learning.”

If you would like to keep track your learning progress, look for “Create a Profile.” Enter your library barcode number and establish an username and password.

If you are using a mobile device, just go to: <http://www.mangolanguages.com/mobile-apps> and get the free Mango Library App for your iPhone or Android smartphone.

Questions? Just call the Metuchen Library at (732) 632-8526

~ Mary Kearns-Kaplan, Trustee and Webmaster



### The Metropolitan Museum Of Art Trip

The Friends of the Metuchen Library’s trip will be to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City will take place Tuesday, December 3, 2013. In addition to the museum’s Annual Christmas Tree and Baroque Creche and permanent collection there will be several special exhibits, including the following:

- Medieval Treasures from Hildesheim
- Interwoven Globe: The Worldwide Textile Trade, 1500–1800
- The American West in Bronze, 1850–1925
- Artists and Amateurs, Etching in Eighteenth-Century France
- Eighteenth-Century Pastels

Our bus will leave from Library Place in Metuchen promptly at 9AM but our “adventurers” must be on the bus by 8:45AM to access the Express bus lane on time, so please arrive early. Street parking will be available on Library Place.

Cost for the trip is \$50, which includes transportation, gratuity for the driver, and entry fee to the museum. Lunch can be purchased in the museum at the cafeteria or the pricier full-service restaurant. Audio earphones are available for \$4. You can leave your personal items on the bus while at the museum. Payment is due by November 22nd, and made by check or money order, payable to Friends of the Metuchen Library and bring it to the front desk of the Library. No cash and no refunds. If you can’t make it, we encourage you to sell unused tickets to people on the waiting list. There are no discounts for members of the Museum.

The return trip from New York City leaves promptly at 3PM, so check your watches and be on the bus by 2:50. Questions? Please call the Library at 732-632-8526.

## Did You Know...

...the Metuchen Library is supported by several sources, but managed by one?

The Borough of Metuchen is the main source of financial support. By state law it is required to allocate a percentage of tax revenue toward maintaining the library. The mayor and council, appoint the Library Board of Trustees. Current members are Elizabeth Waldron (President), Ellen Greenberg, Linda Koskoski, Marion O'Connell, Caitlin Mollison, Laura Stibich, and Kelly Jacques. Peter Cammarano serves as Liason to the Council, and Patricia Glave represents the Board of Education. Their meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month are open to the public. A member of the Friends of the Library often attends to keep abreast of the board's goals and plans.

It is the trustees' job to manage the legal and operational needs of the library, and this year will select its next director. In addition to the allocation from the Town, it is the library director's job to secure any available state funding for which Metuchen is eligible, and then design a budget. With falling property values and a tight state budget, allocations to the library have decreased over the past few years.

The Friends of the Metuchen Library—a separate organization from the Council appointed Library Board—are an additional source of financial support. The Friends also has a board of directors, and its meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month, are open to the public. Likewise, members of the Library Board of Trustees sometimes attend the Friends meetings to better coordinate plans. A registered non-profit in New Jersey, the Friends are a 501(c)(3) recognized by the IRS as a non-profit entity. This allows us to raise funds, hold money in bank accounts, and disburse it to enhance services at the library by providing programming and collections, that go beyond the core services the library provides.

With membership dues and money raised through book sales and events, the Friends are able to underwrite children and teen programs, the Edna Newby Foreign Film Series, summer reading programs, online language courses, and free or discounted museum passes. The Friends also supply services that help the library increase its reach: delivery to the homebound, care of the gardens and indoor plants, help with recycling, and most notably the Annual Book Fair and ongoing lobby book sale.

While the Friends' annual gift to the library can never be enough to offset operating costs, their contributions total over \$300,000 to-date. And while the two boards are independent entities, they've been working more closely than ever to optimize the library's resources.

So now you know—if you're already a Friend of the Metuchen Library, please stay with us. Your dues and volunteer hours make our support of the library possible. If not, please consider joining "The Friends." You can obtain a membership form at the library circulation desk, or visit our website and download the form there. You can even pay your dues through PayPal. Join with us today, and add your contribution to our long history of service and community enrichment.

~ Kathryn Glaser, Past Recording Secretary

