



The Newsletter of the Friends of
the Westfield Memorial Library



Upcoming Events

June

2—Friends Sharing the Warmth

Local History Room 1:00 pm

3—Hale Speaker Series —

Rebecca Morse, Women's

Hockey Coach, Meeting Room

7:00 pm

8—Friends of the Library Monthly
Meeting and Election of Officers

For 2026-2027, Meeting Room

9:30 am

8—Friends of the Library Budget

Committee Meeting, Meeting

Room 12:30 pm

10—Friends Membership Event: A
Night Out @ The Town Book
Store, 270 East Broad Street

6:30 pm

16—Friends Sharing the Warmth

Local History Room 7:00 pm

July

23—"Ben & Betsy: Founding Father,
Founding Mother" Meeting

Room 7 pm

See you in
September!

51st ANNUAL SPRING BOOK SALE

The 51st Annual Spring Book Sale was a huge success, raising \$19,170. The dedication and hard work from every volunteer contributed to this wonderful accomplishment. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the sale this year.

There were over 70 volunteers who set up the room, sorted through over 25,000 donated books, arranged the books by category and subject matter, hosted the sale and cleaned the room before turning it back to the library. This year, from Generation Alpha to Baby Boomers and every age in between volunteers worked together to produce the ensure a successful sale. It truly is a two-week, community-wide event. Set up started unofficially on Saturday, April 18th since we needed to get the boxes out of the shed ahead of a rainy Sunday. We spent two

days getting the room ready for the sale and then processed donations from Wednesday, April 22 through Saturday, April 25th. After sorting through all the donations, we hosted Friends Members Preview night on Wednesday, April 29th. With a line of eager shoppers line of eager shoppers on Opening Day, April 30, we were excited for the sale to begin. The Sale Days flew by, and the ever popular bag day enabled clean up to be completed in record time.

Each sale has its special memories. This year's highlight happened on the second day of donations.

We received a visit from a local preschool class, each student bringing a book to be donated. We truly appreciated how they were learning to "pay it forward."

Once again, we could not have done the sale without the help and support of the entire Westfield Memorial Library staff and the Town of Westfield Department of Public Works. In addition, we would like to thank Westfield High School Community Service Club, Westfield Public Information Office, the Westfield Board of Education, the Westfield Fire Department and The Wine Library in Springfield.

For the books that we couldn't move during the sale, we donated some of them to New Legacy Books (working with the DPW), Better World Books, The Mitzvah Circle, The Westfield Fun Club and the Lunchbox program in Plainfield, all of which work to promote literacy. Some books will be used in the seven Little Free Libraries run by the Friends.

To all those who donated, volunteered and/or shopped during the sale - THANK YOU!!!! To all Friends members who missed us this year, we hope to see you next time.



From the Editors' Desk

The weather is warmer, flowers are blooming, blossoms are in the trees and summer is just ahead. This summer many of us will focus on the events surrounding the nation's 250th birthday. There will be fireworks, parades and barbecues to help celebrate two and a half centuries since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As part of your celebration, visit one of the more than 25 museums that are part of the Friends Museum Pass Program. Especially appropriate this summer are the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, the Intrepid, and the New York Historical Society in New York City, or the Liberty Hall Museum in Union. Or, for a change of pace, visit the AKC Museum of the Dog, the Storm King Art Center, the Brandywine Conservancy, Newark Museum of Art or any of the other museums for which passes are available. Visit our website at www.fwmlnj.org for more information. And have a great summer!



THE OPEN BOOK
STAFF

Jerry Skotnicki Michael Miller

Marcy Lechner

Email: info@fwmlnj.org

Website: www.fwmlnj.org

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-  [westfieldmemoriallib](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Friends Help Out t the Westfield Free Market

On Sunday, April 26th, the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library participated in the annual Free Market sponsored by the Westfield Green Team. The event was held at the South Avenue train station parking lot. During the first part of the Free Market, Westfield residents can bring household items, such as toys, electronics, small appliances, clothing, kitchen items, office supplies and other such items that they no longer want and the items are sorted by category and placed in designated areas in the parking lot. At 11 am, the doors open to individuals who wish to take the donated items. The Friends have staffed the books booth for several years. The Free Market is scheduled for the Saturday closest to Earth Day, April 22nd. This year the event was scheduled for Saturday April 25th, but inclement weather forced a rescheduling to Sunday, April 26th. Unfortunately, the weather was not much improved on the alternate date, which may have limited overall donations. There was still a wide range of items available as well as several hundred books at the Friends booth. The rainy weather did not deter avid readers from adding to their personal libraries!



THE OPEN BOOK

Remembering Pat Bonardi

Pat Bonardi was a long time member of the Board of the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library and served as the organization's President in 2015-2016. For many years Pat chaired the Friends Book Discussion Group. In memory of Pat and her many years of service to the Friends, The Board voted to underwrite the purchase of a number of books on topics of interest to her as an ongoing memorial. A bookplate will be placed in each of the books stating, "In memory of Patricia Bonardi, past President of the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library ." The following books were selected to reflect Pat's interest in tennis, her Irish heritage, her love of mysteries, and her support for women's issues.

- The Art of Tennis--David R Godine
- The Far-Flung Life--M. L. Stedman (Fiction)
- Five Weeks in the Country--Francine Prose (Fiction)
- How the Story Goes--Andrew Forrester (Fiction)
- Irish Stories--Christopher Morash
- Murder at an Irish Season--Carlene O'Connor
(Mystery)
- Parisian Chapter--Janet Skeslien Charles (Fiction)
- She Knows Best: Business wisdom from extraordinary women--Molloy Ricketts
- A Short History of Ireland--John Gibney
- 32 Words for Field: Lost words of the Irish landscape--Megan Manchan
- The career masterclass for women--Becky Heidesch

In addition the following titles will be added to the library's unreserved, Lucky Day section.

- The Night We Met--Abby Jimenez
- Go Gentle--Maria Semple
- The Keeper--Tana French
- The Midnight Train--Matt Haig

Congratulations Newly Elected

Officers for 2026-2027

Co-Presidents: Dona Teschner

Lori Wendler

Vice President: Joan Sanborn

Recording Secretary: Eileen Silverman

Corresponding Secretary: Harriet Davidson

Treasurer: Alexander Liu



For More Information

If you would like more information on joining the Friends, programs sponsored by the Friends, how to volunteer please visit our website at www.fwmlnj.org. Specific questions can be sent to our email address at info@fwmlnj.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Membership Corner

The Town BookStore appreciates Friends members by offering a 10% discount on books. Upon checkout, please let the sales associate know that you are a member of The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library. We are grateful for this ongoing support of The Town-Bookstore. Enjoy shopping for books for yourself, family and friends.

**2026 Volunteer Service Award Goes to Jocelyn Ng**

The 2026 Friends' High School Volunteer Service Award was presented to Jocelyn Ng a Senior at Westfield High School. This award is presented to a high school senior who resides in Westfield who exemplifies volunteer service, beyond normal extracurricular activities, in promoting literacy, supporting the Westfield Memorial Library or working with the Friends on one or more of their projects. In addition to volunteering at the library, Jocelyn most recently assisted at the Friends' Annual Spring Book Sale. The award provides a stipend of \$500 which the recipient may use for any purpose. Please join us in congratulating Jocelyn!

Before We Go...

Are you looking for something to do when the kids have had too much sun or it's a rainy day at the beach? Or are you looking for an activity to bring the family together in your vacation rental? Look no further! The Friends of the Library have the answer! Visit our pop-up puzzle sale in June for a specially curated selection of summer-themed puzzles. We have scenes of beaches, boats, state fairs, hot air balloons and loads of vibrant summer colors. It's the perfect family activity. Supplies are limited so stop by as early as you can beginning on June 1st.

