



Westwood Public Library
Director's Report
Tricia Perry
8 May 2017

Programs and Services



Senator Michael Rush and Representative Paul McMurtry dropped by the Westwood Public Library for a surprise visit to recognize National Library week (April 9th –April 15th).



Connor O'Brien (age 5) gets his very first library card during National Library Week!

Upcoming Author Events

Dawn Tripp, author of ***Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe*** – May 10th at 7 pm (sponsored by the Friends of the Library)

Brunonia Barry, author of ***The Fifth Petal*** – June 13th at 7 pm sponsored by the Friends of the Westwood Public Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services with LSTA Grant Funding administered through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (Previous novels include ***The Lace Reader*** and ***The Map of True Places***.)

Free Charging Stations now available for mobile devices!

KwikBoost Multi-Device Charging Stations are now available for patron use. Made possible by a generous donation by Westwood-Mansfield Pediatric Associates, the stations can charge up to 8 devices at one time. The charging stations are free to use and provide charging cables for nearly all phones, tablets, e-readers, mp3 players and other mobile devices. Stations are located in the Gallery Area on the 1st floor of the Main Library, and in the 2nd floor Reading Area adjacent to the newspaper and magazine section.

WI-FI Hotspots – The Library staff are looking into the possibility of providing circulating wi-fi hotspots to Westwood Library patrons. Wi-Fi hotspots are devices which broadcast internet access over Wi-Fi connections. Wi-Fi capable devices include mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, netbooks, laptops and desktop PCs. The idea would be that we would circulate these to patrons who might be traveling (vacationing) to areas where internet reception is less robust. Will keep you posted on progress...

STAFFING

ALL STAFF MEETING AND STAFF RECOGNITION

On Thursday, May 18th, we will be hosting an all staff meeting in the morning, followed by the Staff Recognition Luncheon. For the Staff Recognition portion of the day – 4 staff members will be receiving books this year:

- Karen Gallagher 10 years
- Liz Keefe 10 years
- Tricia London 20 year
- Joyce Levine 20 years

The Friends of the Westwood Library will be hosting the luncheon.

Reference Staff Vacancy: Substitute Reference Librarian Position has been filled.

On-Call Reference Librarians: I am pleased to share with you that two new reference librarians have been invited to join the on-call substitute reference librarian pool for the Westwood Public Library.

Both candidates demonstrated exceptional skills in reference and readers' advisory, and have spent several years working in public libraries in adjacent communities. Jennifer Hoff currently works part-time at the Brookline Public Library and Allison Palmgren works at the Norwood Public Library as the Head of Technology. We are thrilled to be able to add them to our staff, and I hope that you will stop by on your travels and give them a personal welcome to the Westwood Public Library and the Westwood community.

Custodial Staffing: Senior Library Custodian position has been posted internally for the Town of Westwood and applications are due to Linda Unger in the Personnel Office by Friday, May 5th.

Staff Development:

Staff Development efforts continue for library staff as part of the LSTA Readers' Advisory Grant funding that the library received from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Six staff members will be attending the **Massachusetts Library Association Conference** this spring, which is being held in Hyannis, MA. Attendees include Karen Gallagher, Head of

Circulation; Teresa Kerrigan, Adult Services Librarian; Karen Cagan and Suzie Canale, Library Assistants in the Children's Department; Claire Connors, Head of Branch Services; and Jenny Durant, Library Assistant at the Islington Branch Library.

BookExpo 2017 is being held in NYC this year—and Molly Riportella and Lizzy McGovern will be attending. BookExpo is a national conference that provides a “focused professional environment to discover emerging authors and the next blockbuster titles, engage with the world’s most influential publishers and learn from industry leaders and peers.” Funding for this Staff Development opportunity is being provided with a grant from the 21st Century Fund. Included in the conference is a one-day “Day of Dialog” that is specific to librarians. This event includes a full day of panels and speaker presentations by celebrated authors as well as free ARCs (Advance Reader Copies) and an opportunity to network with colleagues from around the country in an intimate library-centric setting. Molly and Lizzy will get a first look at exciting titles due out this fall and walk away with bags filled with books and inspiring ideas for Westwood Public Library.

Project SET: Skills, Empowerment, and Talent. The Massachusetts Library Association is continuing its second year of Project Set as an avenue to mentor and develop leadership and programming skills for rising stars in the world of Massachusetts Libraries. When I came across this opportunity, I suggested to Lizzy that she consider applying – as it provides a very structured and informative avenue for professional development and growth. The application is due on April 14th – and Lizzy has completed the online application and Janet Lucey (Early Childhood Education) and I provided letters of support.

A group of 8-10 individuals will be selected from a pool of qualified applicants. The ideal candidate will be new to program design and instruction but demonstrate an enthusiasm for becoming an engaged member of our library community.

This program focuses on six key themes and the overall breakdown is as follows:

1. Trends and emerging topics in the library field (20%)
2. Instructional design (15%)
3. Presentation skills (25%)
4. Communication (15%)
5. Leadership (15%)
6. Career development (10%)

Participants will be required to attend six in-person meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in Marlborough, and will design and present on an emerging topic in the library field at the MLS Annual Meeting on November 6, 2017.

UPDATE: Lizzy learned this week that she was selected to participate in this year's Project SET: Skills, Empowerment, & Talent program. The SET Crew reviewed 20 enthusiastic and highly qualified applicants and from that group assembled a diverse cohort of candidates for our learning community. First meeting is June 14th! Congratulations Lizzy – We know you will do an amazing job!

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan is now available on the library website, and we are working forward with plans to hold emergency evacuation drill with Deputy Chief Mike Reardon (WWFD).

SAVE THE DATE!

Keepsake Garden Stepping Stones

At the Westwood Public Library

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH FROM 9:30 – 1

On Saturday, June 17th, Westwood residents of all ages are invited to join us for a special event:

KEEPSAKE GARDEN STEPPING STONES!

All materials and supplies will be provided; you only need to bring your own special and individual artistic spirit.

To really personalize your stepping stone, you may want to bring along special items from home – popular choices include stones, seashells, bits of sea glass or pottery or other items to create your own personalized mosaic pattern. For the youngest artists, handprints and footprints are always a memorable addition to your stepping stones.

This is sure to be a very popular event, and while we will have plenty of supplies and materials, it is helpful for us if we can schedule some of the participants for specific time slots. To pre-register for a time slot, please call the Children's Department at the Library at 781-320-1042, or sign up for a time slot on your next visit to the Westwood Public Library.

Children, Teens and Adults of all ages are all welcome to participate! It makes a great "Father's Day" gift and looks fabulous in any garden!

1. Save the Date: Saturday, June 17th from 9:30 – 1
2. Bring your artistic spirit!
3. All materials will be provided, but if you have shells, glass stones, or other items which you would like to add to your stepping stone, you may wish to bring them with you! And – a special thanks to **Buddy's Tile Outlet of Norwood, MA** for their donation of tiles that all participants are invited to use to create their own creative and personalized stepping stones!
4. This is a drop-by and drop-in activity. However, for scheduling purposes, we do encourage individuals to pre-register for time slots.
5. Stepping Stones must be left overnight to set up, so you'll need to return to the library front patio anytime on Sunday or Monday to retrieve your stepping stones.

