

NEW

Coming Tuesday, July 11 at
6:30-7:30 p.m. to the
Westport Town Hall Annex:

Candida Rose
The Music of Cape Verde

ALSO

Friday, August 25 at 6:00 p.m.
The Toe Jam Puppet Band



More details on page 4 and on our
website at www.fowlwestportma.org

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:

Tuesday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, Sept. 4	Labor Day

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

"Do What You Love and Success Will Follow" – Meg Whitman

It is so rewarding to see how the Library promotes staff members from within its ranks, whenever possible. This organizational approach provides the staff and the community with an ever-growing wealth of professionalism and a stronger sense of continuity.

Bonnie Strebel, for example, has advanced from a part-time aide in 2007, to principal clerk in 2014, to assistant director/youth services librarian, as she works to complete her master's degree in library and information science.

Meanwhile, Amy Medeiros, who started as an aide in 2014, followed a similar path of promotions, becoming a principal clerk in 2017—and more recently the Library's social-media guru and head cataloguer.

Likewise, Robin Winters, library aide since 2015, started as a volunteer. She now maintains the Norma K. Judson History Room. Robin's penchant for local history and her archiving skills certainly would have brought a smile to Norma.

Of course, promotion from within sometimes leaves entry-level vacancies; in those cases, the Library seeks out the best available candidates. Dan Sheahan—with almost 30 years of library experience—easily filled an open library aide role before becoming a principal clerk.

And Nancy Mullen, library aide, assists patrons at the circulation desk and locates materials for all ages. Have you met the new face at the Library? Melissa Ferreira, filling a library aide position, joined the staff in June. Please join me in welcoming Melissa.

The tradition goes on . . .

Enjoy these summer days; see you in the stacks.

Susan Branco, President, FOWL (fowl@email@gmail.com)

BOOK DONATIONS Continue until August 31st

It's donation time for our upcoming book sales in July and September 2023. Our book bin in the lobby awaits your gently used books, CDs and DVDs. Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines or outdated manuals.

If you have any questions, call our Library staff.

Donations are being accepted until Thursday, August 31.

The Paperback Book Sale begins Monday, July 24 through Saturday, August 5.

The FOWL Annual Book Sale begins Saturday, September 9, runs through Saturday, September 16. Friday, September 8 is member preview night and Saturday, September 16 is \$5 a bag day.

FOWL Board Meetings:

Thursday, July 13 and Thursday, August 31 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

But I digress...

One of my most favorite things about a library is the sense of community that it creates. Here we all are, from different families, different hometowns, different likes and interests; all sharing and spending time together in this special space. Talking about new books we're excited about, what movie we watched that absolutely wasted our time, or what's going wrong with our yard that we need to find a way to fix. I realize that I overthink and have a very high view of the library's importance in the grand scheme of things, but what else is a fuller realization of Massachusetts' goal to be a Commonwealth dedicated to the advancement of the Common Good of all her people?

All of which is my grandiose way to butter you up and impose upon that sense of community to ask all of you, my library family, to help me with a long-overdue project. It hurts to admit, but I never finished reading Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. And, if we're being honest, I never even made it past Chapter 12. So, starting this new year of FY24, I will finally read *Moby Dick* cover to cover. With everything else going on, my goal is reading one chapter a month, which should take less than three years to finish. Here's your part in this project; I need every one of you to be my accountability buddies. Feel free to ask me when you come in how I'm doing with *Moby Dick*. Did I finish this month's chapter yet? Do I never want to step foot on a boat again? Anything like that. Without school or a paper hanging over my head, I'll need your help to keep forward momentum going. But, with such an amazing community of readers and learners, I know I'll be able to run the race before me. Together, let us press forward in the spirit of those intrepid Yankee whalers of olde; A dead whale, or a stove boat!

Ever yours,

George Ripley

Kids' Corner Spring 2023

Picture Books: Preschool to Grade 2

- Jack the Library Cat* Marietta Apollonio
- Pugtato Finds a Thing* Sophie Corrigan
- Our Dragon* Mem Fox
- Julia's House Moves On* Ben Hatke

Juvenile Fiction

- The Jessie Files: A Dramatic Disappearance* Stacia Deutsch
- Eva's Campfire Adventure* Rebecca Elliott
- You only live once, David Bravo* Mark Oshiro



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.



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Chat with Ruth Bourns
by Carol Vidal

How long have you lived here and what made you decide to live in Westport?



We visited friends in Westport for many years and fell in love with Westport. In 1992, we bought our house on Drift Road and we were summer residents for eight years. In 2000 we were relocating from Pennsylvania and we decided to make our house on Drift Road our permanent residence.

Your shop is named Tupelo Studio and is located conveniently behind your house. Apparently, there is some interesting history behind this?

Yes, our house was built in 1850 and was part of a large farm extending down to the Westport River. My studio was originally housing for the farm workers. It was very primitive housing back then. Of course, we've made renovations to the building and it is now a convenient place to sew and to sell all my creations.

What is your inspiration for your handmade creations?

Upon moving to Westport permanently, I fulfilled a life-long dream to make something by hand that I could sell. I started with crib quilts, modeling them initially after 3 quilts I had bought for my own children at their births. I later expanded my creations to include women's accessories. They now include shoulder bags, scarves, jewelry pouches, and jackets made from repurposed kimonos. I use kimono cloth, linen, silk, and brocade silk among many other fabrics. I have a special fondness for Japanese fabrics and designs.



Ruth's Tupelo Studio is located at 790 Drift Road, Westport, MA. She specializes in handcrafted textiles and will be participating in the 20th Annual OPEN STUDIO TOUR on July 15-16 and August 19-20.

**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. 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 \$3,645.43 in 2022.

Thank you Lees Market for your support.



New to the Collection Highlights

Adult Fiction:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Foxglove King</i> | Hannah Whitten |
| <i>In the Lives of Puppets</i> | T. J. Klune |
| <i>Happy Place</i> | Emily Henry |
| <i>Queen Charlotte</i> | Julia Quinn |
| <i>The 23rd Midnight</i> | James Patterson |

Mystery:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>How to Murder Your Employer</i> | Rupert Holmes |
| <i>The Lock-Up</i> | John Banville |
| <i>Fixit</i> | Joe Ide |
| <i>The Girl by the Bridge</i> | Arnaldur Indridason |
| <i>City Under One Roof</i> | Iris Yamashita |

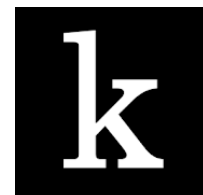
Nonfiction:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>On the Origin of Time: Stephen Hawking's Final Theory</i> | Thomas Hertog |
| <i>Cheap Land Colorado: Off-Gridders at America's Edge</i> | Ted Conover |
| <i>Book Madness: A Story of Book Collectors in America</i> | Denise Gigante |
| <i>Y'all Eat Yet?: Welcome to THE PRETTY B*TCHIN' KITCHEN</i> | Miranda Lambert |



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. For more information on how to access, call the Library.



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Events



Cape Verdean Music with the KabuJazz Ensemble
featuring Candida Rose on vocals with J.L. Santos Spencer on guitar, Heribar Estrela on keyboards and Jorge DaRosa on drums.
 KabuJazz combines Candida's Cape Verdean musical roots with her American (primarily jazz) influences.

Candida Rose

Outdoor Performance Westport Town Hall Annex
 856 Main Road, Westport, MA
 (inclement weather, held in Annex gymnasium)
Tuesday, July 11, 2023
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Please bring a chair for outdoor or indoor seating and your dancing shoes.

This is a **Free** event provided by the Friends of Westport Library.



This program is supported by the Westport Cultural Council through a grant from the Helen E. Ellis Charitable Trust administered by the Bank of America.



Friday, August 25 at 6:00 p.m.

The Toe Jam Puppet Band

will entertain everyone with live music on the Library grounds.
 Bring a chair and/or a picnic supper.
 Bring a friend; there's lots of room!

This program is sponsored by  Friends of Westport Library

Westport Library Book Club

Read For Fun

The **Westport Library Book Club** meets in the Community Room at 10:30 a.m. on the second **Friday** of each month.

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. **It's a great way to meet people.**

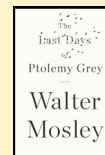
Join us or contact cvidal318@gmail.com for more information.

Book Selections:

July: *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* by Walter Mosley

August: *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt

September: *The Secret Life of Groceries* by Benjamin Lorr



Helen E. Ellis Glass Case Exhibits

July: Ruth Bourns of Tupelo Studios displays her hand-made creations. (See Page 3 Chat)



August: Polly Dooley—A brief story of how the Chinese version of Mah Jong (Sparrow) came to Westport and her fascination with the different sets has led to quite a collection over the years. The boxes, the racks, and the pieces are all so different.

September: Transformation of mud and leaves into functional pottery. The personal collection of Amy Thurber of Dove Foot Pottery.



World of Books

Ex Libris Westport

by Suze Craig

Of course hooray for the digital fireworks now available at the Library, with nothing more than your Library card—movies, taped tv shows, ebooks (books on CD and online), even personal help with devices. And if you're not ready yet to librarily make your own wi-fi hot spot, there are jig-saw puzzles on loan, a bank of five computers for patron use, facilities to print, fax, and scan—and good grief, even the loan of a telescope.

Yet a basic premise of a public library—plain old physical books on loan—still holds true. As I discovered one drear winter morning when I went in to retrieve a half dozen I'd asked for via SAILS, a digital card catalog encompassing a total of 70 public and school libraries all over Southern New England. See map below. Available on your iPhone. Yipes.

"Looks like an oldie," said Dan, deftly sliding the upper left corner and the white FALL RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY label under the watchful eye of the computer.

"Oldie but goodie," I responded. "Dorothy Sayers' ode to Oxford in the 30's, a really entertaining who-dun-it."

Yikes. The spine was attached to the battered covers with crackly strips of elderly cellophane instead of a smooth transparent plastic strip. Both front and back cover corners were dog-eared, revealing frayed layers of cardboard. Between the covers: two inches of thin, parchment-yellow pages, which proved to be tattered, torn, margins missing, edges crumbled.

When I got home, I found further enlightenment: copyright 1936 first American edition copy 1 (in penciled script), and a far more recent narrow white label with the barcode 3 2036 00123 8498 identifying it as a Fall River volume.

Have to confess I read it very gingerly, or rather, reread it, having first discovered Sayers in my teens. Another benefit of age; I'd forgotten the plot, only vaguely remembered the wit. So I laughed out loud all over again. So here's a Hooray for Andrew Carnegie, SAILS, the Fall River Library and our own Westport Library.

Whoops, gotta get it into my book transport bag; 21 days are almost gone.



Spotlight

A Conversation with Robin Winters

by Susan Branco

Continuing our story about the pirates who captured *Brig Crawford* in 1827...

(see our Spring Newsletter) www.fowlwestportma.org/newsletters

On August 17, 1827 the Spanish pirates were tried and convicted in Federal Court in Richmond, Virginia and hung for piracy and murder. Edmund Dobson provided testimony as he had escaped to report the massacre. Sadly, the African American cook was barred from giving testimony because he was Black. After the trial, the pirates were taken to the gallows in a wagon sitting on their own coffins. As the hanging platform dropped, one pirate died instantly but the ropes holding the other two pirates snapped and they fell, struggling to the ground. The 2 stunned men were hung again with success. The 3 bodies were buried in a single grave.

A military doctor came forward, who possibly having read Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, requested to use the bodies for electrical experiments. A Federal Marshall had been standing by and requested to consign the executed criminals to medical schools for dissection before burial. The doctor argued that the Federal Marshall had no authority to take the bodies.

The doctor applied to the Governor of Virginia arguing for states' rights and against the authority of the Federal government for the right of burial. The governor had the bodies taken to the Richmond Armory where they were joined with a battery-generated electrical current, which proved unsuccessful. The pirates were reinterred in a single unmarked grave in Richmond where they remain to this day.

Jacque Tardy, who slit his own throat in the Captain's quarters, was buried face-down at low tide in Old Point Comfort, Hampton, Virginia. Shortly after, the Washington Phrenological Society requested his skull for study. His body was exhumed and head decapitated. They associated certain bumps on his skull with destructiveness and a yearning for a pirate's life. Three casts of Tardy's skull were sent to the Liverpool, London, and Edinburgh Phrenological Societies. In 2015, the University of Edinburgh requested that a cast of the skull be laser scanned, 3D printed and a facial reconstruction done by Dundee University. It is now on display at the Anatomical Museum in the University of Edinburgh.

Looking for further reading? More details are available in the Library History Room. Browse through a file labeled Oliver Potter, the Westport young man who died in the bloody massacre on *Brig Crawford*.





Become a member — Join today

FOWL aids the mission of the Westport Free Public Library

All activities are run by volunteers who support and believe in a public library. As a significant funding source, 2022 member dues and book sales, including Michael's Bookstore contributed over \$45,000 to support Library services. If you are not yet a member of FOWL, please consider filling in the form to the right or join on-line at www.fowlwestportma.org.

FOWL funding supports the following:

Books, DVDs, CDs and electronic services
Children's and adult programs and special events

Discounted museum passes:

- Boston Museum of Science
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston
- Buttonwood Park Zoo
- New England Aquarium (in September)
- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- MASSPARKS PASS

Michael's Bookstore located in the Library lobby year-round
Paperback Exchange Carousel located in the Library lobby

@ the Library Quarterly Newsletter

***Membership levels:**

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

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: _____

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Or Donate Online at www.fowlwestportma.org

- I would like to volunteer. I am interested in: _____
- I would like to be a Board Member.

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