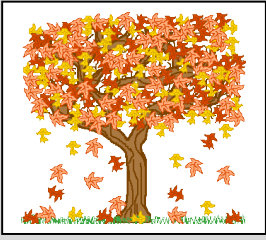


Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library Newsletter



Co-Presidents: Marcy Lechner and Mike Miller

October 2020

Prepared by Judy Musacchia

WELCOME

On September 14, 2020 the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library were able to meet in person for the first time since March.

After having meetings by email, the cancellation of the Spring Book Sale, the Children's and Teen Book Sale, the Spring Trip, the Opera Program and most other activities we met at the public seating area on Quimby Street with 23 Board members present in person and another half dozen attending electronically.

We were gratified by the level of attendance, encouraged by the enthusiasm of everyone on the Board to get back to business and happy to see everyone safe and healthy. The coming year will pose many challenges and we will have to continually re-examine what we can do to support the Library and find new ways of providing that support. We will have organizational, financial, physical and social hurdles to overcome until the pandemic runs its course, but with the talent, passion and encouragement of the members of the Board, we look forward to a demanding yet successful year! Welcome back everyone!

Marcy and Mike

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE



We would like to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of all of the Friends for the outstanding service of our immediate past Co-Presidents, Suzanne O'Rourke and Jerry Skotnicki.

Suzanne and Jerry were forward-looking and initiated a long range planning committee to meet the challenges of the future, including exploring new revenue sources, developing new programs and new ways to deliver them, and re-examining our relationship with the Library in an age of rapidly accelerating change.

After our March meeting, as we were preparing for our biggest event of the year, the Spring Book Sale, the pandemic hit and threw all of our programs into uncertainty. Despite this chaos, their steady leadership brought our biggest contribution to the library this year, the Arches Project, to completion. They quickly adapted to conducting meetings via email to keep everyone on the Board engaged and informed. They arranged a socially-distanced Croissant Party in June, before our summer hiatus and even conducted a presidential election by e-mail without a major scandal! They were prescient enough to foresee the financial shortfall resulting from our cancelled book sales and shepherd through an increase in membership dues to at least partially offset this revenue loss.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our annual Volunteer Luncheon, robbing the Board of the opportunity to express its gratitude in person. We are thankful for their leadership, adaptability, humor and friendship during their terms as Co-Presidents and throughout their years of service on the Board.

**On behalf of the entire Board, thank you
Suzanne and Jerry!!!**

THE ARCHES

With the closure of the Library in March and the extra organizational requirements of our Quimby Street meeting in September, we neglected to mention the successful completion of our largest contribution to the Library this year--the painting of the Arches in the Children's Section of the Library.

We would like to thank the committee that oversaw this project: Marcy Lechner, Fran Lemberg and especially Carol Skotnicki for their hard work and for the phenomenal results.

Once the Library is fully reopened, children will enjoy many hours of exploring the paintings, finding hidden objects and delighting in this wonderful enhancement to their special area. Please take time to visit the Library and check out the latest addition to the Children's Section.



IN THE COMMUNITY

The Friends volunteered at the Free Market sponsored by the Westfield Green Team on Saturday, September 26. We did what we do best, managing the book donation portion of the event.

Countless books were donated by community members. We sorted out the moldy and unreadable books, organized the books into children and adult sections and helped people find books during the Pick Up portion of the event. (Book sale volunteers, sound familiar?)

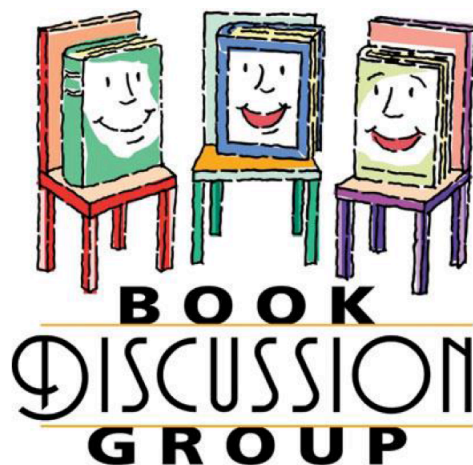
The best part was all of the books were FREE. So many people were thrilled with the wonderful selection and volume of books they took home. One of the best parts of the event, Green Drop took away all of the leftover books.

Participating in the community event was a great opportunity to meet book lovers in town. Be assured we handed out a bunch of Friends brochures. Many thanks to our volunteers that day: Carol and Jerry Skotnicki, Anita Meyer, Cindy Colicchio, Christine Mason, Joan Sanborn, Lori Wendler, Suzanne O'Rourke, Mary Ellen O'Boyle, Paul Sanderson and Barbara Uhr.

If you have an idea for community engagement please let us know.



(Courtesy of the Westfield Leader)



Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
Zoom meeting on January 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Born in 1986 to survivalists opposed to public education, Westover never attended school as a child. Instead, she spent her days on a rural mountain in Idaho working in her father's junkyard or stewing herbs for her mother, an herbalist and midwife. She was seventeen when she left home and stepped into a classroom for the first time. Her quest for knowledge led her to Harvard and Cambridge and a new way of life.

Named one of the top 10 books of the year by The New York Times.

Join our Book Discussion group if you enjoy thought-provoking books, lively conversations and friendly people! If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive more information about our selections and Zoom meetings, contact info@fwmlnj.org

New members are always welcome.

FIND YOUR FIT WITH THE FRIENDS



Now is the perfect time to get involved with the Friends. Do you like to give back? Do you have some extra time to lend to the Friends? Would you like to see the Friends continue to be one of the most impactful and interesting organizations in town? Do you have ideas for new programs or fundraising opportunities for the Friends? If you answered yes or even pondered any one of these questions, please think about becoming more involved. The Friends could use a few new faces on the Board, specifically on the Publicity, Membership and Newsletter committees.

If you are a new Friends member, welcome. We encourage you to check out our [website](#) to learn all about the Friends. Reach out to any of our amazing board members with questions and ***find your fit*** within the Friends.

NEW CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Friends are sponsoring a new program for children from Checkers Library TV. The program runs for the entire school year and consists of a half-hour program each month, as well as three special programs with themes based on Halloween, the Winter Holidays and the Spring Holidays, and consist of story telling and book recommendations, special guests, health tips from Dr. Dan and lots of other featured segments.

In addition to these monthly programs, there are ten-minute weekly programs with segments similar to the longer sessions as well as a fun fact of the week. While we like to offer in-person programs that children can attend at the library, with the facility closed for on-site programs for the foreseeable future these online sessions provide an opportunity for children to remain connected to the library.

