

**NEW**

**MAHJONG SET at the front desk and four new upholstered chairs.**  
Compliments of



- 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 a.m.-8 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Closed: Sunday and also:**

Friday, April 18 Good Friday

Saturday, April 19 Easter weekend

Monday, April 21 Patriots Day

Monday, May 26 Memorial Day

Thursday, June 19 Juneteenth

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

Email: [westportpl@sailsinc.org](mailto:westportpl@sailsinc.org)  
Website: [www.westport-ma.com/westport-free-public-library](http://www.westport-ma.com/westport-free-public-library)

Facebook.com/westportfreepubliclibrary



**Perspectives**

*It's always better to have too much to read than not enough.* Ann Patchett

The FOWL team is off and running, planning our book sales this year. We welcome donations for all age groups. We accept **GENTLY** used books (hardbound and softbound), DVDs, music CDs and CD books in saleable condition. Also, vinyl music with original covers.

**Please keep these book sale dates in mind.**

**SUMMER FICTION PAPERBACK SALE** in the Library foyer **Saturday, July 12—Saturday, July 26** featuring pocket-sized books and larger softcovers.

**ANNUAL BOOK SALE** **Saturday, September 6—Saturday, September 13** with member preview night on **Friday, September 5**.

The foyer bin in the lobby starts gathering donations during Library hours, **April 1—August 30**.

Keeping in mind the following items are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**:

- \*Moldy, damaged, badly stained, or written in books
- \*CDs and DVDs with no covers. No copies.
- \*Textbooks (e.g. law books, business, college texts)
- \*Encyclopedias, thesauruses, dictionaries
- \*Outdated manuals (e.g. computer, business, medical)
- \*VHS tapes
- \*Cassettes
- \*Magazines
- \*Travel guide books older than 2023
- \*Children's coloring books and school workbooks

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning donations. If you have a large donation (many boxes) to drop off, the Friends can arrange a time to assist you at the Library.

The book sales are a major fundraiser for Library services. We greatly appreciate your support. Thank you.

All the best,

Susan Branco, President of FOWL [fowlemail@gmail.com](mailto:fowlemail@gmail.com)

KIDS' CORNER SPRING 2025



**STORIES, SONGS & SKILLS**  
**FOR BABIES & TODDLERS**

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. with Miss Bonnie

Early literacy concepts are introduced through interactive rhymes, songs, stories, and music followed by playtime. Recommended for ages 0-3 with a caregiver.



**Happy Hobbies & Cozy Crafts Club**

Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Bring a project to work on in a creative, comfortable atmosphere.



**Fun with Friends Play Group**

\*\*\*\*\*


Tuesdays ~ 10-11 a.m.

For ages 5 and under with a caregiver. Drop in, play games, make new friends!

 **Westport Free Public Library**  
408 Old County Road  
Westport, Massachusetts 02790 | (508) 636-1100  
[www.westport-ma.com/westport-free-public-library](http://www.westport-ma.com/westport-free-public-library)

**Juvenile Fiction:**

**Ages: 4-8**



*Home* by Matt de la Pena  
*Big Bike Little Bike* by Kellie DuBay Gillis  
*The Man Who Didn't Like Animals* by Deborah Underwood

**Ages: 8-12**



*Max in the Land of Lies* by Adam Gidwitz  
*A Wolf Called Fire* by Rosanne Parry  
*One Wrong Step* by Jennifer A. Nielsen

**Kids Clothing Swap**



April 22nd - 30th during regular library hours

Reduce, reuse, recycle this Earth Day!

Donations of clean, gently worn baby, toddler, and kids clothing can be dropped off at the library between April 1-17.

OmniSource Games presents

**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS**

Saturday, March 8th 10-11 a.m.  
Saturday, April 12 10-11 a.m.  
at Westport Free Public Library

Beginners Welcome

**PBM Patricia Bloom-McDonald, Attorney-at-Law**  
Your Attorney for Life's Planning

Call for a complimentary consultation:  
**508-646-9888**  
1105 State Rd. | P.O. Box 858 | Westport, MA

**Satellite Office • Canton, MA**  
781-713-4709

Website: [www.McBloomLaw.com](http://www.McBloomLaw.com)

- Estate Planning - Elder Law  
- Probate - Real Estate

Also available to meet at YOUR office, home, or place of convenience.





**BayCoast BANK**

**Chat with Nicolas Rachel,  
Fantasy Book Club Facilitator  
by Lisa Chan**

**What are some elements of the sci-fi fantasy genre?**

Many people would argue it's a break from the normal, but I would argue it's an expansion on it. The ideas behind fantasy have always existed. Every culture around the world has stories about dragons, some form of vampiric like creatures, and birdlike creatures larger than normal that come after people at night. Fantasy stories are an expansion of our everyday lives, feelings, and beliefs told with a little bit of magic. People tend to think fantasy is set in medieval times, but it can happen in any time period.

Sci-fi is about looking to the future but sometimes is set in present day. I read one sci-fi book set in the past where cavemen deal with an alien ship that crash-lands.

There is another book told from the perspective of sentient velociraptors speaking and having language. Sci-fi is a restructuring of thought about what we understand science is and what is possible with science when we move forward.

**What are you currently reading?**

I have been reading *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden. Also, I'm reading *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller and *The Final Girl Support Group* by Grady Hendrix.

**What are a few of your favorite books?**

I am mainly a horror reader as of late; however, one of my favorite books is *Disney After Dark (The Kingdom Series)* by Ridley Pearson. I enjoy reading Gregory Maguire books. My favorite book by him is *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*. My favorite book of all time is *Frankenstein*. It's beautiful and deep; its commentary of the state of humanity is timeless and thought provoking.

**Who is your favorite author and why?**

It's Mary Shelley because she is so cool!

You are a writer. Are you currently working on any projects?

I am working on three books: a middle grade murder mystery novel, a horror novel, and a fantasy epic.

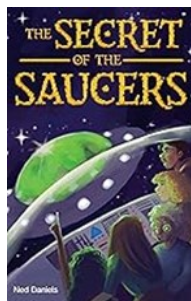
\*See page 4 for upcoming Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club dates.

**NEW** Whether you're a young adult or older, you will enjoy the continuing adventures of Grammy, Myrtle, Stuart, Kate, and Masaneka in Ned Daniel's latest book *The Secret of the Saucers*.

These intrepid five go on another investigation of UAPs (former UFOs) on Catalina Island off the coast of California.

Westport's own Ned Daniels is also the author of *The Last Child*, an intriguing mystery story highlighting the environmental impact of ocean pollution on humans.

Both books are available on Amazon or at the Westport Free Public Library.



**New to the Collection Highlights**

**Adult Fiction:**

*Something in the Walls* by Daisy Pearce

*Tea You at the Altar* by Rebecca Thorne

*Far From Home* by Danielle Steel

*Ward D* by Freida McFadden

*The Blanket Cats* by Kiyoshi Shigematsu

**Adult Mystery:**

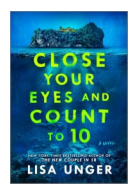
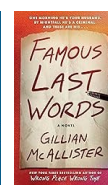
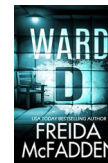
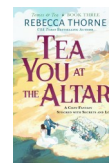
*High Tea and Misdemeanors* by Laura Childs

*Finlay Donovan Digs Her Own Grave* by Elle Cosimano

*Death of a Smuggler* by M.C. Beaton

*Famous Last Words* by Gillian McAllister

*Close Your Eyes and Count to 10* by Lisa Unger



**FOWL Board Meetings:**

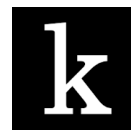
Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Manton Community Room. Dates occasionally change. Please call the Library (508) 636-1100 for more information and to confirm your attendance.

**Come visit the Friends of the  
Westport Library (FOWL) booth on  
Saturday, June 21 from 10-2.**

The Westport River Watershed Alliance's (WRWA) River Day is a free, annual event that celebrates the Westport River. The event includes activities for all ages, performances, and information booths.

The Library offers many ways to get Ebooks, music, movies, comics, audiobooks and more 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.



## Manton Community Room

Saturday, April 12, 2025  
Manton Community Room  
Westport Free Public Library  
2:00-3:00 p.m.




**Early New England Seascapes**



*The Fog Warning—Winslow Homer*

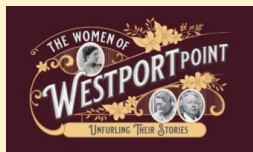
Experience the wonder of fine art through the expert guidance of local historian Jill Sanford.  
Fun and educational for artists and non-artists alike!

A free event sponsored by



### Continued through April: Westport Historical Society

The isolated cluster of houses at the end of Main Road has been home to whaling captains, fishermen, and farmers. Their names are recorded on the plaques that adorn each house. But, the Point was also home to their wives, mothers, and daughters. Moreover, in the 20th century, it attracted some remarkable female artists, writers, and unusual characters. This project unfurls their life stories, which are closely tied to houses that line Main Road at Westport Point.



### June in the Manton Community Room:

**Southcoast Scenes** with artist Kitt Shaffer: Kitt, a full-time resident since 2020, has been visiting Westport since the 1980's to swim and surf.

She is a landscape and figurative painter in oils with her studio in her home. Her variety of work is displayed on her website: [www.shafferarts.com](http://www.shafferarts.com).

View her paintings throughout the month of June during Library hours in the Manton Community Room.



Join Kitt for a reception on Thursday, June 26 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

## 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](mailto:cvidal318@gmail.com) for more information.

- April 11: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- May 9: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters
- June 13: *The Berlin Letters* by Katherine Reay

**Murderous Monday Book Club** meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. Join us or contact [westportpl@sailsinc.org](mailto:westportpl@sailsinc.org) for more information.

- April 14: *City of the Lost* by Kelley Armstrong
- May 12: *Open Season* by C.J. Box
- June 9: *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith

### SCI-FI FANTASY BOOK CLUB

(Every 4th Monday at 6 p.m.) Join us or contact [elias.rachel.13@gmail.com](mailto:elias.rachel.13@gmail.com) for more information.

- April 28: *Vicious* by V.E. Schwab
- May 19: *The Keeper of Night* by Kylie Lee Baker
- June 23: *The City We Became* by N.K. Jemisin

## Helen E. Ellis Case Exhibits

### SPRING EXHIBITS:

**April: Sue Costa: Westport Library Knitting Club's work on blankets for babies in need.**



**May: Robin Winters: Hanky Panky:** a private collection of vintage handkerchiefs.

**June:** It is a truth universally acknowledged that a librarian must be in want of a collection of Jane Austen books and memorabilia. Display by Bonnie Strebel



If you are interested in displaying a craft or collection for 2025 contact Ned Daniels: [nbdisme@gmail.com](mailto:nbdisme@gmail.com)

## World of Books

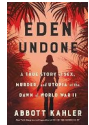
### *The Uneasy Comfort of True Crime*

by Denise Micale

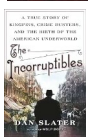
My first date with my husband of 50 years was the movie *In Cold Blood*. It was my first exposure to the genre of true crime. Fast forward to the present and my guilty pleasure is a compulsion for *Dateline* on Friday evenings. According to Dean Jobb of the *Chicago Tribune*, true crime is now “one of the hottest genres in book publishing.” These days, true crime podcasts are also seemingly everywhere, and with recent advances in DNA analysis and genetic genealogy, cold cases decades old are being solved and publicized.



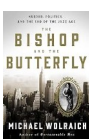
What draws many of us, otherwise very non-dramatic types, to this ostensibly dark sphere of storytelling? For Jessica Grose, in her November 16, 2024 *New York Times* opinion piece, “true crime usually reflects a black and white moral universe with dedicated law enforcement and trust in the science of crime where victims and their loved ones often, if even belatedly find justice.” These books also transport their reader to unfamiliar times and settings amidst the universal human frailties and strengths that permeate life. Here are some recommendations for some of the best true crime books in 2024:



*Eden Undone* by Abbott Kahler, a tale of 1929 murder in the Galapagos at the dawn of WWII,

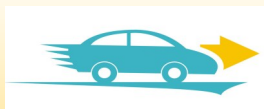


*The Incurruptibles* by Dan Slater, about the birth of the NYC underworld in the lower East Side in the early 1900's,



*The Bishop and the Butterfly* by Michael Wolraich, a story about the 1931 murder of Vivian Gordon which led to the undoing of the Tammany Hall political machine in NYC.

And, from 1965 and now considered to be the best true crime book of all time, *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.



### 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.

## Spotlight

### A Few Absurdities of English as Language

by Suze Craig

English is my mother tongue. Indeed, she was key to the introduction to two of its myriad absurdities, as she read and reread to me my favorite story, “*How the Elephant Got His Trunk*”, by Rudyard Kipling.

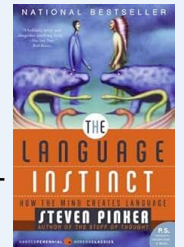
I listened, enthralled. Heard, repeated, accepted the word. (What else can one do as a toddler?) Trunk: the elephant’s handy nose-grabber. Heard, understood, accepted.

A few years later, she presented me with a large, box-like receptacle, with a curved, hinged lid. A trunk, she said, to fill with my clothing and take to an upcoming summer adventure as a Brownie at Girl Scout Camp.

I heard, understood, and accepted the word. And never thought about the same word which I had already accepted as a long, grey, elephantine appendage. Or considered the oddity of one word for such wildly different things.

Hah! That’s just for starters. English becomes more absurd as you grow up and begin to read, write, and, oh groan, spell. In fact, when the written word is taken into account, it’s mayhem. How about “Wise guys prize their sighs and eyes”? Sew and so, or rather, so-and-so, but it’s not soer, but sewer. Wait, is that a waste disposal pipe or someone with a needle and thread?

If, curious reader, you want an expert “take” on many perplexities of English in particular, and language in general, start with Steven Pinker’s informative and amusing *The Language Instinct*. Be glad, as am I, you absorbed—without question—many bizarre illogicalities he presents. Park on the driveway, drive on the parkway.



Available at The Library after I return it...

### 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. 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 \$5167.86 in 2024.

Thank you, Lees Market,  
for your support.





# 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 group 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
- Massachusetts State Parks Pass
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- New Bedford Whaling Museum

### Membership Levels:

- \$15 Senior (61+) \_\_\_\_\_
- \$20 Individual \_\_\_\_\_
- \$25 Family \_\_\_\_\_
- \$50 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_
- \$100 Patron \_\_\_\_\_
- \$250 Bibliophile \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

**It's easy to Join \_\_\_\_\_ or Renew \_\_\_\_\_!**

- Online: [www.fowlwestportma.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

### Board Members:

- President: Susan Branco
- Vice President: Myrna Altschuler
- Secretary: Jennie Elias
- Treasurer: Denise Micala
- Nicole Belanger
- Lisa Chan
- Suze Craig, Co-Editor, newsletter
- Lorie-Lyn Fernandes
- Michael Habib
- Linda Harrop
- Maryteresa Hicks
- Susan Silvia
- Mary Anne Thadeu
- Carol Vidal, Co-Editor, newsletter

[www.fowlwestportma.org](http://www.fowlwestportma.org)  
[fowlmail@gmail.com](mailto:fowlmail@gmail.com)

P.O. Box 3342  
Westport, MA 02790

