

# THE chronicle

A WLWP Digital Publication

*new year  
new look*



We've got  
it all.



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gongbi painting, Regina Linke  
Hoxie Gallery Exhibit, July 2024



## from the Executive Director

Welcome to the new monthly digital magazine of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park! With a new year comes a fresh format to our communications with you. We are so excited about the new streamlined design, engaging content, and curated updates that will be delivered directly to your inbox. We hope you love it as much as we do!

If this is your first newsletter from us or your hundredth, we hope you will dive in to learn more about the programs and events we offer as well as the various services and resources. Each month there will be something new to discover: a new “thing” in our Library of Things, an introduction to a database you didn’t know you needed but are so glad you found out about, and some fun and interesting facts about us.

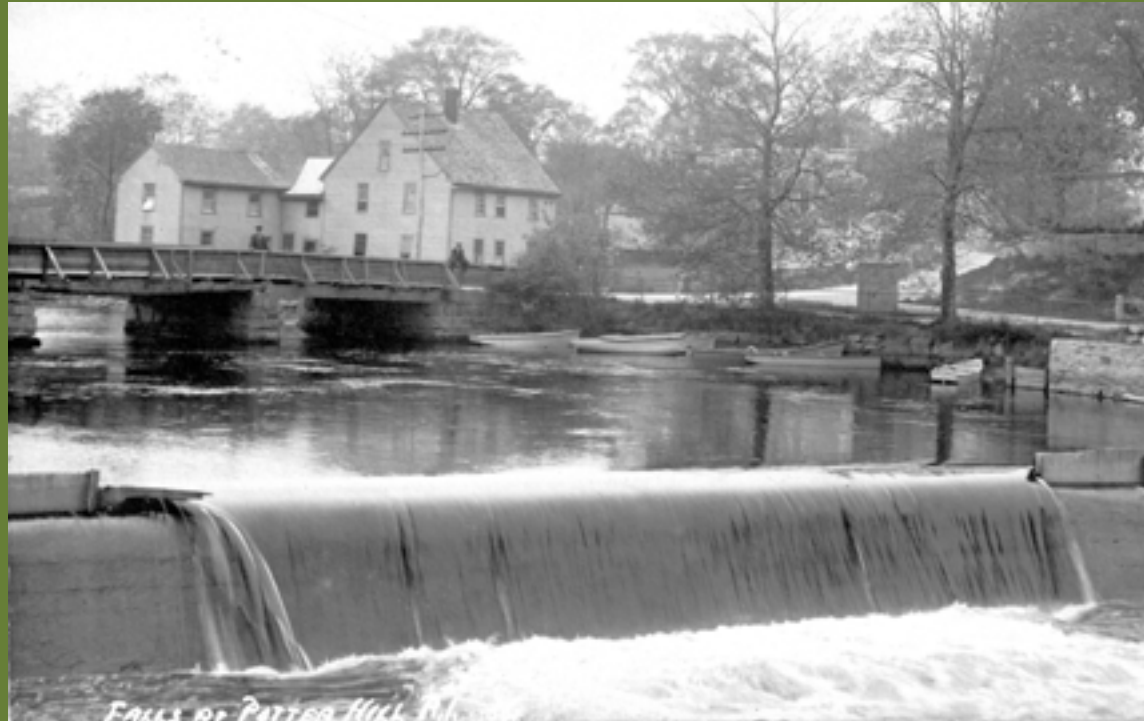
My wish is that you will devour this magazine cover to cover but if you only jump right over to the monthly programs, I hope you are able to discover something new to spark your curiosity.

Enjoy!

Warmly,

Brigitte S. Hopkins  
Executive Director





Westerly Library's Special Collections has many wonderful photos of Westerly and Pawcatuck in the past, including approximately 4000 that have been uploaded to Flickr for public viewing (and downloading)!

This photo of the Potter Hill dam was taken in 1900 and was our most "faved" photo of 2024. We uploaded over 250 pictures this year, and our photos were viewed an incredible 34,652 times in 2024!

A lot of wonderful local history is presented in this collection, which is sorted into albums for easier browsing. It is a wonderful way to see what our lovely town looked like over 100 years ago. Please enjoy!

view nearly  
**4,800**  
historical pictures on our  
flickr account

[click here](#)

# adult

There are more than just books for you in Adult Services. We have two small private study rooms that you can reserve for up to 3 hours. We recommend reserving them ahead of time, as they are very popular and often booked. Interested in gardening? Come explore our Seed Library and a Plant Cutting Library. The Seed Library has a selection of various types of vegetables and flowers that you can choose from, while the Plant Cutting Library has donated cuttings that are ready for potting.



Additionally, we have a collection of jigsaw puzzles, perfect for relaxing activities on rainy days. History enthusiasts might be interested in the Westerly Sun microfilm collection we have. Although we are working to have the complete paper digitized, 1950-current are available on microfilm. We have also started developing a world languages collection that currently has mostly Spanish language titles. Continue to check back for additional languages and titles in the future.

The Adult Services staff is available by phone and email to help answer any research questions you have. If you are searching for your next great read, please contact us or stop by the Reference Desk for assistance.

## service highlight

### databases

You may already know that there are many databases available through askri.org and our consortium (OSLRI). In addition to those, did you know that our library subscribes to some databases that are exclusively for you, our patrons? It's easy to access these databases by going to [westerlylibrary.org](http://westerlylibrary.org) and clicking Online Resources and then Databases where you can see all the databases we have available!

To access the New York Times from home, choose New York Times (All Access) from our list of databases. From there you will need to log in or create an account to use the promotional code that gives you 24 hours of free access to NY Times online. With this redemption code, you will get access to all the News, Wirecutter, Cooking, The Athletic, and the Adult Services Department's favorite of all, Games!

Comics Plus offers access to thousands of digital comics, manga, and picture books. Best of all there is never any wait list or borrowing limit! With Kanopy and your library card, you can stream 30,000 films without ads along with television series and kids programming.

America's News provides access to current and archived content from more than 2,000 newspaper titles, as well as newswires, transcripts, business journals, periodicals, government documents and other publications. Best of all it includes The Westerly Sun from 2000 to present as well as the Providence Journal!

If you have any questions about these databases don't hesitate to call the Reference Desk 401-596-2877 x3 or email us at [reference@westerlylibrary.org](mailto:reference@westerlylibrary.org)!

# adult programs

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## Adult Winter Reading Challenge • 1st – 31st

Get your new year started on the right foot, and start ticking books off of your “To Read” list by joining our Winter Reading Challenge! Submit a ticket for each book you read during the month of January, and you’ll be entered to win gift cards to local businesses, including The United and KNEAD Doughnuts!



## Crafternoon To-Go • 6th • 9 am-8 pm • Makerspace

Our Crafternoon To-Go kits will now be available on the 1st Monday of each month. This month, we’re making Brass Ring Hanging Planters! Pick up a kit to go or put it together on the spot. Kits are available on a first come first served basis starting at 9:00 a.m. and are limited to one per person. You can access the video tutorial on our YouTube Channel on the day of the program.



## Sewers in Stitches • 6th, 13th & 27th • 2-4 pm • Terrace Room

Join this weekly group to share ideas, ask advice and practice your crafting skills. We help with quilting, embroidery, felting, knitting and crocheting. This group is open to everyone from beginners to experts, please bring your own supplies.



## Monday Night Movie • 6th & 27th • 5:30-7:30 pm • Auditorium

Join us on Monday evenings for Movie Night! This program is primarily for adults as some selected films are rated for adult audiences. For each film’s description, rating, and running time please see our website. This month’s selected films include American Fiction (2023) on the 6th and “Twisters” (2023) on the 27th.



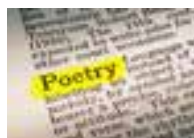
## Knit & Crochet Group • 7th, 14th, 21th, 28th • 5:30 pm to 7:30pm • Makerspace

This group is a social event, please drop in anytime and bring a project to work on and talk about! This program is not a class for learning to knit or crochet, but attendees are usually willing and able to answer questions if you’re having trouble with something specific. This group meets weekly.



## Project Outreach Veteran’s Assistance • 10th • 10-11 am • Roberts Room

Members of organization Project Outreach of Westerly will be available for assistance on the second Friday of every month to aid veterans in navigating available benefits and other services. The program is staffed by certified Chapter Service Officers that have attended the yearly Disabled American Veterans training.



## The Poetry Gathering • 13th • 5-7 pm • Terrace Room

This monthly gathering invites brand-new and long-time poets, plus appreciators of poetry, to bring up to two of their own poems or those of a favorite poet to share. Good listeners are also welcome. The Poetry Gathering meets on the second Monday of each month.



## The Rhode Island 39 Club: Your Passport & Guide to Exploring RI

• 13th • 6-7 pm • Auditorium

This presentation by Marty Podskoch, author of 11 books including “The Connecticut 169 Club” and “The Rhode Island 39 Club”, will show the beauty of our state and will encourage us to get out and explore it!



## Mostly Fiction Book Club • 14th • 6-7:30 pm • Terrace Room

Join us for this month’s book discussion of “Chasing Beauty” by Natalie Dykstra, the vivid and masterful story of Isabella Stuart Gardner—creator of one of America’s most stunning museums located in Boston. New members always welcome!



## Film Club • 15th • 2-3 pm • Terrace Room (in person) and Virtual

Join us for our social group for anyone who loves films! Members watch the chosen movies for the month at home, and then come together to discuss on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. This month, our films are: “The Quiet Girl” (2022), and “The Road” (2009), both of which are available to check out from the library, or stream on Kanopy. Please email [reference@westerlylibrary.org](mailto:reference@westerlylibrary.org) for Zoom details.



## An Evening with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: The Man, The Myth, The Martyr • 15th • 5:30-7:30pm • Auditorium

In partnership with Westerly Area Peace and Justice Group, Westerly ARC, and The Rotary Club of Westerly, please join us for an evening honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with a selection of short readings from his works followed by small group discussions. Refreshments will be provided.



## Learn the Language of Ireland with Irish Coastal Club • 15th • 6:30-7:30 pm • Terrace Room (hybrid)

Join the Irish Coastal Club for Irish Language Classes. Classes are fun and informal, with a focus on conversation and basic grammar. Beginners welcome. Bigi Linn! Join Us! Classes are held on the First & Third Wednesdays of the month and are free and open to the public. To attend virtually, please register by emailing [irishcoastalclub@yahoo.com](mailto:irishcoastalclub@yahoo.com).



## Sewing Basics • 21st • 6-6:30 pm • Makerspace

We will go over the sewing equipment available in our Makerspace and how to use it, as well as beginner project ideas. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



## Library of Things: Demo Day • 25th • 12-2 pm • Terrace Room

Did you know the library has objects you can check out? Join us for Library of Things Demo Day! This is an opportunity to learn more about what the Library of Things and test out some of our items that are available for check out!



## Documentary Film Screening | Naples and the Amalfi Coast: La Dolce Vita? • 25th • 1-3 pm • Auditorium

In partnership with Green Planet Films and Dante Society of Westerly, please join us for a screening and discussion of “Naples and the Amalfi Coast: La Dolce Vita?” about the impacts of tourism on the Amalfi Coast of Italy.



## Silent Book Club • 30th • 5:30 -7 pm • Old Main Reading Room

Bring any book you are currently reading and join us for our monthly Silent Book Club! We start by mingling with other readers for 15 minutes followed by 1 hour of silent reading and then wrap up with another 15 minutes of discussion (or continued silent reading). Silent Book Club is a great way to meet other readers in the area and learn about new (and old!) books others are currently loving.

# hanging in the hoxie • Jen Wilkosz Exhibit



Opening Reception  
Jan 8th • 5-7 pm

This month's exhibit *Transcending the Blue: Touch, Look, and Wonder* will feature pieces by artist Jen Wilkosz! The exhibition will be on view from January 7th to 28th, with an opening reception on January 8th from 5-7 pm in the Hoxie Gallery to meet the artist. Visitors are invited to join for an evening of art and light refreshments and to experience the magic of *Transcending the Blue: Touch, Look, and Wonder*. For more on the artist and exhibit, please [click here](#).

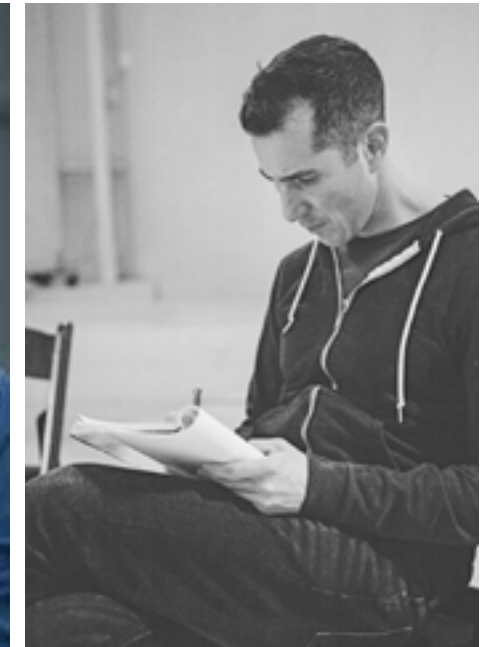


Our next artist-in-residence is New York City-based writer and director Dave Solomon! He'll be joining us for an eight-week-long residency during the months of February and March of 2025. We could not be more thrilled to have him for the AIR program. Stay tuned for some exciting program offerings with Dave while here, including a Performance Lab & Audition Workshop as well as a Film Screening and Q&A for behind the scenes on set!



## Dave Solomon • bio

[www.dave-solomon.com](http://www.dave-solomon.com)



Solomon is a writer and director in both theatre and film. His short film, *Brenda & Billy* (and the *Pothos Plant*) premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and played over 20 festivals. He also directed the short film *Cavan* and wrote and directed the award-winning Photo Op (starring Randy Harrison) that played over twenty-five festivals including Palm Springs ShortFest and Outfest. Solomon assisted Oscar-winning writer/director Bill Condon on the films *Mr. Holmes* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. He also served as Condon's associate on the revised production of *Side Show* on Broadway and was an Associate Producer on "A Christmas Story Live" for Fox. He has been an Associate Director to Joe Mantello and Scott Ellis and has worked on sixteen Broadway productions including *Elf*, *Tootsie*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *9 to 5*, *Sunday in the Park*

with *George, Curtains* and *Assassins*. He directed the first national tour of *Tootsie* and the Japanese premiere production produced by TOHO Theatricals. He is currently directing and developing the new musical *Pump up the Volume* (based on the 1990 film) as well as his horror feature, *Chesterfield Falls*. His play *Margaret and Craig* was seen at New York Stage and Film (starring Mario Cantone, "Sex and the City") and is also in development for future production. He is currently at work on three new feature film scripts. Solomon is a graduate of Vassar College and has also been an educator, instructor or guest artist at various acting studios and institutions including Michigan State University, Point Park University, Sheridan College, New York Film Academy, The Growing Studio and Actors Therapy.



There is no better time of year to remind us of the love and joy in our community than the celebration of a New Year. Thank you to all who have joined our annual events this past year including the first Community Connections resource fair with over 15 local organizations, Pride in the Park for all ages, and our 3rd Fall Fest and Pumpkin Stroll. Most recently, our festive Annual Tree Lighting in the park brought hundreds of community members together to sip hot chocolate and sing carols led by the Chorus of Westerly. Inside the library, a giving tree was decorated with warm weather gear donated by community members for neighbors in need.

From the celebratory to the challenging, Westerly Library & Wilcox Park is proud to be one of the many local organizations working to support our community through all of life's moments. In 2025, Westerly Library & Wilcox Park will begin a Community Spotlight initiative in The Pop-Up at Coy to bring the meaningful missions of local organizations to our front door. If you feel a local non-profit organization has positively impacted your life and our community this past year, we welcome you to share your stories and nominate the organization for an upcoming monthly Community Spotlight at Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.

Community Spotlight nominations can be sent to our Program and Outreach Associate, Julianna Risica: [jrisica@westerlylibrary.org](mailto:jrisica@westerlylibrary.org).



## YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Every year, Westerly Library & Wilcox Park raises funds to support our general operating budget.

Our fiscal year runs July 1st through June 30th, which means we are currently half way through the current fiscal year. Our Annual Fund goal this fiscal year is \$220,000 and we have raised \$171,608 to date.

Thank you to all who support Annual Fund!



**GOAL: \$220,000 BY JUNE 30, 2025**

## atta•dude

At WLWP we celebrate our dedicated staff members monthly. Colleagues are nominated for going above and beyond by their peers. Atta•dudes, as we call them, are awarded to the staff member who receives the most nominations in a month. Maria was our winner of November's atta•dude!

Maria was recognized for being an amazing guide to a new tech associate. She also took extra time to help a patron access their personal accounts and showed great enthusiasm making nameplates for everyone who came in for our November Comic Con event. Congratulations Maria.



# public services



**don't miss  
LoT Demo Day  
01/25 • 12-2 pm**

**top 5  
circulated  
"things"**  
ghost hunting kit  
projector  
water test strips  
wordle  
metal detector

## library of things • LoT

Did you know that libraries circulate more than just books and movies?

We certainly do!

Come on in and take a look at our UPDATED Library of Things! Simply walk past the Circulation Desk and you will see a wall of colored acrylic plaques advertising what we have to offer!

And WHAT do we offer, you might ask?

We circulate THINGS for the outdoors, THINGS for the indoors, THINGS for projects, and THINGS that are for play. Feel free to go to our catalog online (<https://westerlylibrary.oslri.net/>) and type in Westerly Library of Things to get a full listing of THINGS. And, you don't want to miss our newest reel on social media highlighting our staff's musical skills playing some of the new instruments in our Library of Things collection!

But, how do I check a THING out? How does it work?



Well dear reader, simply take one (or two) plaques of THINGS of your choosing from the Library of Things wall and bring them to the Circulation Desk where one of our lovely staff can assist you. You can take your item(s) home for 1 week after you sign our updated Non-Traditional Materials Borrowing Policy, which outlines the rules and expectations of borrowing.

After that, we scan the document for our records, you keep a copy of the policy, and we check out the "THING" and you take it home! Easy!

And with that, we hope you enjoy the THINGS we have to offer!

service highlight

# museum passes



This pass offers FREE admission for 2 guests. The Audrain Automobile Museum is also a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM) thus allowing members to get discounts at member museums (such as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and more).



This pass offers FREE admission for 2 adults and 2 children under 18.



This pass offers 4 FREE regular price admission tickets (up to 2 adults). It also offers 10% off at the museum shop and café.



This pass entitles up to two adults and three youth/children (ages 4-17, under 4 are free) 50% off full price admission to Mystic Seaport Museum on the day printed on the card.



This pass allows 50% off admission to The Breakers for up to 2 adults (13+) and 4 children (6-12). Children under 6 are free. Valid for regular daytime admission and cannot be applied to multi-house tickets.



This pass offers half-price admission for up to four people (ages 12 months and up).



This pass admits two adults. All children 18 and under are free. Sundays are always free.



This pass offers half-price admissions for two adults and four children.



This pass offers FREE admission for one group (up to five guests).

# upgrades

- refreshed signage



• new carpet

# youth

Exciting changes are coming to the Youth Services spaces in the New Year! The Kids' Room, Tween Space, and Teen Space are all set to receive fantastic updates that will enhance the experience for young visitors.

In the Kids' Room, a new Library of Things slat wall will be installed, offering a variety of engaging items for children to borrow and explore. This addition aims to spark curiosity and creativity among the youngest library patrons. The awesome items include an interactive globe, a sensory backpack, and busy boards! Similarly, the Teen Space will also feature its own Library of Things slat wall, tailored to the interests of teenagers, providing them with unique resources and activities to enjoy, including a cat keyboard, Bluetooth digital microscope, and bongos!

The Tween Space is getting a fresh, interactive upgrade with the installation of a new chalkboard wall. This will be a perfect spot for tweens to express themselves, collaborate on projects, and have fun with friends.

Youth Services has seen some popular checkouts recently. The Nintendo Switch game "Pikmin" has been a hit among young gamers, while "Fourth Wing" by Rebecca Yarrows has captivated young adult fiction readers. For movie lovers, "Cars" and its sequel "Cars 2" have been top choices.

Mark your calendars for February 8th, when the library will host a special Lunar New Year program featuring Lion Dancers to celebrate the Year of the Snake. This vibrant and cultural event promises to be a memorable experience for all ages.

Stay tuned for these exciting updates and programs, and make sure to visit the Youth Services spaces to enjoy all the new features and activities!



service highlight



# youth programs

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



### **Baby Playtime** • 2nd & 16th • 10-10:45 am • Terrace Room

Join us for 45 minutes of lap-sit fun with your baby including stories, rhymes, songs, and free-play time. Children ages birth-14 months welcome, no registration required.



### **Kids Craft Time** • 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th • 4-4:30 pm • Kids Room (Castle)

Stop by the Kids Room Castle for a new craft project every week! This month we will be making New Year's fireworks, decorating cardboard hot cocoa cups, watercolor salt snowflakes, puffy paint snowmen, and Lunar New Year snakes!



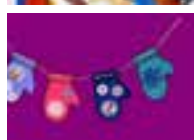
### **Teen Crafternoon** • 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th • 4-5 pm • Teen Space

Anytime is a good time for crafting, let your creativity shine! Teens in grades 7-12 are welcome to join us for weekly craft projects in Teen Space.



### **Tween Alliance for Acceptance** • 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th • 4-5 pm • Terrace Room

All tweens are welcome to join us in the Terrace Room to hang out, chat about books, play games, and appreciate all of our differences!



### **Kids Take and Make** • 6th • 9 am-8 pm • Makerspace

Stop by the library for a take and make craft. This month's craft is Mitten Garlands! Crafts can be taken to go or made in the Makerspace. Supplies are first come, first served.



### **Tween Dungeons & Dragons (Ages 8-12)** • Tuesdays Weekly (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th) or

Wednesdays (8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) • Tween Space

Tween Homeschool Group: Tuesdays 1:30-3 pm

Group 1: Tuesdays 3:30-5pm

Group 2: Tuesdays 5-6:30 pm

Group 3: Wednesdays 4:30-6 pm

Join one of our four Tween Dungeons and Dragons groups run by our Tween librarian! Space is limited and usually at capacity but newcomers are always welcome. Please contact our Tween librarian, Ben, for group availability: [bgreen@westerlylibrary.org](mailto:bgreen@westerlylibrary.org).



### **After School Storytime** • 7th • 4-4:30 pm • Terrace Room

Have you ever wondered where animals go in the winter time? Join us in our new storytime to learn about hibernation through reading and crafting! This month we are reading "Hibernation Station" by Michelle Meadows.



### **Storytime** • 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th • 10-10:30 am • Terrace Room

Join us for our weekly storytime! Come grab a cozy spot and get ready for a story.



### **Pizza & Pride** • 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th • 4-5pm • Roberts Room

Meet other LGBTQIA2+ teens and allies while enjoying pizza, playing games, and discussing LGBTQIA2+ books, movies, and current events! Pride Club is for everyone in grades 7-12.



### **Playdough Playtime** • 8th & 22nd • 4-5 pm • Kids Room

In this program, kids use their imagination and get creative with homemade playdough. Whether you want to make awesome sculptures, cool shapes, or just have fun squishing and molding this is the perfect place for you!



### **Toddler Playtime** • 9th & 23rd • 10-10:45 am • Terrace Room

Join us for 45 minutes of movement fun with your toddler, including stories, rhymes, songs, and free-play time. Children ages 14 months to 3 years are welcome, no registration required.



### **Read & Craft with Westerly High School's Emergent Literacy Students**

10th • 11 am-12 pm • Terrace Room

Enjoy storytime and a craft with the students from Westerly High School's Emergent Literacy Students! These fun and energetic students are interested in pursuing education in the future and have researched holiday and winter-themed stories, practiced their read-aloud, and created engaging craft activities to entertain our young patrons!



### **Readers Welcome: Tween Book Club** • 10th • 4-5 pm • Tween Space

Whether it's graphic novels, fantasy, historical fiction, or realistic novels, come on in to whatever you're reading with fellow tweens and swap recommendations! Tweens ages 8 to 12 welcome.



### **Sensory Saturday** • 11th • 1-2 pm • Kids Room

Join us for a sensory friendly playtime! This program is designed to be open play with different sensory items to stimulate the senses. January's theme is Space!



### **Natural Arts** • 13th • 10-11 am • Toddler Time & 4-5 pm • After School • Kids Room

Join us as we create art using natural art supplies. This month we will be using painting with ice! This program will run twice, first at 10:00 am for Toddler Time and again at 4:00 pm for after school.



### **Funda Fest 27: Family Storytelling Fun with the Rhode Island Black Storytellers**

18th • 12-2 pm • Terrace Room

Join us for an afternoon of fantastic storytelling and crafts to celebrate Funda Fest 27! The Rhode Island Black Storytellers will share several African and Caribbean stories. This event is free and open to all ages. To learn more about RIBS and the history of Funda Fest, visit their website at [FundaFest.org](http://FundaFest.org).



### **Tween Librarian Club** • 24th • 4-5 pm • Tween Space

Join fellow library fans to create interactive displays, create art for the Tween Space, and discuss all things books!



### **Library of Things: Demo Day** • 25th • 12-2 pm • Terrace Room

Did you know the library has objects you can check out? Join us for Library of Things Demo Day! This is an opportunity to learn more about what the Library of Things and test out some of our items that are available for check out!



### **Monthly Homeschool Hangout** • 27th • 2-3 pm • Auditorium

A time for homeschooled families to come to the library and connect with each other. Plus, learn about and explore our library services, resources, and tools, including our hydroponics unit, coding tools, and so much more!

# books

staff curated selection • what's entertained us in 2024



***A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers**

Recommended by Sara

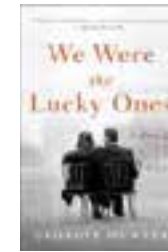
A moving memoir of a college senior who, in the space of five weeks, loses both of his parents to cancer and inherits his eight-year-old brother.



***The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore**

Recommended by Stacey

An ambitious mystery thriller about a child who goes missing at her family's summer camp just as her brother disappeared 14 years earlier, never to be found.



***We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter**

Recommended by Sara

An extraordinary novel that demonstrates how in the face of the twentieth century's darkest moment, the human spirit can endure and even thrive.



***Everyone Brave is Forgiven* by Chris Cleave**

Recommended by Sara

A spellbinding novel about three unforgettable individuals thrown together by war, love, and their search for belonging in the landscape of WWII London.



***Butcher* by Joyce Carol Oates**

Recommended by Stacey

An arresting novel about a women's asylum in the nineteenth century and a terrifying doctor who wants to change the world.



***The House of Hidden Meanings* by RuPaul**

Recommended by Stacey

A personal memoir from international drag superstar, RuPaul, about discovering the power of performance, found family, and self-acceptance.



***Whale Fall* by Elizabeth O'Connor**

Recommended by Casey

A novel about loss, isolation, folklore, and the joy and dissonance of finding oneself by exploring life outside one's community.



***Good Material* by Dolly Alderton**

Recommended by Julianna and Cassie

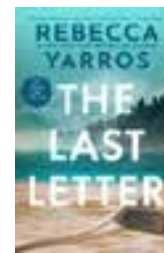
A relatable and sharply funny story of romantic disaster and valuable friendship which offers a love story with two endings.



***James* by Percival Everett**

Recommended by Sara

A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—both harrowing and ferociously funny—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.



***The Last Letter* by Rebecca Yarros**

Recommended by Brigitte

A heartbreaking love story about a fallen soldier who's final wish is for his friend to leave service to care for his sister and her twin children.



***When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill**

Recommended by Penny

A spirited tale set in the 1950s where thousands of women have spontaneously transformed into dragons, exploding notions of a woman's place in the world.



***Did You Hear About Kitty Karr?* By Crystal Paul Smith**

Recommended by Brigitte

A multigenerational saga that traverses the glamour of old Hollywood and the seductive draw of modern-day showbiz selected for Reese's Book Club in 2023.



***The Maidens* by Alex Michaelides**

Recommended by Brigitte

A dark-academia mystery about a secret society at Cambridge University known as The Maidens, a member who was murdered, and a suspicious professor.



***The Wedding People* by Alison Es-pach**

Recommended by Sara

A propulsive and uncommonly wise novel set in Newport, Rhode Island about one unexpected wedding guest and the surprising people who help her start anew.



***Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver**

Recommended by Sara

Recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, a contemporary novel about overcoming childhood poverty in southern Appalachia inspired by *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens.



***The Clinic* by Cate Quinn**

Recommended by Stacey

A thriller set in a remote rehab clinic where the death of a woman inside prompts her sister to enter the clinic as a patient in order to find the truth.



***The Rachel Incident* by Caroline O'Donoghue**

Recommended by Kim

A brilliantly funny novel about friends, lovers, Ireland in chaos, and a young woman desperately trying to manage all three.



# tv series



## [Hacks](#) • season 1 available

Recommended by Brigitte

A comedy-drama television series about a legendary Las Vegas comedian and the new young comedy writer hired to reinvent her aging act.



## [The Umbrella Academy](#) • seasons 1-2 available

Recommended by Sara

A drama series about a family of former child heroes, now grown apart, must reunite to continue to protect the world.



## [Ghosts](#) • seasons 1-4 available

Recommended by Sara

A four season comedy series about a young couple who inherit a haunted mansion unaware of their ghostly housemates.



## [The Great British Baking Show](#) • seasons 1-5 available

Recommended by Julianna

Follow the trials of passionate amateur bakers whose goal is to be named the U.K.'s best as they tackle different skills of increasing difficulty each week.



# movies



## [Thelma](#)

Recommended by Sara

After getting conned by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, Thelma sets out on a wild adventure across the city to take back what's hers.



## [Wicked Little Letters](#)

Recommended by Caroline

When conservative Edith Swan begins to receive wicked letters full of hilarious profanities, her neighbor foul-mouthed Rose Gooding is charged with the crime.



## [The Fall Guy](#)

Recommended by Sara

A stuntman fresh off an almost career-ending accident is persuaded to return to work when he's told his ex is directing a film and asked for him specifically.



## [The Mummy](#)

Recommended by Keara

Though safely entombed in a crypt deep beneath the desert, an ancient princess, whose destiny was unjustly taken from her, is awakened in the current day.



## [IF](#)

Recommended by Sara

A young girl begins to see everyone's imaginary friends who have been left behind after their real-life friends have grown up.



## [The Holdovers](#)

Recommended by Claire

A curmudgeonly instructor at a New England prep school is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the students with nowhere to go.



## [Salem's Lot](#)

Recommended by Stacey

A Stephen King adaptation about a journalist who returns to his hometown to research the mysterious memories that have haunted him since childhood.



## [Waitress: The Musical](#)

Recommended by Julianna

A stage recording of the Broadway original cast about a waitress and expert pie baker who is stuck in her small town and abusive marriage.



## [Nothing Compares](#)

Recommended by Caroline

A documentary exploring the rise and fall of Sinéad O'Connor's pop music career and her enduring cultural impact.

stream tv series & movies  
**FREE** with your library card  
on hoopla and Kanopy!

# park enhancement

For any of you that have frequented the park for an invigorating stroll or respite from life's stresses, you would not have been able to miss the park's newest feature. A stone retaining wall has been meticulously built along the bottom of the slope adjacent to our historic bandstand. It runs 300-feet long and is approximately 21 inches tall.

The benefit of this new retaining wall is threefold; it creates a level shoulder adjacent to the park walkway, it retains the slope behind it allowing for future landscaping, and it provides for a sturdy perch to rest oneself.

In order to gain approval from the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, two review meetings were attended. The project renderings were shared and questions were answered in the successful attempt to get their endorsement. New England field stone comprises the body of the wall and reclaimed hand-cut granite slabs are utilized as capstones. Together this creates a sturdy entity that will be able to persist for the ages.

Dower Stone of Hope Valley was commissioned to build the wall with funds from a generous donor wishing to remain anonymous. Park staff excavated the site, installed the base and filter fabric and are completing the project with additional crushed stone behind it for drainage. In the spring, sod will be laid on the new level shoulder allowing for patrons to step off the walk when pedestrian traffic gets clustered.



Leaf mold compost makes for an excellent planting mix for new plantings as well as a rich top dressing for existing plantings while at the same time greatly increasing the soils' ability to retain moisture. In order to maintain the open grassy lawns of the park, the vast majority of the leaves are collected and removed. We pile them up and allow them to compost down through natural processes. Our storage areas for this are at capacity this year so the park's leaves are being donated to the Westerly Land Trust at the Barlow Nature Preserve.



dedication

## honoring • Robert & Geraldine Spillane

Katie Orsi and Maura Francis, Geraldine's two daughters, contacted us wishing to dedicate a tree in the park honoring Gerry's 90th birthday. Maura and Katie informed us that red is Gerry's favorite color. The 'Scarlet Fire' Kousa dogwood has bright red blooms, and all dogwood trees have four-sepaled flowers that historically have been representative of the crucifix, evident on old Christian headstones in cemeteries. Gerry's daughters felt like this tree selection was a perfect choice for their mother. The tree also serves as a memorial to their late father, Robert Spillane. This memorial can be located across the walkway from the Bandstand on the hill. The tree was dedicated on November 25, 2024.



A memorial or honorary dedication is a lasting tribute to a loved one. For more information on memorial and dedications please [click here](#).

# all programs

## all ages • all interests

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Adult Winter Reading Challenge** • 1st – 31st

**Baby Playtime** • 2nd & 16th • 10-10:45 am • Terrace Room

**Kids Craft Time** • 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th • 4-4:30 pm • Kids Room (Castle)

**Teen Crafternoon** • 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th • 4-5 pm • Teen Space

**Tween Alliance for Acceptance** • 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th • 4-5 pm • Terrace Room

**Crafternoon To-Go** • 6th • 9 am-8 pm • Makerspace

**Kids Take and Make** • 6th • 9 am-8 pm • Makerspace

**Sewers in Stitches** • 6th, 13th & 27th • 2-4 pm • Terrace Room

**Monday Night Movie** • 6th & 27th • 5:30-7:30 pm • Auditorium

**Tween Dungeons & Dragons (Ages 8-12)** • weekly • Tuesdays (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th) Wednesdays (8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) • Tween Space  
 Tween Homeschool Group: Tuesdays 1:30-3 pm  
 Group 1: Tuesdays 3:30-5pm  
 Group 2: Tuesdays 5-6:30 pm  
 Group 3: Wednesdays 4:30-6 pm

**Knit & Crochet Group** • 7th, 14th, 21th, 28th • 5:30 pm to 7:30pm • Makerspace

**After School Storytime** • 7th • 4-4:30 pm • Terrace Room

**Storytime** • 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th • 10-10:30 am • Terrace Room

**Teen Pizza & Pride** • 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th • 4-5pm • Roberts Room

**Playdough Playtime** • 8th & 22nd • 4-5 pm • Kids Room

**Toddler Playtime** • 9th & 23rd • 10-10:45 am • Terrace Room

**Read & Craft with Westerly High School's Emergent Literacy Students** 10th • 11 am-12 pm • Terrace Room

**Project Outreach Veteran's Assistance** • 10th • 10-11 am • Roberts Room

**Readers Welcome: Tween Book Club** • 10th • 4-5 pm • Tween Space

**Sensory Saturday** • 11th • 1-2 pm • Kids Room

**Natural Arts** • 13th • 10-11 am • Toddler Time & 4-5 pm • After School • Kids Room

**The Poetry Gathering** • 13th • 5-7 pm • Terrace Room

**The Rhode Island 39 Club: Your Passport & Guide to Exploring RI** • 13th • 6-7 pm • Auditorium

**Mostly Fiction Book Club** • 14th • 6-7:30 pm • Terrace Room

**Film Club** • 15th • 2-3 pm • Terrace Room (in person) and Virtual

**An Evening with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: The Man, The Myth, The Martyr** • 15th • 5:30-7:30pm • Auditorium

**Learn the Language of Ireland with Irish Coastal Club** • 15th • 6:30-7:30 pm • Terrace Room (hybrid)

**Funda Fest 27: Family Storytelling Fun with the Rhode Island Black Storytellers** 18th • 12-2 pm • Terrace Room

**Sewing Basics** • 21st • 6-6:30 pm • Makerspace

**Tween Librarian Club** • 24th • 4-5 pm • Tween Space

**Library of Things: Demo Day** • 25th • 12-2 pm • Terrace Room

**Documentary Film Screening | Naples and the Amalfi Coast: La Dolce Vita?** • 25th • 1-3 pm • Auditorium

**Monthly Homeschool Hangout** • 27th • 2-3 pm • Auditorium

**Silent Book Club** • 30th • 5:30 -7 pm • Old Main Reading Room

save the date

**lunar new year celebration 2025**  
**year of the snake**  
**02/08 • 2-3 pm • Auditorium**

RI Kung Fu & Lion Dance Club will perform a traditional Lunar New Year Dance. Q&A and try on various costume pieces.

**hygge week**  
**02/19-22**

check our website event page and come get cozy with us during hygge week.  
 hygge • a quality of coziness and comfortable

**caddy stacks mini golf**  
**03/08**

Join us during our Caddy Stacks Fundraiser for a fun-filled day of mini golf inside the library!



**WLWP circulated a  
whopping 240,015  
items last year!**

## holidays • closings

Tuesday • December 31, 2024 • Closing Early at 5 pm for New Year's Eve

Wednesday • January 1, 2025 • Library Closed for New Year's Day

Monday • January 20, 2025 • Library Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

for news, events, programs and happenings please always refer to our website for the most up-to-date info.  
[westerlylibrary.org](http://westerlylibrary.org)



WESTERLY LIBRARY  
& WILCOX PARK