

Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library Newsletter

ALL the News
That Fits
We Print

July 2024

Co-Presidents: Cindy Colicchio and Christine Mason

Prepared by Michael Miller and Jerry Skotnicki www.fwmlnj.org

2024-2025 Officers Elected

The following individuals were elected to serve as the Executive Committee for the Friends during the year starting July 1, 2024. Congratulations to all!

Co-President - Cindy Colicchio

Co-President - Christine Mason

Vice President - Dona Teschner

Treasurer - Debbie Bailey

Asst. Treasurer - Camille Hayden

Recording Secretary - Fran Lemberg

Corresponding Secretary - Harriet Davidson

Executive Committee Advisor - Mary Ellen

O'Boyle, Harriet Davidson



L to R: Camille Hayden, Debbie Bailey, Harriet Davidson, Dona Teschner, Fran Lemberg, Christine Mason, Cindy Colicchio, Mary Ellen O'Boyle

Friends' Attend Performance of Water For Elephants



On June 12, 2024, a group from the the Friends travelled into Manhattan for the Friends' annual Spring Trip to attend a performance of Water For Elephants which attendees.

found both creative and highly entertaining! Prior to the matinee they enjoyed lunch at Café Un Deux Trois

Upcoming Events

August 6: Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

August 20: Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

September 9: Friends of the WML Board Meeting

September 10: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

September 24: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

October 7: Friends of the WML Board Meeting

October 8: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

October 9: Hale Speaker Series: Lauren Barr
"The Longevity of the Westfield Leader"

October 16: Met Opera Program; Tesori's
Grounded

October 22: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

Children's and Teen's Book Sale
October 19-22 Donation Days
October 23-27 Sale Days

October 31: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

November 4: Friends of the WML Board Meeting

November 13: Met Opera Program; Puccini's La Boheme

November 13 Hale Speaker Series: Dan Lynch
"The Business of Professional Sports"

Jerry Skotnicki Recipient of Gaston Award



Friends board member Jerry Skotnicki was awarded the Friends Gaston Award at the June 2024 meeting and awards luncheon. The board recognized Jerry for his outstanding contributions to the Westfield Memorial Library. A former President and Vice-President of the Friends, and chair of the

Long-Range Planning Committee, Jerry currently oversees the Museum Pass Program, is Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee and serves as Co-Editor of the Friends Newsletter. Jerry has co-chaired the annual Spring Book Sale, the Jigsaw Puzzle Sales, including the ongoing "Pop-Up" Puzzle Sale, volunteered at the Children's Book Sale, the Jewelry Sale and coordinated special projects, such as volunteer outreach and the purchase of the Friends storage shed. The Gaston Award, which had not been awarded for nine years, was named for Kenneth Gaston, the first president of the Board of Trustees, and recognizes individuals who are instrumental in supporting the library, promoting it to the Westfield Community and making extraordinary contributions to its overall mission. The board voted unanimously to recognize Jerry for his numerous activities on behalf of the library and his ongoing dedication to the library.

During the Award Ceremony, Harriet Davidson, Co-President of the Friends, and Allen McGinity, Director of the Westfield Memorial Library, offered remarks praising Jerry for his dedication to service, his spirit of volunteerism and his sense of humor. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon honoring Jerry and several former members of the Friends Board who had recently "retired"



Library Friends Award Scholarship



Congratulations to Nadia Szilagyi, the 2nd recipient of the Annual Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library Scholarship. This year represents the 20th anniversary of the program.

Ms. Szilagyi currently works in the Reference Department as an Intern / Reference Librarian at the Westfield Memorial Library. She has previous library experience at the Garwood Public Library. Nadia received a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and French from Montclair State University in 2023. Nadia is a fulltime student in the ALA -accredited Master of Library and Information Sciences program at Drexel University. In the summer quarter (#4 of 5), she is taking three required courses: 1) Digital Library Technologies; 2) Academic Library Service; 3) Capstone Project.



The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library offer scholarships to Westfield Residents or those working in Westfield. Recipients must be enrolled in credit-bearing courses in library science or/and related topics. Information and

applications are available at the WML library foyer or by contacting Scholarship Committee co-chairperson, Dr. Jerauld Skotnicki at jskotn@verizon.net.

This Spring, the board expanded the scholarship program to provide funds for current Westfield Memorial Library staff to attend professional conferences or to take continuing education courses to enhance their professional development and increase their value to the library. The Friends will work with the Director of the Library to identify appropriate courses and/or conferences, in accordance with library and town policy, and provide funding to defray the costs for up to three individuals to participate annually.

Former Board Members Honored for their Service



Left to right: Eileen Moritz-Spitler, LKynn Bilman, Judy Musacchia, Gaston Awardee Jerry Skotnicki, Tina Lesher and Kevin Weist. Not pictured: Pat Bonardi, Alice Dillon, Barbara GFoldberg and Gina Lyyunik.

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library are governed by a board which directs all of the activities of the Friends in support of the library, raises thousands of dollars annually for capital and programmatic improvements and funds ongoing programs such as the Winter Children's programs, the Museum Pass Program, the Scholarship Program and other activities. None of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of the members of the Board. Over the past few years a number of former board members have "retired" Sharing the Warmth, Friends Knitting Group from active service and the current board members recognized their contributions with Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts on behalf of the Community. Those who attended the awards luncheon included Lynn Bilman, who chaired the Children's Programs held on Saturday mornings each Winter for many years; Tina Lesher, who first joined the Friends board in 1977 and who chaired the Scholarship Committee and served on the Hale Speaker Series Committee; Eileen Moritz-Spitler who served as chair of the Membership committee and oversaw the annual membership drive; Judy Musacchia, who was responsible for writing, editing, publishing and distributing this newsletter; and Kevin Weist, who oversaw the establishment of the Friends YouTube Channel (fwmlnj).

Unable to attend but equally appreciated for their contributions were **Debbie Blum**, former chair of the Children's Book Sale and of the By-Laws Review committee; **Pat Bonardi**, a former President and Chair of the Book Discussion Group; **Alice Dillon** who served on the board for many years, is a recipient of the Gaston

Award and continues to serve on Special Projects; **Barbara Goldberg**, who served as Co-Chair of the Children and Teen Book Sale held each Fall; and **Gina Lyyunik** who served on the Nominations and Hospitality Committees. The board expresses its gratitude and that of the Westfield Memorial Library for their many contributions.

Several members of the Board have announced their intention to leave the board after many years of service, including **Carol Skotnicki**, outgoing Corresponding Secretary and former chair of the Books on Wheels committee and co-chair of both the inaugural Jewelry Sale, and the project to redecorate the Children's section of the Library, **Diane Weinberg**, chair of the Sharing the Warmth committee, and **Mary Wislocki**, former Vice-President and chair of the Book Discussion group,. We thank them for their contributions to the making the Westfield Memorial Library a vital part of the Westfield Community.

We would also like to welcome several new members who have joined the board in recent weeks. **Alex Liu**, **Bernice Luce**, **ChiWei Ranck**, **Velvet Rogers**, **Eileen Silverman** and **Bernadette Tivenen** have all agreed to serve on the Friends' board and we thank them in advance for their efforts to support the library!

Sharing the Warmth, Friends Knitting Group



L to R: Bernadette Tivenen, Hannah Luieberman, Janet DeFiore, Diane Qweinberg, Jean Gogolin

The Friends' knitting group, Sharing the Warmth, meets at the library throughout the year and produces Afghans with yarn provided by the Friends and which are distributed to local charities. The group has been chaired by Diane Weinberg, who is retiring from the board and will be replaced by Bernadette Tivenen.

2023-2024 by the Numbers

Children's and Teen's Book Sale

- Committee: 4 members
- Volunteers: >40
- Donation/Set up Days: 5
- Sale Days: 5
- Books Donated: —9,000
- Customers: >300
- Gross Sale Proceeds: \$5,369.25

Spring Book Sale

- Committee: 4 members
- Volunteers: 60 (+ 4 chairpersons)
- Donation/Set up Days: 9.5
- Sale Days: 5
- Books Donated/Sorted: >25,000
- Attendees: 1,015
- Gross Sale Proceeds: \$17,017.75

Jigsaw Puzzle Sale

- Committee: 2 members ° Volunteers: >25
- Donation Days: 3
- Sale Days: 2
- Puzzles Donated: > 1,150
- Gross Sale Proceeds: \$3,230
- Pop-Up Sale Proceeds: \$2,475

Nearly New Jewelry Sale

- Committee: 2 members
- Volunteers: >30 (+WHS volunteers)
- Donation Days: 5/1/23 to 11/1/23
- Sale Days: 2
- Pieces Donated/Sorted: >3,000
- Gross Sale Proceeds: \$11,309

Little Free Libraries

- Committee: 1 member
- Replenishing: 52 weeks, 2week shifts
- Volunteers: 20, 6 people doing multiple shifts
- Friends' LFL serviced: 7

Museum Pass Program

- Committee: 1 member
- Museums Available: 23
- Museums with no pass but discounted admission with WML card: 2
- Passes Distributed: 638
- Funding from Friends: \$8,404

Books on Wheels

- Committee: 1 member
- Bimonthly Deliveries: 26
- Volunteers: 18, with 8 doing multiple deliveries
- Participants: 5 — 8 each delivery

Opera Series *(coordinated by the Friends)*

- Committee: 1 member
- Operas Attended: 7
- Subscriptions: 15 Full + 7 shared by 13 people

Special Projects — Initiated or updated 2023-2024

(funded by the Friends)

- Lucky Day Book Shelf: \$9,000
- Storage Lockers: \$14,000
- Year long Visual Arts Programming for Seniors: \$5000.
- Native Seed Library: \$4000
- \$23, 000 Funding by Friends, 2022-3

Special Projects — Community Outreach

- Lifelong Westfield Senior Services Fair: September 29, 2023 (25 exhibitors)
- MLK Day of Service Volunteer Fair: January 14, 2024 (13 exhibitors)
- Westfield Free Market: April 20, 2024
- Exam week study supplies from the Friends: June, 2024

Saturday Children's Programs (January through March, June)

- Programs: 13
- Participants: 480 children
- Participants: 457 adults
- Funding from Friends: \$5,280

Newsletters

- Committee: 3 members
- Newsletters Published: 5
- Articles: 51
- Contributors: 39
- Distribution (Mailing): 26
- Distribution (Library Newsstand): —75
- Distribution (Books on Wheels):
- Distribution (Electronic): >500

Book Discussion Group

- Committee: 5 members
- Discussions: 4
- Selection Process: —40 books pared down, then to the final 4
- Participants: 12 — 18 per discussion

Hale Speaker Series

- Committee: 5 members
- Lectures: 4
- Total Attendance: 331
- You Tube views to date (2 of 4 lectures): 139

Broadway Trip Program

(coordinated by the Friends)

- Committee: 1 member
- Broadway Trip / Luncheon: 1
- Total Attendance: 18

Share the Warmth

- Committee: 1 member
- Meetings: 24
- Contributors: 10-20
- Afghans: >25
- Funding from Friends: \$250

Membership

- Committee: 5 members
- Current Membership: 250 '
- Other volunteers (for campaign mailing): 12

Publicity

- Committee: 2 members
- Distribution Outlets: 13
- Articles: 25
- Social Media: >50 postings

Website

- Committee: 2 members
- Updated: As necessary

Scholarship

- Committee: 2 members
- Scholarships Awarded: 2
- Funding from Friends: \$9, 156

Friends of WML Board

- Membership: 32 (including 10 on the
- Executive Board)
- Emeritus Members: 2
- Meetings: 10
- Committees: 25

MLK Day of Service



L to R: Michael Miller, Harriet Davidson, Camille Mary Ellen
Jerry Skotnicki

Westfield Free Market



L to R: Marcy Lechner, Cindy Colicchio,
O'Boyle

Hale Speaker Series



Timothy Rub
A Life in Museums
Floor to
Hardwoods



Jim Kossler
The FBI vs the Cosa Nostra



Jay Hershey
A Career in the News -
Thrills, Chills and Ink Spills



Joe Vaszili
From the Trading
the College

2024 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



L to R: the Best Volunteers in Westfield!

Co-Chairs of the Spring Book Sale



L to R: Audrey Zavitz, Amy Berman, Michelle Martin, Satisfied Customer
Laura Skidmore
Jigsaw Puzzle Sale



Morticia Reads a story at the
Children's & Teen Book Sale
Durinmg AddfamsFest



Another
of the Friend'

Inaugural Jewelry Sale November 2023



Books, Books, Books!



Establishment of the WML Native Seed Library LifeLong Westfield Senior Fair



L to R: Allen McGinley, Roz Guitetta, Harriet Davidson, Cindy Colicchio, Jennifer Schulze



Seated: Michael Miller, Harriet Davidson,
Standing: Jerry Skotnicki, Audrey Zavitz,
Jennifer Schulze, Roz Guidetta



Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library Board of Directors

June 2024