



The Newsletter of the Friends of
the Westfield Memorial Library



Upcoming Events

March

- 15 - DrMartin Luther King, Jr.
Day of Service Volunteer Fair
- 17— Friends of the Library
Book Discussion--The
Correspondent by Virginia Evans
Meeting Rm 1:00pm
- .21—Makers Day
- 24 —Friends Sharing the
Warmth Knitting Group Local
History Rm 1:00 pm

April

- 7— Friends Sharing the Warmth
- 13 Friends of the Library Monthly
Meeting
- 21— Met Opera “Innocence” by
Saarinho, Bus Departs 4:30 pm
- 22 - Friends Sharing the Warmth
- 22—25 Book Sale Donation Days
- 29—May 3—Annual Book Sale

May

- 5— Friends Sharing the Warmth
- 11—Friends of the Library Monthly
Meeting
- 12—Book Discussion *Buckeye* by
Patrick Ryan 1:00 pm
- 13—Hale Speaker Series Warren
Rordan
- 19—Friends Sharing the Warmth
- 20 Met Opera Program *La Traviata*
by Verdi, Bus Depaarts 4:30 pm

51st ANNUAL SPRING BOOK SALE

SAVE THE DATES!!

Are your shelves overflowing with books that need new homes? Are you looking to volunteer and help your library? Do you love buying a lot of books but don't want to spend a lot of money? Then the 51st Annual Spring Used Book Sale is just what you need and we need you! The sale is a major fundraiser for the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library.

In April, we will happily accept your gently used books during our donation days so that you can make room for new titles. We have many volunteer opportunities - setting up, sorting donations, helping customers during the sale and cleaning up after the sale. Last year, over sixty people generously donated their time and effort to help make the sale a success. Do you have students that need community service hours? The sale is a great way to earn them. Do you want to help but don't have lots of free time? Most of our volunteer shifts are 2 hours long. If you have any questions, please email us at amyjberman7@gmail.com or sign up at 2026 Spring Book Sale Volunteer Schedule.

Donation Days: (Customer Hours, we volunteers start a bit before and stay a bit after)

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|
| Wednesday | April 22 | 10 am – 2 pm |
| Thursday | April 23 | 10 am – 2 pm |
| Friday | April 24 | 10 am – 2 pm |
| Saturday | April 25 | 10 am – 2 pm |

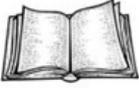
The sale will have it all - novels, cookbooks, mysteries, self-help, history, travel, animals, biography, young adult, children's books, and more. Last year, we had over 25,000 for our customers to peruse through. Our prices range from \$.50 to \$3.00 for just about everything. How could you miss such a deal?

Please mark your calendars and to make sure you don't miss out on unbeatable prices as well as a chance to help your library!

Sale Days

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------|----------------------|
| Wednesday | April 29 | 5 pm – 7 pm | Members Only Preview |
| Thursday | April 30 | 10 am – 7 pm | Teacher Discount |
| Friday | May 1 | 10 am – 4 pm | Teacher Discount |
| Saturday | May 2 | 10 am – 4 pm | Half Price Day |
| Sunday | May 3 | 1 pm – 3 pm | Bag Day |

“Reading one book is like eating one potato chip.” - Diane Duane, author



**THE OPEN BOOK
STAFF**

Jerry Skotnicki Michael Miller
Marcy Lechner

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Website: www.fwmlnj.org

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 [fwmlnj](https://www.youtube.com/fwmlnj)

From the Editors' Desk

Spring is in the air! Snow is melting, birds are chirping, flowers and trees will soon be blooming and the Friends are planning for our major fundraising event, the Annual Spring Book Sale! Now that winter is winding down, you will soon be able to put away the jigsaw puzzles you purchased at our February sale or our ongoing pop-up in the library lobby and grab a bagful of books to read at the beach, under your favorite tree or, if you are a fan of horror fiction, under your covers, late at night with a flashlight! However you enjoy your books, you will find a wide selection of fiction, non-fiction, how-to, biography, art, history or wherever your personal interest lies. The donation days, when you can drop off last year's purchases are April 22–25 and the sale dates, when you can load up on next year's donations are April 29–May 3, 2026. If you would like to volunteer to help at the sale you can visit our website at www.fwmlnj.org for more information

Information Please!

Want more information about the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library? We want you to have it. In addition to announcements of major events, like the Spring and Fall Book Sales, the Jigsaw Puzzle Sale, and Hale Speaker Series talks which are published in the local media, including the Westfield Leader, Tapinto Westfield and the Westfield Patch and on social media, including the Friends' Facebook and Instagram pages, we have other sources of information on our activities. The **OPEN BOOK**, which you are reading now, is the Friends newsletter and is published four times a year with occasional "special editions" and is distributed by email, available on our website and in the library. The newsletter contains listing of upcoming events, profiles of library staff and members of our board, detailed articles on events and activities, such as our book sales, museum passes, opera program, book discussions, scholarships and award programs and other activities we sponsor to enhance the library experience. The Friends also maintain a webpage (www.fwmlnj.org) that provides up-to-date information on everything the Friends do.

The Friends also have a Bulletin Board in the first floor of the library adjacent to the Children's Department that has information on programs, particularly the Museum Pass Program that provides free or reduced admission to 28 museums in the region. You will also find information such as the schedule for Books on Wheels deliveries of library materials by Friends members to the homes of individuals unable to visit the library, announcements of upcoming events and sales, and other notices of Friends activities.



THE OPEN BOOK

The Election of Officers for the Friends

The by-laws of the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library delineate the organization's officers and the process by which they are selected. The officers include the following: two Co-Presidents, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. All officers are elected for a one-year term and are eligible to run for a second year, but a second year in office is not automatic and requires that the incumbent stand for re-election. An officer who has completed two consecutive terms may only run for a third one-year term with the approval of a majority of the full Board.



The by-laws provide for the Nominations Committee which is responsible for identifying qualified candidates willing to serve for each office and this committee is the only one from which the Co-Presidents are specifically excluded in the by-laws, to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or election interference. The Committee consists of five members, three current members of the Board and two selected from the general membership. Once the Nominations Committee has identified a slate of candidates, it is formally presented to the Board two months prior to the election, which takes place at the final board meeting of the year in June. The Nominating Committee may identify more than one candidate for an office and other qualified individuals may put their names forward as well and Board members may also make nominations of additional candidates from the floor. The election is held at the annual meeting of the Board in June and the successful candidates assume office on July 1st and preside at the first meeting of the year in September.

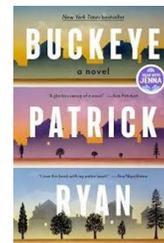
If you are interested in learning more about the operations of the Friends and would like to explore a more active role in the organization, consider joining the Nominations Committee as one of the general membership representatives. Service on the committee is anticipated to involve attendance at two or three meetings where potential candidates will be proposed and discussion invited and ultimately a slate selected by a vote of all committee members. It is a largely collegial process and an opportunity to experience the inner workings of the Friends and have input to its operations. If you are interested, please email us at info@fwmlnj.org stating your interest.

IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Bonardi, a long time member of the Friends passed away on February 22, 2026 in Leesburg, Virginia. Pat served as President of the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library (2015-2016) and for many years chaired the Friends' Book Discussion Group. She remained active in the Friends until recently and was well respected by all fortunate to know her. She will be sadly missed by her fellow Board members, Book Discussion participants and her many friends everywhere.

Book Discussion Group to Meet

The Friends of the Library Book Discussion will meet on Tuesday, May 12 to discuss *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan.



The book is a sweeping family saga focusing on two couples whose lives intertwine across decades. It explores themes of love, secrets, war's impact, and sexuality from World War II through the 1980s.

THE OPEN BOOK

Let It Snow, Let it Snow

4th Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Sale a Huge Success



Despite the obstacles created by the recent snowstorm, we turned these challenges to our advantage. With high octane team spirit, dedication and aplomb, the group focused on the interlocking fit between puzzles and buyers to make the fourth Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Sale, sponsored by the Friends, a huge success. The sale took place on February 24th and 25th, 2026 in the Meeting Room at the Westfield Memorial Library. More than 25 volunteers participated during three donation and two sale days. There were more than 120 individual transactions to yield \$2,128.50 in sales. Over 950 puzzles for all ages were donated during three days. These puzzles varied in size (25 to 4,000 pieces), format, complexity, and subject matter, including a separate children's section and an area dedicated to holiday puzzles. Thanks to all who have provided the donations, our hard working volunteers, the staff at Westfield Memorial Library and to all the many patrons who supported us and visited the sale. All proceeds go to funding Friends sponsored programs at the Westfield Memorial Library. Excess puzzles were donated to local charities, including the Mitzvah Circle and Center for Hope Hospice. Those remaining are being sold at the ongoing Friends' Pop-Up Jigsaw Puzzle Sale in the library near the circulation desk. During the sale, there were two raffles available to patrons: one prize was a jigsaw puzzle of their choice and the other prize was a one day pass to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Black History Month Celebrations

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Black History Month, the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library partnered with the Library to sponsor two outstanding programs.

The first program was an unforgettable evening of Jazz music on February 17th, performed by the Bradford Hayes Quartet. A saxophonist and educator in the Newark, N.J. public school system, Bradford interspersed stories and original compositions. The resulting comfortable atmosphere fulfilled the promise of a special entertaining encounter for jazz and non-jazz enthusiasts, alike.

The second program held on February 21st, was "Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Life of Louis Armstrong". Author and Louis Armstrong expert Ricky Riccardi chronicled Armstrong's life from New Orleans to the pivotal Chicago years, blending his story telling with footage of Mr. Armstrong performing and being interviewed, to yield an invigorating vibe. Mr. Riccardi is the Director of Research Collections for the Louis House Museum, located in Queens N.Y.



Both events were well received, playing to a full house, and are available on the library YouTube channel.

High School Volunteer Service Award

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library announce the Second Annual Volunteer Service Award to recognize the exceptional volunteer service by students during their high school careers and is open to all Westfield residents who are currently high school seniors. The application is on page 6 of this newsletter and is also available in the Library. For more information, please visit our website at www.fwmlnj.org/scholarships or email us at info.fwmlnj.org



Membership Q and A

This is a new feature where we will answer frequently asked questions from our members. You can send your questions to info@fwmlnj.org. This edition's question:

Q: I renewed my membership but I haven't received any e-newsletters. I don't want to miss out on all the Friends info in the newsletters.

A. Newsletters typically are sent 4 or 5 times a year. The newsletters are sent to all members' email addresses from the Friends' email address (info@fwmlnj.org). However, each mail application (GMAIL, YAHOO, AOL etc...) treats the first time a new address it doesn't recognize differently. Some emails go to Inbox other to Junk or Spam. If you do not see your newsletter then search your entire mailbox. Once you find it you can move it to the Inbox. You usually only have to do this once. The next time you receive from info@fwmlnj.org your web application will save it in the Inbox.

Hale Speaker Series Sets Schedule

The Hale Speaker Series has announced its schedule of speakers for 2026. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

May 13—Warren Rorden

"Westfield...The Old Days"

June 3 — Rebecca Morse *"Leaving*

Home to Chase the

Game...And Coming Back

to Change It"

October 14—Shrider Ganesen *"Why Is*

There No Cure for Cancer

(And Is That Even The Right

Question?)"

November 18—Caroline Tell *Headl*

ines to Feeds: How to Tell

Stories in the Digital Age"

Congratulations to Alice Dillon

Alice Dillon has been honored by Lifelong Westfield in their Senior Spotlight. Alice has long been active in the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library and was the 2014 recipient of the Kenneth S. Gaston Award in recognition of her service to the Westfield Memorial Library. Alice started the Friends participation in Black History Month in 2012 and for many years chaired the Friends program. Even after leaving the Board, she continues to work with the Friends and was instrumental in the 2025 month long art display and lecture series sponsored by the Friends for Black History Month.



A native of Buffalo, Alice has called Westfield home since 1962 and has worked continuously for the betterment of the community. All of us at the Friends say, "Congratulations, Alice! Well deserved!"



Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library

Application for High School Volunteer Service Award

This award is designed to recognize the exceptional volunteer service of students during their high school careers and is open to all Westfield residents who are currently high school seniors.

Applicant Information: Please complete the questions below and submit your completed application to the Westfield Memorial Library circulation desk in an envelope addressed to **Attn: FWML Awards Committee** by Sunday, April 12, 2026. Applications can also be downloaded at the Friends' website (www.fwmlnj.org). Applications may also be emailed to: friendswestfieldlibraryawards@gmail.com. Please write **FWML Awards 2026** in the subject line.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ **Current High School:** _____

Experiences/Activities: Please tell us about your experience and activities as they relate to library science, literacy, and/or writing. Be sure to include volunteer experiences at the library and relevant work experience as well as extra-curricular activities both in and out of school. Include any special areas of interest and abilities.

Other Information you would like to share:

All information supplied by the applicant is for the exclusive use of the Awards Selection Committee and will be kept confidential.