

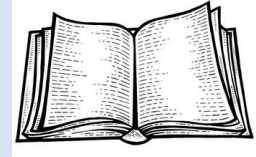
Fall 2025



THE OPEN BOOK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF
THE WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Vol. 1, No. 1



Upcoming Events

October 7: Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

October 14: Friends Board Meeting

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October 15: Hale Speaker Series:

Chief Christopher Battiloro "The
Westfield Police Department: Crime and
Public Safety in Our Town"

October 15: Met Opera Program; Don Giovanni
(Mozart)

Children's and Teens' Book Sale

October 18-22 Donation Days

October 23-26 Sale Days

October 21: Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

November 4: Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

November 5: Met Opera Program; Carmen
(Bizet)

November 8: Sharing the Warmth Knitting Club

November 10: Friends Board Meeting

November 19: Hale Speaker Series: Stafanie
Lalor

"The Artist Frammer"



Editors' Corner

Welcome to the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library redesigned newsletter, **The Open Book**. As with our prior version, we will inform you of upcoming events, report on recent activities and highlight the various programs and projects undertaken by the Friends.

We will publish regular columns explaining who the Friends are, how we operate and how you can become more involved. We will offer profiles of our members, the members of our Board, library staff and others who help make the Westfield Memorial Library among the best in the state.

We will have periodic articles explaining how each of our committees and their programs work and explain volunteer opportunities for those who wish to take a more active role in the Friends. We would like to hear your feedback on the redesigned newsletter, any suggestions you may have for articles in future issues, and for programs you would like to see offered by the Friends. We would even like to publish your letters to the editor to give you a voice in **The Open Book**. Our mail address is newsletterfwml@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you!



THE OPEN BOOK STAFF

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Who Are the Friends? The Board of Directors

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library has over 200 members who support the library and the Westfield community through financial aid and volunteer service. The Friends support enhance the library's literary and cultural offerings.

The Friends are led by a Board of Directors which raises funds, allocates resources and designs and administers programs. The Board has about 30 volunteer members who serve as officers or chairs or serve on one or more committees that oversee the work of the Friends. The standing committees include Art, Awards, Book Discussion Group, Books on Wheels, By-Laws, Children & Teen Book Sale, Children's Programs, Hale Speaker Series, Historian, Hospitality, Little Libraries, Membership, Museum Pass, Newsletter, Nominations, Opera, Publicity, Puzzle Sale, Scholarships, Senior Programs, Share the Warmth, Spring Book Sale, Special Projects, and Trips. Each of these committees is chaired or co-chaired by one or more members of the Board, with additional members serving as committee staff temporary committees may be established for special programs. All members of the Board are required to serve on one or more of these committees and are expected to volunteer to help at the various fund-raising events. The Board has several long-serving members who have emeritus status and are not required to chair one of the committees but whose experience allows them to provide a unique perspective to their fellow Board members. New members of the Board serve at-large, without a specific assignment for the first year to allow them to become familiar with Board operations.

The Board meets monthly from September through June on the second Monday of the month at 9:30 am in the library's meeting room, unless otherwise scheduled. These meetings are open to all members of the Friends. Each chair gives a report on his or her committee's work and the progress of any programs or events for which it is responsible. In addition to the committee reports, the Board also reviews and approves the minutes of the prior meeting, receives a financial report from the Treasurer and an update from the Library Director or his representative. All funds expended on behalf of the library are approved by the Board. The meetings generally last one to two hours. In the next issue we will discuss the work and responsibilities of the various committees.

Friends Honor Deborah Bailey with 2025 Kenneth S. Gaston Award

At the start of the first meeting of the 2025-2026 year, held on September 8th, the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library presented Board member Deborah Bailey with its' 2025 Kenneth S. Gaston Award and held a breakfast in her honor. The annual award was created in memory of Kenneth S. Gaston, a past member and president of the library Board of Trustees and is awarded periodically to an individual in recognition of significant service to the Westfield community via the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library.



Deborah Bailey epitomizes a singular philosophy that is the essence of the ideals the Gaston Award was created to recognize: service to the community. She has long been a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends and has served as Treasurer and Executive Committee member for more than a decade. In addition to serving as steward of the Friends funds, she has served in a similar capacity for the related Hale Speaker Series and Francis Halada Fund, both administered by the Friends. Deborah has a long history of service to the Westfield Community beyond the Friends. She is the daughter of former Westfield Mayor Charles P. Bailey and volunteers at the Miller-Cory House and at Mobile Meals of Westfield.

In presenting the award to Debbie, fellow board member Michael Miller stated, "Her dedication to serving her community, as well as her warm personality and sense of humor, make Debbie a friend of not only the Library but to all who are fortunate enough to know her."

Our Next Meeting

Due to the library being closed for Columbus Day, the next meeting of the Board of the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library will be Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the library's meeting room at 9:30 am.

We want to Hear From You

We want to give you the opportunity to have your opinions heard. Please let us know what you like (or don't like) about The Open Book, how you like the programs offered by the Friends and what additional programs you would like to see offered. If you have questions about how to volunteer at our book sales, puzzle sales or any of other activities, just ask. We would like The Open Book to provide a means of two-way communication between the membership and the leadership of the Friends.

Follow the Friends on Social Media



The Open Book is published approximately five times a year and provides the latest information on the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library and the programs it offers. But

it is not the only source of information on the Friends. The Friends website (www.fwmhj.org) has loads of information on our programs, activities, volunteer opportunities and much, much more!

In addition to our newsletter and website the Friends are on Facebook with announcements of upcoming activities and pictures of recently held events and the Friends have an account on Instagram as well.

Book Discussion Group



On September 17, the group discussed "James" by Percival Everett is a historical fiction novel that reimagine Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" from the perspective of Jim, the enslaved man. It follows Jim's escape from slavery in Missouri as he desperately seeks to reunite with

his wife and daughter, who have been sold away. The narrative explores themes of freedom, identity, and the complexities of race and relationships in pre-Civil War America.

Westfield Chief of Police Christopher Battiloro to Give Hale Speaker Series Talk

With autumn in the air, the final two Hale Speaker Series talks of 2025 are not far off. First up is Westfield Chief of Police Christopher Battiloro on October 15th.



Chief Battiloro was born and raised in Westfield and after graduating from Westfield High School, went on to Clemson University, where he graduated with a

degree in history in 1995. He joined the Westfield Police Department as a 9-1-1 Public Safety Telecommunicator and in 1997, he was appointed as a Police Officer and attended the John A. Stabler Police Academy of Union County, graduating at the top of his class.

As a Police Officer, he was assigned to the Union County Prosecutor's Office newly-formed High Tech Task Force which investigated crimes committed using computers and other emerging technologies. In 2001, he was named Union County Municipal from among 2,000 municipal police officers in Union County. In addition, the Chief has received two Life Saving Awards, four Command Citations, two unit citations and four Certificates of Merit over the course of his career.

He was promoted to Sergeant in 2006, Lieutenant in 2008 and Captain in 2013, when he was assigned to supervise the Westfield Police Department's Operations Division. Chief Battiloro also serves as Westfield's Emergency Management Coordinator. He was appointed as Westfield's tenth Chief of Police in December, 2018.

Chief Battiloro's family has a long history of service in the public safety arena. His father, Paul A. Battiloro, Jr. formerly served as Westfield's Fire Chief. Chief Battiloro's presentation, "The Westfield Police Department: Crime and Public Safety in Our Town", will be held in the Library's meeting room at 7:00-m on Wednesday, October 15th.

On November 19th, artist and owner of The Artistic Framer in Cranford, Stefanie Lalor will present the final Hale Speaker Series talk of 2025. More about that event in our next issue

Children's and Teens' Book Sale is Around the Corner

The 17th Annual Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library Children's and Teens' Book Sale is coming! Sale dates are Thursday, October 23rd through Sunday, October 26th. Prices will range from \$.50 to \$2.00 for board books, paperbacks and hardcovers.

We will be accepting donations on the following days:

Saturday, October 18th from 1 to 4 pm

Sunday, October 19th from 1 to 4 pm

Monday, October 20th from 10 am to 3 pm

Tuesday, October 21st from 10 am to 3 pm

Wednesday, October 22nd from 10 am to noon

We can only accept children's and teens' books, CDs and DVDs. We cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, VHS tapes, vinyl records or materials for adults.

In addition to raising money for the Friends, all of which is used to support programs at the library, the sale is a great way to get books for your kids, grandkids or students at very low prices. There is always a large variety of non-fiction subjects and fictional characters from which to choose.

The Members Only evening will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd from 5 to 8 pm. The rest of the sale dates are:

Thursday, October 23rd from 10 am to 8 pm - Teachers receive a 50% discount

Friday, October 24th from 10 am to 4 pm - Teachers receive a 50% discount

Saturday, October 25th from 10 am to 4 pm - Half-Price Day

Sunday, October 26th from 1 to 3 pm - Bag Day - fill up a bag with books for \$10

If you would like to volunteer for set-up, donation sorting, sale assistant or clean-up, the link for the sign-up sheet is <https://fwmlnj.org/book-sale-signup/>. The link is also available on the Friends' website. If you have any problems or questions about signing up, just email Marcy at info@fwmlnj.org and she can help you to sign up.

Annual Spring Book Sale Save the Dates

Get ready for our annual Spring Sale event that will satisfy all your reading cravings! We're excited to announce our 51st Annual Book Sale dates have been confirmed. Set up and Donations days will be Sunday, 4/19/26 through Tuesday, 4/28/2026. Sale days will be Wednesday, 4/29/2026 through Sunday, 5/3/2026. Whether you're looking for novels, cookbooks, mysteries, self-help, history, biography, YA, children's books, (the list goes on!) we will have something for everyone. We also need your help. Last year, over 60 people generously donated their time and effort to help make the sale so successful. We hope we can count on you this time as well. If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at amyjberman7@gmail.com. We will have a sign up sheet available starting in January 2026.

Mark your calendars and make sure you don't miss out on unbeatable prices as well as a chance to help raise money for your library! Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

"Books are the plane and the train and the road. They are the destination and the journey. They are home" - Anna Quindlen



