

MONTAUK LIBRARY

SPRING
REVIEW
2024

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Denise DiPaolo



At a recent library program, a new Montauk resident introduced himself. He thanked me for all the great programs and services that the Montauk Library offers. He called our library a "gemstone of Montauk."

I told my new library friend that I couldn't agree more with that description. The Montauk Library truly is a very special place, made possible by the many dedicated folks in front of and behind the scenes—folks who bring a wide variety of new, exciting experiences to our library every day. Our extended library family is made up of multi-talented, professional librarians, technology experts, library clerks, program coordinators, support staff, volunteers and Trustees.

The Montauk Library is a place where everyone, young and not-so-young, can learn, discover, interact, and exchange ideas. With its mix of busy and quiet areas, you can choose to socialize one day and meditate the next.



The Ringelmanns borrowed a Jenga Giant set from the Library of Things (Photo: Sara Ringelmann)

Throughout this newsletter, you will discover programs and services that may be new to you as well as ones you might consider old hat. For example, did you know that we have a Seed Library? Did you know that we offer notary public services? Did you know that much of our local history collection has been digitized and is available online? Even more, did you know that our Library of Things allows patrons to borrow items such as folding chairs, coffee urns, and even Jenga Giant? Did you know that local artists' works are often on exhibit in our community room and that patrons' collections are on display in one of three display cases?

There are endless discoveries at the Montauk Library. We're proud to be a gemstone of community—come check us out!

SAVE THE DATE:

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

2 PM to 8 PM

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2024-2025 Operating Budget Vote and Trustee Election

(See inside for more information.)

Voter Registration in the Library:

Monday, March 25, 2024 from 2-6 PM

Public Information Session:

Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6 PM

VOTE AND ELECTION INCLUDE:

- 1) To adopt the Annual Library Budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 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, 2024 and ending June 30, 2029, to succeed Linda Barnds, whose term expires on June 30, 2024.
- 3) To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library for a five (5) year term commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2029, to succeed Yasma Schiappacasse, whose term expires on June 30, 2024.
- 4) To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library to fill the unexpired term due to the vacancy of the position previously held by Richard Sheckman, commencing April 2, 2024, and expiring on June 30, 2025.
- 5) To elect one (1) Trustee of the Montauk Library to fill the unexpired term due to the vacancy of the position previously held by Lynda Bostrom, commencing April 2, 2024, and expiring on June 30, 2027.

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. Applications for absentee ballots are due to the School District Clerk by 5 PM on March 26, 2024 if the ballot is to be mailed or 5 PM on April 1 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 2, 2024 except Sunday. Such list will be posted at the polling place during the election. Absentee ballots are due to the School District Clerk no later than 5 PM on April 2, 2024. Contact glightcap@montaukschool.org for more information.

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

• MONTAUK LIBRARY STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS •



Kathleen



Brit



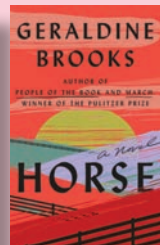
Denise



Lisa



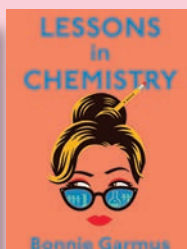
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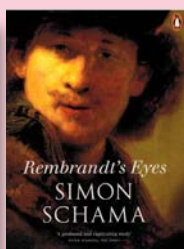
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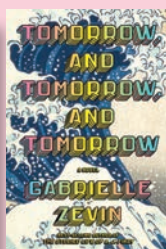
Sally



Marie



Anna



Aimee



Friends Group



Dino Dance Party in the Youth Services Department

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Where do you think the center of Montauk is? Some might say it's the Gazebo on the Green, where music is performed in the summer. Some might say it's the harbor, which pulses with commercial activity and recreational opportunities. Some might say it's the downtown area with its bars, restaurants, and shopping.

But the real center of our community is the Montauk Library. Our library is much more than a place to find a book, read a newspaper, or use a computer. The Montauk Library is the real community center of our hometown. We offer programs and activities for everyone, and they are free to everyone—it's the best bargain in Montauk!

The library's Board of Trustees is devoted to ensuring that the library offers resources that meet the needs and expectations of everyone in Montauk, including infants, children, teens, young adults, young families struggling to get by, mid-career workers, and retirees. We are confident that whoever you are, you will find something that will be fun, interesting, educational, challenging, and engaging.

If you haven't been to our library recently, please pay us a visit. Just inside our front door is a large sign listing the week's special activities. And inside the front door are some of the special people who work at and use our library every day. It truly is the best bargain in town!

Marilyn Levine
President,
Montauk Library
Board of Trustees



Staff members Lisa Montella and Val Hoffmann on the library's green roof

MONTAUK LIBRARY PROPOSED 2024-2025 OPERATING BUDGET

INCOME

Taxes	\$ 1,501,230.00
Debt Service (approved 2019)	\$ 576,500.00
Fines, Fees	\$ 26,000.00
Grants, Gifts	\$ 37,800.00
Transfer from Reserves	\$ 20,000.00
Other	\$ 13,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,174,530.00

EXPENSES

Salaries, Health Insurance, etc.	\$ 1,186,700.00
Library Materials & Programs	\$ 108,500.00
Library Operations	\$ 57,830.00
Professional Services	\$ 33,500.00
Building Operations	\$ 191,500.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 20,000.00
Debt Service (approved 2019)	\$ 576,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,174,530.00

Annual property tax increase will be approximately \$20.11 per home with market value at \$1,080,000

TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

LINDA BARNDS has been a resident of Montauk for over 50 years and is an avid patron of the library as well as a business owner, teacher, realtor, and community activist who supports saving Montauk from over-commercialization. Serving as a member of civic organizations keeps her politically active in the day-to-day affairs of the town.



LYNN HAMMER moved to Montauk from East Hampton in 2011 with her husband, Andy, a local attorney. Their two children attend the Montauk School. Lynn currently enjoys working with children at St. Therese of Lisieux's nursery school. She holds a bachelor's degree from Hofstra University and was formerly business manager for LandMarks, LLC/Richard E. Whalen, Esq. She has served as a Little League coach for both of her children's teams and volunteers at both the Montauk School Book Fair and the St. Therese parish. In addition to reading, she loves to fish Montauk and ski Vermont with her family.



YASNA SCHIAPPACASSE and her husband, Domingo, moved from Chile to Montauk in 1997 with no knowledge of English. Yasna took classes in English while working in a hotel; after working at a toy store and starting a family with Domingo, she earned a CDL and started driving a bus for the Montauk School. She went on to become a nail technician and has been working since then at the Endz Salon. Domingo is a volunteer with the Montauk Fire Department. Yasna started taking her children, Jayleen and Carlos, to the library when they were very young. Yasna, was asked to step in when Joan Lycke stepped down from the Library's Board of Trustees.



LISA VALCICH was born and raised in Montauk. As her daughter, Catherine, was growing up, the books and programs at the Montauk Library made it a regular destination. A purchasing agent for East Hampton Town who also works for her brother's local carting company, Lisa is a volunteer firefighter in the Montauk Fire Department and a member and treasurer of the Montauk Village Association as well as a member, lecturer, and catechist for St. Therese of Lisieux. She helps organize the annual Tyler Valcich Memorial Car Show to raise funds and awareness for the prevention of suicide. Lisa sat on the Board of Trustees for the library from 2008 through 2015.





Last year, the Youth Services Department offered programs designed for children of all ages.

Highlights include:

- A visit from the Snow Queen for our preschool patrons. The little ones enjoyed a story time, dancing, and singing with the Queen.
- A teen clothing swap made it possible for tweens and teens to recycle while also trying out a new wardrobe.
- An apple pie-making class had families working together to make homemade apple pies.
- Middle graders explored optical illusions with the Long Island Science Center and made crafts that tricked the eye.



Other programs included visits from the South Fork Natural History Museum and the Quogue Wildlife Refuge Center complete with live animals, a Dino Dance party, a Native American talking sticks program, and visits from children's book authors as well as bunnies.

Did you know that our Youth Services Department also has:

- A Toy Library where young people can borrow Magna-Tiles, games such as Guess Who and Zingo, and jigsaw puzzles. Grab-and-go craft projects can also be taken home.
- A World Languages collection of familiar titles written in Spanish, French, Dutch, and Italian.
- Spontaneous rainy-day movies.
- Monthly STEM programs for children in grades 4 and up.
- A brand-new Tween Scene Room filled with middle-grade book series, art supplies, and magazines such as Sports Illustrated Kids.



TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Brit Mansir | Head of Technology Services



This year promises to be a great one for tech-related library services. We all know they're integral to the library's operation, and key to the services provided. Considering that, the library has:

- Added 5 new Dell Windows laptops for patron use.
- Upgraded Wi-Fi coverage throughout the library.
- Made wireless printing from your phone easier than ever.
- Converted our fax lines to digital for faster, more reliable faxing.
- Added fax capability to our second multifunction copier on the upper level.
- Converted Internet service to fiber-optic, which will dramatically improve upload speeds and overall reliability.
- Started working with LTV to install streaming capabilities, which will be important for public meetings and performances.
- Brought back "Tech Tuesdays" for two Tuesdays a month on various topics, followed by one-on-one tech help provided by our staff—check our calendar for upcoming topics.

Is the fax finally going away? Believe it or not, the predecessor of the modern fax was invented 100 years ago, and the first trans-Atlantic image transmission was a photograph of then-President Calvin Coolidge, sent from New York to London on November 29, 1924. Commercial applications for this service began a few years after that. Desktop fax machines were being used by some businesses by the end of the 1960s, and some of us remember that consumer-grade fax machines were common in the '70s. The technology behind analog telephone line faxing has changed little since then.

Montauk Library patrons sent 179 Faxes (888 pages) in 2023. Based on the number of patrons coming to the library each week who say, "I need to send a fax!"—faxing is not going away anytime soon.



Scan this QR Code to test your knowledge of what the Montauk Library has to offer!



In 2023 the archives department expanded, engaged the local community, and increased access to our collections like never before. We accomplished this by:

- Launching an Archives Catalog (montauklibrary.org/archives-catalog) where you can browse photographs, maps, artworks, objects, and collections.
- Adding over 350 images to New York Heritage Digital Collections, including photographs from Alice Houseknecht, Carl Darenberg, Sr., Maria-Louise Sidoroff, Ph. D., and the Windsor family.



Left: East Hampton Town's 375th Anniv. History Fair, June 2023. Right: Donna Corvi, Montauk Artists' Association Vice Pres., with their donation to the Montauk Library Archives, Dec. 2023.

- Hosting the Montauk School's 5th grade for a program on the natural history of Montauk in conjunction with the Victor D'Amico Institute of Art.
- Acquiring a collection of organizational records from the Montauk Artists' Association.
- Conducting oral history interviews with Stephanie Krusa, Joan Taylor, Chip Duryea, and Rosa Hanna Scott.
- Participating in East Hampton Town's 375th Anniversary History Fair.
- Collaborating on a wildfowl decoy exhibit with the East Hampton Historical Society.
- Scanning more than 6,000 photographs for patrons.
- Producing 15 digital exhibits to screen in our Local History Exhibit Center.
- Writing 49 new Throwback Thursday blog posts examining local historical topics.
- Sharing more than 350 photographs from the community in our quarterly community slideshows.
- Updating our Long Island Collection to be a circulating collection. Visit the upper level of the library to check out books on local history, from Montauk to Manhattan.

A YEAR AT THE MONTAUK LIBRARY

TYPE	AMOUNT	INCREASE FROM '22
Library Visits	53,960	20%
Library Programs	909	49%
Program Attendance	11,770	25%
Checkouts	53,325	19%

E-ITEMS CHECKED OUT IN 2023

e-Books	14,118
e-Audiobooks	8,099
e-Magazines	762
Kanopy movies	1,663

OTHER LIBRARY SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2023

Seed Library Packets	588
Passport Assistance	480
AARP Tax Return Assistance	121
Proctoring Assistance	48
Notary Public	321
Technology Assistance	456
Room Reservations	582

THE FRIENDS OF THE MONTAUK LIBRARY

Sally Krusch | President



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Friends of the Library run a used-book shop located on the lower level. Most of the books are in new and excellent condition, which makes them great for gift-giving.
- Books in the Bookshop are donated by members of our community. We accept most gently used books (except textbooks, encyclopedias, and dictionaries).
- The Bookshop is currently open on Saturdays from 11 am - 4pm. Call the library for upcoming expanded hours.
- When the Bookshop is closed, you can always browse the "books-by-donation" shelf located on the main level of the library.
- The Friends also manage two Little Free Libraries in Montauk, one at the Post Office and the other in front of the Viking Dock.
- The Friends have installed a new display case on the lower level which is currently exhibiting the "Coral Reef" created by our popular knitting and crochet groups.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO STAFF MEMBERS
CELEBRATING MILESTONES
AT THE MONTAUK LIBRARY!**



Linda DeLalla
• 5 Years •



Kathleen Ernst
• 15 Years •



Carolyn Balducci
• 20 Years •



Marie Stokes
Happy Retirement!

ADULT PROGRAMS

Carolyn Balducci | Adult Program Coordinator



In 2023, the Montauk Library's Adult Programs included exceptional events such as:

- Concerts by a Latin American trio featuring guitarist Francisco Roldan; a classical duo featuring cellist Linda di Martino; Steinway artist Carolyn Enger's performance of contemporary music combined with an avant-garde video; Yamaha artist Alexander Wu's performance of an all-Gershwin program; Quayah Nguyen performing piano works by 20th-century French composers; and The Alhambra Ensemble featuring dynamic Sephardic music. We also enjoyed concerts by local talents Anne Tedesco and the DeRosas as well as a memorable "Conversation" with another Montauker, the storyteller/composer/rock musician Joe Delia.
- The Summertime Series of directed readings of *Miss Julie*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Dreamer* and *Seascape*—made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by The Huntington Arts Council, Inc.
- A reading of a new play by Cynthia Cooper, *Through the Sands of Time*, directed by Montauk's Sal Trapani and starring John Hickok.
- Guest lectures by film and TV producer Steve Taub and theater historian Robert Viagas as well as the true crime novelist Casey Sherman and Pulitzer Prize winner William Finnegan.
- Screenings of classic films noir, French comedies, and stories about love, immigration, Disney princesses, road trips, and weddings.

The library was also the site of a celebration of surfing as well as a venue for a week of screenings by the Montauk Film Festival. Meanwhile, our book clubs covered a broad spectrum of topics and literary styles; in 2024 Book 'Tauk continues to provide opportunities for informal discussions about classic novels and award-winning non-fiction.

Images, top to bottom, left to right: Quy Nguyen practices before an October library performance, "The Histrionics" reign supreme at Trivia Night, still life drawing class on the Ocean View Deck, Book Bingo participants.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Montauk Library continues to work in partnership with local organizations by collecting donations for the Retreat, ARF, the Lions Club, the Montauk Food Pantry, East Hampton Rotary, and the Kiwanis Club's Toys for Tots program.



To an increasing degree, we also provide meeting space—most recently for the Montauk Citizens Advisory Committee, the Montauk Playhouse, the Montauk Girl Scouts, the Concerned Citizens of Montauk, and the Andy Warhol Foundation—as well as collaborating on programs with the Montauk School, the Montauk Historical Society, and the Victor D'Amico Institute (Art Barge), and offering a venue for the Montauk Film Festival.

The library safeguards collections belonging to the Community Church, the Historical Society, and the Montauk Artists' Association in our archives.

NEW EDUCATIONAL BIRDING STATION



Montauk is situated along the Atlantic Flyway, providing a primary stopover for birds during the spring and fall migration. The surrounding wetlands, shorelines, and forests are home to a variety of year-round residents, from songbirds to seabirds.

This winter, the library installed a bird feeder station and heated bird bath off the south side of the Children's Deck. The feeder attracts native and migrating species while serving as an educational tool to observe wildlife and learn about bird behavior and identification.

We'll also be installing a camera that will live-stream the feeder station to our website and YouTube page in time for spring migration. Visit the library or check in on the livestream to see who stops by!

Do you own a collection of Barbies, playing cards, fishing lures, vintage teacups, pocket handkerchiefs, or something else you'd like to show off? Contact Kathleen at kernst@montauklibrary.org to feature your collection in one of our main-level display cases. We're also looking for a community group to display their treasures in a display case in our Local History Exhibit Center.

DID YOU KNOW THAT MONTAUK LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS MAY ...



- Reserve practice time on the library's Steinway piano
- Meet privately with a human services advocate for help with basic needs such as food, heat, and social services
- Pick up free or discounted tickets to the Montauk Lighthouse, the Parrish Art Museum, the Children's Museum of the East End, and the Riverhead Aquarium at the library
- Rest, read, or meditate on a bench in the library's Serenity Garden
- Showcase their photos in slideshows in the Local History Center
- Record podcasts or conduct interviews using the library's Sound Studio equipment
- Borrow a DVD player, a metal detector, or even a blood pressure monitor from the new Library of Things
- Borrow music CDs, DVDs, jigsaw puzzles, and magazines
- Play chess or Scrabble on the library's second floor
- Watch the library's archival movies and digital slideshows on YouTube through the library's home page



LIFE IS BRIGHTER
AT THE
**MONTAUK
LIBRARY**

871 Montauk Highway, Montauk, NY 11954

Board of Trustees

Marilyn Levine, President
Carter Tyler, Vice President
Linda Barnds, Recording Secretary
Barbara Grimes, Financial Secretary
Yasna Schiappacasse, Trustee
Lynn Hammer, Trustee
Lisa Valcich, Trustee

Denise DiPaolo, Library Director

Contact Us

631 668-3377 | contact@montauklibrary.org
montauklibrary.org

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9AM - 6PM
Wednesday, Friday: 9AM - 8PM
Sunday: 1PM - 6PM

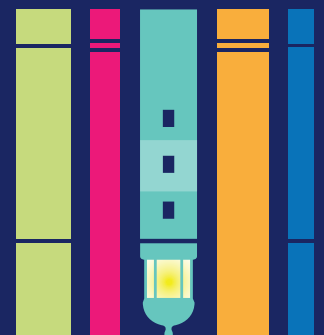


Postal Patron
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Montauk, NY 11954

2024 SPRING REVIEW

871 Montauk Highway
Montauk, NY 11954

**MONTAUK
LIBRARY**



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