

# Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library Newsletter

## Late Spring 2025 Edition

**ALL the News  
That Fits  
We Print**

Co-Presidents: Cindy Colicchio and Christine Mason

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[www.fwmlnj.org](http://www.fwmlnj.org)



## A Great Friends Year Thank You

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Committee, all committee chairpersons, the rest of the board and our entire membership for a job well done. This has been an exciting and robust year, and we have accomplished a great deal. From recently initiated, to the most mature, a full and diverse spectrum of programs was supported by the Friends. We have expanded the Scholarship and Awards Program, to include a WML staff enrichment component and for High School Seniors in Westfield, Saturday morning children's programming, as well as adding 7 museums to our Museum Pass portfolio, which now totals 28. In February, we sponsored a month long Black History Month Celebration in partnership with the MLK Jr. Society of Westfield, and WML. This ambitious program was very successful and well received. Our Annual Spring Booksale was once again very successful and was especially significant since it represented the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sale (see article within).

All of our fundraising activities continue to evolve and proved to be capable of withstanding challenges successfully. Importantly, these fundraising activities are also "fun-raisers" and provide a conduit for our experienced volunteers to return and an inviting platform for new members to join our team.

We are grateful for the support and patience of the WML staff. We sincerely thank all the volunteers who have made our programs successful and to all patrons of the events that are sponsored by the Friends.

Cindy Colicchio and Christine Mason, Co-Presidents

## Upcoming Events

May 19: Friends Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

May 20: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

May 21: Book Discussion Group - *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker (see article within)

May 28: Friends Bus Trip to Broadway  
*Death Becomes Us*

June 3: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

June 9: Friends of the WML Board Annual Meeting

June 17: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

July 8: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

July 22: Friends Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

## **BOLO: FALL PREVIEW**

**Children's & Teens' Booksale**

**Hale Speaker Series**

**Met Opera Program**

**Book Discussion Group**

**& Much More**

## **Nominations for Officers 2025-2026**

The following slate of candidates for Friends' officers for next year was announced at the May 12 Board Meeting. The final vote will occur at the Friends' Annual Meeting (June 9).

Co-President - Christine Mason

Co-President—Lori Wendler

Vice President—Joan Sanborn

Treasurer—Alexander Liu

Asst. Treasurer - Camille Hayden

Recording Secretary - Fran Lemberg

Corresponding Secretary - Harriet Davidson

Advisors: Cindy Colocchio and Harriet Davidson

## **Another Sale for the Books!**

The 50<sup>th</sup> FWML Book Sale opened on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to members of the Friends and closed with Bag Day on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. We processed over 900 transactions totaling \$17.7K in sales. All proceeds will go back to our outstanding library. Overall, we occupied the meeting room from Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> for set up through Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> for the final clean-up.

50 years of anything is a pretty amazing feat, so we gathered on Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup> for a little reception to congratulate all those who volunteered on all current and previous sales, as well as to thank the entire staff of the library who worked around us taking over the wing. Even though we are all over the place, borrow scissors that we don't return, and get in their way as they try to get to or from work, they still cheer us on every day. They promote the donation and sale days

throughout their platforms, help us organize the room, answer many phone call questions and even buy books from us! We couldn't ask for better partners.

We were extremely lucky during donation days; we had great weather for most of it; only on our last day did it pour for the final 15 minutes while we were accepting books. For opening night on Wednesday, we also had great weather, which allowed us to have additional cashiers outside as well as a bag check area where vendors could store their bags and continue shopping. By keeping their bags off the floor, it kept the selling area free and clear to walk around and shop. Even showers on Bag Day didn't dampen enthusiasm.

This year we made some changes. We raised the price of adult hardcovers from \$2 to \$3, and adult paperbacks from \$1.50 to \$2.00. Prices had not been raised in at least six years so we felt it was worth a shot. Even though we processed 95 fewer transactions, we still increased our sales over last year by \$662. We also moved the shelving out of the closet for classic titles and the Fine Arts categories to the main room and hallway, to make the books more accessible to more people at any given time.

In addition to the support from the library, we couldn't have had the sale without the support of the Westfield Board of Ed, Westfield Fire Department, the Westfield High School Community Service Club, the Westfield Public Information Office, the Westfield Department of Public Works and the 60+ volunteers who showed up to help. Volunteers came from the Friends, from WHS and from friends of Friends. We couldn't have done it without all of them.

Special thanks to Debbie Bailey and Alex Liu for their help each day; to Barbara Uhr for her talented sign making; to Marcy Lechner for promoting the sale day in and day out, and to Jerry Skotnicki and Billie Baron who volunteered for 18 and 11 slots respectively (and then some) during the sale.

We are grateful and thankful for all of you.



## BOOKS ON WHEELS

Books on Wheels (BOW) is a service provided by both the Friends of the Library and the Library staff. If you are, or know of, a Westfield resident who is unable to get to the library, temporarily or permanently, we will bring library materials to your home. A volunteer will pick up and deliver these materials to your doorstep on alternating Fridays. The schedule for BOW volunteer deliverers for the remainder of 2025 are:

May 23 – Gale Jacob

June 6 – Jerry Skotnicki

June 20 – Jerry Skotnicki

July 3 – Edith Konopka

July 18 – Mallary Saltzman

August 1 – John Boyle

August 15 – Mary Ellen O'Boyle

August 29 – Dona Teschner

September 12 – Mary Ellen O'Boyle

September 26 – Tara McGroddy

October 10 – Tara McGroddy

October 24 – Lorre Korecky

November 7 – Edith Konopka

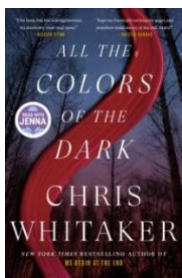
November 21 – Andrea Silkowitz

December 5 – Barbara Nelson

December 19 – Mallary Saltzman

Book Discussion Group: May 21 at 2:00

**Book Discussion Group:  
May 21 @2:00**



*All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker is a sprawling, multi-generational story set in the Ozarks, following two childhood friends, Patch and Saint, whose lives are irrevocably changed by a traumatic event, leading to a decades-long search for answers and a complex love story. The novel's themes include women's struggle for autonomy, the lasting effects of trauma, and the search for identity.

p.s. it's supposed to be really good!

## **The Friends' Board: Meet Linnea Rhodes**



Meet Linnea Rhodes. Linnea worked for ten years for Norcross Greeting Cards before becoming the office manager of the Westfield Day Care Center, where she eventually became Executive Director. An accomplished artist, she began rendering pictures of homes for their owners and local realtors

for their marketing campaigns. She specializes in landscapes, cityscapes, architectural details and botanicals and has a series of paintings of iconic scenes of Westfield, Cranford and other locations in Union County, as well as Fire Island and several cities in Europe and has participated in countless art shows. Her works can be viewed at [www.LinneaRhodes.artspan.com](http://www.LinneaRhodes.artspan.com)

But to those who value the Westfield Memorial Library, she is the heart and soul of the Friends. Linnea has been on the Board of the Friends for two decades, has served several terms as President and is a recipient of the Gaston Award for service to the Library. In 2008 she launched the Friends' Museum Pass program, one of the first such programs in New Jersey, with a roster of five museums, which has grown to 28 museums today, among largest in New Jersey. She has helped several other Friends groups start similar programs in their libraries.

When Jerry Glasser donated a grant in Anne Hale's name, Linnea worked with Lee Hale to establish the Hale Speaker Series. Linnea currently works with Barb Hale and several members of the community and the Friends Board to identify speakers

who reside in Westfield or have a strong connection to the town who can provide informative, inciteful, interesting and humorous talks with special appeal to local residents. Today, the Hale Speaker Series has four events a year in the Spring and Fall.

Linnea embodies all that the Friends and the Library stand for: culture, intellectual discourse and service to the community and those of us who serve with her on the Board are proud to call her Friend.



## 2025 Friends 50th Annual Book Sale



The Friends Book Sale is our Happy Place!



So Many Books...So Little Time!



Hunting for bargains at the Friends' Book Sale!



These should get me to the weekend!



Has anybody seen my book?