

Gratitude

Members of the Friends of Westport Library believe that a vibrant Library enhances community life.

Many thanks for your FOWL membership renewal as we plan for this new year.

The Friends gratefully acknowledge a generous donation from Ric Eustis. Donations in memory of Ruth Manchester and Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Pelletier have been received from family and friends.

Thank you one and all.

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
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	9-5
Saturdays	9-5

Closed: Sunday and also:

Monday, January 1	New Year's Day
Monday, January 15	M.L.K., Jr. Day
Monday, February 19	Presidents' Day
Friday, March 29	Good Friday

408 Old County Road, Westport, MA
Phone: 508-636-1100

Email: gripley@sailsinc.org

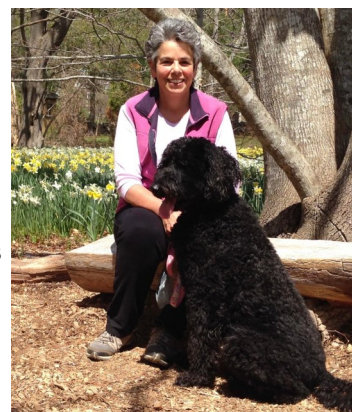
Website: www.westport-ma.com/westport-free-public-library

Facebook.com/westportfreepubliclibrary



Perspectives: Our Valuable Volunteers

While we are indebted to all FOWL volunteers, we wish to express our special appreciation to outgoing Booksale Coordinator Sue Burns, who in 2014 started the *Rosie the Therapy Dog* program at the Library. Sue and Rosie—a dog of labradoodle persuasion and a graduate of Therapy Dog International's Tail Waggin' Tutors Reading Program—listened to young children as they practiced their reading. So, who wouldn't want to read to a dog! And to Sue! Within a few weeks, these Saturday-morning gatherings grew popular with children and parents alike, and the program continued for the next five years.



After joining the FOWL Board in 2016, Sue began to assist with the annual book sales, and eventually accepted responsibility for planning and organizing those events (which sometimes involved up to 50 volunteers) through 2023. Sue's efforts undoubtedly provided the underlying structure and guidance for our wonderful book sale successes. On behalf of the entire FOWL Community, I offer Sue our greatest appreciation and best wishes.

FYI, we currently have open positions on the FOWL board of directors. Board members share their personal skills and expertise to contribute content to the FOWL newsletter, website and Facebook page; share and implement program ideas; and share and deliver newsletters and flyers throughout the community. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at fowlmail@gmail.com.

Thanks so very much.

Wishing you a safe and healthy year ahead,
Susan Branco, President, FOWL

FOWL Board Meetings:

Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Manton Community Room. Dates occasionally change.

Please call the Library (508) 636-1100 for more information and to confirm if you plan to attend.

Your Library Connections**That Time of Year**

Ah, Winter! My favorite season. I've always found the bleak beauty of a snowy field and bare trees mesmerizing. With the wind coming in fiercely and the cold creeping into your bones, there's no better time to cuddle up by the fire with a cozy blanket, a mug of cocoa, and a good book. Of course, nowadays that book you're reading in front of the fire might not be written on paper but on a Kindle screen thanks to all of the Ebooks that the Friends help us purchase. With the Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy apps, you can access material from the Library no matter how good or bad the weather is outside 24/7/366. (This is also your reminder that 2024 is a leap year, but I digress.) With Westport Free Public Library's digital resources and online access you can even check out books, movies, audiobooks, music, or magazines when you're traveling out of state or wintering in warmer climes. There is always something new to try, or a fond favorite to revisit. Even if you are half a continent away, the Westport Free Public Library will always be ready and able for all of your literary needs at a moment's notice.

Ever yours,

George Ripley

**NEW****Sign
up
now****Kids' Corner Winter 2024****Young Adult**

Hatchet Girls
Check & Mate
A Door in the Dark

Diana Rodriguez Wallach
Ali Hazelwood
Scott Reintgen

Young Adult Graphic Novels

Lore Olympus volume 5
The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Rachel Smythe
Deya Muniz

Juvenile Fiction

The Chalice of the Gods
Remember Us
Wrecker

Rick Riordan
Jacqueline Woodson
Carl Hiaasen

Juvenile Graphic Novels

Keeper of the Lost Cities Part 1
Duel

Shannon Messenger
Jessixa Bagley

Picture Books

Are You Mad at Me?
The Big Cheese
The Duck Never Blinks
Noodle Conquers Comfy Mountain

Tyler Feder
Jory John
Alex Latimer
Jonathan Graziano

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.

PBM**Patricia Bloom-McDonald, Attorney-at-Law**

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BayCoast
BANK

Chat with Nancy Mullen, Library Aide by Carol Vidal

CV: Nancy, what roundabout route led you to working at the Westport Library?

NM: Well, I am originally from Arkansas and later moved to Brazil to work and live. While working there, I corresponded with a friend who just happened to live in Fall River thus, the connection to this area. When I moved to Fall River, I met my husband whose Mom was of the Westport Bordenes. We've had a house in Westport for 18 years.

During the Covid years I was employed at a big box store that had rapidly diminishing personnel. I found my job duties increasing along with the stress so I began looking for new and different employment. When I saw the position at the Library on the Westport Town website the rest is history. I've been working here for two years now and love it.

CV: You have an interest in cookbooks so are you a good cook?

NM: I wouldn't call myself a great cook but I do like to entertain. I typically fix one of my "go to" recipes that I know people will like, such as my chicken and wild rice casserole. I've tried different recipes, too, because of peoples' various health and allergy requirements.

CV: Have you ever tried recipes from other countries?

NM: I've had foreign students and friends over and tried to cook foods they were familiar with to make them feel more at home. They've introduced me to some delicious dishes and they have also cooked along with me to teach me their countries' recipes.

CV: There are a multitude of recipes on the internet. Why do you recommend the Library's collection?

NM: The internet is fine for some recipes but there are drawbacks. Depending on your search words and your Googling, you may find that you are wasting time scrolling through countless recipes. It's easier looking through a physical cookbook. Also, you may be looking for gluten free, vegetarian, fat or salt free which complicates your search. The Library has over 600 cookbooks that can narrow your search for specific cookbooks and certain areas of the world. Looking through cookbooks could inspire you to try new recipes.

Come to the Library and see for yourself!

**Please 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, an important revenue source in light of our book sale cancellations in 2020 and 2021. You can mail in your receipts to the Library at 408 Old County Road, Westport, MA 02790 or continue to place them in the Library drop box. Your receipts earned \$3,645.43 in 2022.

**Thank you Lees Market
for your support.**



New to the Collection Highlights

Fiction:

The Manor House
Becoming the Boogeyman
It Happened One Christmas
The Olympian Affair
The Hurricane Wars

Gilly Macmillan
Richard Chizmar
Chantel Guertin
Jim Butcher
Thea Guanzon

Mystery:

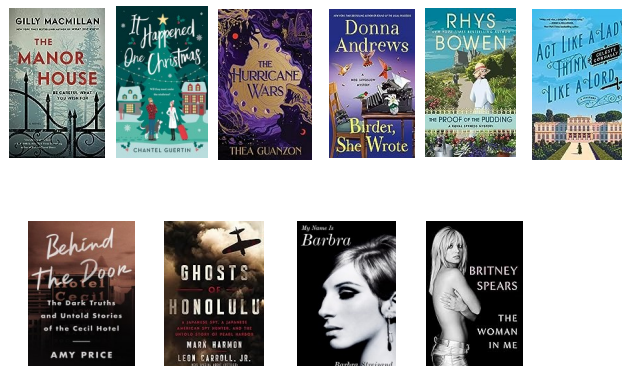
Birder, She Wrote
The Proof of the Pudding
Bulletproof Barista
Paper Cuts
Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord

Donna Andrews
Rhys Bowen
Cleo Coyle
Ellery Adams
Celeste Connolly

Nonfiction:

Behind the Door
Ghosts of Honolulu
The Underworld
My Name is Barbra
The Woman in Me

Amy Price
Mark Harmon
Susan Casey
Barbra Streisand
Britney Spears



The Library offers many ways to get your books, CDs, Movies and Audiotapes from the comfort of your home. Check out **Hoopla** and **Kanopy** or the **Libby** app. All you need is your Library card and the internet. For more information on how to access, call the Library at (508) 636-1100.



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Children's Events



Please contact Miss Bonnie with any questions or to register. bstrebel@sailsinc.org or 508-636-1100

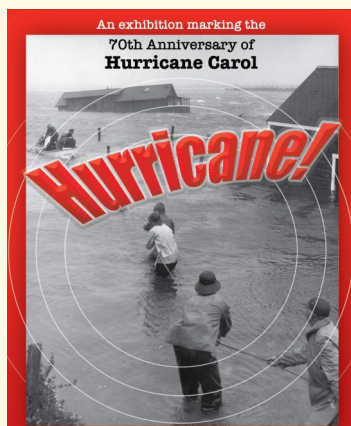
What's Happening in the Manton Room?

January: *Botanical Photography* by Donna St. Amant

Donna creates images using a flat-bed scanner as her studio camera, capturing the fine detail and beauty of flowers, worn-beached objects and elements of nature.

February 3 – March 30: *Hurricane!* by the Westport Historical Society

The Historical Society looks back at the impact of hurricanes on Westport by marking the 70th anniversary of Hurricane Carol in 1954. Images from the Historical Society collection highlight rescues and experiences of those living along East Beach, Westport Point, and Westport Harbor.



Westport Library Book Clubs

READ WITH OTHERS FOR FUN

It's a wonderful assemblage of people from several local communities. The conversations are lively and enjoyable. It's a great way to meet people and expand your range of book choices.

All Book Clubs meet in the Manton Community Room.

The **Westport Library Book Club** meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second Friday of every month. Join us or contact cvidal318@gmail.com for more information.

Book Selections:

January: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict
February: *Modern Romance* by Aziz Ansari
March: *Trust* by Hernan Diaz

Murderous Monday Book Club meets at 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. Join us or contact George Ripley at gripley@sailsinc.org for more information.

Book Selections:

January: *Christmas Cake Murder* by Joanne Fluke
February: *The Winter People* by Jennifer McMahon
March: *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

SCI-FI Fantasy Book Club

(Every 4th Monday) Next Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024

See our flyer on page 2.



Helen E. Ellis Case Exhibits

Winter Exhibits:

January: Dinner settings with lobsters!



February: Denise Micale: A display of vintage beads and posters from Mardi Gras.



March: Gloria Merchant: 3-D Constructions made from papier-mâché casts of Barbie, Ken and GI Joe. Images are inspired by fairytales, known works of art and some original concepts. Exhibited at the Providence Art Club and local galleries.

If you are interested in displaying a craft or collection for 2024 contact Ned Daniels: nbdisme@gmail.com

World of Books

COOKBOOKS THAT ARE “IN”

by Nancy Mullen, Library Aide

“Food is not just fuel. Food is about family...about community...about identity. And we nourish all these things when we eat well.” *Michael Pollan*

When it comes to cooking, let's say I'm not so hot. There are a handful of cooking concoctions where “I rock” and many others that have the consistency of a rock. Ironically, I entertain frequently. So I try new recipes and seek to improve.

Until I began working at the Library, it never crossed my mind it would have cookbooks available. Had I been missing out! Just at the Westport Library alone we have about 600 titles. The SAILS Library system has 68 other libraries, so you can imagine the banquet of cookbooks one can taste-test for free.

One of my single adult sons is trying new adventures in cooking—especially Indian curries and rich Italian pasta dishes. He's spent a decent amount of money on cookbooks in the last year. Sadly, he found only a few recipes he truly likes in each one. Save money.

We have a general category of cookbooks for quick meals, cakes, and casseroles; baby food, barbeque and budget-friendly; also seafood, soups, and slow-cookers. There are special diet cookbooks like keto and cancer-wellness. We have famous chef cookbooks, for example, by Emeril Lagasse. We have ethnic cookbooks from Greek to Southern to Amish. There are learning-how-to-cook books (all ages...maybe I should check one out). There is also *The Pleasures of Cooking for One*.

Got Harry Potter fans in the family? We have a charming book on foods that looks like magical items in those movies. Or, why not grill up something from your favorite magazines, food shows or restaurants—like Legal Sea Foods. Do you enjoy really local? How about



The Handy House Cookbook, *New England Clam Shack*, or *Wampanoag cooking*?

The Library staff is going to reorganize the cookbooks in the future to make some of these groupings easier to spot. Come in and sample our delicious variety of cookbooks.

Bon appétit!

Spotlight

Booksale End: Many Hands Make Swift Work

by Suze Craig, FOWL Board Member

The instructions I'd written in my calendar were clear; Monday 10:00— help pack up. Seemed fairly mild instructions, I thought, as I drove dump stickered pickup Birdie through steady Hurricane Lee drizzle, and pulled up to the Library Manton Room entrance.

“Come in! Come in!” “Get outa the rain!”

Therein skillfully organized disorder, some noise. Muffled thumps of the unsold books into empty boxes, thirteen willing, deft volunteers filling boxes, then placing them, all 97, singly into a shoulder high stack along the wall beside the door to await Discover Books transport.

Then the crew turned to the hundreds of empty boxes jumbled together under the now empty long tables. Next task: moving those empties up onto those tables SPLAT then prying open the bottoms RRRIP then flattening the sides THWACK then stacking the resulting rectangles into small teetering piles. Fragments of conversation floated through SPLAT the air.

UUHH “damned strong that glue” RRRIP “here’s another beer box!” SPLATT “Jennie always gets all the empty boxes from” THWACK “Lees and other liquor stores cuz they’ve got really strong” UUHH RRRIP “bottoms”.

There was also some breathless, derogatory commentary re strength of glues—pardon me, adhesives.

A single minded crew: all boxes flattened and stacked in forty minutes. Then the more muscular members began the CLACK folding up of the sixteen rented long tables SNICK. Others of us began loading the flattened boxes into Birdie’s capacious cargo area.

It was still raining.

Some brief time later, the tonneau was stacked higher than its sides with flattened boxes. Dan, in a slicker raincoat, appeared and with a large ball of tough-looking green twine, spider-webbed it from one tiedown hitch to its opposite mate, side to side.

So I drove to the dump—pardon me, transfer station—very gingerly, splashing along winding, puddle-ridden Drift Road, Dan discreetly following, in case of flying wet cardboard.

When I got to my destination, I pulled up to the office and Operations Manager Stephanie, wet slicker clad, came out, clipboard in hand. I explained my mission, and Dan’s presence behind me. She nodded, face serious.

“Any books left in those boxes?”

“Nothing there you could use to catch up with your reading,” I grinned.

“O.K.” An answering grin.

I backed up to the Empty Cardboard trailer; Dan pulled in alongside, then got out and in the steady downpour, began to untie the twine.

Out of the pouring rain came two hooded, yellow slickered figures. Tall Tim slid open a second high compartment door. Slender Lindsey grabbed a wet stack and lifted it up to the first open compartment. The four of us worked steadily, wetly, silently, for some twenty minutes. Empty truck.

“I’m for home,” Dan said. To Lindsey and Tim, “Thanks for your help.”

“Me, too,” I said. “Not bad for a wet morning’s work.”

“Adios, Booksale. Until next year.”



Join or Renew today!

FOWL and the Westport Free Public Library

All FOWL activities are run by volunteers who value and support public libraries. Funds raised through member dues, book sales, Michael's Book Store, and more, help provide media materials, museum passes, furnishings, and programs for all of us. FOWL is the largest funding source for these purchases.

Through its efforts, this family of feathered Friends works to complement and supplement the Library's mission. That is, to provide community spaces and wide-ranging services that enhance our lives.

If you're not yet a member, please join us by using the form on the right. Thank you!

Current Discount Passes

Boston Museum of Science
 Buttonwood Park Zoo
 Children's Museum of Greater Fall River
 Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
 New Bedford Whaling Museum
 New England Aquarium

Membership Levels:

\$15 Senior (61+) _____ \$100 Patron _____
 \$20 Individual _____ \$250 Bibliophile _____
 \$25 Family _____ \$ Other _____
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FOWL is a 501c3 non-profit; your donation is tax deductible.

It's easy to Join _____ or Renew _____!

- Online: www.fowlwestportma.org
- Mail: Address check to: FOWL
P.O. Box 3342, Westport, MA 02790
- Bring form and payment (cash or check) to Library.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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Lorie-Lyn Fernandes
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