For many of us, our love affair with the library began when we were young. From A.A. Milne to E.B. White, the library introduced us to a world of knowledge and imagination.

Today’s library continues to engage the minds of children, teens, adults and seniors while taking its place as a world-class information and technology hub.
The Westport Library provides surprises at every turn.

Exploring the world through technology.

Guidance and help for job seekers and entrepreneurs.

A generous grant brings new friends in the form of teaching tools for programming.

Inventive children’s programming creates lifelong library fans.

Booked for the Evening honors musical legend Nile Rodgers.

The Library Café offers more than just coffee and treats.

Table tennis in the courtyard is one of the activities open to the community.

For many of us, our love affair with the library began when we were young. From A.A. Milne to E.B. White, the library introduced us to a world of knowledge and imagination.

Today’s library continues to engage the minds of children, teens, adults and seniors while taking its place as a world-class information and technology hub.
This year, we served more people than ever before. You came to participate in hundreds of programs and events, find jobs and have coffee with friends. You explored the MakerSpace and were introduced to robotics. Increasingly, you took the Library home with you, accessing ebooks, movies, podcasts and music from the website.

Because of you, the Library continues to evolve to meet the needs of our vibrant community while preserving a hometown feel. There’s never been a more exciting time to be a part of the Library and we thank you for your support.

Come in. Go far.

From the Board President

The Westport Library is one of our community’s most treasured assets. It’s a vital town anchor that exemplifies the spirit of Westport and enriches the intellectual and creative life of the community.

This year, your Library continued to be a centerpiece of cultural exploration where people came together to share experiences. At times, it was a school for all ages, a meeting hall for town organizations or a performance space for international talent. It was also an important provider of business resources, assisting entrepreneurs and small businesses in an incubator-like atmosphere that inspires innovation.

As you will see, showcased in the pages that follow, we continue to offer individual and community-focused programming.

Through the trust and generosity of our supporters, we are inspired to continue our tradition of providing library services that are on the leading edge. We invite you to “come in and go far,” and we thank you for your support.

Mike Guthman
President, Board of Trustees
It’s all because of

The Westport Library Supporters

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

ANCHOR SOCIETY

The Westport Library Anchor Society is a group of individuals, families and organizations who have made a commitment to the Westport Library by donating a minimum of $2,500 throughout the fiscal year.

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Marjie Golden & Russell Baris
Becky & Mike Goss
Jane Green & Ian Warburg
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Gina & Peter Kanter
Shelly & Michael Kassen
Sandy & Peter Korbrenner
Darlene Krenz
Helen & Tom Lasersohn
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Carolyn Longacre & Michael Williams
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Gail Pesyna & John Hooper
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Marianne & William McNee
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The Mad Hatter Tea Party celebrated Lewis Carroll’s 142nd birthday.

Kelle & Jeffrey Ruden
Marleen Salvo & John Murphy
Lucy & Richard Sallick
The Srlin Family
Jennifer & Sandy Smokler
Samuel A. Stein
The Sussman Family
Janet & Joseph Tatsuko
Teacher Created
Materials Publishing
Teak, LLC
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Mami & George Varghese
Nancy & Frank Vener
Sandra Wagenfeld
Allison Ziering Walmalk &
Michael Walmalk
Mary-Lou & Larry Weisman
Westport Garden Club
June Eichbaum &
Katherine Wirfel
Y’s Women
Emily & Michael Ziegler

Longshore Circle
($500 +)
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Joan & Richard Burman
Hilary & Joseph Caliano
Drs. Bobbi & Barry Collier
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Hugnette &
Jonathan Cuntz
Elizabeth Daines
Kathleen M. Davidson
Susan S. Ellis
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Josiah Dearborn
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William Rippe
Susan & David Teicher
Marsha &
Stephen Temlock
Shilamt & Wub Tessema
Joyce & David Thompson
Lauren’s Luminette
Susan & Thomas Van Ripper
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Patricia Wentworth &
Mark Fagan
Westport Young
Woman’s League
Stephanie &
Craig Willis
Nathan L. Wolfson

Minuteman Circle
($250+)
Anonymous (5)

Shilmat & Wub T essema
Susan & David Teicher
Laurie Sudreau-Rippe &
William Rippe
Susan & David Teicher
Marsha &
Stephen Temlock
Shilamt & Wub Tessema
Joyce & David Thompson
Lauren’s Luminette
Susan & Thomas Van Ripper
Arthur & Phyllis Wachtel
Family Foundation
Sheila & John Weiss
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Jo Ann Davidson &
Alan Beasley
John C. Davidson
Catherine & Elwood Davis
Mica & Russell Diamond
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Stefanie Dreyfuss
Simone & Herbert Dubow
Kara Edwards
Carole & Richard Eisner
Julie & Robert Faderley
Kara Edwards
Carole & Richard Eisner
Julie & Robert Faderley
Carol & Doug Fisk
Peter Fisk

Carole & Richard Eisner
Julie & Robert Faderley
Carol & Doug Fisk
Peter Fisk

"Carole & Richard Eisner
Julie & Robert Faderley
“Librarians can answer real questions a whole lot better than Google ever will. They are like a super search engine with a smile.” — MAN IN HIS 40s

Darcy Hicks & Josh Koskoff
Jean Hill
Candace Hines
Judith Jinkle
Evelyn & Clyde Hinman
Mary Jane & Thomas Hood
Rita Reagan Hulme
Margaret Humphrey
Caroline & Craig Iannucci
IBD Group
Jill & Marc Isaacs
Karen F. Jacobs
Francoise & Richard Jaffe
Sandy Levinson
Ethan & Mark Levinson
Mary Beth & Sal Mollica
Henry & John Morrow
Kathleen Lasater
Tobias McCarthy
Linda & Steve Murray
Bill Derry, Director of Innovation, posed as a mad scientist for Summer Reading Club, for which kids read 13,247 books.
Sarah Winters Papsun  
Lorraine & Ken Palumbo  
Cameron Stracher  
Christine Pakkala  
Kathleen O’Sullivan  
Jan O’Sullivan  
Fides Ostbye  
Inge & Dale Ortmeyer  
Kate & Eric Ordway  
Bob Okulick  
Gail Olenick  
Glenn Oliver  
Madeline O'Sullivan  
Robert Olden  
Beverly O'Connell  
Suzanne O'Halloran  
Matthew Oestreicher  
Lory Nurenberg  
Audrey & Salvador Novoa  
William T. Norton  
Renee & Paul Neubelt  
Ralph Nebelung  
Monique & Sharon & Steven Navarro  
Westport Chapter  
National Charity League  
Denise & Robert Nahmias  
Elsa & Abe Nad  
Judith R. Rafael  
Ann Radley  
Peggy Radigan  
Vivian & Edward Rabin  
Evelyn & David Quigley  
The Putman Family  
Sarah & Greg Puhy  
Barbara & Robert Schulman  
Caryn & Joel Schwartz  
Lisa & Bill Schwartz  
Shirlee Schwarz

Barbara & Stephen Raffel  
Lisa & Edward Raisce  
Josephine Raimondi  
Beth & Jay Rand  
Sonali & Madhu Rao  
Evelyn & Daniel Rappaport  
Sandy & Mark Rappaport  
Rochele Rasch  
Harriette & Dick Rauh  
Emalou Rausen  
Tamaraw Rawtitt  
Daniel Recinos  
Joanne & Rob Reeves  
Barbara Reis  
Donna B. Reisner  
Martin Resnick  
Fran Reynolds

Dino, from the Connecticut National Guard’s Working Dog Detachment, demonstrated his skills.

Barbara & Richard Ryan  
Chilton Ryan  
Gina Ryan  
Glen Ryan  
Mortel Rynderman & Robert Teltser  
Ronnie & Martin Sachs  
Jane & Martin Sachs  
Teresa & Mario Sa’Couto  
Lyneen Sadlowski  
Nancy Saipe & William Humphrey  
Catalina Salas  
Felicia & Andy Sale  
Maria E. Salgar  
Patricia & James Samuel  
Julie Samuel  
Barbara & John Samuelson  
Linda & Don Sanders  
Anita & Paul Sarno  
Jean & Robert Satter  
Anne & James Scanlan  
Alison & Seth Schachter  
Jacqueline & Peter Schellhaut  
Steven L. Scher, D.D.S., P.C.  
Sylvia Schimmel  
Donna Schlegel & Gregory Knowles  
Jennifer & Tye Schlegelmich  
Patricia Schiesman  
Barbara Schmerzler  
Jayne & Art Schoeller  
Diana Scholl  
Judith & Morton Schomer  
Anita Schorr  
Budd S. Schwartz  
Laur & Joshua Schwartz  
Linda & Bill Schwartz  
Shirlee Schwarz

Janet Reynolds  
Amy Richardson  
Virginia & Edwin Riebel  
Eileen P. Riley  
Lisa & Dominic Rispoli  
Chris Robinson  
Lois H. Roehr  
Frances N. Roethgen  
Valerie & Ken Rothe  
Barbara & Stuart Rogen  
Holly Rogers  
June Rogers  
The Rogers Family  
Edith & Dan Romanello  
Gerald F. Romano/ Romano Real Estate  
Marie & Lew Rose  
The Rosen Family  
Cele Rosenau  
Sandra Rosenberg  
The Rosenkranz Family  
Judy & Bob Rosenkranz  
Lon V. Ross  
Stephanie & Stuart Ross  
Johanna Ross  
Barbara Roth  
The Rotts  
Heidi & Charles Rozier  
Janet & Howard Rubel  
Lock Rudick  
Judith Y. Runnette  
Caroline & James Russell-Walling  
Anne Rutherford

“I came in for a book and left with an experience.” — RETIRED WOMAN

Barbara & Robert Sheldon  
Kathi, Carl & Andrea Sherman  
Ruth & Larry Sherman  
Shelly & Len Sherman  
Mary M. Sherts  
Marianne & Fabian Shey  
Maja Sholler  
John Shoup  
Joan Shwartz  
Charles Silberman  
Margery S. Silk  
Phyllis & Mort Silverberg  
Joyce Silverman  
E. J. Simon  
Nina Skaya  
Patricia B. Skelly  
Judith Sloan & Bruce Katz  
Allan Sloane  
Molly Small  
Barbara L. Smith  
Elizabeth C. Smith  
Linda Gramatky & Kendall Smith  
Marylyn R. Smith  
Morgan Smith  
Emily & Robert Smith  
Katherine & Donald Snook

Elizabeth & Irwin Sollinger  
Eleanor & Norman Soloyav  
Milliecant & John Solom  
Sylvia & Mal Sorcher  
Kenneth R. Sosnovski, Jr.  
The Southworth Family  
Susan Spagnola  
Special Libraries Association  
Olga B. Spencer, Ph.D.  
Merle Spiegel  
Julie Spivack & Paul Reiferson  
Patricia P. Spoor  
Laura & Scott Springer  
Sashenig S. St. Marie  
Staples Girls Soccer, Booster Club  
Staples High School PTA  
Lee Stark  
Barbara & Leonard Stark  
Anne Staudt & Stephen Cowherd  
Lyla & Peter Steenbergen  
Ed Stein  
Francine Stein  
Sonja Stein  
Marlyn & George Steinberg  
Stephen Steinbrecher  
Megan Steinhauser  
Malen Sterley  
Jean & Alec Stevens  
Sue Stevenson  
Elaine Stibell  
Rita & Carl Sitzer  
Liz & Keith Stokes  
Lillian & Fred Store  
Strathmore Lane Condominium Association, Inc.
Many worked together to make a digital quilt.

Freda & Brian Welsh
Margaret Welz
Karen Wendell & Joseph Scordato
Diane & Michael Wendroff
Ellen & Miles West
Anne Westlake
Westport Community Theatre, Inc.
Westport Soccer Association
Westport Village Association, Inc.
Patricia Wettsch
Mary Ann & Louis Weverbergh
Kristin & Brian Whiting
Barbara & David Wiederecht
Pat & Jeff Wieser
The Family of Ben & Joan Wilder
Nancy C. Wilder
Dianne Family
Eileen & Ray Wilhelm
Adrienne & Scott Williams
Patricia A. Williams
The Willis Family
Ruth & Alan Winnick
Charles Wiseman
Barbara, Malia & Dennis Wong
Mary Lou Woodruff
Dan Woog
Michele & Lee Wrubel
Margaret Yinger
The Joyce & Bernie Zimmerman Foundation
Brit & Richard Zimmerman
The Zipkin Family
Deborah J. Ziskin

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Bernstein Global Wealth Management
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Chevron
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Goldman Sachs
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Greenfield Partners
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Morgan Stanley
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Prudential Foundation
RBS Citizens
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UBS Foundation USA
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United States, Inc.
Walt Disney Company Foundation

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Margery & Leonard Everett Fisher Endowment for Children’s Books in the Arts
Annette Heyman Foundation Endowment for International Films
Reader’s Digest Endowed Book Fund
The Betty R. Sheffer Foundation Endowment for Books in the Visual & Performing Arts
Joan & Joel Smilow Endowment for Services to Children
John & Kay Stein Endowment

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Institute of Museum and Library Services
Grace K. Salmon Trust
Adolph & Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation, Inc.
Westport Young Woman’s League

Gifts-In-Kind
Charming Children’s Chairs
Carole Donenfeld
The Granola Bar
McDonald’s
Pepperidge Farm, Inc.
Shake Shack
Sunny Daes
Westport Pizzeria
The Family of Ben & Joan Wilder

“At the Library, I updated my resume, looked for employment and honed my interview skills — and I got the job!” — RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE

Tributes
To celebrate the anniversary of…
Margery & Leonard E. Fisher
To celebrate the birthday of…
Joel Davis
To celebrate the..."
The story continues...

The MakerSpace evolved into a Library-wide environment that supported entrepreneurs and innovative thinkers, attracting curious minds of all ages.

Scott Rownan used a Library 3D printer to make a prototype for a device to deter cell phone use while driving.

Miki McCabe of the Connecticut Braille Association designed objects to complement books for blind children.
The Library won a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to expand innovative offerings, leading to an international presence in the Maker movement.
Expanding innovative offerings... thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Arduino boards
Many learned about Arduino boards — microcontrollers for making interactive objects and environments more accessible and less expensive.

Minecraft
Teens played this popular educational game on the Library’s own server and competed in a treasure-hunting contest.

Wearable tech
Shirts lit up at several “Cook Your Fashion” workshops.

Inventors series
Inventors spoke about a wide range of projects, the patent process, brainstorming ideas and production.

Coding workshops
People of all ages took advantage of workshops in coding languages like JavaScript, C, Scratch and Python.

3D printing instruction
Your Library was among the first in the nation to offer 3D printing to the public three years ago. Today, people use the printers every day for turning ideas into reality.

3rd Annual Maker Faire
The third annual Mini Maker Faire was the biggest yet, attracting over 4,000 people from many states.

Digital QUILT MAKING.
New Media artist Balam Soto facilitated digital quilt making.

Collaborative BOOK MAKING.
Artist Melissa Slattery supervised production of an accordion-style book using collage techniques.

POP UP MOBILE SPACES.
Engineer Gar Waterman led sessions that resulted in a mobile space for work or play.

VIRTUAL WORKING.
Carpenter John Matchak worked virtually from the Norwalk Woodworkers Club while patrons viewed progress on a screen in the MakerSpace.

DESIGN THINKING CENTER.
Innovation consultant Jeannine Esposito led workshops to develop a space for exploring the three phases of design.

A unique inter-generational experience
Former Securities and Exchange Chairman Arthur Levitt expressed interest in learning about 3D printers. In the picture above, he learns from 10-year-old Miles Katz, a 3D printing whiz. Often at the Library, wisdom and experience blends with youthful optimism and energy!
Every day, your Library connects over 2,300 patrons with essential services, valuable information and wonderful opportunities for social interaction.

Author talks
A wide range of authors from Erica Jong to Clive Davis to Bob Mankoff spoke about their books.

Recommendations for readers
Readers received tips on titles from the Library magazine, the monthly Book Chat, Library-sponsored book clubs and staff experts.

Workshops
People of all ages signed up for dozens of learning opportunities including:
- Writing
- Storytelling and Improv
- Women Entrepreneurs
- Chess for adults and children
- Twice weekly Tech Help
- Inventor’s Series
- Refresh and Renew
- Women in Finance
- Science series
- Insights from Entrepreneurs
- Business workshops
- Book discussions
- Job Seeker workshops

Robotics
Instruction on 3D printers was not the only training in new technology offered. Thanks to funding from three family foundations, the Library acquired two state-of-the-art robots to teach programming and coding.

Children’s programming
Over 33,000 children attended 720 programs over the course of the year.

Financial expert Marc Lasry talked about the investment climate.

The Library Café
The best coffee in town! People buzzed about the quality of the coffee in the Café, as well as freshly baked pastries and salads, sandwiches and soups, cold drinks and much more.

The Library Store
Store sales rocketed as clever new merchandise was added — gifts hard to find elsewhere like unusual greeting cards, leather writing journals, beautiful scarves, 3D printed jewelry and toys.

Annual book sales
The three annual book sales were once again wildly successful — financially and socially — proving that people still love collecting and reading physical reading materials. The Holiday Book and Gift Sale was moved to the Great Hall and included items from the Store; the March sale brought in many looking for Spring reads and the giant July sale was bigger than ever. A fourth sale was added in February, offering thousands of vintage paperbacks from a single collector.
#librarylife

Today’s knowledge economy is placing twenty-first century libraries in the center of helping patrons bridge the digital divide.

Through the Library’s website, patrons can search through the Library’s print collection, access literary, business, financial, medical and other important reference databases as well as stream movies and TV shows, and download ebooks, audiobooks and digital music — all at the price of a library card (FREE!).

Through the Internet, patrons reserve and renew books, view the event calendar, listen to podcasts and email questions to librarians. The Library’s presence on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram helps us stay connected to, and engaged with, the community.
BOOKED for the evening
Music legend Nile Rodgers accepted the 2014 Westport Library Award at the Library’s annual signature fundraising event. Hundreds of Library supporters left thrilled and energized by Rodgers’ charm, enthusiasm and talent.

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Nile Rodgers spoke of his affection for Westport, music and the Library.

Previous Honorees
1999
Tom Brokaw
2000
E. L. Doctorow
2001
Calvin Trillin
2002
Wendy Wasserstein
2003
Pete Hamill
2004
Martin Scorsese
2005
Arthur Mitchell
2006
Doris Kearns Goodwin
2007
David Halberstam
2008
Oscar Hijuelos
2009
Adam Gopnik
2010
Will Shortz
2011
Patti Smith
2012
Barry Levinson
2013
Jon Meacham
Making an impact

A year in review:
Look at all the ways that your Library has served the needs of the community this year.

- **BOOK CLUBS AND READING PROGRAMS** bring groups together.
  - 47 book clubs were served
- **LIBRARY PROGRAMS** are attended by all ages.
  - 15,889 attended 312 MakerSpace programs
  - 5,021 Westport children with library cards
  - 11,255 Westport adults with library cards
- **TECHNOLOGY** makes up a huge part of the Library’s participation.
  - 386,483 website visits
  - 42,914 public computer sessions
  - 113,542 database searches
  - 450,535 catalog searches
- **REFERENCE DESK** is busy answering questions daily.
  - 1,907 kids enrolled in our Summer Reading Club
  - 203,936 reference questions
272,652
audio-visual materials checked out

193,960
adult books checked out

174,397
children’s books checked out

6,630
teen books checked out

26,385
other materials checked out

OVER 674,000 ITEMS WERE CHECKED OUT or downloaded from the Library this year.

89,426
adult books

52,321
children’s books

4,135
audio books

325
periodicals

209
toys

18,086
dvds / blu-rays

35
newspapers

500,000
picture file items

THE LIBRARY COLLECTION is made up of much more than books.

Revenue
$7,449,844
Your support takes the Library from good to great.

Expenses
$5,592,177
Providing you with personalized service.
The next chapter
The future is now...

The Westport Library continues to represent a community investment in a vision of the future. Physical spaces provide meaningful opportunities for everyone to learn, work and play, despite the challenges of an aging building.

We are busier and more vibrant than ever because of the dramatic impact of digital technology.

As technology continues to change our lives, there is no doubt that the Library will be an even more important intellectual center supporting the community with tools, knowledge and critical resources. The goal is to enable and facilitate the expansion of knowledge and invention that, ultimately, results in economic advancement in the community and the world.

And beyond...

The Westport Library will never stray from its purpose; to be a place where the love of learning is instilled at the youngest age and intellectual curiosity encouraged for all.

Promoting a literacy culture remains at the heart of the services you receive.

As the community’s needs continue to grow, the Library will constantly evolve to meet those needs. Preparations are underway to step up to the many challenges facing the physical infrastructure of the building, making it compatible with the way people use libraries in the 21st century.

The goal is to create a Library that will more effectively serve its citizens, increasingly support economic development, and serve as a safe, secure gathering place for generations to come. We are happy to have you with us on this amazing journey.
It’s a question we are asked almost every day. It is a question that challenges us and motivates us to be both measured and innovative in our thinking, in our planning and in our programming. The fact is that more people are using the Library than ever before; it is a vital part of the community where thousands of people come to explore a world of information and knowledge, exchange ideas and share experiences.

Reflecting the spirit, creativity and entrepreneurship of the people it serves, the Westport Library has always worked to meet the needs of its patrons. We could never have imagined when we moved into our building 28 years ago just how much the world and the needs of the community would change. And yet, we responded as new technology and new media emerged. We adapted our programs and services to stay relevant to our users. Most importantly, we recognized that the Library will forever be a place that nurtures the mind, engages the spirit and keeps us connected to each other.

As we move forward, it is time for us to write the Library’s next chapter. To shape our future, we will have extensive conversations with the community. With your support, we will continue to transform the Library to sustain its position as one of the best and most innovative libraries in the world.

Maxine Bleiweis
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

“
What will the Library be in the future?”

The Westport Library...

Our mission:
To empower individuals and strengthen the community, providing a welcoming destination that stimulates curiosity, encourages lifelong learning and promotes the open and lively exchange of information and ideas.

Our vision:
To be recognized as a leading center of intellectual inquiry and discovery that inspires people to make an impact on the world.

Powered by curiosity
“What will the Library be in the future?”

It’s a question we are asked almost every day. It is a question that challenges us and motivates us to be both measured and innovative in our thinking, in our planning and in our programming. The fact is that more people are using the Library than ever before; it is a vital part of the community where thousands of people come to explore a world of information and knowledge, exchange ideas and share experiences.

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Maxine Bleiweis
Executive Director
The Westport Library...

20 Jesup Road
Westport, CT 06880

westportlibrary.org