

BOOKNOTES

Join or learn more at: moorestownlibraryfriends.org

September 2025

Crust Us: It's For a Good Cause

Support the Friends by purchasing food from Passariello's in Moorestown on Thursday, October 9 from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

There are just 3 simple steps:

- Order in-person or on the phone
- Tell the associate that you want to support the Friends of the Moorestown Library
- Sit back and enjoy your food while we earn 20%!

Please help us to spread the word by telling your friends and sharing our social media posts (@moorestownlibraryfriends on Facebook and Instagram).

All money received from this fundraiser helps the Friends of the Moorestown Library support many of the things that patrons love about our Library, including ebooks and audiobooks on Libby, 27 museum passes, adult and youth programming, grab and go crafts, hotspots, discovery packs, and much more.

Pro tip: The Eagles play that evening, and pizza and wings go great with a game. Stuffed shells and lasagna also freeze well.

Thanks for your help in making this fundraiser a success!

Calendar of Events

October 9 (9 a.m. - 10 p.m.)

Support the Friends purchasing a bite to eat from Passariello's! When you order, tell them that you want to support the Friends of the Moorestown Library and we receive 20% of your order total.

October 12 (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

Fiesta with Friends Member Appreciation Event. You must register in advance!

October 19-25

Check out our banner on Main Street for National Friends of Libraries week.

October 23 (6 p.m.- 8 p.m.) Book Sale Preview Night for Friends of the Library Members

October 24 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) **Book Sale**

October 25 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.) Book Sale

December 10 (7 p.m.) Friends of the Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Friends in Action: Book Group in a Bag

Book Group in a Bag is one of the many great services funded by the Friends of the Moorestown Library to support community reading. Each of the 82 bags includes 10 copies of the same title, along with discussion questions — everything you need to run a successful book club, whether you're meeting with friends or a community group.

Bags are completely free for Moorestown Library patrons to borrow and make organizing your next group read simple and stress-free. No need to track down multiple copies or spend time creating discussion guides. This program is a great way to explore new books, spark meaningful conversations, and connect with others through shared reading.

Ask at the circulation desk or check the Library website to browse available titles and reserve a bag today!

Here are the title additions that the Friends supported in 2025:

- Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano
- Horse by Geraldine Brooks
- The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell
- The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead
- <u>Remarkably Bright Creatures</u> by Shelby Van Pelt
- <u>Tomorrow, and Tomorrow</u>, and <u>Tomorrow</u> by Gabrielle Zevin

Summer Reading By The Numbers

The Friends of the
Moorestown Library
sponsored Summer
Reading prizes again this
year, including free books
and gift cards.

1,137 participants from preschool to adults read 7,435 books between June 20 and August 15.

Congratulations!



Read whole issues at moorestownlibraryfriends.org/newsletter

History Tidbit

Did you know that in the early days of the Moorestown Free Library, the size of a book determined the length of time you could check it out? A folio was loaned for 8 weeks, a quarto for six weeks, and one octavo or two duodecimo for three weeks. A folio is about 15 inches or taller. So while even then, you couldn't judge a book by its cover, you had more time for heftier tomes.

Don't Miss Our Annual Member Appreciation Event!

Friends of the Moorestown Library members are cordially invited to join us for our Fiesta with Friends (aka our 3rd annual Member Appreciation Event).

This year's free event will take place at Luna y Sol and include food, drinks, live guitar music, and some amazing baskets for auction. Items in the baskets will include offerings from local restaurants and businesses, as well as local attractions (such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, Longwood Gardens and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.)

Sunday, October 12, 2025 1 PM - 4 PM Luna y Sol 61 East Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057

Seats are very limited and you must be registered to attend!

Please visit
https://moorestownlibraryfriends.org/membe
r-appreciation/register to reserve your seat.



Notice anything new about us?

The Friends of the Moorestown Library is excited to announce our new logo, which was created with the help of Alison Judah at Hypno Design in Moorestown.

The new logo pays homage to the book that is the center of our official Moorestown Free Library Association seal. Keep an eye out on social media posts and flyers to help easily identify events sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Wanna be friends? Join our community on social media for updates and first looks!





Using Library Resources to Support Lifetime Learning

Editor's Note: This month, we are pleased to share this piece written by Donna Y. Butler, MLIS, of the Moorestown Library Youth Services Department. Donna is sharing her expertise on available library resources to help support learning for patrons of all ages.

One of the biggest challenges for parents and caregivers of school-aged children is knowing how and where to access digital resources to support their child's learning outside of the classroom. The good news is help is just a library card away for patrons of the Moorestown Library.

With dozens of websites, apps, and online resources, finding a just-right tool has never been easier, providing resources for ages ranging from birth to adult learners. Visit moorestownlibrary.org to explore apps and links to get started.

Popular Resources for Learners of All Ages

- <u>Brainfuse</u> connects students and job seekers with eTutors and job coaches anytime, anywhere, facilitating peer-to-peer learning through online meetings. Students can play against a chess expert or learn step-by-step how to complete complex, algebraic equations with the eTutors. Adult users can utilize the Brainfuse platform to build skills, get resume assistance, or get live interview coaching.
- <u>Scholastic Teachables</u> provides homeschooling parents and teachers with standards-based resources for grades PreK-8th in all subjects.
- <u>NoveList</u> supports reluctant and explorative readers with a platform that recommends books based on previous favorite reads. Students can use <u>NoveList K-8</u> and type in the books that resonated with them to receive recommendations for their next great read.
- <u>Pronunciator</u> offers lessons in over 315 different languages. With each language, you learn a comprehensive array of 10,000 instructional phrases. Molded to fit your lifestyle and needs, Pronunciator's personalized language courses make your learning experience relatable and effective, significantly enhancing retention and helping you master your chosen language seamlessly.

(Article continues on the next page)

Head of Adult Services Caitlin Hawe-Ndrio reminds us that learning resources aren't just for kids. Caitlin says, "The library also offers a variety of free, digital resources for adult learners. Whether you're heading back to school, enhancing your career, learning a language, or studying for citizenship, the library is here to help. All you need is your library card!"

To access these resources, select the "<u>Learn & Research</u>" tab on the website. There are many resources to explore, including:

- <u>Academic Search Premier</u> indexes 8,025 publications, offering full text for over 4,500 titles, PDF backfiles to 1975 for many journals, and cited references for 1,000+ titles.
- <u>EBSCO Host</u> offers full-text access to multiple databases, including MasterFile Premier with over 1,700 periodicals from 1975 to present, nearly 500 reference books, 84,774 biographies, 100,554 primary documents, and a collection of 202,164 images.
- <u>ERIC</u> provides over 2,200 digests, references, and abstracts from 1,000+ educational journals, available via EBSCOhost.
- <u>Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition</u> offers full-text coverage on nursing and allied health, including various specialties. Available via EBSCOhost.
- <u>Northstar Digital Literacy</u> helps patrons to learn computer basics and build and certify your computer skills.
- <u>Peterson's Test and Career Prep</u> provides comprehensive test preparation and career guidance for students and adults, aiming for college and career readiness with resources from a leading educational provider.

For more information, contact any Adult Services or Youth Services librarian to receive assistance and or recommendations with resources for all your family's educational needs.

Friendly Book Review: The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza by Mac Bennett and Shawn Harris

The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza is a wildly imaginative and hilarious graphic novel that takes readers on an intergalactic adventure like no other. Told in twenty-two zany chapters, the story follows a cyber-enhanced cat sent to space to save the moon from being eaten by rats. Along the way, the cat teams up with a robot and a moon queen

— and yes, pizza plays a crucial role.

With bold illustrations and laugh-out-loud dialogue, this book is perfect for readers who love fast-paced stories, quirky characters, and a healthy dose of absurdity. Beneath the humor, it's also a tale of friendship, bravery, and finding your place in the universe.

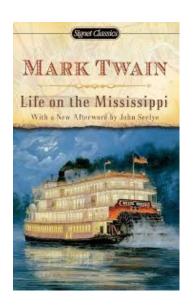
I chose *The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza* not only because it was actually one of the books that won in the graphic fiction category at the 2025 Garden State Book Awards presented at the NJLA conference but also because it's one of the few books that made me laugh out loud while reading. It's a great reminder that stories can be both silly and smart, and that joy and creativity belong at the heart of reading. It's also a hit with reluctant readers, which makes it a favorite on my recommendation list. I know many of the Friends are parents and grandparents, and I think this graphic novel would be a hit with them, too.

— Joselyn Abbott, Friends Member and Library Assistant at Moorestown Library

Friendly Book Review: Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain

The Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) novel, *Life on the Mississippi*, is a time capsule in which Twain highlights that great river's discovery, early exploration, and selected phases of his personal history. In those pre-America's Civil War years, one of a river-town boy's burning desires was to become a steamboat pilot. And Mark Twain had caught that fire.

More so than a riverboat captain, the pilot ran the operation. The pilot was responsible for round-the-clock navigation, setting course and speed, managing river hazards — and all with only the simplest instruments. But it was a glorious occupation, probably more so than that of the modern airline pilot. So, seeking adventure and fortune, Twain ran away to the river and booked passage on a rough boat headed for New Orleans.



What Twain did not know, when he first badgered his way into his apprenticeship, was that a pilot had to learn every river bend, shoal, and obstruction for over a thousand miles of constantly changing streambed - going upstream and down - with absolute certainty. Fortunately, his mentor was more than equal to the task, and was determined to "learn him, or kill him."

How Twain mastered the craft, over nearly three years, makes riveting and enjoyable reading. But Twain also laces the entire narrative with further observations and anecdotes; stories that illuminate human nature; and some that just invite you along for the ride. Bon Voyage!

--- John Crozier, Trustee, Friends of the Moorestown Library



Spotlight on a Friend: Chris Keating



As we close this issue, we shine the spotlight on Chris Keating, an employment law attorney and member of Moorestown Township Council. He and his wife, Krysta Johns-Keating, have two children: Donovan, 7 and Talia, 4. Chris has been a Friend since 2024.

When did you join the Friends and why?

I joined in 2024. I was serving on the Library's Board of Trustees and was incredibly grateful for all the Friends of the Library do to support our free public library.

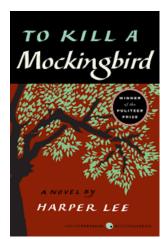
I joined the library Friends to make a financial contribution back to the institution that has offered so much to my family. I am fortunate to have been able to contribute, and I appreciate everyone else who donates their time or money to help maintain the services and offerings of our library.

What do you like to read?

My preference is usually non-fiction, focused on history or law, although I do credit fiction with inspiring some of my career choices.

I remember reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* in high school long before I ever knew I could or would be an attorney. I admired Atticus Finch's dedication to his community and his willingness to meet his clients where they were at economically, sometimes bartering his legal services in exchange for potatoes and other crops, which were all his clients could offer.

Years later, that concept continues to influence the way I run my own law firm, as I make every effort I can to not turn away people who I can otherwise help.







What do you think of when you think about the Friends of the Library?

The Friends of the Library exemplifies the community that makes Moorestown a special place to raise a family. Volunteers give their time, and donors their money, all in support of creating and maintaining a world-class learning environment for our residents, which will always be essential to creating opportunity for all residents and preserving our democracy.

The learning tablets and activity backpacks for kids are fantastic and cater to a wide range of ages.

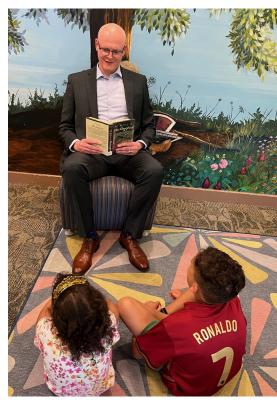
The learning tablets, which are funded by the library, may be borrowed for up to two weeks and come preloaded with effective learning apps and no internet access, keeping our kids focused on learning without us worrying about

distractions and inappropriate content.

The learning backpacks, which are supported by the Friends of the Library, are screen free and contain fun activities that my kids have enjoyed over the years.

I remember having a great time with Donovan using one of the backpacks to teach him how to count.

It contained a mock ice cream cone and stackable scoops of ice cream numbered 1-20. We loved counting together as he built comically high ice cream towers that he would then pretend to devour. Great memories.



Why would you recommend joining the Friends of the Library?

Our library would not be of the same exceptional caliber without volunteers and donors from the Friends of the Library. If you can support, please do. The entire community benefits from your contributions.