

# COVER TO COVER

## What's The Big Read?

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and Arts Midwest. Pennington Library has been awarded a matching grant for a community reading program designed around a single book. Funding will support the purchase of books and help pay for expenses for activities such as panel discussions, lectures, film screenings, art exhibitions, theatrical and musical performances, poetry slams, writing workshops and storytelling events. We are responsible for providing a kick-off event and arranging a partnership with at least one community organization to expand our base of ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds, education levels and occupations.

Pennington Library was selected as one of 62 non-profits nationwide to receive The Big Read grant for 2024. It is our third Big Read. Our previous selections were *True Grit* by Charles Portis in 2019 and *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui in 2022.

For 2024 we have chosen *Circe* by Madeline Miller. Activities for The Big Read extend from February 24<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>. The Library has purchased 220 copies of *Circe* for free distribution. So far our schedule includes a book discussion featuring Madeline Miller's other books, *The Song of Achilles* and *Galatea: A Short Story* and a virtual Keynote conversation with the author. Other activities include a Foraging Walk, A Self Defense program, a Greek inspired art workshop and a Guided Autobiography Workshop. Many more programs will follow as we engage others in the community.

The generous donation of time and space by community volunteers is an important way to meet our matching grant of \$10,000. We hope you will want to join our creative activities and programs to help us bring to life the origin story of a mythological goddess, and so much more. Mark your calendars now!

## What's New? From the Director's Desk

As Library Director, I often feel moved by interactions with our warm and receptive community. This past year, in collaboration with other non-profits, we hosted two sold-out crowds at the Hopewell Theater: a screening of the documentary film "A Fine Line" and an art talk about Frida Kahlo.

This year we changed to a Fine Free system for books and other materials that are returned late, providing a more welcoming Library. The Coffee Station has returned and the Eleanor Fisher memorial tall clock is once again chiming for our visitors.

If you visit you will see "Shelf Talkers" posted to tell about our books and authors. By enrolling in our Showcase Program you will receive monthly emails announcing new Library titles. In June we joined the Library Speaker's Consortium which provides access to bestselling author interviews at [LibraryC.org/PenningtonLibrary](https://LibraryC.org/PenningtonLibrary). A visit to [YouTube.com/PenningtonPublicLibrary](https://YouTube.com/PenningtonPublicLibrary) will list a wide range of our past programs.

Kunkel Park is the location of our first Story Walk, where children can follow an illustrated children's book. The Friends maintain The Little Free Library at Kunkel Park. Built in memory of Kathleen McIlvaine, a kind neighbor, it is filled with books for children and young adults. Enjoy looking for the original house on King George Road that served as the model!

None of these programs and resources would be available without you. Through your donations to the Friends of Pennington Library, we receive financial support and encouragement to experiment with the many ways to enjoy a library. The Volunteers provide friendly and helpful assistance to the staff and our patrons. Every time you join an online program or borrow a book, you are helping us to understand what the Library means to you and how we can serve you in the best possible way.

Please join us for The Big Read. We have many copies of *Circe* to share. Through our many activities, The Big Read will bring us together in an exciting voyage from Ancient Greece to 30 North Main Street!

Sincerely,  
Kim T. Ha, Director



Found the house! Found the books!



Busy children enjoy being a fireman at Busy Town

## Busy Town

On a beautiful day in April the Friends of Pennington Library returned to our pre-Covid days by hosting students from Toll Gate Kindergarten, Pennington Presbyterian Nursery School and St. Matthew's Pre-School for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Busy Town, based on the wonderful book *Busy, Busy Town* by Richard Scarry.

Mayor Davy welcomed 112 students and their teachers, parents and siblings to the Municipal Parking Lot to introduce children to Community Heroes and Helpers. Pennington policemen showed the children the specialized equipment they use as first responders. Pennington firemen allowed children to put on heavy hats, coats and boots as they learned about the shiny knobs and levers on the fire truck. They were allowed to hold a hose, spraying water just like a fireman putting out a fire! The Department of Public Works displayed a backhoe and "Stinky" the garbage truck. Dr. Suzuki and Pixie Salon explained their professions. Emily's Café served lemonade to our thirsty guests and Pennington Dance Studio provided a way to get the wiggles out!

Some of our guests had never been in our Library, so our librarians read them a story and showed them the world of books. Each child went home with a book provided by the Friends and plenty of stories to share with their parents when they were picked up from school.

*Following Busy Town, we received this lovely note from Pennington Presbyterian Nursery School: "It is a privilege to live in this community where adults show children that they are loved, valued and welcomed by the people around them."*

*A friendly note from a friendly neighbor:  
"I love the library, and we both love living in Pennington, being in walking distance to the library. I especially appreciate the Too Busy for Books book group, where we read novellas which are little gems of great literature."*

## You've Got E-Mail!

When you get an email from Pennington Library you can learn about an author lecture, a film screening or new, recommended books. You can be the first to sign up for programs that have limited attendance. Please take time to fill out your email address on the Business Reply Envelope (BRE) that is enclosed, so we can keep you up-to-date.

Pennington Library thrives on communications. Promotional materials are prepared by volunteers and staff members. Fliers are displayed at the Welcome Desk and in Borough Hall. Pennington residents receive updates with the water and sewer bills. *Cover to Cover* highlights our activities. Our webpage allows you to become familiar with our extensive offerings. And of course a visit to the Library is always a great place to borrow from our collections and talk (quietly!) with friends.

Pennington Library provides a quality of life that is unmatched in many other communities. We are able to consider your suggestions and respond to your comments. We hope you will choose to join our list of generous donors. We look forward to sharing the best of our Library experience where we happily provide excellent reading and learning opportunities.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Gwazda and Ellie Driscoll  
Co-presidents, Friends of Pennington Library

Try using our new QR code for easy giving.



Welcome to the world of reading!



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Ralph DeCesare  
 The Gottlieb Family  
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 Julia Heinrich & Edward O'Rourke  
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 Pennington Quality Market  
 Karen Marino for Village Salon  
 Wilson-Apple Funeral Home

**Matching Gift Contributors**

Bristol Myers Squibb  
 Penguin Random House

**Gifts in Kind**

Creative MediaWorks

Donations are reported annually in *Cover to Cover*, the Newsletter of Friends of Pennington Library

**Gifts in Honor or Memorial Gifts**

Donations to the Friends of Pennington Library may be designated in memory or honor of friends or family. In the same way a good book lingers in our memory, so too do the important people in our lives.

*A special friendship remembered with a donation: "Georgie was my beloved West Highland white terrier. She had diabetes for her last few years and in January she died of a heart attack. She went everywhere with me and loved visiting Kim and the library and going into the office for a treat. And that is just a little about Georgie."*



30 North Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534



### Welcome to Pennington!

The Friends deliver Welcome Bags to new residents with information about our Library and other community organizations. Would you like to be included? This year's friendly participants included:

*Cambridge School, FoHVOS, Lawrence-Hopewell Trail, HV Arts Council, HV Environmental Commission, HV Historical Society, HV Parks and Recreation, HV YMCA, Pennington Shade Tree Commission, Sourland Mountain Preserve and The Watershed Institute.*

***The holidays are coming! This sturdy bag can be purchased at the Welcome Desk of Pennington Library. The art work by former Pennington resident William J. Hankinson, depicts local landmarks.***

### Pennington Public Library

30 North Main Street  
Pennington, New Jersey 08534  
[www.penningtonlibrary.org](http://www.penningtonlibrary.org)  
609-737-0404

### Library Staff

Kim T. Ha, Director  
Ian Highcock, Administrative Assistant  
Kristyn Friedlich, Youth Services Specialist  
Charlotte Kelly, Adult Services Specialist

### Friends of Pennington Library

Ellie Driscoll, Co-president  
Debbie Gwazda, Co-president  
Nell Haughton  
KellyAnn O'Neill  
Tim O'Neill  
Debbie Prewitt  
Kristin Rokes, Treasurer  
Amy Sullivan, Trustee Representative  
Julie Wallace  
Holly Weise, Secretary

### Library Board of Trustees

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Carol Olson, Secretary and Mayoral Representative  
David Dewberry  
Maureen Hassett  
Meredith Moore  
Amy Sullivan, Friends Liaison  
Kati Angarone, Council Representative  
Rosetta Treece, School Representative

### Library Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Saturday 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday