

What's New?

Helen E. Ellis Case:

January:

Westport Cultural Council display

February:

One of a Kind Pottery from the Garden
Amy Thurber, ceramic artist

March:

Macomber School Hand-Sewing
Project Instructor, Kathleen McAreavey,
Westport Historical Society

On exhibit in the Manton Community Room:

January 4 - January 30

Photographer, Steve Connors
local landscape and nature photos

Opening Saturday, January 9, 1-3:30

March 1—March 31

Artist, Nancy R. M. Whitin

Equus: Strength and Joy

A collection of pastel paintings

Tech Bytes

Most overdrive titles are now available to immediately read or listen to on your browser, IPAD, Notebook or Laptop. Instead of choosing download, click Overdrive Read or Overdrive Audio.

Services

Free Wi-Fi
SAILS Library Network 24/7 borrowing
Homebound Delivery Service
Children's Programs
Genealogy: Ancestry.com/HeritageQuest
Manton Community Room
Library Bridge Club
Library Book Club
Museum Passes
Computer 101
Magnifiers for Visually Impaired

Call the Library for more info...

Library Hours

Monday	12:00-8:30
Tuesday	10:00-5:00
Wednesday	10:00-5:00
Thursday	12:00-8:30
Friday	10:00-5:00
Saturday	9:00-4:00
Sunday	CLOSED

408 Old County Road
Ph 508-636-1100
sbranco@sailsinc.org
<http://library.westport-ma.com>

WINTER



Perspectives:

In 2015 I had the two month misfortune of being unable to read books or garden or drive. Predictably I watched far too much television and gained weight. The good news is that now that I can again do all three (carefully), the treadmill is actually fun, and books seem like candy. One of my sources of new authors to try is the New Arrival shelves at Westport Library. Recently I found *The Mountaintop School for Dogs* by Ellen Cooney and have now ordered another by same author using SAILS.org. I have plowed through half the books I purchased at the FOWL Annual Book Sale and turned them in for resale. I also find new authors by reading reviews in *Publishers Weekly* or by purchasing one from Partners Village Store and then ordering other titles by the author through SAILS. I am not quite ready for the more literary titles from *NY Times* or *Wall Street Journal* reviews, but these will also eventually lead to SAILS logons. All this verbiage is just to note that 2016 is a new year and an opportunity for anyone to find new reading adventures via the Library.

PS – Many thanks to our members who have already renewed for 2016 and a gentle reminder for those who have not. The ability to read is treasure.

Kate Kastner, President, FOWL
kate.kastner@charter.net

Director's Update: Productive Partnerships

Libraries are increasingly thought of as *Community Living Rooms* because friends, informational resources, entertainment, and community services come together in welcoming surroundings. While perhaps not as cozy as your personal living space, the Library provides exceptional opportunities to meet and collaborate with the wonderful individuals and organizations of Westport.

- Westport Cultural Council: Funds Library programming (for 25 years and counting). Authors, illustrators, puppeteers, storytellers, and more provide educational entertainment for all ages.
- Westport Art Group: WAG members and Southcoast residents grace the walls of the Manton Community Room with their ongoing art exhibits, thus providing an additional, ever-changing cultural forum for Westport.
- Westport Historical Society: Sponsors programs where talented speakers share stories of Westport's beginnings, historical figures, farming, and whaling, to name a few.
- Westport Land Conservation Trust: Delivers lectures and organizes events covering our environment, natural resources, and recreational opportunities. In short, the myriad wonders of our rivers, creatures, and plants.
- The Second Half Lifelong Learning Institute: Introduces our seniors to a variety of courses throughout the seasons.
- Westport River Watershed Alliance: The WRWA has always been a friend of the Library, and we look forward to having them as neighbors.

As a community, we continue to grow and learn. "Thank You" to the human resources who enter the doors of the Library—and who also support it from without.

Sue Branco, Library Director
sbranco@sailsinc.org



Thank You !

Posed next to the Lees bag accepting Lees receipts are Leona Andrade, Book Sale Chair; Matt Cummings, Store Manager of Lees Market; Kate Kastner, Fowl President; and several of the 60+ Lees bags sold to be filled with books on the Annual Book Sale. Thanks, Lees Market.

Kids' Corner

Preschool

Fire Engine No. 9

Mike Austin

Told almost entirely in sound words, this day-in-the-life look at firefighters and their fire truck will appeal to the youngest vehicle enthusiasts.

**Beep! Beep! Go to Sleep!**

Todd Tarpley

A playful robot bedtime story, illustrated by Caldecott honoree John Rocco.

**Where Is Jumper?**

Ellen Walsh

Take a peek at prepositions while searching for a missing mouse in this clever concept book.



Grades K-4

Amazing Places

Lee Hopkin

A collection of original poems bring together four-teen selections that celebrate through poetic imagery some of the amazingly diverse places in our nation.

**The Adventures of Miss Petitfour**

Anne Michaels

The magical adventures of an eccentric Mary Poppins-esque heroine and her sixteen flying feline charges.

**Sonya's Chickens**

Phoebe Wahl

Sonya raises her three chickens from the time they are tiny chicks. When one of her hens disappears she learns a valuable lesson about caring for creatures.



Grades 5-8

Book Scavenger

Jennifer Bertman

For twelve-year-old Emily, the best thing about moving to San Francisco is that it's the home city of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold.

**Book of Natural Poetry**

J. Patrick Lewis

A National Geographic Book of nature poetry with more than 200 poems with photographs.

The Hollow Boy

Jonathan Stroud

Book three of the series. As a massive outbreak of supernatural visitors baffles Scotland Yard, Lockwood & Company continue to effectively exterminate spirits.

Young Adult

Off the Page

Jodi Picoult

Delilah and Oliver must decide how much they're willing to risk for love and what it takes to have a happy ending.

**The Hired Girl**

Laura Schlitz

Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love.

The Edge

Roland Smith

A global team of teens is recruited to climb Hindu Kush Mountains, which becomes a nightmare experience.



A Chat with...Leona Andrade

Chair of the FOWL Book Sale and Library Volunteer

By Denise Micale



Hi, Leona, have you recovered from the Book Sale yet?

I'm actually already planning for 2016. I am pleased with how it went this year. It's interesting to meet so many people who want to read real books with their tea or coffee, even those who also read on their Kindles. Not only did we sell thousands of books, but the remaining ones were all donated to nonprofits: Discover Books, Boys and Girls Club of New Bedford and the Westport Education Foundation. Not a single one went to a landfill.

You spend a lot of time volunteering at WFPL. How did your love of libraries start?

I haunted the children's room at the New Bedford Public Library as a young child and was always a voracious reader. Within one week of moving to Westport in 1970, I was at the WFPL and now spend my time not only planning and implementing the book sale, but also doing research involved in making recommendations for the fiction and mysteries purchased by the Library.

I hear you have an extensive school library background.

Yes, I started out as a volunteer at Westport's old Earle School in 1975, where a few of the moms created a mini school library. We made book card pockets out of NCR punch cards my husband supplied from his job. Then, I was asked to become a teacher's aide for a special needs child and transitioned to become the WES school librarian, ending up in the Middle School, all while I earned my Bachelor's in Elementary Education and later a Master's in Curriculum and Technology. I also spent time in Fairhaven as the elementary technology teacher and finally as the school librarian at Assawompset Elementary in Lakeville.

What would you like Westporters to know about the Library?

I would like more people to be aware of and use this jewel in Westport. We are fortunate to have a library that remains accredited, with wonderful staff, and which gives its patrons access to many resources outside the physical walls, such as SAILS, one of the best book and media sharing networks in New England.

What do you like to read for pleasure?

I love mysteries and thrillers. One of my favorite authors is Stephen King. I prefer reading real books, but I do have a vintage Kindle, which I use when I am out and about or when exercising. I downloaded the complete works of Longfellow, Verne, Dickens, Austin, and Twain for free.

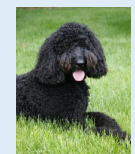
Do you have anything you want to fit in on your calendar for the upcoming year in between your library work?

Yes, I haven't been in a movie theatre in ages. Next year, I hope to make it to the drive-in theatre on Route 146 and visit the new Sonic that is to be built in Somerset for a fun date night.

Rosie visits: Practice reading aloud to our canine friend.

Call to book a ten minute slot from 9:30-10:30 a.m. (limit of six each session)

Saturday, January 2
Saturday, February 6
Saturday, March 5



Events

FOWL Board meetings are open to the public and are held in the Library's Community Room. Check with the Library, 508-636-1100, as dates sometimes change. Winter meetings:

Thursday, January 14 at 6:30 pm – snow date Saturday, January 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 pm – snow date Saturday, March 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Especially for Kids

Two Story programs:

Story Hour: ages three and up, Tuesdays, beginning January 19, 10-11:15 a.m. Books on a different theme each week, music, rhythm instruments, finger-plays and a craft project. (Registration necessary)

Lap-Sit: ages under three, Wednesdays, beginning January 20, 10-10:30 a.m. Stories, music, finger-plays, and puppets with free play following the program. (Registration necessary)

February School Vacation Week

Tuesday, February 16, 10-11 a.m. Author **Carla Marrero** will read her book, *Mimsie's Mousie*, and provide an entertaining take-home craft project. (Suitable for age three and up)

Drop-in Lego Workshops: Wednesdays, 3-4:45 and Saturdays, 9-4 Special Lego workshop on Thursday, Feb. 18, 1-2:00 (all ages)

Friday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. **Ethan Child's Magic Show**, followed by balloon animals for all children in the audience. This program is supported by FOWL. Refreshments will be served.

Raising a Child Who Loves to Read

Reading makes a child smart. Engaging with books helps children soar in school. It strengthens vocabulary and spelling, as well as math, science, and reasoning skills. It boosts empathy, motivation, and curiosity. Reading is critical. Read to your child at least once a day and ask lots of questions. Point out details in books. Encourage your child to retell what you've just read.

It's never too early to start. Have **babies** touch and turn pages. Mime actions and use toys as props.

With your **toddler**, identify shapes and colors on each page. Point colors and shapes out in the grocery store or on a walk. Ask questions as well. Where is the dog going? Why is the little boy sad? Help your child relate to an individual's emotion by asking if he or she has felt the same way.

During the **preschool** years, act out your favorite tales together, listen to audiobooks, and employ a few apps. Highlight numbers as you read. Counting on fingers helps build comprehension skills by guessing what might come next in the story. Consider using the picture book as a visual art form and invite your child to become an active participant in making meaning of all she or he sees and hears during a shared reading.

Ready to help your child get lost in a book? Enjoy the moments of insight, delight, wonder, puzzlement, and pleasure that will arise from the times you meet your child in the pages of picture books, and really listen to the reaction.

In **kindergarten and grade school**, children develop strong preferences of their own. Use their interests as a jumping-off point to connect with new genres and explore further. Your child will learn that reading empowers discoveries.



Linda Cunha, Children's Librarian
lcunha@sailsinc.org

Westport Library Book Club

Read For Fun, Followed By Lunch

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

Please join us or contact Denise Micale, Facilitator, for more information at dsmicale@gmail.com.

January 8: *The Shoemaker's Wife* Adriana Trigiana



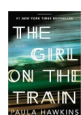
A multigenerational love story that spans two continents, two World Wars, and the quest of two star-crossed lovers to find each other again.

February 12: *A Dangerous Road* Kris Nelscott



Private Investigator Smokey Dalton works for Memphis, Tennessee's black community. He has almost no interaction with the white hierarchy, even though it exist only blocks away. So he's surprised the day a white woman walks into his Beale Street office.

March 11: *The Girl on the Train* Paula Hawkins



It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved.

New!



Museum passes to **Harvard University Art Museums** are now available. The Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Arthur M. Sackler Museums are now in one new building. Thank you to the many FOWL members who responded to our request for level of interest in our trying this pass for a year. Seven daily passes, for two adults each, provide free admission. The museums are open daily but do close for most standard holidays.

Check the website www.harvardmuseums.org for current exhibits, hours, etc. Passes can be reserved for pickup in advance of visit by calling the Library at 508-636-1100.

You can help

Bring your Lees receipts to the Library. We earned \$3,000.00 in 2015, twice as much as in 2013. Thank you to **Lees** for supporting this program. Keep those receipts coming!

Volunteers Needed: Aspiring reporters or photographers for the newsletter

Contact Denise Micale dsmicale@gmail.com.



New to the Collection Highlights

Adult Fiction:

The Crossing Michael Connelly
Detective Harry Bosch has retired from the LAPD, but his half-brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller, needs his help.

A Banquet of Consequences Elizabeth George
Inspector Thomas Lynley investigates the London angle of an ever more darkly disturbing case while his partner, Barbara Havers, discovers a twisted world of desire and deceit.

Winter Stroll Elin Hilderbrand
Another Christmas on Nantucket finds Winter Street Inn owner Kelley Quinn reflecting on the past year as he writes a holiday letter to friends and family.

Avenue of Mysteries John Irving
John Irving returns to the themes that established him as one of our most admired and beloved authors in this absorbing novel of fate and memory.

Adult Nonfiction:

Sisters In Law Linda Hirshman
A fascinating story of the intertwined lives of Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first and second women to serve as Supreme Court justices.

The End of Memory Jay Ingram
Ingram writes a biography of the disease that attacks the brains of patients. It is a wicked disease that robs its victims of their memories, their ability to think clearly, and ultimately their lives.

Lights Out Ted Koppel
Ted Koppel reveals that a major cyberattack on America's power grid is not only possible but likely, that it would be devastating, and that the United States is shockingly unprepared.

The Witches: Salem, 1692 Stacy Schiff
As psychologically thrilling as it is historically seminal, *The Witches* is Stacy Schiff's account of this fantastical story of the first great American mystery unveiled fully by one of our most acclaimed historians.

My Kitchen Year Ruth Reichl
The 136 recipes collected here represent a life's passion for food.

Large Print Fiction:

The Last Midwife Sandra Dallas
A tale of family, desire, vengeance and betrayal that more than transcends the ordinary.

The Survivor Vince Flynn
A blistering novel that picks up where *The Last Man* left off, *The Survivor* is a no-holds-barred race to save America...and Mitch Rapp's finest battle.

Fear the Dark Kay Hooper
An SCU team investigates a troubling string of disappearances. But how do you find someone who has vanished without a trace?

Who Do You Love? Jennifer Weiner
An unforgettable story about true love, real life, and second chances.



Large Print Nonfiction:

Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear Elizabeth Gilbert
With profound empathy and radiant generosity, Gilbert offers potent insights into the mysterious nature of inspiration.

Lessons From Tara: Life Advice from the World's Most Brilliant Dog David Rosenfelt
If you are an animal rescuer, you will no doubt see yourself in the pages of this book

Adult DVDs:

George Gently series 7
Wolf Hall
Woman in Gold



New on Blu-Ray:

Lawrence of Arabia
Some Like It Hot
Sunset Boulevard



Adult Books on CD: Fiction

Make Me Lee Child
Depraved Heart Patricia Cornwell
Purity Jonathan Franzen



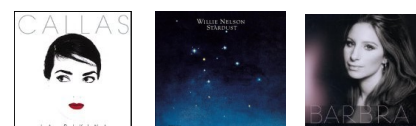
Adult Books on CD: Non-Fiction

Dark Matter and the Dinosaurs Lisa Randall
Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy Karen Abbott
Dead Wake: the last crossing of the Lusitania Erik Larson



Music CDs:

La Divina Maria Callas
Stardust Willie Nelson
The Ultimate Collection Barbra Streisand



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World of Books

Based on the Book

By Carol Vidal

I like a good “based on true events” movie especially if I really loved the book. The printed page is obviously more descriptive and detailed but the movie gives a visual context that brings alive the subject far more than does the imagination. Combining both gives me a better understanding of the story. Here are three movie/books worth considering.

The most recent film I saw was **Black Mass** based on the book of the same name by *Boston Globe* reporters Dick Lehr and Gerard O’Neill.

Although written several years ago and updated to reflect the recent capture, incarceration, and trial of Whitey Bulger, the film is true to the book. Johnny Depp’s portrayal of the nefarious and brutal Boston gangster should win him an Oscar nomination. This is not a feel good movie. The film shows two sides of Whitey Bulger; his loyalty to his Irish roots, family and friends on one side but on the other he’s a vicious, maniacal killer.

With the collusion of the FBI, Whitey Bulger was able to run free rein over the Greater Boston area for several years while the Bureau turned a blind eye to the murders taking place. The decision by the FBI to use Bulger as an informant had long lasting consequences. It was a deal with the devil.

Recently, I read the book **A Walk in the Woods**. The humor and easy style of the book mirrored the film perfectly. Bill Bryson’s book was written in the late 1990’s but it’s just making the big screen now. Middle-aged Bryson attempted to hike the 2100 plus mile Appalachian Trail by reading books about it. It is laughing out loud funny.

Bryson’s tongue in cheek writing style and facetious narrative mock the intensity and single mindedness of some hikers and the naiveté of others who don’t know what they are getting into. The film stars two veteran actors, Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. Both men are several years older than Bryson and his friend but their portrayal in the film works. Many people can identify with setting out on an adventure and finding that their dreams and reality are far apart. Bryson, an avid, disciplined walker and his friend, an overweight, undisciplined, reformed alcoholic, of course, inevitably conflict.

The movie **Woman in Gold** starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds piqued my interest enough to download the book on my Kindle. The movie is about Maria Altmann, an elderly Austrian woman living in California after fleeing the Nazis at a young age. She sued the Austrian government for the return of the family’s stolen artwork, a painting in particular, the *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer*. Both Maria and her lawyer discover that the Austrian government put every road block imaginable to prevent them from winning this landmark case. It is a story of persistence despite overwhelming odds. The book is the **Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustave Klimt’s Masterpiece**, by Anne-Marie O’Connor. The movie dealt with the pursuit of justice and the final outcome of the trial; the book went into much more detail about Maria’s family, life in Vienna and the artist, Gustave Klimt. After the annexation of Austria by Germany, the painting took a circuitous route through Nazi hands to finally hang on the walls of Vienna’s Belvedere Museum and to be considered the Mona Lisa of Austria.



Mystery Spotlight

Murder Italian Style

by Kate Kastner

Italy is a favorite setting for Whodunits. The regional food, art, customs, and locales become part of character development in the stories. The criminal justice system, police procedures, corruption, byzantine bureaucracy, organized crime, and plain murder offer bountiful plot lines.

Four heavy-hitter authors of English-language series set in contemporary Italy:

1. *Donna Leon* is an American and long-term resident of Venice where her Commissario Brunetti has starred in 24 titles so far. Brunetti is an all-round nice guy, but he deals with not so nice background topics like toxic waste dumping. Venice itself is a major character in the books, and travelers will easily recognize sites from the novels.
2. *Michael Dibdin* was British-American. He lived four years in Italy as a young man. His eleven Commissario Aurelio Zen novels are based in differing Italian locales including Rome, Perugia, and Naples. Zen is not an all-round nice guy, but an honest one. These novels are more terse than Leon’s and a bit darker.
3. *Iain Pears* is a British art historian. His series of seven art history mysteries feature a young British art historian, Jonathan Argyll, working in Rome with the (fictional) Italian Art Squad charged with recovering and preventing theft of Italian art treasures. His girlfriend Flavia di Stefano is the Squad’s primary detective. The plots are clever, and the depiction of the art business, legal and not, is informative.
4. The Italian author *Andrea Camilleri* has an 18-book series featuring Inspector Salvo Montalbano, a detective in the imaginary Sicilian town of Vigata. Food mad Montalbano is a crack detective with a fierce temper, and has comic relationships, especially with women. These (very popular in Europe) books have all been translated into English.

I have read most of these, never encountering a poor entry. I only regret that Dibdin is gone and Pears and Camilleri are disinclined to add to their series. Many titles are available from SAILS as audio books or TV adaptations on DVD.

There are many more authors with fewer titles each. Just google ‘mysteries set in Italy’.





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 programs. FOWL is the largest funding source for these purchases. In 2015, member dues and book sales contributed most of the \$25,000 donated 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:

- Boston Museum of Science
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Buttonwood Park Zoo
New Bedford Whaling Museum
New! Harvard University Art Museums

Bookstore at the Library located in the Library lobby

Summer Paperback Book Sale

Programs/Special Events

Annual Book Sale with Members’ Preview Night

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

Yes, I would like to volunteer. I am interested in:

_____ Book Sale Committee _____ PR/Marketing

It’s easy to donate or renew:

- 1) Mail: P.O. Box 3342, Westport, MA 02790
2) Drop off form and payment at Library

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Board Members:
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Vice President: Denise Micale
Leona Andrade: Book Sale Chair
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Treasurer: Ned Daniels
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