

# Friends of the Westhampton Public Library

## 2017

### Friends Board

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Andrea Pichette, Trs.  
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### Trustees Board

Maureen Dempsey,  
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Carol McMurrich, Sec.  
Michele Nevins  
Lynn Cooper  
Brian Mulvehill

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### Library Staff

Lynn Blair,  
Library Director

Hilary Nolan,  
Youth Services  
Librarian

### LIBRARY HOURS

**Monday** 2-8  
**Tuesday** 9-12, 1-5  
**Wed.** 9-12, 1-5  
**Thurs.** 2-8  
**Saturday** 10-1  
(except June & July)

### A note from our library director

It seems like just yesterday that I was beginning my journey here - where did the year go? I want to thank everyone for welcoming me to this great town. I have enjoyed getting to know you. My goal is ensuring that the library is a fun and welcoming place for everyone. As many of you had told me, "this library is the BEST!" Your enthusiasm is quite infectious and I continue to be inspired by your support for the library.



Lynn Blair, Director

### Update ... We've Been Busy!

Circulation was up *every* month in 2016. 2017 is starting out strong, with an increase in circulation of nearly 16% over January 2016!

### and from our new Friends president!

Being part of a community was an important factor as Jim and I searched for a home in New England. From our last home in Pennsylvania, we narrowed our search to western MA, then west of the CT river, then honed in on the hilltowns. Having made three trips from PA to look at several homes, we further narrowed our search to Westhampton and Williamsburg. We were fortunate to be in the right place when the Packards' Stage Rd. home was listed for sale. We viewed the home at 10 a.m. and they accepted our offer by 2 p.m. that same day!

While the home and land suited us, it was in attending one of the Summer Concerts on the Lawn, where we danced barefoot for 2 hours to Johnny & The Flashbacks, that we realized we were in the right place - with friendly, warm and welcoming people and a strong sense of community. We are so glad to be part of this thriving community and will do whatever we can to support it. It took years to find the right place to put down our retirement roots and Westhampton is it!

The library is a wonderful hub of the town and it's great to be within walking distance, be involved with the Fall Festival, and help coordinate the Summer Concert Series. Now, as the new President of the Friends of the Library, I can play my part in supporting our town: the gem of the hilltowns. It is part of our commitment to the amazing community we have recently joined. ~ Sue O'Rourke

## THANK YOU, JARED BROWN

Do you ever wonder who is responsible for making the library so neat and tidy? The one behind the library's spiffy appearance is Jared Brown. Jared became the library custodian in 2014, shortly after becoming the custodian for the Town Hall and Annex. Jared takes his job very seriously and treats the town buildings as if they were his own. He enjoys making a difference.



## KIDS LEARN THROUGH PLAY AT THE LIBRARY

Some things change, some stay the same with youth services at the library. Look into the community room during Tuesday Playgroup with volunteer Mary Cleary or during Wednesday Storytime and you'll find an active group of preschoolers and their caregivers playing and socializing. Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant money has provided a great variety of plastic blocks, animals and vehicles that get spread all over the rug - not to mention the sand table and small puppet theater that make occasional appearances.

The LEGO Club starts up again in March. It's a month long Tuesday after-school series for elementary school kids with help from parent volunteers.

Many libraries are now offering coding programs to demystify computer science. Lynn and volunteer Dale Kasal are developing family coding opportunities for families in Westhampton - the first one was held at the HRHS Library. Related books on coding will be added to our shelves.

The library offers at least one children's program a week for six weeks each summer. The Friends funded the most popular Summer 2016 children's program - live animals from around the world presented by Creature Teachers. This coming summer, Dinoman will fill the community room with huge inflatable dinosaurs and dinosaur fossils, thanks to donations designated for the Friends' Lyn Keating Programming Fund.

Picture books, graphic novels and DVDs currently circulate quite actively in the juvenile collection. We respond to local interest in our selection of materials. You can help us by giving feedback on what your children like to check out.



We want to thank long-time library volunteers **Lorraine O'Keefe, Sheila Marks, Helene Pajak, Victoria Yoshen and Ellice Gonzalez**. We also welcome new volunteers **Dan Parker and Angela Griefen**. We appreciate your skills and your volunteerism!

**Thank you to Leo and Anita Aloisi for their 2016 Friends fundraiser at Strawbale Café last spring!**

- ◆ A beautiful, large rug in the community room was a received through an anonymous donation.
- ◆ A Peter Reynolds picture donated by Westhampton residents Judee, David and Emily Wayne.
- ◆ A Scherenschnitte image of the library created and donated by Doris Heierli, of Zurich, Switzerland.



**Friends of Westhampton Public Library**  
 1 North Rd, Westhampton, MA

**2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Supporting Member: \$35 or more \_\_\_ Family: \$25 \_\_\_ Individual: \$15\_\_\_ Senior: \$5\_\_\_ 12 & Under FREE \_\_\_

*As a gift to yourself and others, consider donating to the "Fill the Shelves Fund" for the director's purchase of books, media & other circulating materials.*

"Fill the Shelves" donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Gifts to the Lyn Keating Programming Fund support a wide variety of library programs and associated expenses.*

"Lyn Keating Programming Fund" donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: "Friends of the Westhampton Public Library" **TOTAL DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name as you prefer it to appear on library invitations and mailings:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY SING!**

**How do you build a strong community? Sing together!**

Did you know that on the first Monday night of each month folks get together and sing in the library's community room? When their go-to songbooks wore out last year, the Friends provided ten new copies. Friends support friends, and we recognize how much richer our community is because of this musical offering available to all of us each month. This group LOVES singing and community. Frequently accompanied by guitar, banjo, fiddle and mandolin, participants often sing selections from "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again." Both new and young musicians will find encouragement here, and all voices are welcome!

Come sing at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month!



## **Westhampton Public Library**

Friends of the Westhampton Public Library  
1 North Rd.  
Westhampton, MA 01027

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**Receive email notifications about upcoming library events by providing your email address to Lynn or Hilary or just write "SIGN ME UP" on your 2017 form on reverse.**

- ◆ **The Friends thank the town's Cultural Council for their generous contribution toward the 2017 Summer Concert series! These enjoyable evenings of music on the library lawn are free to the public and feature both local and national bands. Thanks to Laurie Sanders, Sue O'Rourke, Judith Dunaway, Sheila Marks, Lara Ramsey and Teri Anderson for having coordinated last year's series.**
- ◆ **Fall Festival 2016 was another successful collaboration between the Friends and the PTO. It takes lots of coordination and dozens of volunteers to make this such a fun family event. See you this year on Sunday, October 15th. Mark your calendar.**
- ◆ **Thank you to Jackie Brodeur and Mary Montague for coordinating the monthly art displays in the community room. Both are members of the Art Exhibit Committee, along with Phil Dowling, Ron Baer and Tom Martin. Their year-round efforts of reaching out to area artists have attracted wonderful art displays for our entire community to enjoy for an entire month.**

**Our library is pretty fabulous. That's because of *your* generosity.**