Welcome back to the Library!

The last 18 months have been incredibly difficult for everyone, but staff at the library adjusted to each pandemic-related change, and then adjusted again.

Under the leadership of our now-retired Library Director Phil Israel, Interim Director Jennifer Schulze, Technical Services Coordinator Adrienne Basso and Youth Services Coordinator Molly Adams, we managed the chaos by creating a host of new services to accommodate our patrons.

First, we instituted curbside services so that patrons could order books online or by phone and pick them up the next day. Then, the Children’s and Adult Services librarians quickly learned how to present programs on Zoom, Facebook and Instagram.

With programs available online, librarians began to pack craft Grab-and-Go kits, which children and adults could assemble at home while watching the craft workshop in real time, or anytime thereafter. Eventually children’s play and craft programs were hosted outside.

To help Westfielders fully take advantage of our services, the library improved the convenient “Get a Card Online” feature by emailing patrons their new numbers. Not long after, both Book Match for Adults and Book Genie for Kids were launched. These services enabled patrons to indicate their reading preferences online and borrow books selected especially for them by librarians.

We added two new digital services: Freegal music and Axis 360 Books, and increased borrowing privileges for Hoopla. Finally, just as the library started expanding hours, we introduced Cloudlibrary, an app that allows patrons to check out materials with a smartphone.

Keep your eye on our website and Facebook page as we continue to update and welcome our new director Allen McGinley on September 7.
News from the Friends of the Library

The 10th Annual Children’s and Teen’s Book Sale

Donations Accepted: September 19-21

Sales Dates: September 22-25

Gather up the children’s and young adult books your family has outgrown and donate them to the Friends sale so others may enjoy them. Help support the library!

To learn more visit www.fwmlnj.org.

Expand Your Mind through the Annual Hale Speaker Series

Made possible by grants from The Anne and Lee Hale Fund and The Thomas Glasser Foundation
Hosted by the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library
Programs are held in the Library Meeting Room

Riccardo Roig: Local Color
Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 pm

Riccardo Roig is a 2001 graduate of Westfield High School, former Westfield schools art teacher, local gallery owner, and creator of the Westfield Circle mural.

Hear the fascinating story of a local artist who has parlayed his hand-cut paper screen prints into a success story with five galleries showcasing his work.
2021-2022 The Friends are celebrating their 50th Anniversary! That’s 50 years of Service to the Library!

Come to a Reception

Thursday, October 14
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The Friends have invested in many capital improvements throughout the years. You are invited to a reception that will feature an unveiling of their 2020 project, the painted Arches at the entrance to the Children’s Department.

Caren Frost Olmsted of CFO Design, the muralist who designed the Arches, will share her artistic story creating this wonderful piece for the library. Refreshments will be served.

A Party Just for Kids to Celebrate the Arches!

Sunday, October 17
12:00 to 2:00 pm

Children ages 5 to 9 will be treated to a fun afternoon, both inside and outside, celebrating the Arches. They will participate in a guided tour, create artwork based upon the muralist’s sketches, meet some real live wild animals and listen to a story from beloved librarians, then finish the day with a special dessert. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so sign up early!

Friends Museum Pass Program is gradually being re-instaed

This summer we were able to offer you passes to the Museum of Natural History. The next museum for which we have passes is the Storm King Art Center. We are gradually rolling out the museum passes based on the amount of interest you, our patrons, have in returning to museums, despite the pandemic.

Other Important Dates

September 30 Sharing the Warmth, The Friends knitting group, Meeting Room at the Library

October 13 The Book Discussion Group, Meeting Room The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah. For more info, visit www.fwmlnj.org, or like the Facebook page at Friends of the WML.

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Triva! Online Tuesday, September 14
7:00 to 8:00 pm

Join us ONLINE (on Zoom) for our monthly trivia night! Categories are always changing and often unusual, making it all the more fun! Questions are geared for adults but everyone is welcome to play.

It's a great hour or so of friendly competition and exercising your brain. Play alone or with family and friends. Since it is online, you can enjoy refreshments and collaborate as loudly as you like (microphones muted). Sign up on our Calendar and the Zoom link will be sent to you a few days before the program.

Decoding the Mystery Of Cats, or Why They Do What They Do
Wednesday, September 22
7:00 to 8:00 pm
Online with Zoom

Does your cat's behavior mystify you? How about the times a perfectly friendly cat attacks your ankles in the evening but ignores you during the day? Would you like to understand your often mysterious creature a little bit better? Stephen Quandt, feline behaviorist, will enlighten you with fascinating facts, followed by a chance to get your questions answered in a Q & A session.

Stephen worked for eight years with the ASPCA at their adoption center in NYC, in feline behavior and adoptions, and nationwide with the Field Investigations and Response Team on large scale criminal cruelty cases and natural disasters. He is now in private practice as a feline behaviorist who specializes in a compassionate & educational approach to cat behavior. Visit our calendar for Zoom link.
Masks must be worn in the Meeting Room during in-person programs

**Make an Autumn Picture with Puzzle Pieces**
**Wednesday, September 29**
**at 1:00 to 1:30 pm**
**Facebook Premier Video**
**Watch on Facebook at the scheduled time, or anytime thereafter at your convenience**

Join Marge as she demonstrates how to create a colorful Autumn picture using puzzle pieces. You’ll create the picture on an 11" x 14" canvas. No painting required! The first 10 people who register will be eligible to pick up "Craft-to-Go" kits with all supplies included. Even if you don’t pick up a kit, you may watch the video and learn what supplies are needed to complete this craft.

**Discover the Life Changing Power of Meditation**
**Wednesday, October 20**
**at 7:00 to 8:00 pm**

Meditation has become increasingly popular for many reasons. It provides life transforming benefits when practiced regularly. By learning and practicing this simple yet profound technique, your life will be enhanced with a sense of well-being and inner peace.

Join Jim Rose, long time meditator and national speaker, for this transformational workshop. Sign up on our website www.wmlnj.org, click on Events.

**Marc Berger, Coming in November**
**Stay posted for details regarding virtual or live show**

Marc Berger's music is all about American-roots songs of the deserts and mountains of the American West. Hauntingly beautiful.
“When can I donate books for adults to the library?”

Staff are asked this question so many times throughout the year, but without storage space or an Adult Book Sale until next year, we are unable to take any books. However, the Friends assembled a wonderful list of other places where you can donate books that are in good condition. (Generally, textbooks, encyclopedias, travel guides older than two years, worn paperbacks or other books that are stained, moldy, incomplete or otherwise damaged cannot be recycled to new owners.)

For a complete list, visit our Facebook page, or pick up a copy at the Circulation Desk.

The Westfield Conservation Center now has a book recycling bin, in which you can place books that have an ISBN bar code. There is a similar bin at the Garwood First Aid Squad at Second Avenue and Walnut Street in Garwood.

Better World Books (https://www.betterworldbooks.com/go/donate) has several collection points in the region. You can go to their webpage and put in your zip code and get a list of locations in the area with directions.

GreenDrop Recycling Center, 831 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081 (https://www.gogreendrop.com/acceptable-items) accepts donations Monday through Sunday 10am to 5 pm.

Furniture Assist, 24 Commerce Street, Springfield, NJ 07081 (http://www.furnitureassist.com/donations.htm) accepts children’s books and cookbooks only on Sundays between 10 am and 2 pm.

Book Sale Finder (https://www.booksalefinder.com/NJ.html) This website lists upcoming used book sales in New Jersey mostly sponsored by libraries or their supporters. You will find addresses, dates of sales and contact information. You should call before going to donate books to find out if they are accepting donations, when the donation period is and if there are any restrictions on what they accept.

The Library would like to acknowledge the passing of longtime community activist Patricia Faggins, 78, from COVID-19 in 2020. She was a founder of both the Westfield Neighborhood Council and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association of Westfield. In recent years, Patricia served as treasurer of both organizations. Every February she helped the Library celebrate Black History Month by displaying her wonderful collection of Martin Luther King artifacts in the front display case. “We will miss Pat’s presence at the library and her generosity in sharing her collection,” said Interim Director Jen Schulze.
So how did you spend your summer vacation? Here at the Library, we didn’t let the pandemic stop us from coming up with exciting new ways to entertain our youngest patrons and their caretakers.

Look, Mom, I did it myself!

Go fly a kite! It’s more fun when you’ve made it yourself

Waiting to see how it will turn out...

“And then what happened?” Storytime is better outside.
Boogie Woogie Babies
Boogie Woogie Babies is a dance and movement program for babies and toddlers! It encourages adults to get up and be active with their little ones. Classes consist of singing songs, working on fine motor skills, and dancing for big and little people. Bring a blanket or a yoga mat.

Dates: Alternate Wednesdays, Sept. 8, 22, Oct. 6, 20
Time: 10:00 - 10:30 am
Ages: 6 months to 3 years
Register online - Please use child’s library card to register.

Morning Storytime
Please join us for fun books, rhymes and songs! We will meet on our back lawn, behind the big windows, weather permitting.

Dates: Thursdays, Sept. 16 - Oct. 21
Time: 10:00 - 10:30 am
Ages: Open to all ages, geared to ages 1 to 3
No registration needed.
Please bring a blanket or towel to sit on!

Friday Funtime
Babies and toddlers and their grownups are invited to come and socialize and play in our back yard. We will provide toys and mats - you provide the kids!

Dates: Fridays, Sept. 10 - Oct. 8
Time: 10:00 - 10:45 am
Ages: Babies and toddlers
No registration needed
Please bring a blanket or towel to sit on if you would like.

Miss Andrea’s Latin Dance Moves for Kids
Join us on the back lawn, behind the big windows, for outside fun with Miss Andrea’s Latin Moves!
On Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am, Miss Andrea will lead a high-energy dance activity featuring Latin music.

Dates: Sept. 14 - Oct. 5
Time: 10:00 - 10:30 am
Ages: suitable for ages 2 and up
Location: Library side parking lot. RAIN CANCELS THE PROGRAM.
Register online - Please use child’s library card to register.