

# 2023 - *Uniquely Our Own!*

## Friends of the Westhampton Public Library

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### Library Staff

Meaghan Schwelm  
Library Director

Emily Wayne  
Youth Services  
Librarian

Margaret Butterfield  
Library Assistant

Jared Brown  
Maintenance

We offered a Westhampton syrup sampler two years ago, and have now put together a sampler of Westhampton memorabilia! You can't buy a raffle ticket. Your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win this rare collection when you either join or renew a Friends membership **before June 1<sup>st</sup>**. (Those who have already made their 2023 donation will be entered.) Keep the entire collection for yourself or divide into gifts for several family members and friends! Drawing to be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Good luck!



Commemorative Westhampton textile (48" x 64").  
Use as a warm throw or wall-hanging. 100% cotton.



"Westhampton 1778" stoneware pitcher, magnets and coveted Church cookbook, "Ambrosia to Zucchini"

## A Note from Director Meaghan Schwelm

In spring 2022, the library began the process of gathering feedback to shape our five year strategic plan for 2023 - 2028. Special thanks to all of you who provided feedback. We received praise in many areas and also identified opportunities for new programs, ways to strengthen the collection, and ideas for making the library yard more accessible and welcoming for all ages. We are already using the strategic plan to guide program, services and collection choices. Thank you!

Also, in 2022, the library welcomed Margaret Butterfield as our new Library Assistant. Now an indispensable member of our team, Margaret assists with all library operations at the front desk, new materials processing, collections, produces flyers and displays and provides much needed coverage when a staff member is out.

This year, we started a new program series led by local Film Studies graduate, Ruth Tracy. His love of movies is evident in the thoughtful, entertaining, and varied selections he chooses for screenings at the library, alternating between family-friendly films and films geared toward adults and teens. Please join us at the library for an upcoming Friday "Movie Night"!

We would also like to thank our four new HRHS Homework Helpers: Miryam Hilnbrand, Kaylee McConnell, Aoife Reynolds and Josie Taylor, all members of the Academic Honors Society. The program is drop-in and runs every Tuesday at 3:30, except for school vacation weeks. The kids seem to love having an older peer to help them out. Interested families can send questions to [westhampton@cwmares.org](mailto:westhampton@cwmares.org).

The strategic plan can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3VarUdW>

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*Amazing  
Years!!*

### LIBRARY HOURS

**Monday 2-8**

**Tuesday 9-12, 1-5**

**Wed. 9-12, 1-5**

**Thurs. 2-8**

**Saturday 10-1**

**Renew your membership through**

**PAYPAL**

<https://www.westhampton-ma.com/westhampton-public-library/pages/friends-library>

## **Thank You!**

A big thank you to library volunteers Sheila Marks, Victoria Yoshen, Ellice Gonzalez, Judee Wayne, Angela Griefen, Hilary Nolan, Barbara Pelissier, Ruth Tracy. Thanks always to Bev Montague (flowers), Tom Martin and Chris Wayne (landscape) and Phil Dowling (ongoing maintenance & troubleshooting) and Jackie Brodeur for coordinating the terrific art gallery exhibits. Thanks to Ashlyne Cedrone of Ashe Garden Designs for volunteering her time and expertise at community garden days and to Jared Szwajkowski (HRHS senior) for the many hours he spent on yard clean-up and planting bulbs donated by Smith Botanical Garden. We would also like to thank the six HRHS students who elected to do community service at the library. And, as always, a big thank you to Jared Brown, for taking such good care of the library.

## **Emily's Update on Youth Programming/Reading Program**

It's been a busy year at the library! This year we started a Children's After-School Program Series, with a different program for elementary school-aged children happening every Thursday afternoon on rotation - Lego Club on the first Thursday of every month, Craft Club on the second, Nintendo Switch Happy Hour on the third, Comics Club on the fourth, and a special Drop-In Game Day on months with a fifth Thursday. These programs have been a big hit, and we've got a dedicated and enthusiastic crowd of attendees that burst through the door every Thursday!

On the third Thursday of every month, tweens and teens can come and try out some more advanced craft projects. This program has also been a big success. With some flexibility on age, based on interest and experience level, we've had ages 10 through adult trying out fun crafts including needle felting, cross stitch, macrame, and sewing, to make needle-felted hedgehogs, a fun snail cross stitch, felt succulents, cinnamon stick mini macrame ornaments, book paper flowers, and light-up terrariums. A big thank you to the Friends of the Library members whose donations support this program by funding whatever supplies we need!

Both of these programs will continue *through the end of May*, pause throughout the summer months, and resume in the fall ... because it's time for Summer Reading!

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**Mark these dates on your calendar, for some of the great programs we'll be offering this summer!  
Then keep an eye on our social media and events calendar as we get closer!**

- Summer Reading Kickoff - Saturday June 24th at 11 am
- Carrie Ferguson and the Grumpytime Band - Thursday June 29th at 6:30 pm
- Comics Workshop with Author/Illustrator Jannie Ho - Saturday July 8th at 11 am
- Caravan Puppets - Wednesday July 12th at 3pm
- Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey - Monday July 24th at 5:30 pm
- Summer Reading Closing - Saturday August 5th at 11 am

## 2023 FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Supporting Member: \$35 or more \_\_\_ Family: \$25 \_\_\_ Individual: \$15 \_\_\_ Senior: \$5 \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

As a gift to yourself and others, consider an additional donation to the "Trybrary" for the  
Items and materials to be borrowed, rather than purchased. "Trybrary" donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts to the Lyn Keating Programming Fund support 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 receipts, invitations and mailings: (apply an address label if you like)

If you donated last year, we have your information. Just provide your name on the form below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

### *Find your Voice!*

This year's Summer Reading theme is "Find Your Voice!" We will be continuing with our team structure by having a "Battle of the Bands" where kids (and adults!) can choose which of two fictitious book-themed bands they would like to join (Möstly Overdüe or The Grateful Read) to read for and earn points for their team! We have some fun events lined up and will have activities focusing on all the many ways to "Find Your Voice" from music, to theater and performance, writing and illustrating, journaling, art, and developing and expressing personal identity, and of course a return visit from crowd-favorite Tom Ricardi!

*Special thanks to The Friends of Westhampton Library for sponsoring all summer reading incentives and to the Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring all summer reading programs.*

~ From the President of the Friends of the Library ~

I remain delighted to be part of Friends of Westhampton Library – a group of dedicated residents who do so much for the library through their support. Membership donations help staff to afford varied programming; items for the Trybrary; the Field of Dreams summer concerts, and more!

All aspects of the Library continue to thrive under the guidance of Meaghan, together with Emily and Margaret and the wonderful library volunteers. However, without you, our Friends, much of what happens would not! Thank you, each and every one. As always, we're better together! ~ Sue O'Rourke

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

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**SAVE THESE DATES!**

But keep checking back for **more** programs and concerts in 2023!  
Follow events on Facebook and on the library's website year-round.

Summer Reading Kick-off - June 24 @ 11:00

O-Tones - July 7@ 6:00 (summer concert series)

Tom Ricardi & his Birds of Prey - July 24 @ 5:30pm

The Squeezebox Stompers - Aug. 11@ 6:00 (summer concert series)

Pan Neubean Steel -Aug. 25@ 6:00 (summer concert series)

Fall Festival Sunday - Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>