

What's New?

Helen E. Ellis Case:

April: Celebrate National Poetry Month: publications by local poets.

May: Anne Marie Faria shares crocheted items for needy people and pets.

June: Michael Habib shares a collection of Haitian statues.

On exhibit in the Manton Community Room:

April: Macomber second graders share sewing and designing skills from their two-year quilt project.

May: *Recent Work*
Photographer, Beth Easterly
Opening Thursday, May 5 6-8 p.m.

June: *The Golden Age Painters*
Westport COA drawing and painting class, instructor, Robert Abele

Tech Bytes

Keep your fines from accruing...go to "My Account" on the SAILS catalog and use a credit card to keep your account fine-free, allowing you to renew and place holds at your convenience.

Services

Free Wi-Fi
Magnifiers for Visually Impaired
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

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

Spring



Perspectives:

FOWL finished 2015 with a strong balance sheet, and we are on track to donate \$25,000 to the Library in 2016 as we did in 2015. Membership donations and book sale receipts are our major funding sources with an additional \$3,124 in 2015 from your Lees Market receipts. Thanks and applause to my fellow Library fans. The funds will be used for museum passes and children's programs, but most of it used to purchase books, CDs, and DVDs divided equally between adult and children/YA.

We have expanded our book donation period in 2016 to April through August. We will need returning and new volunteers to sort thousands of books and sell them at our Summer Paperback Sale and our huge September Annual Book Sale. Please check the **Events page** for more detail and the **'You can help'** column for volunteer opportunities to make these successful. More than twenty volunteers joined board members last year to help with the book sales. Many hands make light work and good fun.

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

Director's Update:

On a winter's day at the Lakeville Public Library, librarians, library trustees, and friends of libraries gathered with Representative Paul Schmid and legislators from forty area communities for the 4th Annual Southeastern Massachusetts Library Legislative Breakfast.

Our very own state senator, Michael Rodrigues, was the keynote speaker, followed by SAILS Network Administrator Debby Conrad, who described how the Commonwealth's library networks—and the library staffers and patrons who use them—provide the infrastructure of our library system.

Diane Carty, director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, described the still-unmet needs for investment in digital technologies, while a number of library directors shared success stories brought about by local and state funding. Library representatives and state legislators mingled throughout the event, sitting side-by-side as they discussed a variety of issues and potential solutions.

Your voice counts, especially when you tell your friends, family, and community why you love and value your library. And, as is evidenced by their attendance at this annual event, our legislators do care about what is happening in our community—and your hand-written note, email, or phone-call lets them know that you care.

You are also welcome to attend meetings of the Friends of Westport Library and the Library Board of Trustees—both are open to the public and those gathered there would love to hear from you. Together, we may all continue to benefit from the "Common"-wealth of resources at our fingertips.

Sue Branco, Library Director
sbranco@sailsinc.org

Kids' Corner

Preschool

Whose Truck? Toni Buzzeo
Interactive and educational, this one is a must for toddlers and preschoolers fascinated by trucks and the people who operate them.

Bunny Dreams Peter McCarthy
In bunny dreams, anything can happen but every bunny needs a cozy place to rest.

Big Friends Linda Sara
Birt and Etho are best friends. Together they play outside in big cardboard boxes but one day a new boy arrives. Can two become three?

Grades K-4

Waylon! One Awesome Thing Sara Pennypacker
Waylon has lots of ideas for making life more awesome through science, like teleportation, human gills, and attracting cupcakes by controlling gravity.

Ideas Are All Around Philip Stead
Thoughts open up to other thoughts, and ideas are born and carried forward, until they find that ideas really are all around, you just have to know what to do with them.

Grades 5-8

Maybe a Fox Kathi Appelt & Alison McGhee
A fantastical, heartbreaking, and gorgeous tale about two sisters, a fox cub, and what happens when one of the sisters disappears forever.

The Flinkwater Factor Pete Hautman
Ginger must save her high-tech hometown from robots gone rogue in this hilariously quirky science fiction novel.

Finding Someplace Denise Patrick
Reesie Boone just knows that thirteen is going to be her best year yet but on Reesie's birthday, everything changes. Hurricane Katrina hits her city.

This Side of Wild Gary Paulsen
Gary Paulsen is an adventurer who competed in two Iditarods, survived the Minnesota wilderness, and climbed the Bighorns. None of this would have been possible without his truest companion: his animals.

Young Adult

Passenger Alexandra Bracken
In one devastating night, violin prodigy Etta Spencer loses everything she knows and loves. She is thrust into an unfamiliar world by a stranger with a dangerous agenda.

The Distance From Me to You Marina Gessner
McKenna Berney is a lucky girl. She has a loving family and has been accepted to college for the fall. But McKenna has a different goal in mind: much to the chagrin of her parents, she defers her college acceptance to hike the Appalachian Trail.

Stand-off Andrew Smith
It's his last year at Pine Mountain. Ryan Dean is back to his boarding school antics in this sequel. He should be focused on his future, instead, he's haunted by his past.

Bitter Side of Sweet Tara Sullivan
Fifteen-year-old Amadou and his brother only wanted to make some money during the dry season to help their impoverished family. Instead they were tricked into forced labor on a plantation in the Ivory Coast.



A Chat with...John Medeiros, Westport Library Maintenance



By Denise Micale

You are the “behind the scenes” person who keeps this library physically up to snuff and welcoming to all of us. In terms of FOWL, you are also our secret weapon in getting the majority of our books for the fall booksale from the library over to our storage pod.

How long have you been here at the library?

It's hard to believe, but it's been eighteen years. My schedule is twenty hours here at the library and twenty hours at the Westport Council on Aging located on Reed Road. Many years ago, I went to junior high in that building. It's great that it is still in use.

Sounds like you might be a Westport native.

Actually, I was one-year-old when my family moved here. My dad was from Dartmouth and my mother from Fall River. My grandfather was a whaler in New Bedford who sailed for about five to ten years, then left to buy a farm in Dartmouth. I am number six out of seventeen children; most of them still live in the area. After high school, I was in the Army and went to Germany for a few years. My wife, Louise, and I have been married forty years.

Where did you pick up your skills for your work here?

Before working for the town, I worked at the Durfee Union Mills in Fall River doing maintenance and construction work. It was a challenging job in that it required a wide variety of different skills, including plumbing and even glazing those big windows found in old mills.

Do you have any hobbies or interests when you are away from work?

Listening to rock and roll music is one of my favorite things to do. I was fortunate to see Led Zeppelin in 1972; ten tickets in the fourth row cost a total of \$65. New England sports also interest me, especially the Patriots. In summertime, I enjoy being the grill master at our house.

Since you work here at the Library, I have to ask what you like to read.

I'm not much of a book reader, but do enjoy reading the *Standard Times* and the *Herald News*, especially the sports sections.

What is different and what has remained the same through the last eighteen years in your job here?

The weather is the thing that seems to have changed the most. Last year it was a big challenge to find a place for all that snow. The people are the same; we have great people here in Westport. I love working for the Town and never mind working hard in this job.

Like us on Facebook for news and upcoming events:

[facebook.com/westportfreepubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/westportfreepubliclibrary)



Events

FOWL Board Meetings:

Thursday, May 12 and Thursday, July 14. Both 6:30 pm, Community Room. Dates occasionally change. Please call the Library 508-636-1100 to confirm date if you plan to attend.

Save the dates:

5th Annual Summer Paperback Sale (adult fiction): July 25-August 5, Community Room during library hours. A great opportunity to find a few paperbacks to read in the last weeks of Summer. Many hundreds of books covering 3-4 tables. Includes the larger soft-covers, which is the format most new authors and literary fiction are published in today, as well as the familiar 'pocket' size. Potboiler or prize-winner, it will be there. Stock replenished often. All books \$1 - \$2.00.

BIG! FOWL's 2016 Annual Used Book Sale: Community Room. Members' Preview-Friday, September 9; Public Sale-Saturday, September 10 – Saturday, September 17 during library hours, but closes at 1 pm on 2nd Saturday. Over 8,000 books in 20 categories, fills entire Community Room. One of the largest sales in the area. Hundreds of children's books are \$.25 each to encourage reading. Others \$1 - \$2 plus a selection of specially-priced books.

New to the Library:

Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak



Sat. April 30 at 1 p.m. children ages three and up are invited to attend a special reading, movie, and craft program on the theme *Where the Wild Things Are*, led by David Mello. All ages are invited to the unveiling of his beautiful art on our wall. Refreshments will be served.

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 6 each session)

Saturday, April 2
Saturday, May 7
Saturday, June 4



Story Hour and Lap-Sit continues through the spring.

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 Brianna McAvoy, Facilitator, for more information at briannamcavoy@gmail.com.

April 8: Euphoria

Lily King



Based loosely on the life of anthropologist Margaret Mead. Well-respected and controversial, Nell Stone and her less than stellar husband meet Andrew Bankson, an English anthropologist in New Guinea. Conflict and romance result.

May 13: Brooklyn

Colm Toibin



Ellis Lacey has come of age in small-town Ireland in the hard years following World War Two. When an Irish priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor Ellis in America, she decides she must go.

June 10: Funny in Farsi

Firoozeh Dumas



This lighthearted memoir chronicles the author's move from Iran to America in 1971 at age seven, the antics of her extended family and her eventual marriage to a Frenchman.

You can help

FOWL Book Sale Donations April through August:

Donations accepted for our book sales. Donation bin will be in the lobby. Please; no encyclopedias, textbooks, law books, magazines, books in poor condition, VHS tapes, cassette tapes.

Volunteers Needed Annual Book Sale.

Help us sort donated books by category. We have honed the process to eliminate most heavy lifting. We ask for about three hours for each of two weeks in the April-August donation period. We train you (easy) and then you and your team-member decide who will work when. A side benefit is that you can immediately buy books that seize your interest at our bargain prices of \$1-\$2. It's fun. Contact Denise Micale at dsmicale@gmail.com.

Bring your **Lees receipts** to the Library—we earned \$3,148 in 2015. Thank you, Lees Market. Keep those receipts coming!

Volunteers Needed: Aspiring reporters or photographers for the newsletter

Contact Denise Micale at dsmicale@gmail.com.



New to the Collection Highlights

Adult Fiction:

The Swans of Fifth Avenue Melanie Benjamin
New York's "Swans" of the 1950's details the scandalous, headline-making, and enthralling friendship between literary legend Truman Capote and socialite Babe Paley.



After the Crash Michael Bussi
Just after midnight on December 23, 1980, a night flight bound for Paris plummets toward the Swiss Alps, crashing into a snowy mountainside. Within seconds flames engulf the plane, which is filled with holiday travelers. Of the 169 passengers, all but one perish.



After She's Gone Lisa Jackson
West Coast Series Book 3 delves into the deep bond between two sisters and their shared dream that becomes a harrowing nightmare of madness, hatred and jealousy.



The Man Without a Shadow Joyce Carol Oates
In 1965, neuroscientist Margot Sharpe meets attractive, charismatic Elihu Hoopes—the "man without a shadow"—whose devastated memory, unable to store new experiences or to retrieve old, will make him the most famous and studied amnesiac in history.



Adult Nonfiction:

SPQR: a History of Ancient Rome Mary Beard
Classicist Mary Beard narrates the unprecedented rise of a civilization that two thousand years later still shapes many fundamental assumptions about power, political violence, empire, luxury, and beauty.



The Road to Little Dribbling Bill Bryson
Nothing is more entertaining than Bill Bryson on the road and on a tear. *The Road to Little Dribbling* reaffirms his stature as a master of the travel narrative and a really, really funny guy.



Felicity: Poems Mary Oliver
With *Felicity* Oliver examines what it means to love another person. She opens our eyes to the territory within our own hearts; to the wild and to the quiet.



Adult Biography:

Maggie Smith Michael Coveney
No one does glamour, severity, girlish charm or tight-lipped witticism better than Dame Maggie Smith. Coveney's biography shines a light on the life and career of a truly remarkable performer, one whose stage and screen career spans six decades.



Young Elizabeth Kate Williams
A briskly written, admirably probing, and sympathetically voiced exploration of the elements that went into the formation of the woman we now know to be a very successful monarch.



Pudge: the Biography of Carlton Fisk Doug Wilson
A baseball superstar in the 1970's and 80's, Fisk was known not just for his dedication to the sport and tremendous plays but for the respect with which he treated the game.



Large Print Fiction:

Bertie's Guide to Life and Mothers Alexander McCall Smith
Newlywed painter and sometime somnambulist Angus Lordie might be sleepwalking his way into trouble with Animal Welfare when he lets his dog Cyril drink too much lager at the local bar. A 44 Scotland Street series.



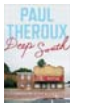
And Sometimes I Wonder About You Walter Mosley
Series Book 5 about the return of Leonid McGill, Walter Mosley's NYC-based private eye,

My Name Is Lucy Barton Elizabeth Strout
This extraordinary writer shows how a simple hospital visit becomes a portal to the most tender relationship of all—the one between mother and daughter.



Large Print Nonfiction:

Deep South Paul Theroux
Paul Theroux has spent fifty years crossing the globe, adventuring in the exotic, seeking the rich history and folklore of the far away in this tenth travel book.

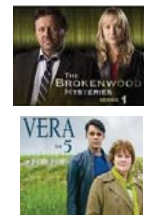


In This Together Ann Romney
When Mitt and Ann Romney met in their late teens, a great American love story began. Then, in 1998, Ann was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.



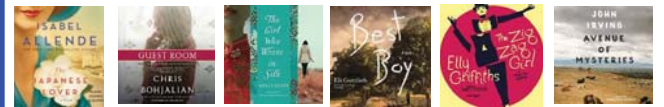
Adult DVDs:

Brokenwood Mysteries series 1
Doc Martin series 7
Home Fires
Vera series 5



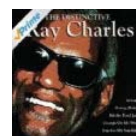
Adult Books on CD: Fiction

The Japanese Lover Isabel Allende
The Guest Room Chris Bohjalian
The Girl Who Wrote in Silk Kelli Estes
Best Boy Eli Gottlieb
The Zig Zag Girl Elly Griffiths
The Avenue of Mysteries John Irving



Music CDs:

The Distinctive Ray Charles
Riding With the King B.B. King and Eric Clapton
Greatest Hits 2 Toby Keith
Sunday Morning : classical music collection (3 discs)





World of Books

Untoward Garden Books: A Sampler

By Suze Craig, Westport resident and Editor, @ the Library

Spring, and the mind turns dirtward. Gardening authors abound but these three merit special attention.

Sharon Lovejoy delights in compendiums. Her expertise covers both indoor and outdoor gardening, accent on the latter. Last summer, I would have given my eyeteeth for a tip I winnowed this winter out of her *Trowel and Error: Over 700 Shortcuts, Tips, & Remedies for the Gardener*.

To trap the Sunomo wrestler groundhog that nightly decapitated our carrot tops and lima bean seedlings all I should have done was place in the Have-A-Heart not peanut butter and Fluff (to which he eventually succumbed), but rather, writes Lovejoy, a few choice lettuce leaves topped with pure (therefore expensive) vanilla extract. Would have had far fewer moribund carrots and spent less time swearing and rebaiting the trap.

Another interesting writer is Carol Deppe, who gardens (with a lethal peasant hoe and a degree in molecular genetics) in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Consult her *The Tao of Vegetable Gardening: Cultivating Tomatoes, Greens, Peas, Beans, Squash, Joy and Serenity* for, among other matters, a list of the most flavorful tomatoes, arranged by maturity time and late blight resistance. Like many of us who enjoy peak of season tomatoes, she's especially concerned by the ever increasing late blight scourge.

And hooray, she waves the flag for the lazy gardener. There's a special section labeled "On Not Tilling, Digging, Mowing, or Tending Absolutely Everything"; what a relief that someone, in print no less, thinks as I occasionally, exhaustedly, do.

For a tongue in cheek assessment of the gardening experience, find Karel Capek's *The Gardener's Year*, published in 1931, translated from the original Czech and as witty and apt today as it was then. Even non-gardeners will find him amusing and instructive. For those who struggle to put away garden tools as winter looms his hose discourse is particularly poignant. "...until it has been tamed a hose is an extraordinarily evasive and dangerous beast, for it contorts itself; it jumps, it wriggles, it makes puddles of water, and dives with delight into the mess it has made; then it goes for the man who is going to use it and coils itself round his legs; you must hold it down with your foot and then it rears and twists round waist and neck, and while you are fighting with it as with a cobra, the monster turns up its brass mouth and projects a mighty stream of water through the windows on to the curtains which have been recently hung."

You can find all the above in either SAILS or the Commonwealth Catalog, or to those in the know, the ComCat.

Mystery Spotlight

Lee Child

By Carol Vidal

Upon hearing numerous praises (mostly from men) about Lee Child's novels, I decided to try his first book out of curiosity but with no great expectations. I thought this would be another "guy" book with lots of explosions, murders and espionage; the sort of books in the same vein as Clive Cussler. Since I mainly favor female mystery writers, this was definitely branching out on my part. Sometimes it's good to try something different.

Now that I've read a few of Child's books I find that I prejudged Lee Child too harshly. Child's books are based on one person, Jack Reacher. The name Jack Reacher may make you think of the movies with Tom Cruise but the fictional Reacher is a 6 foot 5 inch, 230 pound, former military policeman who drifts around the country inevitably running into all manner of situations. Reacher has a strong moral compass and a penchant for finding trouble.

Since Reacher was a former military policeman, he is expert in crime solving. He is a rough and ready type of guy who is thrust into a civilian world he doesn't quite understand or fit into. He's accustomed to the military way and rules but now must deal with situations in the unstructured real world as best he can. With no obligations and commitments, Reacher is his own person and not swayed by others. He travels with no suitcase, only the clothes on his back and a toothbrush in his pocket. Each novel draws on Reacher's ability to analyze and react to the mystery that confronts him.

Child's books do not necessarily have to be read in order but I would recommend it. I began with his first novel, *Killing Floor* published in 1997. Each book has a new premise so each novel can also be read as a stand alone also. *Killing Floor* is a good place to start because it gives the reader an overview of the details about Reacher's life that carry over to the other books.

Child's novels are entertaining and well written. I look forward to the next book in the series. They are definitely worthy of consideration. If you like them, there is no shortage of books since the latest book *Make Me* is number twenty.



For a complete list go to: <http://www.leechild.com/>



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 2014, member dues and book sales contributed over \$17,000 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: _____

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