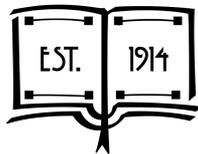


# MOUNTAIN LAKES FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Centennial  
1914-2014

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The Mountain Lakes Free Public Library is an Association Library so designated under the Library Laws of New Jersey, N.J.S.A. Title 15A.

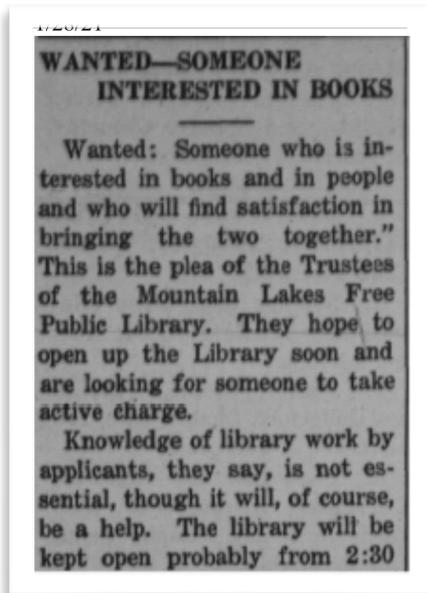
The Library receives local tax support under N.J.S.A. 40:54-35, and is governed by a Board of Trustees and incorporated as a non-profit corporation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 15A:1 1 et seq.

The Library files an Annual State Library Report, receives limited NJ State Library Aid, and follows all NJ State Library Laws, including staffing, hours of operation and materials.

The building and property are owned by the Board of Trustees. Local tax support covers salaries and overhead. All intellectual property and building improvements are funded by library generated income including, but not limited to, fines, copy machine, faxing, room rentals and contributions from an Annual Fund Drive.

The Mountain Lakes Library Board of Trustees consists of eleven members, all residents of Mountain Lakes. Each member is elected to a rotating three year term. There are four Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each serves a one year term. Officers and members are elected by the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees meets quarterly: February, May, September and November, on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Library. All meetings are open to the public.



**WANTED:**

*Someone who is interested in books and in people who will find satisfaction in bringing the two together.*

That was the plea of the Board of Trustees in the local newspaper on January 28, 1921. They were seeking a librarian to manage the new library space on the second floor of the Lake Drive School from 2:30-5:00 pm daily, and one evening per week.

This, however, was not the first chapter in the story of the Mountain Lakes Public

Library--a beloved fixture of the community for 100 years.

The story truly began in 1914, three years after the first homeowner settled in Mountain Lakes. At that time, the Women's Club, under the guidance of Sarah Askew of the New Jersey State Library Commission, began the plan for a public library in Mountain Lakes. Soon after, at the suggestion of Mrs. Walter U. Lawson, chairman of the Women's Club Education Committee, the Mountain Lakes Library was started in the 8 Larchdell Schoolhouse with the donation of 100 books and teacher Grace Coffin in charge.

On November 17, 1915, a committee again called in Miss Askew, who urged that a Library on the Association Plan be established. Each family was to contribute one dollar or more to become a member of the Association, which elected trustees to direct it. The library was to be free for all residents. The Library Association in Trenton donated 150 books.

In 1916, after incorporation papers were signed, the Mountain Lakes Free Public Library was officially opened with the governing body known as the Board of Trustees, consisting of four women and three men with the supervising principal of the schools acting as a permanent member of the board.

At that time the library, already having outgrown its previous location, moved into two rooms above Yaccarino's Market at 44 Midvale for a rent of \$10 a month.

Henry W. Post made bookshelves and helped get the library together. Mrs. John Barlow was appointed librarian and continued in that position until 1921.

In January of 1921, the lease at Yaccarino's ended and the library's 1,800 books went into private storage in an area garage. The President of the Board of Trustees, then Mr. Z. L. Potter, began the search for new library space. Soon after, the library settled into its third home on the second floor of the Lake Drive School.

The newly re-organized library engaged a paid librarian, hiring Lillian Doremus, daughter of Judge Doremus, at a salary of \$25 a month.

For several years the only means of financial support for the library was through membership dues, voluntary contributions and small sums of money raised through campaigns for funds.

In 1922, the Board voted to join the Morris County Library Association (now a consortia of all Morris County Libraries). This was made possible through a tax paid by the borough. For this, the County Library furnished, on request, supplies, reference materials and those books that might be technical or too seldom used, for the library to purchase.

On October 31, 1931 an item in the *Daily Record* shared the following:

*Describing the new home of the Mountain Lakes Public Library as “a fine addition of the other fine things we have for community service”, Mayor Halsey A. Frederick, in an address at the official opening of the new library room in the public school last night, urged the residents of Mountain Lakes to “make use of the new increased facilities” and “to talk the new library up among their friends”.*

*Arthur Stringer, chairman of the Library Board at that time, stated that over 5,000 books were already on the shelves and there was space for at least 3,000 more. He made the appeal seeking contributions of periodicals as well as books.*

From 1930 until 1954, the library moved several more times between The Lake Drive School and its former location in the space at Yaccarino's. It became increasingly clear that the library needed a permanent home, however the war and resulting complications prevented the Board of Trustees from undertaking any building plans.

In 1952, the dream of a permanent home began to crystallize under the inspiration of Mayor Richard Wilcox who, along with an enthusiastic Board, embarked on a building campaign.

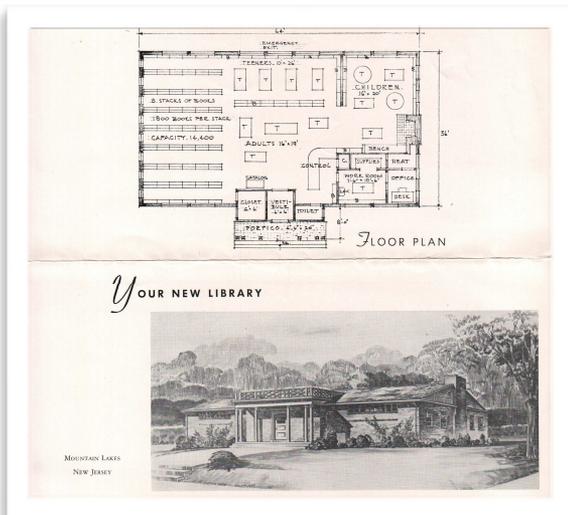




Photo Courtesy of The Citizen

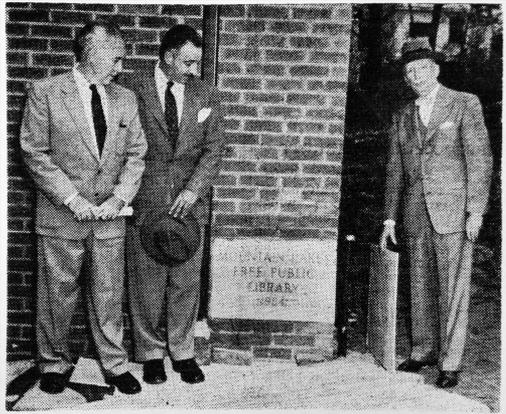
Dear Neighbor:

We hope that you were at our ground-breaking ceremony that you read about in the papers. Everyone interested in the Mountain Lakes Public Library is proud of this event which ensures a fine addition to its cultural life, and a permanent home for the library. The new building is the result of the generous contributions from more than 600 citizens of Mountain Lakes. The building is to be installed in its new quarters sometime in May of this year. The library is moving into the new building and furnishing it is now well on hand. The total cost is estimated at \$40,000. When

The library's current home at 9 Elm Road was built on property deeded to the Library by the Borough of Mountain Lakes. The building was designed by architect H. Vernon Lee. It was dedicated on May 2, 1954 and opened on June 15, 1954. Ethel C. Broad, who had worked tirelessly for 17 years as librarian, fell ill and was replaced by E. Bloete. The library collection had grown to nearly 6,000

volumes with an annual circulation of 34,000 books.

According to a history of the library: "By 1964 the town had grown to 4,400 residents and the library was busting at the seams. There were 3,100 card holders and a monthly circulation of 2,500 volumes." (At the end of the 3rd Quarter 2014, there are 4,275 residents, 3,418 card holders and 43,826 items!)



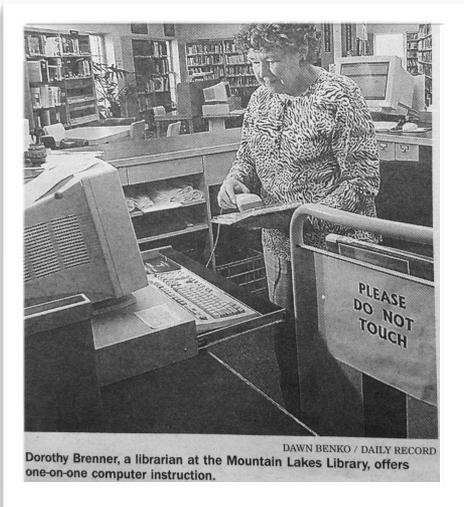
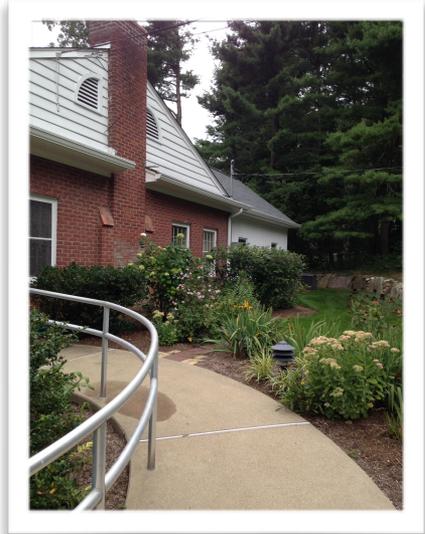
Silverstein

Mountain Lakes Library President George B. Finnegan Jr. (left) and Building Contractor Fred Schwarz (center) look at corner stone which has been unveiled by Architect H. Vernon Lee (right).

Groundbreaking for a newly enlarged library took place in April of 1965, and by June of 1966, a new wing including a new Children's

Room and a downstairs Meeting Room were added effectively doubling the available space. (This realized the 1944 gift from Charles Addis who had made a generous donation to be used to furnish and equip a children's room in memory of his daughter, Patricia.) The Young Adult Area was developed and named the David G. Kingsley, Jr. Memorial Room, a gift from his family and friends.

On February 4, 1971, a ceremonial mortgage burning took place on the Library grounds. Present at that occasion were David Kingsley, President of the Library Board of Trustees, Mayor Walter Lilley, former Mayor Carl J. Schmoor, and Librarian Helen P. Hadley.



DAWN BENKO / DAILY RECORD  
 Dorothy Brenner, a librarian at the Mountain Lakes Library, offers one-on-one computer instruction.

In the early 1990's the library became fully accessible with the addition of an entry ramp and renovated bathroom.

To meet rapidly emerging needs and to keep up with technology advances, the library was renovated again in 1996, under the leadership of President Roland Mueser, to enhance space utilization and accommodate technology resources.

A countywide networked computerized circulation system, including an on-line catalog, was now available to the public.



In 2002, Board President James Moody oversaw an addition to the Children's room, increasing the total square footage to 938 square feet.

Funding from the Marion Mann and Alfred Roberts Endowment Fund provided for the

renovation of the downstairs meeting room, which was made accessible with a lift and bathroom at room level. This lower level also houses the town's Historic Archives, enlarged and contained within a climate-controlled room as a part of this renovation.



Most recently, in 2012, the Teen/YA section was redesigned and the Reading Room redecorated and dedicated to Ellen Parks Connors, long-time staff member, with the renovation made possible through her memorial fund.

From July 1955 until today the community has seen the maturing of the beautiful landscaping of the library, designed and cared for by members of the Mountain Lakes Garden Club. The patio and chairs in the rear of the building provide a lovely outdoor environment in which to relax and read.

Over the years the library has seen the comings and goings of a series of women dedicated to the growth of the library and its collection, each bringing their unique perspective to the job:

## MOUNTAIN LAKES LIBRARY DIRECTORS

Mrs. John Barlow (1921)	Rae Tompkins (mid1930's)
Lillian Doremus (1921+)	Ethel Broad (1938-1955)
Gladys Mabel Neff	Ernestine W. Boleti (1955-1963)
Cornelia Himmer	Helen Hedley (1963-1977)
Catherine Gearheart (1926+)	Stephanie A. Poust (1978-1983)
Gladys Muchmore	Lorraine Matta (1984-1995)
Mrs. A. J. Tompkins	Margaret (Peggy) Bulfer
(First all year Librarian 1929+)	(1995+)

To quote from an earlier history of Mountain Lakes Public Library.....

*Miss Ethel Broad noted that Mrs. Neff was a very conscientious librarian as evidenced by this little note unearthed at the county library:*

*There have been several requests for books during the past week. Some of these are not to my liking but they are requested, so I'm ordering them if they can be obtained. One of these doubtful books was "The Way of all Flesh"! Your present Librarian has frequently found herself in a similar situation. Need I mention "Peyton Place!"*

A survey conducted by the Board of Trustees in 2013 reinforced what most residents know about the library. It is the heart of Mountain Lakes largely due to its knowledgeable staff, dedicated Board and patrons who visit regularly to borrow, share, give to, and love this community treasure.

## THE MOUNTAIN LAKES LIBRARY OFFERS

- Bestsellers, available on publication date, DVDs, Blu-Rays
- Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks
- Kindle Borrowing Program: five Kindles loaded with bestsellers or book of your choice
- Online ordering of books and media from all libraries in Morris County
- A web site: [mtnlakes.org/Library](http://mtnlakes.org/Library)
- A facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MLLibrary> ("Like" Us!)
- A fax machine, copier, and eight PCs with printers, for public use
- Online Electronic Databases: in Library and for remote use, literature, business, newspapers, and magazines
- Twenty-eight magazines, including children's
- Fifty plus downloadable magazines through Zinio
- Consumer Reports
- Six Newspapers
- Value Line: stock ratings reports
- Displays: Art exhibits and collections
- OUTSIDE RETURN BOX: for ALL Books, DVDs, Audio-books, Music CDs

## ADULT PROGRAMS

- Film Series: One Sunday per month, January through April
- Book Groups: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, September through June
- Tech Help Hour: 1st Wednesday of each month, September through June
- Individual assistance with electronic devices. Appointments upon request.
- Adult Lecture Series: Three Sundays in October and November
- Email Notification of library programs and a quarterly newsletter

## TEEN PROGRAMS

- TAB: Teen Advisory Board, twice monthly meetings
- Summer Reading Program: July and August
- Special programs, movie nights, trivia nights, theme nights and workshops, open to all teens, 7th through 12th grades, held monthly



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Story Time: 1-1/2 to 5 year olds, Tuesdays and Fridays, September through May, 10:30 am to 11:30 am
- "Read to Gus" (a local therapy dog) program: twice monthly
- Summer Reading Program: pre-school through 5th grades weekly in July
- Special programs: K through 6, three times a year, October through May
- First grade Library Card Program: Yearly, in September, all Wildwood 1st graders come to the library as a class to receive their Library Cards
- Educational games on three PCs in the Children's Room



## LIBRARY COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

- Garden Club
- Women's Club
- AAUW
- Scouts
- Camera Club
- Golden Retriever Club
- Book Group
- Other community groups, on request
- Room is available to rent by residents for private events.

## DISPLAYS



### CRAVEN MINIATURE ROOMS



The Craven Miniature Rooms were installed as a part of a 1966 renovation/addition. Edgar M. Craven, a New York City banker, lived in Mountain Lakes. When he retired from banking he started a second career as an artist. He elevated his hobby of miniature making to an art form, creating a mood as well as settings of exquisite detail and character. The miniature rooms were donated to the library in his memory.



## ARTWORK

The library is fortunate to house the artwork of noted artists Robert Bowen, Russ Conn, Edgar Craven and Paul King. Stained glass windows by Ken Johnston were installed in the front windows in 2012. The Elinor Rice Memorial painting and carving of Noah's Ark is on display in the Children's Room.

## TWO MOUNTAIN LAKES WINNERS OF SPECIAL HONORS

The exhibit in the Mountain Lakes Library displays the actual medals awarded to General Castle and Admiral Browning and describes their feats. The exhibit was prepared and made possible by the Mountain Lakes Landmarks Committee and the Mountain Lakes Historic Preservation Committee.



### BRIGADIER GENERAL FREDERICK CASTLE

Congressional Medal of Honor

General Castle, formerly of 38 Lake Drive, commanded a strike mission of 2,032 B-17 "Flying Fortresses" and 800 fighters in the Battle of the Bulge in Western Europe. His airplane fatally damaged, he ordered his crew to bail out while he remained at the controls, making their exit possible. He went down with the craft and lost his life in the crash. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award.

## REAR ADMIRAL MILES BROWNING

Distinguished Service Medal

Admiral Browning, who after he retired lived at 178 Boulevard, was a senior naval officer in World War II responsible for Operations and War Plans in the Pacific. Later he was Chief of Staff and Aide to Admiral (later Fleet Admiral) William F. Halsey, Jr. who at the time commanded the entire South Pacific operations. Admiral Browning developed the brilliant battle plan that led to the rout of the Japanese Pacific Fleet in the Battle of Midway. Although the US suffered serious losses, the Japanese were so severely defeated that many consider the Battle of Midway to be a turning point in war in the Pacific, which began with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. From Midway on, the US forces were on the offensive and the Japanese were forced to defend a shrinking empire. For his efforts, Admiral Browning was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.



## MOUNTAIN LAKES FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY

**March 17, 1911:** The first house occupied in Mountain Lakes was at 46 Dartmouth Road.

**December 1914:** The first public library was opened by the Mountain Lakes Women's Club in the 8 Larchdell Schoolhouse. It had 100 volumes donated by members of the club. At the end of 3rd Quarter 2014, the library had 43,826 items.

**1916:** The library was incorporated.

**1920:** The Women's Club turned the library over to a Board of Trustees who continues to govern the library.

**1930 – 1954:** The library was housed in a former store on Midvale Road, currently the site of "The Market".

**June 15, 1954:** The library moved into a new building at 9 Elm Road on land deeded to the library by the Borough of Mountain Lakes. The building was designed by noted architect H. Vernon Lee.

**June 1966:** A wing that nearly doubled the available space was added to the library. This addition included the Children’s Room and the downstairs meeting room.

**July 1980:** The library was designated as a 501 (c) (3) exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

**September 1996:** The library was renovated to enhance space utilization and accommodate technology resources. Office space, a handicapped bathroom and a networked computer system including an on-line catalog available to the public were the major changes.

**April 2002:** The Children’s Room was expanded. The space was enlarged by an addition of 434 square feet in a wing opening from the original room, making the total square footage of the Children’s Room 938 square feet.

**2006:** Renovation to downstairs meeting room. Room made handicapped accessible with a bathroom at room level. Archive Room enlarged. New heating and air conditioning installed. Community Meeting Room dedicated to: **Marion Mann Roberts and Alfred W. Roberts**

**2012:** Teen/YA Area redesigned. Reading Room renovated and redecorated. Renovation dedicated to: **Ellen Parks Connors**, Assistant Librarian 1987 – 2011, funded through her Memorial Fund.

#### SIZE

##### **Main Library, including the Children’s Room:**

2000: 4,831 square feet    2001: addition 434 square feet

2002: total with addition: 5,335 square feet

##### **Children’s Room:**

**2000:** 504 square feet    **2001:** addition: 434 square feet

**2001:** total with addition: 938 square feet

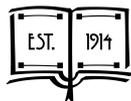
**Lower Level Meeting Room:** 1,091 square feet, 1,326 square feet including the foyer

**Total Library Size:** 6,661 square feet

The main library is 5,335 square feet. The meeting room is 1,091 square feet, (1,326 square feet, including foyer).



## MOUNTAIN LAKES FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



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9 Elm Road, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046



Telephone: 973-334-5095 / Fax: 973-299-1622  
[mtnlakes.org/Library](http://mtnlakes.org/Library)

Monday	9 AM to 9 PM	Thursday	9 AM to 5 PM
Tuesday	9 AM to 5 PM	Friday	9 AM to 5 PM
Wednesday	9 AM to 9 PM	Saturday	9 AM to 2 PM
	Sunday	Closed	