

UPCOMING EVENTS

If everything goes as planned, FOWL will be holding book sales in July and September. Stay tuned for our announcement that will begin taking book donations this spring.

Can't wait for the book sale? Try *Michael's Bookstore* located on the right in our lobby. We have a fine selection of both hardbound and oversize paperbacks in a variety of subjects both fiction and nonfiction.



\$2.00 per book and children's books are all 25¢



Perspectives

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." Rainer Maria Rilke—Austrian poet

On behalf of the Board of FOWL, I wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year. Thank you to all those who have so generously supported our annual membership drive, including our newest members. If you haven't renewed or joined our ranks for 2022, now is the time to make a difference to help our Library in the New Year. We welcome 2022 with three new Board members: Lorie-Lyn Fernandes, Caroline Wehner and our very own Sue Branco. We look forward to their contributions to our mission of supporting our Library.

Finally, kudos to a very special member of our Library staff, Ethel Rodrigues, Library Aide, who recently retired after twenty-six years of service. I don't think I ever saw Ethel without a warm smile. She always was there for anyone who needed her, staff or patron, to patiently help in any way she could. Thank you, Ethel, for your exemplary service to Westport and best wishes for your health and happiness in a well-deserved retirement.

Denise Micale, President, FOWL (fowlemail@gmail.com)

Services

- Free Wi-Fi Access in the PARKING LOT (and inside.)
- SAILS Library Network 24/7 Borrowing
- Michael's Book Store
- Commonwealth Catalogue
- **Call the Library for more Information.**

Hours | Contact Info

Monday & Thursday 11-8:00
Tuesday, Wednesday
Friday & Saturday 9-5:00

Closed: Saturday, January 1
 New Year's Day
 Monday, January 17
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Monday, February 21
 Presidents Day

408 Old County Road, Westport, MA
 Phone: 508-636-1100
 Email: gripley@sailsinc.org



Alden Hill Group

William Raveis Real Estate
 911 Main Road, Westport
 508.636.0600
www.aldenhill.com

FOWL Board Meeting

The next meetings will be Thursday, January 13 and Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. Dates occasionally change. Please call the Library (508) 636-1100 for more information to confirm and if you plan to attend.

Your Library Connections

This issue, I'm going to let you in on one of the deepest, darkest secrets of Librarianship. It's not that we Librarians dabble in the arcane arts, although I did have a friend who worked at a library that had books bound in human skin. It's not that we memorize the entire contents of the Encyclopedia Britannica backwards. It's not that I actually carry the Lord of the Rings around with me at all times.....actually that is true, I do, but that's not a secret, I consider it a point of pride.

No, the real secret is that the time-old phrase "You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover" is an utter lie. You can indeed judge a book by its cover, but what the cover tells you can be one of four things. If a book doesn't have a good cover, it means that the publisher either doesn't think that the book will be able to make enough money to afford a good cover, or that the book is so popular it doesn't need a cover to attract your attention.....and dollars. On the other hand, if a book does indeed have a good cover, then it means that either it's such a great book that the publisher knows it's worth the money to spend on an artist or illustrator to make a really attractive cover since the book will assuredly make that money back, or that it's such a mediocre book that only a good cover will get you to spend your money to buy it.

So there you have it. You can, in fact, judge a book by its cover, or at least you can narrow it down to one of four options. Regardless, you still can't tell which of the four it is without reading it yourself, so it only stands to reason that if you have the opportunity you should save your money and check it out from the Westport Free Public Library instead!

Take care and Happy New Year!

Ever yours,

George Ripley

**Kids' Corner Winter 2022****Preschool to Grade 2**

That Book Woman

Heather Henson

A Neighborhood Walk, a Musical Journey

Pilar Hill

The Smart Cookie

Jory John and Pete Oswald

Detective Mole

Camilla Pintonato

Juvenile Non-Fiction

Niños Poems for the Lost Children of Chile

Maria Ferrada & Maria Valdez

What Are Little Girls Made Of?

Jeanne Willis

Fungarium

curated by Katie Scott & Ester Gaya

Juvenile Biographies

Try It! How Frieda Caplan Changed the Way We Eat

Mara Rockliff

Dr. Fauci: How a Boy From Brooklyn Became America's Doctor

Kate Messner

Planting Peace: The Story of Wangari Maathai

Gwendolyn Hooks

Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood

Gary Paulsen

Juvenile Fiction Grades 5-8

The Bad Guys in They're Bee-Hind You!

Arron Blabey

Jukebox

Nidhi Chanani

Maybe He Just Likes You

Barbara Dee

The Mouse Watch Underwater

J. J. Gilbert

Young Adult Fiction

The Hawthorne Legacy

Jennifer Lynn Barnes

This Is Not the Jess Show

Anna Carey

The Taking of Jake Livingston

Ryan Douglass

The Shattered Castle

Jennifer Nielsen



Keep saving your Lees receipts
for the Library.

Lees Market Receipts Are Valuable!

Friends of Westport Library receives 1% of eligible expenditures made at Lees Market. This is an important revenue source in light of our book sale cancellations in 2020 and 2021. You can mail in your receipts to the Library or continue to place them in the Library drop box. Your receipts earned \$2881 in 2021.



Thank you Lees Market



A Chat with Dan The Brick Man

by Brianna McAvoy



Interview with LEGO Master Builder Dan Steininger How did you begin your LEGO career?

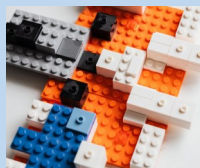
I had a friend who worked at LEGO, in Enfield, Ct., who told me about a job. He said it was a very creative environment and filled with nutty people, and I would fit right in! I have always enjoyed doing art, but I never played with LEGOs as a child.

What do you hope kids will remember about your program?

First, that they had fun. Second, that they learned what it is like to be a Master Builder and feel that they have improved their building skills.

What skills do children learn from building LEGO models?

Small children sharpen motor skills and learn colors from LEGO Duplo. As they grow, they increase specialized awareness by attaching LEGO pieces to one another. They also learn structure and form, basic art composition, counting, engineering, and teamwork on group builds. I am always amazed at the creativity when children "free build." I see the pride and sense of accomplishment they feel, when they finish a model.



What is the biggest LEGO build you have done?

The tallest was the "Statue of Liberty." The largest was The "City of Rio" which was my project, and it was for the 2016 Olympics. It took over one year. The components needed to be built in Denmark, England, Czech Republic and the USA, and then assembled in Rio de Janeiro. The actual city of Rio de Janeiro built a glass building to display the model that had nearly one million LEGO pieces and over 2,500 LEGO mini figures. I was thrilled to be invited to the opening ceremonies.

Funniest question you've been asked:

How much money do LEGO Master Builders earn? I tell them I can't say, but, I recently purchased a brand new Porsche... though I haven't put it together yet!

Dan the Lego Man will be appearing at the Westport Library on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
No registration needed.

Beginning on Tuesday Jan. 18 & Wednesday Jan. 19:

Story Time's Winter Session will meet every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. The programs will include books, fingerplays, music, puppets, rhythm instruments and a take-home craft project on a different theme each week. These programs are suited for children ages 6 and under with a caregiver.

Books Before Bedtime meets on Thursday: January 13, February 10 and March 10 from 6-6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. .
Registration is not necessary.

New to the Collection Highlights

NEW FICTION:

<i>Wish You Were Here</i>	Jodi Picoult
<i>The Midnight Lock</i>	Jeffrey Deaver
<i>The City of Mist</i>	Carlos Ruiz Zafon
<i>The Brightest Star in Paris</i>	Diana Biller
<i>The Brides of Maracoor</i>	Gregory Maguire
<i>The Judge's List</i>	John Grisham
<i>Autopsy</i>	Patricia Cornwell

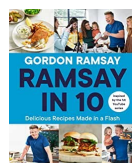
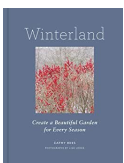
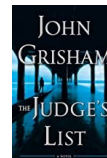
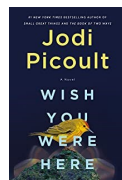
NEW NONFICTION:

<i>On Animals</i>	Susan Orlean
<i>Winterland</i>	Cathy Rees
<i>Ramsay in 10</i>	Gordon Ramsay
<i>The Library: a fragile history</i>	Andrew Pettegree
<i>A Carnival of Snackery</i>	David Sedaris

New Adult DVDs:

The Kid Detective

Black Widow



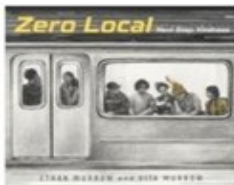
We foresee many special gatherings in the
Library's New Outdoor Amphitheater!



Recognitions

Celebrating the 21st Annual Massachusetts Book Awards (2020 pub date)

The Massachusetts Book Awards recognize significant works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's/young adult literature published by current Commonwealth residents.



The Award winner in the Picture Book/Early Reader category is *Wherever I Go* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster) by Mary Wagley Copp of Westport. This fictional story of a family in a refugee camp in Ethiopia captures the innocence and joy of childhood while portraying the courage, hardship and dreams of refugees everywhere.

Honors titles in Picture Books and Early Readers are *Seven Golden Rings* (Lee & Low Books) by Rajani LaRocca of Concord, and *Zero Local: Next Kindness* (Candlewick) by Ethan Murrow and Vita Murrow of Jamaica Plain.

hoopla

Borrow free digital video, e-books, music, and audiobooks with your library card.

Check-out periods:

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- eBooks 21 days
- eMusic Titles 7 days
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3. Enter your email and create a password.
4. Review the *Terms and Conditions* and click *Agree*.
5. Enter Zip Code 02790 in the Search box.
6. Select *Westport Free Public Library* and click *Next*.
7. Type in your library-card number (with no spaces) and click *Sign Me Up*.

We now offer **hoopla**, a digital service that allows you to borrow media for computer, tablet, phone, or TV.

Check out five electronic items per month. No late fees; items simply expire. Stream titles now, or download to phones and tablets for offline viewing.

With hundreds of thousands of titles available, **hoopla** is one more option for carrying your library with you—anytime, anywhere.

Westport Library Book Club

Read For Fun, Followed By Optional Lunch

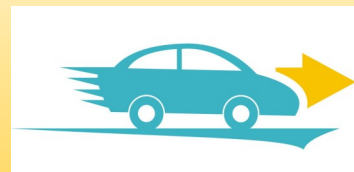
The **Westport Library Book Club** will meet in the Community Room at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, January 14. January's book selection is *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.



It's a wonderful assemblage of people from several local communities. We choose our selections on the recommendation of members. The conversations are lively and enjoyable and **participating in the group is a great way to meet people.**

Join us or contact cvidal318@gmail.com for more information.

Homebound Delivery Service



Know of a relative, friend, or neighbor who is unable to visit the Library? A Library volunteer delivers books (including large print), CD books, and DVDs to homebound Westporters.

Please call the Library at (508) 636-1100 for more information.

Borrow More than Books!



There are games, 300-1000 piece puzzles and a telescope available to borrow for those winter evenings at home. And, if you have games and puzzles to donate to the Library, we now welcome them.



Like us on Facebook for news and upcoming events:

facebook.com/westportfreepubliclibrary

PBM

Patricia Bloom-McDonald, Attorney-at-Law

Your Attorney for Life's Planning

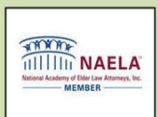
Call for a complimentary consultation:
508-646-9888

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World of Books

Oh, What to Read Next!

by Sue Branco

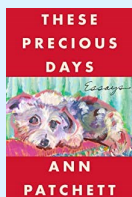
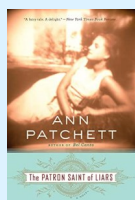
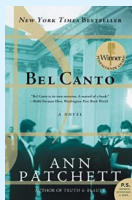
Now that I am retired, I have started thinking about authors whose works I might focus on. While working, I generally read one or two chapters at night when nodding off. I always envied Library staff members who would continue reading a novel during break times, while I used those moments to ponder my growing list of emails. Happily, I now read much more than a few pages at a time, which has given me the freedom to explore the works of specific authors.

I chose to revisit Ann Patchett, who since publishing her first novel in 1992 has written seven more novels, four works of nonfiction, and two children's books. I first started reading Ann Patchett in 2012 with *State of Wonder* (a Minnesotan pharmaceutical researcher sets off into the Amazon jungle to find the remains of a colleague). I continued with *Bel Canto* (2001), which I grabbed from Michael's Book Store when leaving the Library one day. In it, terrorists take hostage a group of partygoers at the home of the vice president of a South American country.

Once retired, I decided to go back and read Patchett's first novel, *The Patron Saint of Liars*, a story about a woman who sought refuge in a home for unwed mothers in rural Kentucky in the 1960s (a bit slow-going, but rewarding). I recently started *The Dutch House* (2019) on audiobook discs and have been finishing it via Hoopla (a free digital service with your library card). Set in Pennsylvania, a sister and brother try to cope with a dysfunctional family. Tom Hank's narration as the younger brother, Danny, brings the story full circle.

Patchett's latest collection, *These Precious Days: Essays*, was published in November 2021. I was lucky enough to have previously read three of her essays and am now hooked (Note: the essays are a great length for those who still nod off easily.)

I think my next focus might be on Louise Erdrich, who like Ann Patchett also owns an independent bookstore. Perhaps there is a theme here?



Spotlight

Getting to Know You: Fun Facts from the Library Staff

by Maryteresa Hicks

We are fortunate to have a very enthusiastic, helpful and professional staff at the Westport Library. With a combined total of 36 years of experience we are well served! They have worked hard throughout the past year to prepare your book orders for pickup during Covid as well as continuing their regular duties of cataloging books, managing social media for the Library, managing the Circulation Desk, including assisting patrons with Library card registration and helping them find what they are looking for. In order to know them a little bit better we asked them a few questions:

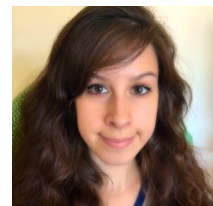
1. *If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have one book what would it be?*
2. *Best sandwich?*
3. *What is the one thing that you own that you should throw out?*

Amy Medeiros:

The Complete Lord of the Rings Trilogy

Thanksgiving sandwich

2020 Planner



Bonnie Strebel:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. (I wanted to go with *The Complete Novels of Jane Austen* in one volume but my coworkers told me that was cheating!)

Grilled cheese with orange marmalade.

The box of cords and cables that don't belong to anything but I'm convinced will be useful someday.



Robin Winters:

The book would of course be *Robinson Crusoe* because it would be impossible to concentrate on anything other than surviving.

The sandwich would be a grilled cheese and native tomato on GF Canyon Bakehouse bread.

The item I should throw out are my favorite sandals that broke and were expensive to repair and have broken again lol!





Become a member — Join today

FOWL aids the mission

of the Westport Free Public Library.

All activities are run by volunteers—people who believe in a public library. Funds raised through member dues and book sales go to the Library to purchase books, CDs, DVDs, museum passes, and to fund children's and adult programs. FOWL is the largest funding source for these purchases. In 2021 member dues and book sales contributed over \$13,800 to Library funding. If you're not yet a member, fill in the form to the right to join today.

FOWL's services and activities:

Museum Passes:

Buttonwood Park Zoo
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
MASSPARKS Pass
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
New Bedford Whaling Museum

Michael's Bookstore located in the Library lobby

Programs/Special Events

Paperback Exchange Carousel located in the Library lobby

@ the Library Quarterly Newsletter

*Membership levels:

\$10 Individual	\$50 Patron
\$20 Family	\$100 Bibliophile
\$30 Sponsor	\$_____ Other

FOWL is a 501c3 non-profit; your donation is tax deductible

It's easy to join: New _____ Renew _____

1) Mail: P.O. Box 3342, Westport, MA 02790

2) Drop off form and payment at Library

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ I would like to volunteer. I am interested in:

☐ I would like to be a Board Member.

Board Members:

President: Denise Micale
Vice President: Maryteresa Hicks
Secretary: Jennie Elias
Co-Treasurers: Denise Micale & Maryteresa Hicks
Myrna Altschuler
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