

INSPIRE • EMPOWER • DISCOVER • CONNECT

Compass

September & October 2021

Vol. 27, Issue 1

Library Hours

Monday 10a - 9pm

Tuesday 10a - 9pm

Wednesday 10a - 9pm

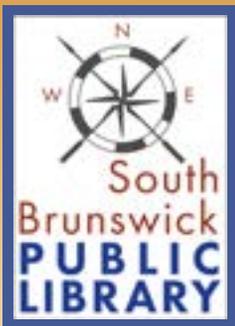
Thursday 10a - 9pm

Friday 12 - 6pm

Saturday 10a - 5p

Sunday 1 - 5p

Please check our website and social media for the latest information!



110 Kingston Lane
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Find us at www.sbpL.info
and on social media!

 @sbpubliclibrary

 @sbpubliclibrary

 @sbpubliclibrary



Enjoy the outdoors! Children's Department head Matt Kirschner reads to local families for outdoor storytime at Township parks

INSIDE: *Building the Next Chapter: SBPL's Construction & Capital Campaign*

See Page 4



Dear Friends...

Susan Edelman, President



As our precious Library is again growing, it is my honor to announce that we, Friends of the South Brunswick Library, have selected the THEATRE as the focus of our monetary pledge.

All of us have worked so hard over the past 41 years to bring quality programs and activities to our Library. It is very suitable that the newly-to-be-created Friends Theatre be the home of so many enriching programs and productions in our future. Your support has enabled us to be such a meaningful part of Building the Next Chapter, coordinated by the Library Foundation.

Other naming opportunities are available for those individuals and organizations who would like to be a part of this Foundation Fundraising campaign. As you attend programs at the Friends Theatre,

we hope you all feel a sense of accomplishment and commitment to the future.

On Sunday, Sept. 12 at 2 p.m., we are beginning our autumn with an outdoor performance/concert enhanced by an Ice Cream Social. Please join the Friends at this event. All ages welcome.

Guess what! We have a Boo-k Sale planned from October 14-17 (Thursday is the day on which the dealers pay \$10 for admission). Thanks to all of our wonderful donations and the tedious work of our acquisitions volunteers who have devoted endless hours to sorting and boxing the donations, the selection and quantity will make it worth your visit. Thank you to all of the fabulous volunteers led by Bob. Also, Cathy has done a great job helping to keep the dollars flowing in via on-line sales. Please contact us if you want to help at the Sale.

IN THE WORKS: Hosting a handwriting expert. This event will be held at 7:30 p.m. on either October 19 or 26. More details will be announced.

Last but not least, please join the Friends. Our Membership Campaign for 2022 begins now. Choose the Membership level that is best for you. We can never have too many Friends.

Friends of The Library

- Susan Edelman, **President**
- Luda Bakunovich/Martha Sletteland, **V.P. Fundraising**
- Lorraine Jackson, **V.P. Programming**
- Elaine Tarnofsky, **Treasurer**
- Wendy Heisler, **Secretary**
- Laura Meraglia, **Membership Chair**
- Bob Holland, **Book Sale Coordinator**
- Ruth Ruddick, **Volunteer Coordinator**
- Geraldine Stover, **Foundation Liaison**
- Martha Sletteland, **Adopt-a-Book Chair**
- Members at Large:**
- Saleena Davidson, Dorothy Erdi, Julianne Erdi, Harriet Hershenov, Susan Santowasso, Sue Wara

Please use the form below or go online to www.sbpl.info/friends/ join to BE A FRIEND for 2022 or RENEW your Friendship. Thank you!

Friendship Form

I want to support the Library by becoming a Friend of the South Brunswick Library
Please mail completed form and check payable to the Friends of the South Brunswick Public Library to:
Chairperson - Friends of the South Brunswick Public Library
110 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Contributions may be tax-deductible.

Join as a...	For..	You will receive...
Buddy	\$15	Library Coupons
Family Friends	\$25	Double Library Coupons
Patrons	\$50	Double Coupons + Tote Bag + \$10 Book Sale coupon
Circle of Friends	\$100	Double Coupons + Canvas Bag + \$10 Book Sale coupon
Best Friends	\$150	Double Coupons + Canvas Bag + \$10 Book Sale coupon + Bookopoly
Life Long Friends	\$300	Double Coupons every year + \$10 Book Sale coupon + one Leaf on the Giving Tree

NAME _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

If you could also contribute some of your time, please indicate your preference(s):
 Programs Mailings Book Sales

Welcome back!

Fall brings changes, progress at South Brunswick Public Library

This September-October 2021 Compass newsletter is the first Compass newsletter we have compiled since the March/April issue of 2020; and it sure feels great to be getting back to business as usual!

The staff members, trustees, and volunteers of the South Brunswick Public Library are pleased we can gradually continue to offer more services again to the South Brunswick community.

After months of Curbside, Browse & Go, and Contact Free services, the Library resumed its normal operating hours, the quarantine was lifted on returned items, and most services became available that previously had ended in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SBPL weathered the storm as they say over that downtime, and so did you. Thanks for hanging in there with us through virtual concerts and programs, Zoom links, online library cards, curbside pickups, and other unusual circumstances dictated by mandated health safety measures.

On June 11, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed an executive order formally terminating New Jersey's public health emergency.

While we get back to "normal" we will incorporate some of the new ideas we learned during the pandemic to serve you even better than before.

Here are some highlights of changes you may notice or can anticipate:

- **A New Name:** In the spring of 2021, the Library building was commemorated in honor of the late mayor and Library advocate Christopher J. Killmurray.
- **Virtual Programs:** Forced by quarantine circumstances, SBPL literally morphed into a virtual programming machine for all ages. Some virtual programs are likely to continue though in-person programming will be re-emerging more over the coming months.
- **Self-Service Checkout System from Bibliotheca:** In April three new self-service checkout kiosks were set up in the Library;

one in the Children's Department and two on either side of the Borrower Services Desk. The new system works with RFID. It allows you to now checkout your own DVD movies, check-in your own returned items (at just one of the three kiosks), receive personalized reading suggestions from Novelist, access your account, renew borrowed items, and have your receipt emailed.

- **No Touch Entry Doors:** The no touch door system was permanently installed earlier this year. Just hold your hand in front of the sensor (on the wall or door frame) a moment or two to activate.

- **Items Free to Borrow:** Borrowing is free for all items, yes, even digital games and DVDs. Fines for late returns do still apply.

- **Renewable DVDs:** All items, even movies and games, are now renewable up to two times.

- **Expansion Plans:** State funding and plans have been approved for building upgrades, a new meeting room and a new auditorium, which should be completed over the next two years.

- **Friends Book Donations and Sales:** Indoor donations are now being accepted again, but in small batches; no more than two boxes at a time. The first post COVID-19 Friends Book Sale will be in October!

- **Book Drop Boxes:** They re-opened on July 1, except the one that had been by Dance on Q near Home Depot, which is no more. For security, all digital items, such as games, audiobooks, or DVDs, still need to be returned to the drop box at the Library building.

Be sure to stay tuned for more surprises (good ones!) ahead this year. Sign up on our website for our email messages and follow us on social media. Visit us at www.sbpl.info



Building the Next Chapter: Creating Community Spaces

Library prepares for the expansion and renovation plan of the Christopher J. Killmurray Building

The South Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees are embarking on the multifaceted expansion and renovation of the South Brunswick Public Library and Christopher J. Killmurray Building.

The plan includes improvements to the interior of the existing building and the construction of a 10,400 square-foot addition and expanded parking using the municipally-owned lots next door.

The mission is to keep Library facilities on pace with the needs of the growing population of the South Brunswick community, including the anticipated growth from affordable housing construction obligations. The authorized cost of the plan is \$7,198,704. Funding will come from several sources, including a state grant of \$3,586,852, a Township Bond of \$3,011,852, and a SBPL Trustee contribution of \$250,000 and fundraising. Township residents will only pay 42 cents on the dollar for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

"I'm looking forward to these improvements to the Killmurray building and the



A rendering of the proposed addition facing Kingston Lane.

enhanced public services we will be able to provide, all at a significantly reduced cost for our residents," said Library Director Chris Carbone.

Key features to anticipate:

- 128-seat auditorium with stage in the new wing, which will be able to accommodate after-hours events
- Improved ADA (handicapped) access
- Increased parking capacity
- Small group meeting rooms
- Improved HVAC system
- Expanded dedicated teen space

- Dedicated Quiet Room
- ADA compliant family restrooms
- Community space for instruction, gathering and cultural events to meet the needs of the mandated increase in affordable housing and projected population growth.

The vision, according to Carbone, is to renovate the Library so that it can truly be capable of being the "Township's center for information, technology, culture, and the arts, providing opportunities for discovery and connecting our community."

Watch for updates in The Compass, our website, and our social media pages.

To make the plan a reality, state and local funding has been approved, but more support is still needed. To bridge the gap, the SBPL Foundation has begun a capital campaign "Building the Next Chapter: Creating Community Spaces" with a fundraising goal of \$500,000. Donations to the campaign are welcome and a variety of naming opportunities and sponsorship levels are available. For more details on the campaign, please visit www.sbpplfoundation.org or contact Library Director Chris Carbone at (732)329-4000, ext. 7287 or ccarbone@sbpl.info.

Construction is expected to begin in 2022 and completed by late 2023. For more information on the construction project please visit www.sbppl.info.

Capital Campaign

SBPL Foundation Launches Capital Campaign

The Library Foundation's Capital Campaign "Building the Next Chapter: Creating Community Spaces" has kicked off!

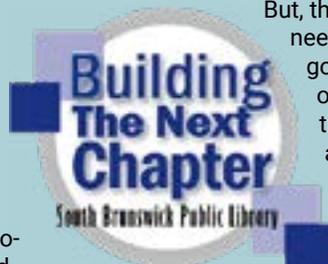
This campaign to raise \$500,000 is the next step in the process to build a new wing and renovate the Library's Christopher J. Killmurray Building.

Half of the \$7,198,704 authorized project cost is covered by a state grant of \$3,586,852. The Township added its support earlier this year with a bond ordinance of \$3,011,852.

In addition, the Library Board of Trustees have pledged \$250,000 for the project.

But, the Library Foundation still needs your help to reach its goal. The SBPL Foundation is offering naming opportunities and other sponsorships at various levels for individuals and organizations who would like to be a part of this journey. For more details, contact Library Director Chris Carbone

at ccarbone@sbpl.info or visit www.sbpplfoundation.org.



Director's Message

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to the Compass newsletter!

Like everyone, SBPL has been through many changes and challenges the past 18 months. We are glad the library has continued to serve throughout and our building is open. We appreciate everyone's support and patronage.

While adjusting and changing for the short term, we have also been planning for the long term. I'm excited to share information in this issue about *Building the Next Chapter*, our construction plan and supporting capital campaign spearheaded by the SBPL Foundation.

The Compass has a new look for new times, with more focus on news and information. There is so much going on and lots of news to share. We are still offering lots of wonderful programs, all made possible by the Friends of SBPL, with highlights in this issue. To discover all of our programs please visit our new online events calendar on our website www.sbpl.info.

We hope to see you at the Library, on the Mobile Branch, or at an event soon!

Chris Carbone
Library Director



Looking for events?
Check out sbpl.libnet.info/events to learn more and to register!



Donor Spotlight

Deepening a Family's Library Connection

To put it simply, love is the reason the family of the late Leo Jackson chose to donate \$50,000 to the South Brunswick Public Library capital building campaign. The Jackson family will sponsor construction of a new lobby for SBPL, part of the Library's expansion and renovation plan. It will be named for their patriarch.

"The Library has a special place in our hearts," said Gregory Jackson, one of three sons of Leo and wife Kuo. "My family feels we have a sense of duty to preserve and grow the institution our family has enjoyed for over 35 years."

Visiting the Library, which sits across the street from the Dayton home Gregory and his brothers Jeffrey and the late Kenneth grew up in, was a big part of their daily life. He and Kenneth were teen volunteers in the 1980s and rarely a week went by that the family didn't walk over for schoolwork or fun. His dad always encouraged visiting the Library and he led the way on the days he could.

He described his father as someone forever intellectually curious, whether it be about the natural world or different cultures and customs.

Leo, who passed away four years ago at the age of 70, equally enjoyed reading both non-fiction and fiction. He read multiple books at a time on topics ranging from astronomy and history to cold war intrigue by Tom Clancy and thrillers by Stephen King.

But, it wasn't until 2008 when he retired from his demanding schedule with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority that Leo was truly able to indulge his inner bookworm. He became a library regular, a daily walker, and a social butterfly. Most days he could be found taking his walk across the street and around the Library building. Then he would stop inside for books and chit chat with the staff.

Librarian Randall Marsola fondly remembered Leo's frequent visits to the Information Services Desk and their discussions about technology, current events, and music. Randy recalled that the last item Leo requested from him was the Ken Burns documentary about the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival.

Diane Hurley, a neighbor of Leo and the supervisor for Borrower Services, remembered how Leo enjoyed showing staff the latest photos of his three grandchildren.

"Leo was a warm and kind man who loved his library," Diane recalled. "We all miss him. He still brings a smile to my face when I think of him."

It is that happiness that the Library brought to Leo that the Jackson family wants to hold on to.

"We want to give back to the place my father no doubt found joy, whether through the books he read or conversation with the friendly staff," Gregory said. "We have a long history with the South Brunswick Public Library and want to deepen that connection."

Anyone that is interested in donating to the building fund or would like to honor a loved one with a donation, should contact Library Director Chris Carbone at 732-329-4000, ext. 7287.



Concert Spotlight

The Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble will Perform LIVE!

The Friends of SBPL will present their first live concert at the Library since COVID-19 safety precautions forced all programming to go virtual in March of 2020. Select members of the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble will present a colorful and lively African *show on the Library Lawn on Sunday, Sept. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m.* The show is described as an electrifying experience of African culture and considered the best drum and dance performance of its kind in the United States.

Funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund.



Service Spotlight

Access A New Online Calendar

A more user-friendly experience is available for visitors to the SBPL's online Events Calendar. We have changed over our calendar software to a company called Communico.

Kevin Ruppel, SBPL webmaster, says the new software system is more compatible with hybrid events (events both virtual and in-person). It links all SBPL events into your local Google searches.



Synced registration forms and better more modern options for organization, such as headcounts and room reservations, will increase efficiency for all concerned.

"That's the way we are headed," said Ruppel. "It keeps us ahead of the curve a bit."

If you have ever participated in a virtual class or Library event, then you have visited our online Events Calendar on our website. All virtual programs require online registration and most in-person events.

You can find information about upcoming events by searching for age group, day/week/month, and even by topic.

To visit the Library's online Events Calendar, go to our website at www.sbpl.info and select the Events tab.

Looking for events?

Check out sbpl.libnet.info/events to learn more and to register!

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH BRUNSWICK
PUBLIC LIBRARY presents



The Fall BOOK Sale

Masks Required

Preview Sale: Thursday Oct. 14, 5-8 pm
Admission \$10

Public Sale: Friday, Oct. 15, 12-5 pm

Saturday, Oct. 16, 10-4:30 pm &
Sunday, Oct. 17, 1-4:30 pm
Bag Sale! \$5, bag included.

*Cash preferred. Credit cards not accepted. Checks accepted with I.D.



Donated books and media items should be new or nearly new in good condition. Please no magazines, VHS, audiotapes, or encyclopedias.



SBPL and Township To Mark 20th Anniversary of 9/11

The world, the Library and South Brunswick Township will have a special day of remembrance for the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack of 2001.

There were 2,996 who died in the attack plus 6,000 injured. Four of those that died were from South Brunswick: Kenneth Charles Yedee, Toyena C. Skinner, Jeffrey Robinson, and Mukal Agarwala.

The Township will host a special event at its 9/11 Memorial fountain in front of the Municipal Complex. Local dignitaries and veterans' organizations will be in attendance. The public is welcome.

In honor of the 20th anniversary, the Library will present an educational poster exhibition entitled *September 11, 2001: The Day That Changed the World*. The program was developed by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information about the ceremony, please visit the South Brunswick Township Municipal web-site at www.twp.south-brunswick.nj.us

Mobile Branch

The Mobile Branch is open to browse, one individual or family at the time, masks required. The September Schedule starts right after Labor Day. Check the library website to see where you can find the Mobile Branch on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. You can place holds in the library catalog and select Mobile Branch as your pick-up location, email mobilebranch@sbpl.info or call 732-329-4000 x7288 and leave a message. We look forward to seeing you soon.



Service Spotlight

Book Boxes Will Transport You!

On display in front of the Borrower Services Desk is a special new treat for the grownups that includes surprises and world travel! Your Library card is your passport.

The new collection for adults, created by SBPL Information Assistant Jetzarel Gonzalez, offers the borrower a Book Box "kit" to enjoy. The kit includes three books from popular authors of three different countries, as well as several surprises representative of those countries. The books must be returned after reading of course, but the surprises are yours to keep!

The purpose of the program is to encourage readers to sample the books of authors from other cultures; to experience something new and previously unexplored.

Each month there will be a special new Book Box kit to choose from. These Book Boxes are designed to promote reading of global literature--they will each contain books written by authors from various countries.



Selections from the August Book Box; Information Assistant Jetzarel Gonzalez (inset).

The pictures on the front of each beautifully illustrated box match the books contained inside.

Keep an eye out for September's Book Box, to debut soon. Bon voyage!

Saturday, Oct. 16th, 11 am - 2 pm

SOUTH BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit South Brunswick's local historic sites!

The South Brunswick Historical Society is planning a history scavenger hunt. Participants will "scavenge" for historic facts at designated historic sites in South Brunswick.

Participants will be eligible for a prize! Visit: www.sbpl.info



Slack/Carroll House in Dayton



Locktender's House in Kington



Wetherill House

SBPL's Tails & Trails!



Congratulations Shalini and family! Shalini of Monmouth Junction and her two children Vidita, 4; and Mayank, 9, were the Grand Prize winners of the Trails & Tails summer reading event drawing! Library Director Chris Carbone presented them with a \$100 Target gift card. Shalini says they plan to buy something fun for the family, but to also use some for a charity. The event on July 10 was done in partnership with the Library and the **Township Recreation Department**. It was sponsored in part by the Friends of the Library.



South Brunswick Public Library
110 Kingston Lane
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Chris Carbone, *Library Director*
Judy Pietrobono, *Assistant Director*

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