



Volume 12
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THE BOOKMARK

Oradell Public Library

Spring, 2021 Newsletter



Local History Room

No newsletters were published in 2020 because of the pandemic. As a result of this, an important aspect of 2019 was never reported. That year marked Oradell's 125th anniversary, and as part of the celebration and recognition of that event, all Oradell residents who had lived in Oradell for at least seventy years, were asked to participate in small group interviews.



Charlie Kloeber, Mary Margaret Carter, Maureen Ennis Panissidi, Borough Historian / Archivist George Carter

Mr. Carter, the Borough Historian, led the discussions. A total of three group sessions were held, all of which were filmed and recorded by the Oradell Public Television (OPTV) group. DVDs of the meetings are now part of the Local History Collection.

The remembrances were so interesting that OPTV broadcast the interview sessions sporadically over Channel 77 for Optimum users and Channel 28 for Verizon users.

Despite the pandemic, the activities of the Local History Room did not come to a standstill. Many things changed in Oradell—parking lots were empty, schools were closed, playgrounds unused, etc. All this was captured by the Borough Historian in a photographic journal of some 65 pages, which can be viewed in the Local History Room.



In addition, a major hurricane passed through Oradell, leaving devastation and a mess in its wake. This was also captured and preserved in booklet form for future reference.

At the same time, the Suez Water Co. was changing pipes in a number of streets because of a lead elbow that was used to connect the house to the main water pipe in the street. In a couple of cases, rather unusual difficulties occurred, and this was also documented in booklet form.

And the pandemic did not slow down the contributions to the history collection. A prior officer of the Oradell Book and Needle Club donated her collection of memorabilia, which included several years of club minutes, along with numerous photographs.

This generous gift inspired another member to deliver a large amount of material, also very valuable for the collection. As a result of these and previous donations, the History Room has every Book and Needle Yearbook since the club's inception, missing only the years 1918 and 1921. In addition, the History Room houses nearly all the club's minutes since its beginning.



In 1984, President Ronald Reagan visited River Dell Senior High School, and the Oradell Archives contain many pictures of that event. However, just this last year, a picture of the President congratulating the then Oradell Police Chief, Bill Ennis, came to light and was gifted to the History Collection.

In the fall of 2020, the Local History Room received a marvelous gift from the grand-nephew of Oradell author, Percy Keese Fitzhugh. Mr. Fitzhugh wrote over 100 books, most dealing with the Boy Scouts. His biographer has stated that Mr. Fitzhugh was very instrumental in helping the national organization of Boy Scouts get going, his books spurring on the interest in scouting.

The Fitzhugh donation included 86 books, three volumes of photographs, and family history going back several hundred years. The donated material took up so much space that a new bookcase was purchased just to house it. In addition to numerous correspondence, particularly from publishers, were three unpublished manuscripts, a book printed in Braille, and one translated into German.

George M. Carter
Borough Historian/Archivist



Oradell Free Public Library

The Heart of the Community Since 1913

Oradell Public Library Wants to Serve You

This has been the message from the Library since the shutdown a little over a year ago. Despite the Library being closed to the public for a number of months, we were able to offer a growing collection of e-resources and a steady schedule of virtual programs to keep you informed, educated, and entertained during the difficult times of the past year.

The Library's reopening in November 2020 was just one milestone along the way, and as Director of Oradell Public Library, I am pleased invite you to visit the Library for browsing and selection of materials and to take part in the virtual programs for all ages that we are still offering. The Book Clubs, IFC Film Club, and Cookbook Club are all going strong in new ways that are becoming all the more familiar, and the Q&A sessions after our excellent adult programs continue to be engaging and free-flowing, but we do not have to leave by 9 p.m.! Ancestry is now available by remote access, JerseyCat is up and running, and little by little more library services are being restored.

Grab & Go Crafts have been popular with our young visitors, and Miss Carol and the Youth Services staff in the Junior Room look forward to seeing you and making sure you have everything you need for school and for fun downtime.

March is always a special month for me, since it was eleven years ago last month that I came to be the Library Director here in Oradell, a position that is an honor for me to fill. Despite the ups and downs of the past eleven years, I can say that the people of Oradell love their Library and have high expectations for it, which we continue to meet in new and inventive ways, while also preserving Oradell and the Library's history and culture for future generations.

Everything you need to know about the Library and all that it offers can be found on the Library's website: <https://oradell.bccls.org/>. See you there!



John J. Trause
Oradell Public Library Director



Protection for Reference Desk for Reopening During Coronavirus

Youth Services Librarian



Leaving Oradell Public School early in March of 2020, I assured the children that I would see them in two weeks at the library. The weeks grew into months, and now it is over a year since I have seen many of my old friends from OPS. In June, I took the show on the road to the Oradell Swim Club and Memorial Field, reading to the kids whenever the weather cooperated.

In June, we kicked off the Summer Reading program, which, I promise, will be bigger and better this year! We are looking forward to seeing the kids at our Summer Reading Kickoff event in June. Stay tuned and look for announcements on Instagram or our Facebook page. Mr. Chris from **Magical Melodies** will perform in person over the summer -- BOY, won't that be FUN! Staying connected with you is what this last year has been all about!

So in October, I joined the OPS PTA Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch with games, prizes, and a Story Walk which you could enjoy with teachers, classmates, and your parents. Finally, early in November, we "opened" the Junior Room with Signup Genius. Eventually, we eliminated the need for signups and invited everyone so long as we respected social distance rules and no congregating. I spent a great Fall afternoon with the Oradell Boy Scouts as I read about the history of Veterans Day, and they learned about our flag and how to respect and fold the *gigantic* flag that Mr. Schuler brought back from Desert Storm.

We continue with the "Grab and Go" craft kits which we hope the children are enjoying. This year's Maker Space Day was virtual – I hope you had a chance to try some of the activities! As I reflect on the year that has passed, I am excited about all the prospects and projects for the coming summer and year. I miss my Teens and their enthusiasm and support with our little people, I miss the game nights, movie nights, book talks, and community of the Junior Room.

We miss all of you and look forward to seeing you very soon – not only to browse and pick up books but to participate in **your** Oradell Public Library! Looking forward to seeing you this Spring and Summer and hearing about what you've been doing and what you would like to do in the library in the future!

Carol Blakeslee, Youth Services Librarian

Information Services Librarian

New Services ... New changes...

When you come to the Library to pick up and check out materials, you must present your **valid library card** at the circulation desks. For those who prefer contactless checkout, self-checkout is available now at the library. A meeScan station is located to the right of the circulation desk on the main floor. It's easy, safe and secure. Easy step-by-step directions are posted at the site. You can also use the free meeScan mobile app on your phone to check out books anywhere in the library.

Oradell Library is currently offering access to Brainfuse HelpNow. This is an online learning tool that provides free, live, online expert tutoring for all ages. It also offers academic and standardized test prep, college application assistance, resume review, expert writing guidance, foreign language lab, online lessons, videos and so much more. Go to the library's website at <https://oradell.bccls.org/>, where you can find a link to BrainFuse and a link to a tutorial.

Currently, Oradell Library offers two genealogical databases to assist you in discovering your family history. Heritage Quest Online, is a database available through NJ State Library. It is accessible with your library card barcode number at either BCCLS' website (www.bccls.org) or Oradell Library's website (<https://oradell.bccls.org/>). In addition, Oradell Library continues to offer Ancestry.com with at home access. The remote access link can be found at Oradell Library's website. Speaking of databases, another NJ State Library database had a name change. The database, Reference USA is now called Reference Solutions. Reference Solutions is a leading online source for business and residential data in the United States. It helps users of all kinds search for jobs, research U.S. businesses, create marketing and small business plans, locate specific people and more. You can find two free recorded seminars on the benefits of Reference Solutions on Oradell Library's website. One of the seminars highlights the features of its business section and the other seminar highlights its jobs and internship section.

Since December 28, 2020, BCCLS' collection of digital magazines have moved and can be found now at Overdrive and the Libby App. You can access over 500 magazines such as Us Weekly, Good Housekeeping and Newsweek as well as thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks in the convenient Overdrive platform or digital app! Enjoy them on your computer or portable device. All you need is your BCCLS (Oradell) library card.

Bookpage, a magazine selection guide for new books, can now be accessed online at: https://issuu.com/book_page. Paper copies of this publication can still be found at the Library in the "new books" section.

Not only does Oradell Library lend out a fantastic collection of books, dvds, cds and gives access to an awesome digital collection but also lends out Hotspots, museum passes, a variety of jigsaw puzzles and bakeware (such as candy molds, cookie cutters, bake pans and more). Please see details at Oradell Library's website or visit the Library.

As moderator of Oradell Library's book clubs, new attendees are always welcome. The meetings are fun and social. April 2021 dates and reads are as follows:

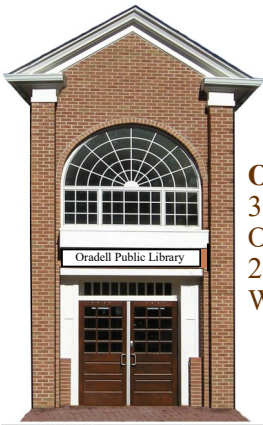
- Morning Book Club: Tuesday, April 27 at 11 AM. The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline.

- Evening Book Club: Wednesday, April 21 at 7 PM. Becoming by Michelle Obama.

If interested, email Linda at linda.pabian@oradell.bccls.org. Meetings are currently virtual.

If you have any questions, concerns or need assistance in finding or using any library resource or service, please do not hesitate to call, email or visit the library. I am here to help and I look forward to assisting you.

Linda Pabian, Information Services Librarian



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Library Hours: (fall & winter)

Monday – Saturday	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday (Additional Adult Floor Hours)	5 p. m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Friends of the Library

MUSEUM PASSES AND VOUCHERS

The Friends of the Oradell Library are very pleased to provide the library's patrons with passes and vouchers to some of the more popular museums in the area. This is the list of the passes that have been available for some time.

American Museum of Natural History

Vouchers are available. Vouchers are collected by the museum and are not returned to the Library

The Aviation Hall of Fame & Museum of NJ

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library

The Jewish Museum

Vouchers are available. Vouchers are collected by the museum and are not returned to the Library

Intrepid Air, Sea, and Space Museum

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library

The Frick Collection (Frick Madison)

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library

The Guggenheim Museum

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library

The Montclair Art Museum

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library
The Newark Museum (to re-open soon)

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library
The Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library
Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center

A pass is available and must be returned to the Library

PLEASE NOTE:

Please support the Friends if you possibly can. Our membership drive is ongoing, so if you have not received the form in the mail, please stop by the library and pick one up. Our book sale is open now, and available to all of our patrons. We are again providing Oradell residents with a valid library card, passes to various museums. Feel free to call or stop by the library for the current list of museums. Remember to check out our website for upcoming virtual programs that will be available in the future.

Thank you!

Library Meetings

Board of Trustees, Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom
Friends of the Library, First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom