From the Director's Laptop

I have three important announcements this month:

1. The Library Building Program is completed and accessible on our website. This document was prepared by Lauren Stara, a private building consultant who is also an architect and a professional librarian. Lauren's day job is with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners where she oversees grant funded public library construction and renovation projects. In essence, the building program is a template for the library's future architectural design. If you recall during the summer and fall, we asked library users to complete an online survey, and hosted three community forums. All the data you submitted was compiled by Lauren into a vision for library services. Your feedback was instrumental in writing a robust document that will serve Middletown well when planning for a new building gets underway. It is understood that the actual work is still several years away so it is important that this first, initial piece (of the whole) has now been completed. Thank you to everyone who participated.

2. The next announcement is that this year’s Friends Annual Meeting will be in person on Friday, March 10th, at the Atlantic Resort, Wyndham Newport, 240 Aquidneck Ave., Middletown. There will be a 6PM social time followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30PM. There has not been an in person annual meeting since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic so this year’s meeting will be a great reunion for all. Special guest is Harle Tinney, historian and author of two local interest books: The Ghosts of Belcourt Castle, and Belcourt Castle: Milestones and Memories. You can find a digital copy of the first title both on Overdrive and Hoopla. The second title is available in print in the library's circulating collection.

3. We have a new reference librarian, AnnaLivia Rayne. AnnaLivia is very experienced in public library reference services and I know you will enjoy meeting her. So stop by the reference desk and say hello. Here's an update on the search for a new director: the search committee has a finalist and, as I write this, the candidate will be meeting with the full Board, staff, and Friends of the Library. So stay tuned as an announcement may be right around the corner.

In closing, be sure to check out our library website, middletownpubliclibraryri.org, to get the latest MPL news, learn about the Library Building Program, peruse new titles, attend events, and much more. With that, I want to take this opportunity to wish you good health, peace and happiness.

See you at the MPL!
Theresa

Theresa Coish is the (soon-to-be outgoing) Director of Middletown Public Library
She is currently reading, All Creatures Great and Small, by James Herriot.
What's New at the Library

New Adult Books
New Children's Books
New Teen Books

Calling All Writers!

Are you looking for a place to meet and share your writing with other local writers?

ALL writing styles and ALL experience levels are welcome at . . .

MPL’s Adult Writers Club

Thursday, February 9th
5:00pm-6:00pm
in our community meeting room

Registration is required.

AARP offers FREE Tax Assistance with filing your 2022 Taxes at MPL!

CLICK HERE for Full Details

AARP's sign-up table located in MPL's lobby
Youth Services Spotlight

Children

**INFANT STORYTIME**
TUESDAY AT 10:30
ENJOY SONGS, LAP BOUNCES, AND FINGERPLAYS WITH YOUR BABY!

**TODDLER STORYTIME**
MONDAY AT 10:30
COME LEARN AND GROW WITH STORIES, SONGS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES!

Tweens

**MAKE A FRIENDSHIP BRACELET**
(Watermark)
Drop in Tuesdays 1-5pm
Held in the Children's Room

Teens

**Decorate a CAKE!**
Learn how to make and shape fondant, royal icing, leaves, flowers, and other finishing touches to create something unique!
Friday, February 10 from 3-5pm
For high school students

**TECH CAMP**
February 21-25 | 10:00 to 3:00 PM
Library Meeting Room

**MARVEL ESCAPE ROOM**
FOR HIGH & MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
Saturday, February 11
3-5 pm in the Children’s Room

Check out our full calendar of events HERE
MPL'S Adult Book Club

During the month of February, the Library is conducting a brief survey regarding the Spring review of the Adult Book Club. Please take a moment and answer 5 questions about the Adult Book Club. We want to hear your thoughts and appreciate your input!

CLICK HERE to take our Adult Book Club Survey
We Thank You!

Our Next Meeting will be Monday, February 13th
3:30pm in our community meeting room

Monday, February 13th
We’ll be discussing
The Atomic City Girls
Get your copies today!
Bossypants

Monday, March 13th
We’ll be discussing

We hope you can join us! Click HERE to register.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

View their Exhibits, Collections and Audio & Video

Browse MPL's Black History Collection

Be sure to take a calendar of our teen programs while browsing our Young Adult Display!

Stop by our Adult Display and pick up a popular and healthy African American recipe to try at home!
Patron Picks Display & Raffle

Love Themed

Visit our display during the month of February and complete a Patron Pick form and recommend a favorite adult/young adult love-themed book or audiobook. Any type of love . . . family, pet, romance, etc. For every Patron Pick form you complete, you will have an entry in the drawing for a $20 Island Books gift card. And, be sure to browse the Patron Picks on display and available for checkout. We hope you join in the fun!

Spread the LOVE with Patron Picks!

The Friends Corner

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Middletown Library will be held on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Atlantic Resort, Wyndham Newport. Your invitation will be in the mail soon. Responses are needed by March 1. Join us for an evening celebrating the members and the contributions that the Friends make to the library.

The bookstore is having a .25 cent book sale. Drop in and see if there is anything that is of interest. We are also accepting donations of books in good condition and DVDs. We do not accept textbooks, dictionaries, Readers Digest books, or Time-Life Series.

The Friends of the Middletown Library is an organization that supports the library. Be a friend and join the Friends of the Middletown Library. Applications are available in the Library or email FriendsofMiddletownRILibrary@gmail.com.