

NEW

Westport Free Public Library
Seed Exchange
 In the Library Lobby

Seeds Donated
 by High Mowing
 Organic Seeds

Sponsored by



**Borrow,
 Grow,
 Share**



Perspectives

That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.
 Jhumpa Lahiri

Is Spring cleaning on your agenda in the coming months? If so, please start saving your books for the Annual September Book Sale. Please note the following changes:

- *FOWL has decided to forgo the Annual Summer Paperback Sale this year.
- *Paperbacks, both large and small, will still be available in the Annual September Book Sale.
- ***Michael's Bookstore**—continues to carry a great selection of oversized paperbacks for beach days and travel, along with many other categories.

On another note, and with much regret, we are saying goodbye to our Library Director, George Ripley, who has accepted a new position at the Bridgewater Public Library. For the last three years, George has overseen technological advances and collection development—all the while providing excellent patron services. Thank you, George. We wish you all the best as you explore this new opportunity. We will miss your cheery disposition, so please stop by when you are in the neighborhood.

As always, many thanks to our Library friends for your continued FOWL membership and volunteerism, which continues to grow the Library as a warm and satisfying destination, including cultural events for all. And that is why we so much welcome Mary Anne Thadeu to the FOWL Board.

Please take care and stay well. Enjoy these warmer days.

Susan Branco, President, FOWL

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 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:

Monday, April 15 Patriots' Day
 Monday, May 27 Memorial Day
 Wednesday, June 19 Juneteenth

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

Email: westportpl@sailsinc.org

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

Facebook.com/westportfreepubliclibrary



BOOK DONATIONS BEGIN MAY 1

It's donation time for our upcoming book sale in September of 2024. Our book bin in the lobby awaits your **gently** used books, CDs and DVDs. Please **no** textbooks, encyclopedias, cassettes, magazines or outdated manuals. If you have any questions, call our Library.

Donations are being accepted from Monday, May 1 to Saturday, August 31.

The FOWL Annual Book Sale begins Saturday, September 7 and runs through Saturday, September 14. Friday, September 6 is Member Preview Night and Saturday, September 14 is \$5 Bag of Books day.

Your Library Connections

Hello again my FOWL friends. With a heavy heart I am letting you know this will be my last conversation with you for some time. I will have left my position as Director of the Westport Free Public Library at the end of March for an opportunity in another town. Before I go though, I wanted to thank each and every one of you for the amazing time I've had here. Together we have helped enhance and expand Library services to everyone in Westport. All of the books, digital items, chairs and shelving wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Friends of Westport Library.

The FOWL Board is truly a remarkable group of people who work tirelessly to improve the place they love out of genuine care for their neighbors and community. I know most of you are humble, but don't think I haven't noticed the same faces at so many different nonprofits and clean-up days around town. You care about this place, and each other. Never forget that, and I know you will all carry each other forward. The famous Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) once wrote "... UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not."

I've loved this place ever since I was a little kid trying to read the ET books in the adult Sci-Fi collection when they were waaay above my reading level. But Ms. Branco never tried to stop me from trying to read them. Challenge yourselves to never stop being curious, never stop learning or trying something different and new. Life is too short.

Without the financial support of FOWL, the Library could not continue to deliver the exceptional resources and services that the people of Westport deserve. I know with every ounce of my heart that the Library staff will continue to do its absolute best to meet every need of every person.

But that leaves the rest up to the community: give what you can to support the Library's book and programming budget. Please bring any Lees receipts you can spare into the Library for donations. Drop off books for our Book Sale beginning on May 1st. And, most importantly, tell everyone about all of the awesome things that YOU like and get for FREE from the Westport Free Public Library.

But I digress.

With Love Eternal,
-George Ripley

Kids' Corner SPRING 2024

Picturebooks:

- Sleepy Sheepy and the Sheeponover* by Lucy Cummins
- Today* by Gabi Snyder
- Evergreen* by Matthew Cordell
- I Can Open it For You* by Shinsuke Yoshitake



Kids Fiction:

- The Missing Sword* by Melissa de la Cruz
- City of the Dead* by James Ponti
- Heroes* by Alan Gratz
- How to Stay Invisible* by Maggie C. Rudd



YA Fiction:

- Fate Breaker* by Victoria Aveyard
- The Invocations* by Krystal Sutherland
- A Tempest of Tea* by Hafsa Faizal



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 David Cole and Betty Slade by Brianna McAvoy



April is for The Birds

How did you come to Birding?

David: We took a course at the Lloyd Center in Dartmouth in 1994. By the end of that year, we retired from seven years of working for Harvard University as advisors to the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Indonesia. During that time, we were fortunate enough to travel the world spotting and identifying birds. After retiring, we split our time between Westport, MA, and Wimberley, TX, and became very active birders in both regions. Texas for the winter birds and New England for spring, summer, and fall birds. Betty has compiled a life list of about 2,500 species!

Why sponsor Birding programs?

Betty: We want to introduce birding to everyone! Westport is an exceptionally favorable area for viewing large flocks residing here in the summer months, with largely different species in the winter months. It's easy, and anyone of any age can participate.

We also have birding records that were kept by local resident, Smith Owen Dexter, beginning in the late 1800s that are now preserved only in the Westport Free Public Library and the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. Over time, Dexter's records have been added to by many birders and published in various forms that we will be describing and providing copies of for distribution at the evening lectures.

Do you have a favorite Bird?

David: My favorite bird is the Osprey because I have spent many years monitoring and supporting the local breeding of these birds. The Westport River and Allens Pond now normally have about 100 pairs of Osprey that mate here each year.

Share a funny Birding story?

Betty: In Antarctica, we were walking along a kind of path, obviously formed by Adelie Penguins. Suddenly, one jumped onto the path, and confidently waddled directly toward us. We stopped dead. Clearly, he expected us to step aside. We laughed, as we, and others respectfully gave way. Penguins are fearless and funny.

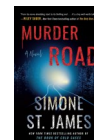
Every Thursday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
in the Manton Community Room

- April 4: Betty Slade, David Cole, Steve Reinert, Jamie Bogart on Birding History
- April 11: Alan Poole, Fred Thurber, Gina Purtell on Birding Success Stories
- April 18: Barry Van Dusen – Author of *Finding Sanctuary*
- April 25: Pamela Lowell – Author of *My Summer with Ospreys*

New to the Collection Highlights

Adult Fiction:

Three-Inch Teeth by C.J. Box
After Annie by Anna Quindlen
The Waters by Bonnie Jo Campbell
Murder Road by Simone St. James
A Fate Inked in Blood by Danielle L. Jensen



Adult Nonfiction:

Normal Women: 900 Years of Making History
by Philippa Gregory
The Deerfield Massacre: a Surprise Attack, a Forced March, and the Fight for Survival in Early America
by James L. Swanson
JoyFull: Cook Effortlessly, Eat Freely, Live Radiantly
by Radhi Devlukia-Shetty

Westport River Watershed Alliance Annual River Day

493 Old County Road, Westport, MA 02790
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come visit our FOWL tent at River Day and meet our members. Ask about becoming a member of the Friends of Westport Library. FOWL will be selling children's books for 25 cents each.

FOWL Board Meeting:

Thursday, May 9 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.

The Library offers many ways to get 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.

Download Libby today!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Have a Kindle Fire tablet? [Learn how to install Libby.](#)

Manton Community Room

The Landscape About Us: A SouthCoast Anthology will be published in the spring of 2024.

A project of [Midori Creativity](#) along with the [Westport Writers Group](#), the collection of essays, poetry, photography, and fiction explores why we live here on the SouthCoast and the landscape's impact on us.

As part of [Art Week South-Coast](#), contributors will read aloud on Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m. at the Library. This program is supported in part by grants from the Mass Cultural Council and the Westport Cultural Council.



WINGMASTERS presents New England Birds of Prey

Saturday, June 22 at 2:00 p.m.
Manton Community Room
Westport Free Public Library

The two presenters are licensed raptor rehabilitators in MA. Recommended for ages 6 and up.



Sponsored by FOWL
Friends of Westport Library

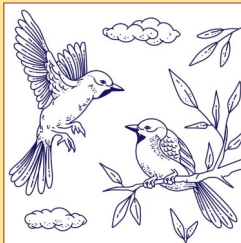
APRIL: April is For The Birds

(See Chat on page 3 for times and details)

Every Thursday in April

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Paintings and Prints of birds
will be on exhibit.



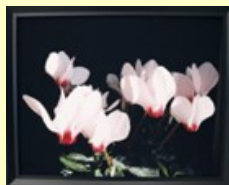
JUNE:

Beth Easterly Photo Retrospective

June 5 through July 6

A display of Beth Easterly's art. She created unique images, finding beauty in unusual perspectives and typically unrecorded moments according to her husband Ed Horky.

Please join us for a remembrance
of her life and works on Saturday
June 8 1:00-4:00 p.m.



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:

April 12: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave

May 10: *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult

June 14: *A Town Like Alice* by Nevil Shute

Murderous Monday Book Club meets at

6 p.m. on the second Monday of every month. Join us or contact westportpl@sailsinc.org for more information.

Book Selections:

April 8: *Mother-Daughter Murder Night* by Nina Simon

May 13: *Arsenic and Adobo* by Mia P. Manansala

June 10: *The Only One Left* by Riley Sager

SCI-FI Fantasy Book Club

(Every 4th Monday at 6 p.m.)

April 22: *Gideon the Ninth* by Tamsyn Muir

May 20: *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas

June 24: *Leviathan Wakes* by James S. A. Corey

Helen E. Ellis Case Exhibits

Spring Exhibits:

April: Tom Leverett, *Landscape Paintings*
"In art, the hand can never execute any
thing higher than the heart can imagine"
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

May: George de Villiers, *Dragons*
George shares his collection of
imaginative and highly detailed dragons
designed by Todd McFarlane creator of
Spawn.



June: Robin Winters, *Here Comes The Bride*,
Bridal portraits showcasing wedding dress
styles spanning a century from Robin's
family.

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

World of Books

Westport Birding

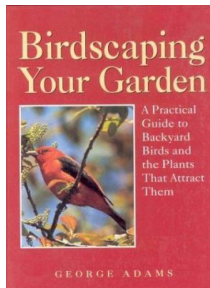
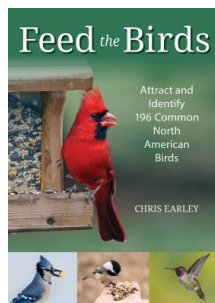
By Linda Harrop

What activity can one do year-round both outside and inside your home? Bird watching, of course. Here are a few tips.

First, borrow some books from the Library on birds to explore which birds are in this area, and become familiar with their appearance (males colored differently than their mates), their habits and habitats. *Birdscaping Your Garden* by George Adams, *Feed the Birds* by Chris Earley, and *Peterson Field Guide to Birds* are a few to get you started; there are many others in SAILS. And *Bird Watching for Beginners* on Hoopla is another.

For outside birding, get binoculars, small backpack, guide book, good walking shoes, water/snacks and a list of trails in the area. Most important: travel quietly and have patience. Spotting birds in the outdoors is not easy.

Best place to view birds? Your own back yard. Try setting up a pole or window feeder or small hanging feeder (one that is easy to fill and clean). Try to find a spot squirrels cannot access (though they are wily creatures). Buy good seed, keep your feeders clean by using 1 part vinegar to 4 parts hot water and rinse thoroughly, especially when you see seed caked in the bottom of the feeder. Bacteria, molds and fungus can make birds sick. NEVER use harsh chemicals—they are toxic to birds.



Don't forget to provide a water source. For those who like poetry, try *Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems About Birds* or *Feathers: Poems About Birds* by Eileen Spinelli. Want to hear birds sing? Try *How Do Birds Sing?* on Hoopla. Enjoy Nature, no matter the route.

Spotlight

Mad Science Returns!

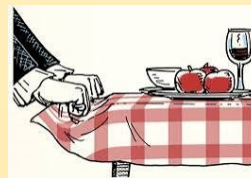
by Denise Micale

Truth is stranger than fiction. (Don Juan by Lord Byron, 1823)

Science is continually tested and refined. And who better to show us some strange and wonderful truths of science than our friends at Mad Science of Southern MA and RI, who return to the Library for **Marvels of Motion** at 11 a.m. on April 20. I promise you will be entertained, and learn something you will want to try yourself at home.

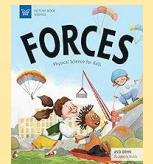
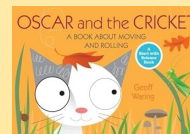
The demonstrated experiments will illustrate Newton's three laws of motion which define the basis of mechanical

physics in our world. Why do things move or stay still? Why don't we float out of bed or fall through the floor of our houses? The tablecloth trick may look like magic, but it's not. It's science.



There are a number of great books for kids that can be borrowed from the Library to learn more about the science of motion to build upon all the knowledge that will result from this interactive show.

Oscar and the Cricket: A Book about Moving and Rolling by Geoff Waring and *Forces: Physical Science for Kids* are available through SAILS. Some books, like *Move It: Motion, Forces and You* by Adrienne Mason are even available on YouTube. Check with our helpful Library team members for additional suggestions.



Marvels of Motion
Westport Library's Manton Community Room

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 11:00 a.m.
No Reservations necessary

Sponsored by
FOWL

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.





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
New England Aquarium

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
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:

- Carol Vidal, Copy Editor, newsletter
Mary Anne Thaden
Susan Silvia
Brianna McAvoy
Linda Harrop
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