



MONTAUK LIBRARY

SPRING
REVIEW
2021

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Denise DiPaolo



WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU LEMONS... I'm sure we can all agree that our community, over the past year, has been handed enough lemons to last a lifetime. Since early 2020, the Montauk Library Board, employees, and Friends group have been operating under the premise: When Life Gives You Lemons—Turn to Your Library.

In March 2020 we were first faced with a state-mandated shutdown, followed by phased-in limited access. During those months, Library employees worked remotely to provide new and exciting virtual content for our patrons. We created a new YouTube Channel, energized our social media outlets, compiled weekly "Throwback Thursday" blog entries, posted exciting book reviews, and created new Zoom book groups—just to name a few. Our Library employees continued to update our book/DVD collection (based on your recommendations and book reviews) and add to our vertical files, which now include an important section of local newspaper entries that describe how the Montauk community has managed during these challenging, unprecedented times.

In June 2020 we reopened with curbside pickup and expanded our outdoor Wi-Fi accessibility to 24 hours a day. Today, inside the Library's temporary building, we observe strict Covid-related practices which include mask-wearing and social distancing; hand sanitizing stations can be found in numerous locations throughout the building. Recently returned books and other items are quarantined to help reduce the possibility of virus transmission. Those who prefer no-contact transactions can take advantage of our self-pickup hold shelf and our new self-checkout station. Plus, Montauk Library cardholders can make appointments by phone or email for passport application services, notary public services, and AARP tax return preparation assistance.



As you flip through this newsletter, you will learn how our talented staff is working hard to develop our website's new oral history collection, gather donations for the Montauk Food Pantry, ARF and The Retreat, and create weekly virtual storytimes starring familiar Library faces—hometown heroes and popular guests like Lori Hubbard, Mary Jane, and Rachel Haab.

(July 2020 groundbreaking ceremony, photo: R. Lewin)

Behind the scenes, the construction project continues! As most of you know, we were faced with a delayed start due to the pandemic. Once we received the green light, our contractors and project team hit the ground running. To date, there has been great progress—the new expansion space has taken form, the updated mechanical, plumbing and electric plan is underway, and the new low-nitrogen septic system is installed. Library staff is busy planning the new space with safe and functional furniture, energy-efficient fixtures, educational materials, and other state-of-the-art equipment. We expect to complete the entire project later this year and to welcome the community back inside!

No doubt, this year has been a challenging whirlwind filled with an abundant handful of lemons. Please remember, however, that when life hands you those lemons, you can always turn to the Montauk Library. We are here for you—designing safe services, offering updated collections, preserving Montauk history, creating new content, and looking forward to pressing the proverbial restart button when we reopen our main building in a few months.

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, April 6, 2021
2 PM to 8 PM



2021-2022 Operating Budget
Vote and Trustee Election

(See inside for more information.)

VOTE AND ELECTION INCLUDE:

1. To adopt the Annual Library Budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the Montauk Union Free School District.
2. To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2026, to succeed Barbara Grimes, whose term expires on June 30, 2021.

Voter Registration in the Library:

Monday, March 29, from 2-6 PM

Public Information Session:

Monday, March 29, at 6 PM

Absentee ballots may be applied for at the Office of the Clerk of the Montauk Union Free School District between 8 AM and 3 PM, Monday through Friday. Application must be received by the Board of Registration by 5 PM of March 30, 2021 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or by 5 PM on April 5, 2021, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. The Board of Registration shall make a list of all persons to whom absentee voters' ballots have been issued, and shall have it available in the Office of the School District Clerk during regular business hours on each of the five days prior to April 6, 2021 except Sunday. Such list will be posted at the polling place during the election. No absentee voter ballot shall be canvassed unless it is received by the Clerk not later than 5 PM on the day of the Special District Meeting.

Para obtener una versión en Español de esta información, por favor llama a la biblioteca al 631-668-3377.



Making pasta dough during the Library's National Spaghetti Day children's program, early 2020

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER AT MONTAUKLIBRARY.ORG

A LETTER FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Last year the Montauk Library moved into its temporary quarters while the Library underwent renovations. Due to the limited space of our temporary facility and the impact of Covid-19, we were not able to offer our usual array of on-site programming. However, the Library staff has gone online to offer a variety of interesting programs for adults and children. Additionally, we have been able to keep the Library open six days a week. Once the construction is completed, we will return to our normal schedule of seven days a week. And, with the added new space, we anticipate expanding the range of programs we are able to offer to the community.

The Covid pandemic has placed some pressure on our construction and operating budgets. Although there have been some unforeseen costs, we have also found some opportunities to save money. We are looking forward to completion of the construction project and welcoming the community back into our newly renovated Library!

Marilyn Levine

Financial Secretary,
Montauk Library
Board of Trustees



MONTAUK LIBRARY PROPOSED 2021-2022 OPERATING BUDGET

INCOME

Taxes	\$1,147,955.00
Fines, Fees	\$ 8,000.00
Grants, Gifts & Donations	\$ 10,000.00
Other	\$ 7,200.00
Debt Service	\$ 577,875.00
Approved by voters in 2019	
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	\$1,751,030.00

EXPENSES

Salaries & Salary Expenses	\$ 772,548.00
Wages, health insurance, workers' compensation, Social Security, retirement, etc.	
Library Materials & Programs	\$ 110,057.00
Adult and Children's print & digital materials and programs, workshops, and events	
Library Operations	\$ 78,550.00
Telecommunications, supplies, memberships, computer peripherals, etc.	
Professional Services	\$ 42,000.00
Audit, legal, bookkeeping, annual vote, etc.	
Building Operations	\$ 145,000.00
Utilities, building and property maintenance and insurances	
Capital Reserve	\$ 25,000.00
Debt Service	\$ 577,875.00
Approved by voters in 2019	
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	\$1,751,030.00

2021-2022 Property Tax increase will be approximately \$3.44 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

CANDIDATE FOR TRUSTEE

Barbara Grimes, who moved to Montauk in 1979 to work at the New York Ocean Science Laboratory, grew up outside of Albany, New York. She attended SUNY Oswego and SUNY Suffolk, and holds degrees in both Marine Science and Veterinary Nursing. In addition to sitting on the Library Board since 2011, Barbara is on the Board of Third House Nature Center and is an active member of Montauk's Citizens Advisory Committee. She has two adult children, Lee and Noah. Barbara's special interests include local history, natural history, animals (of all sizes and shapes!), reading, and lifelong learning.



UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT

Ray Beeler, FAIA, LEED AP
Gallin Beeler Design Studio Architects

Construction work on the Library's renovation and expansion project has been underway since July of last year and is proceeding well. Construction Manager SCC Construction Management Group based in Hauppauge has been coordinating the work of the Prime Contractors including The Patriot Organization (General Construction), Hirsch + Company (Plumbing), D+S Mechanical Services, and VSC Electrical.

Anyone who has driven by has observed a lot of heavy construction equipment and earthwork in progress. All this was necessary to install a new state-of-the-art, innovative low-nitrogen septic system and for the foundations and basements of additions, which are being constructed on the north and east sides of the existing building.



Architectural rendering of the renovated and expanded Montauk Library. Architect: Ray Beeler, Gallin Beeler Design Studio

The foundations are now complete for both additions and the steel structure/enclosing walls are complete at the east addition. Work inside the existing Library has also been progressing, with new bathrooms, a second Meeting Room, an expanded Children's Library and Archival Center, a new Children's Program Room, a new Teen Room and an expansion of the second floor for Adult Services.

The roofs of the existing west porch and the east addition will be accessible, providing dramatic ocean views on the west and a green roof on the east, overlooking the beautiful Montauk landscape. The rebuilding of the existing bay window into two stories will be underway this month and solar panels will be installed on the existing roof in the coming months. Completion is scheduled for later this summer, and we look forward to the renovated and expanded Library's reopening.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Lonna Theiling | Head of Youth & Reference Services



Like other libraries in 2020, the Montauk Library was faced with the challenge of reaching families in spite of limited hours and social distancing. The Library quickly met the challenge by facilitating a virtual programming plan for Montauk patrons. Judging by the community's response, our programming was well received.

Highlights of 2020 included:

- A regular weekly virtual programming schedule, featuring many of the community's favorite programs. In addition to regular weekly programs, the Library also included virtual crafting programs and story times.
- The Great Giveback program: Hundreds of donated items were delivered to The Retreat, Montauk Food Pantry, Lion's Club, and ARF.
- A virtual Summer Reading Program with over 60 families registered, plus, an online Hometown Heroes Storytime. Favorite books read by Montauk's many local heroes highlighted awareness about the important work these heroes do.
- Grab-and-Go craft bags for tweens and teens, plus, a successful and ongoing teen book club featuring fiction and graphic novels.
- A Library staff card-writing operation to bring some cheer to the residents of The Hamptons Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing.
- Programs on cooking for children, teaching them wellness and nutrition.

FAMILY PLACE LIBRARIES

During 2020, a time of reduced patron interaction, Linda Delalla and Lonna Theiling worked to complete a six-week Family Place Library training. The Family Place Library training teaches Library staff ways to positively impact the community they serve by acknowledging three concepts:

- Literacy begins at birth
- Libraries can help build healthy families
- Healthy families contribute to healthy communities

This year, we are looking forward to using the skills learned in our training to create relevant materials, a programming schedule, and a welcoming space to support families in the Montauk community.



ASK ABOUT OUR BIWEEKLY VIRTUAL LEGO CLUB!



Discovering Dinosaurs program



Family Fun at Sharing Music with Lori



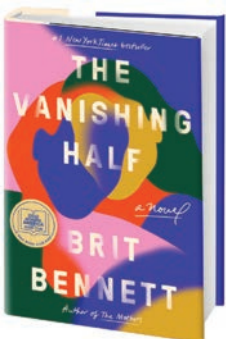
Pasta-making program



Donation items for The Great Giveback

ADULT PROGRAMS

Carolyn Balducci | Adult Program Coordinator



According to an ancient proverb, *crisis brings opportunity and change*. Indeed, in order to meet the challenges presented by the pandemic, we began using the Internet for programming. New media enabled us to establish two successful book discussion groups: [The Classic Book Club](#) and [The Armchair Travel Book Club](#).

We commissioned a series of Cuisine Concert films, half-hour videos that included mini-concerts by musicians who also prepared favorite family recipes. We recently won a NYSCA LI Creative Communities Grant in partnership with the Huntington Arts Council that will allow us to continue this innovative series. An earlier grant from Humanities NY enabled us to sponsor a series of discussions about race, gender and health through the writing of poet and essayist Audre Lorde. Another novel about racial identity, *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett, will be read in a book discussion as part of the Long Island Reads program.

As Covid restrictions ease, we anticipate being able to enjoy in-person programs again, so please be sure to check the Library's online calendar for updates.

Montauk Library programs are supported, in part, by funds generously provided by the Friends of the Montauk Library as well as modest grants from the New York Council for the Humanities and the New York Council for the Arts.

THE MONTAUK LIBRARY ARCHIVES

Maura Feeney | Local History Librarian



CALL FOR DONATIONS | In 2020 the contents of the archival room were packed up for temporary storage in preparation for the Library's renovation. The hard work was a blessing in disguise, as every single piece of paper and artifact was photographed, numbered, and described on a container list. Folders, map tubes, and protective envelopes of the highest archival standards now encase every object ever donated to the archives.



Just before the Archives closed for renovation, Dale Bolton donated a collection of family photographs dating from the early 1900s, shedding new light on the Scandinavian fishermen who populated Montauk. The research value of this incredible collection is off the charts. The same can be said about many of the other collections in the Library's Archives.

For this reason, we are asking our patrons and other Montauk residents to consider donating their photographs, letters, drawings, artifacts, postcards, report cards, certificates, and business records, etc., to the newly expanded Archival Center. These items can be scanned and returned to you, remaining with your family as heirloom treasures. We are also collecting material created recently, such as born-digital photographs. Why? Because the amazing camera-phone image snapped on the beach today could become the great historic Montauk photograph of tomorrow.

Future historians will thank you! And we will, too. Please contact mfeeney@montauklibrary.org.

HIGHLIGHTS | In March 2019 the Montauk Library was awarded a \$4,000 grant from LILRC (the Long Island Library Resources Council) to kick-start an oral history preservation project. In December of the same year, the Montauk Historical Society gifted the Montauk Library with an additional \$10,000. This allowed audio engineers at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Massachusetts, to convert old cassettes and ancient spools of magnetic recording tape into digital files. Oral history interviews that were recorded by both the Montauk Historical Society and the Montauk Library between 1963 and 2004 became accessible on computers, cell phones, and other media in 2020. All of Montauk Library's oral histories will appear on New York Heritage (nyheritage.org) by the end of 2021. You can access them on the Library's website, as well.

Digitization of our photographic collections proceeded throughout the pandemic, with 1,000+ photographic entries added to nyheritage.org in 2020. Keep checking that site for additional uploads, and visit the Library's website for online exhibits of our exceptional historic photography collections.

Finally, our popular Local History blog is another place to view highlights from the Archives. Each week we add another historic image, offering detailed information on why the photograph or artifact is important, and how it can deepen our appreciation of Montauk's past.

THE FRIENDS OF THE MONTAUK LIBRARY

Sally Krusch, President



CELEBRATION BRICK PROGRAM

The Montauk Library's new Celebration Brick Program gives you an opportunity to set your name or the name of a loved one in stone for a memory that will last for ages. At the same time, you will be helping to support the Library that you love.

Brick sizes available:

- 4X8 up to 3 lines \$100
- 8X8 up to 6 lines \$300
- 8X8 with an etched custom logo \$750

The location will be the entry plaza of the newly renovated Library. Apply early for the best locations and inclusion with the bricks in place for the opening in the summer of 2021. After the renovated Library reopens, bricks will continue to be available and will be installed in batches. Other naming opportunities are available.

Please ask about the items that are of interest to you:

- Outdoor benches and trees
- Indoor seating
- Specific areas in the Library

Orders can be placed online and paid by credit card or PayPal at montauklibrary.org/bricks. For more info, call Sally Krusch at 917-453-1370 or Pat Shea at 908-410-7466.

The Friends of the Montauk Library group is a nonprofit volunteer organization that supports and advocates for our Library. We raise funds through book sales and other events to help pay for resources and materials not covered by the Library's annual operating budget. We support the Library's cultural programs and run our own programs (such as the popular movie series and the Sunday Book Club, currently online, featuring critically well-received and prize-winning novels from recent years). Through our book sales, free books and Little Library we provide an inexpensive resource for books to the community.



Please consider becoming a member of our group. You will have prior notice on all upcoming events and the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting our Library that does so much for the community.

TO BECOME A FRIEND: Pick up a membership form at the circulation desk or join online at montauklibrary.org. Click "Friends of the Montauk Library" under the "About Us" tab. Membership Levels: Individual (\$20), Family (\$30), Senior/Student (\$10), Sponsor (\$50), Patron (\$100), Benefactor (\$500).

MONTAUK LIBRARY'S 24-TON BOULDER DISCOVERY



On January 7, 2021, while performing excavation work for the Library's addition, Keith Grimes, Inc., encountered a large boulder buried approximately 25 feet underground. It was unearthed and moved to the northeastern corner of the

library's parking lot. Measured by Steve Glaser, the project's construction manager for SCC Construction Management Group, the boulder reaches 6 feet in height by 10 feet wide. The depth is approximately 7 feet from front to back.

This 24-ton glacial boulder is known as a "glacial erratic," a piece of bedrock transported by ice and deposited elsewhere. Sitting beneath the surface of soil and gravel, bedrock is solid rock. However, it's no match for a glacier, which crunches and grinds everything in its path. Sometimes carrying rock and debris for hundreds of miles, a glacial ice sheet can move boulders as big as a house.

East Hampton Middle School science teacher Kevin Lubbe reported that the boulder appeared to be granite, "which is formed from a very slow-cooling magma underground, probably about 2 billion years ago. It has since eroded and been plucked from the bedrock base known as the Canadian Shield, which covers most of the northeastern part of the U.S. and southeastern part of Canada."

How did Montauk become the final stop on the boulder's journey? For another East Hampton Middle School science teacher, Ray Patelli, "a reasonable suggestion would be that it had been part of the Rhode Island or Connecticut bedrock, although it is possible that it came from the Long Island Sound basement bedrock. It may have been transported by the Narragansett glacial lobe during the Wisconsin glacial advance [the last Ice Age], perhaps 20,000 years ago." Lobes are tongues of ice that protrude from the border edge of a glacier, affecting the landscape left behind.

At this time, the Montauk Library Board of Trustees is discussing options for a plaque to adorn this amazing boulder.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Brit Mansir | Head of Technology Services



The Library is happy to report that there has been a significant increase in online use of Library-provided e-content. More people are downloading e-Books and e-Audiobooks from LiveLibrary than ever before. Streaming movies from Kanopy and e-Magazine reading with the Flipster app are at an all-time high. Just log in with your Library card and you're good to go! The Children's Department is reaching young people with its wide variety of virtual programs and popular YouTube channel. We even have five virtual book-club groups meeting monthly; plus, the Friends are providing online presentations, as well.

Safety in the Library is always a priority, as we phase in more self-service, and little-to-no-contact equipment for our patrons, including:



- Self service hold shelf next to the new self-checkout kiosk
- Self-serve photo printing kiosk (to print photos from your phone)
- High speed self-service copier that can scan to email and fax
- Wi-Fi-enabled laser color printing from your phone, iPad or laptop
- Self-service laminating machine for small to letter-size documents

When we move into our newly renovated Library, we will be able to provide numerous quiet work spaces with plenty of room and beautiful views. Of course, your favorite Library staff members will be there to help with your handheld devices and technical questions.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Although the Library had fewer in-person visits during the past year, we connected with the community through many community partnerships.

The Library has been working with the Montauk Food Pantry, The Retreat, Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons and the Lion's Club to collect and bring items to those in need through various collections including, food, clothing, personal care items and pet supplies.

The Library is always open to adding new partnerships. Contact Lonna Theiling, ltheiling@montauklibrary.org, to find out how the Library may be able to help your organization reach more members of the local community.

BY THE NUMBERS

Over the last 12 months, usage of e-content and virtual programming attendance has soared!

10,540	e-Books
3,561	e-Audiobooks
702	e-Magazines (Flipster)
1,815	Streaming Movies (Kanopy)
163	Children's Virtual Programs
3,205	Children's Virtual Attendance
32	Virtual Book Clubs
124	Virtual Book Club Attendance
168	YouTube Uploads/Programs
3,369	YouTube Views

SPRING BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

SUNDAY BOOK CLUBS WITH SALLY (@ 1PM • ZOOM)

- April 11 NOTHING TO SEE HERE BY KEVIN WILSON
May 16 CIRCE BY MADELINE MILLER
June 13 THE REVISIONERS BY MARGARET WILERSON SEXTON

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL BOOK CLUB WITH CAROLYN (TUESDAYS @ 4PM • ZOOM)

- April 20 TRAVELS WITH CHARLEY BY JOHN STEINBECK
May 18 THE BURIED : AN ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION BY PETER KESSLER

CLASSIC BOOK CLUB WITH CAROLYN (THURSDAYS @ 4PM • ZOOM)

- April 8 ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND BY LEWIS CARROLL
May 13 ANNA KARENINA BY LEO TOLSTOY

TEEN BOOK & GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB WITH EMILY (FRIDAYS @ 7PM • ZOOM)

Check with Emily or our online calendar for titles. You can email Emily at eleonardo@montauklibrary.org with recommendations, too!

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Visit montauklibrary.org to apply for a Library Card online and for information on all programming and special events.



LIFE IS BRIGHTER
AT THE
**MONTAUK
LIBRARY**

871 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954

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Contact Us

montauklibrary.org, 631 668-3377
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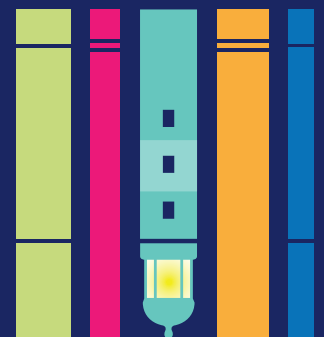
Hours

Monday – Friday: 9AM - 6PM
Saturday: 10AM - 2PM, Sunday: Closed



2021 SPRING REVIEW

871 Montauk Highway
Montauk, NY 11954
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