

The Westport Library...

A Remarkable Year

FINANCIAL REPORT

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We are grateful for your continued support during this challenging year.

Dear Friends,

The past year has certainly been unlike any we have experienced or could have imagined. From the moment of our ribbon-cutting on June 23, 2019, children flooded into the Children's Library, eager to see their favorite librarians and participate in summer reading challenges; book clubs and language groups were reunited; and author talks, concerts and programs covering a range of public affairs and educational topics were happening nightly in the Trefz Forum and in our expanded program rooms.

A critical element of the Transformation Project was the investment in leading edge tools and technology and a refreshing of the collections. From podcasting, photography, videography, music production and more, the possibilities were limitless.

When Covid-19 happened and the building was closed, we were able to seamlessly transition from in-person programs to the virtual environment. Thanks to donors like you, the Library continues to provide hundreds of educational and cultural programs and is a much sought-after partner for organizations throughout the region.

As scientist and innovator Alexander Graham Bell said, "When one door closes, another opens..." Your Library continues to be a place of innovation, collaboration and the hub of the community.



Bill Harmer
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Harmer".

Iain H. Bruce
President, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Iain H. Bruce".

The
Westport
Library...

The Westport Library is committed to empowering the individual and strengthening the community through dynamic interaction and the lively exchange of ideas.



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JUNE 2019

With the Transformation Project complete, the fully reimagined Westport Library opened on June 23, 2019. More than 3,000 community members experienced the new space and offerings.

***"The flexibility
of the space is just
amazing!"*** Opening attendee

The Westport Library... Opening Day 6.23.19



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JULY 2019

Children and their caregivers rejoiced in Miss Mary's Storytime, Wiggles and Giggles, Tummy Time for Babies and the Countdown to Kindergarten! These were among the favorite programs in the new Roz and Bud Siegel Children's Library.

Early childhood literacy programs and teaching a love of learning make the Library a regular destination for many families.

"The open play area is a wonderful addition!"

Westport Mom



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AUGUST 2019

The ever-popular **Adult Summer Reading Challenge** provided an added dimension of fun and competition to book lovers during the summer months.

With 25 different challenges and discussions among the readers, it is a mega book club!

“The challenges encouraged me to explore books beyond my reading list.”

Avid YA Reader



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SEPTEMBER 2019

While September is back-to-school month, at the Library it is also our eagerly anticipated annual StoryFest. This celebration of reading, writing, ideas and community included over 60 authors in panels, book signings and more. Bestselling author R.L. Stine, who has been scaring people around the world for years, was the keynote speaker.



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● ● ●
OCTOBER
2019

Whether you are looking to optimize your job search skills or are running a small company and exploring growth strategies, the Library has a business program to help advance your goals.

The broad array of programs are made possible by our numerous partnerships with experts from the business community.



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NOVEMBER 2019

The spacious new café, with beautiful views of the Saugatuck River and a variety of sandwiches, salads, hot and cold beverages, pastries and snacks, is filled throughout the day. And the Library Store, with a wide range of unique, curated gifts, reading glasses and a great selection of greeting cards helps support Library programs and events.



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DECEMBER 2019

The Trefz Forum, the centerpiece of the Transformation Project, was the perfect venue for December's blockbuster programs. Among them were Pulitzer prize-winning artist, illustrator and writer Art Spiegelman gave the Malloy Lecture in the Arts and Andrew Wilk presented Emmy-award winning director and filmmaker Mick Davie.

Thanks to the new Media Studio with its audio control room and multi-camera set-up in the Forum, the Library is now live-streaming its events and also archiving them on the Library website. This advanced audio-visual technology proved indispensable when Covid-19 hit just a few months later.



Michael Davie



JANUARY 2020

Collaboration is all around us in the transformed Library.

Local nonprofits, book clubs and teens doing group projects are filling the three program rooms, seven small meeting rooms and nine conference rooms.

The Library has become the community center: a hub for learning, gathering and connecting.

“The grandstand is my new favorite place!”

Staples H.S. Student



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WestportREADS “Our Vote, Our Future”



FEBRUARY 2020

The Library celebrated Westport Suffragists who helped change the course of history as part of “Our Vote, Our Future,” the WestportReads 2020 centennial celebration. The beautifully curated exhibit was also digitized and widely viewed on our website.

The names of the women listed here were active in Westport’s Voting Rights for Women campaign.

Until now, their given names and identities were unknown. Some more await to be researched; there are those who have yet to see the federal government grant female citizens the right to vote, changing the lives of generations of American women.

Some descended from families with ancestral ties to the area; others were first-generation

shapers of the town.

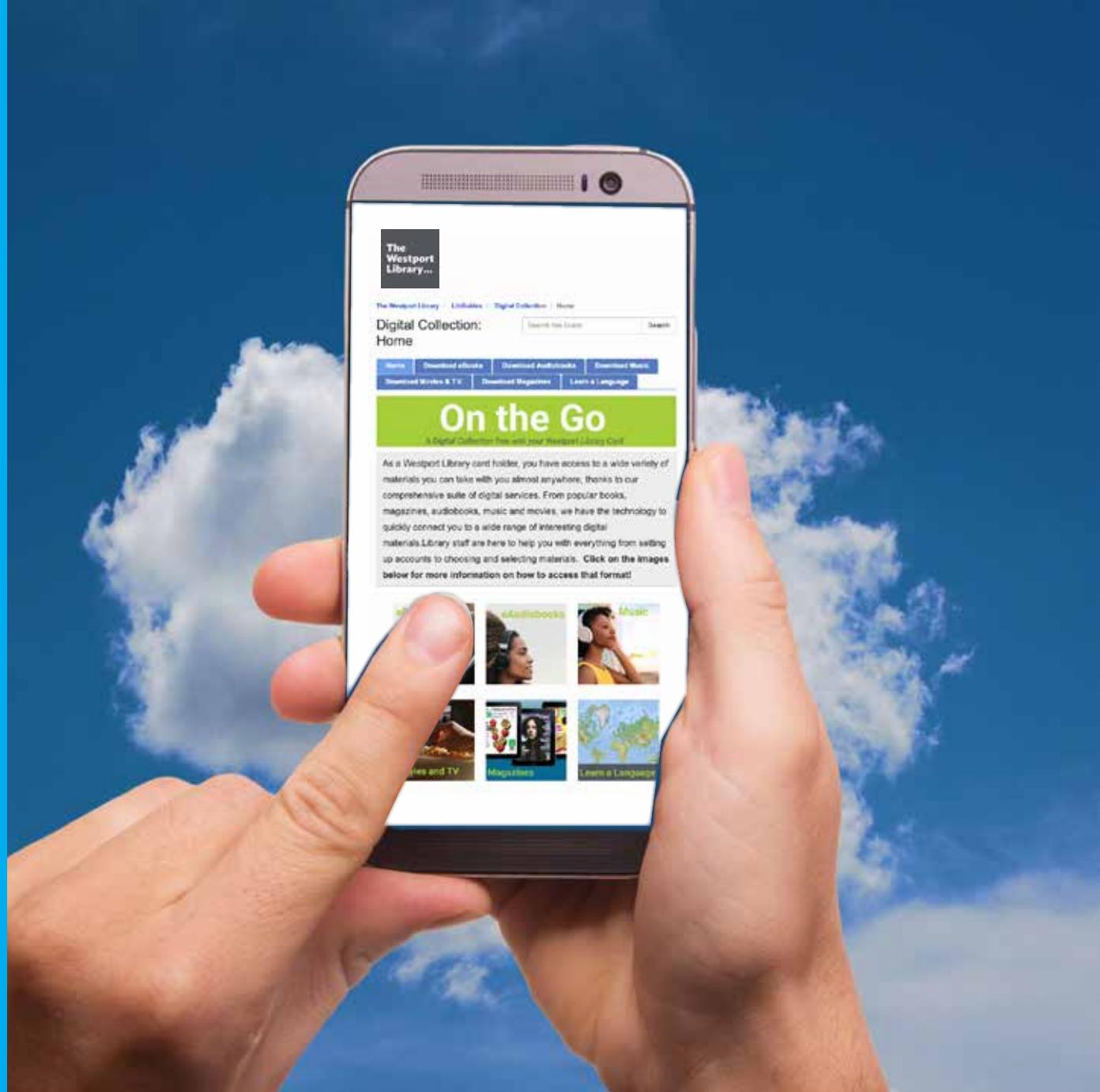


Suffrage workers sitting outside the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association's headquarters for a Hartford Courant photographer (c. 1912-17). Courtesy, Connecticut State Library, CWSA Records.



MARCH 2020

The Library building closed because of Covid-19 on March 11, but our digital resources and services continued to be available 24/7. We created “how to” videos to help patrons use our digital content and online resources, and conducted an effective campaign to sign up new Library cardholders.



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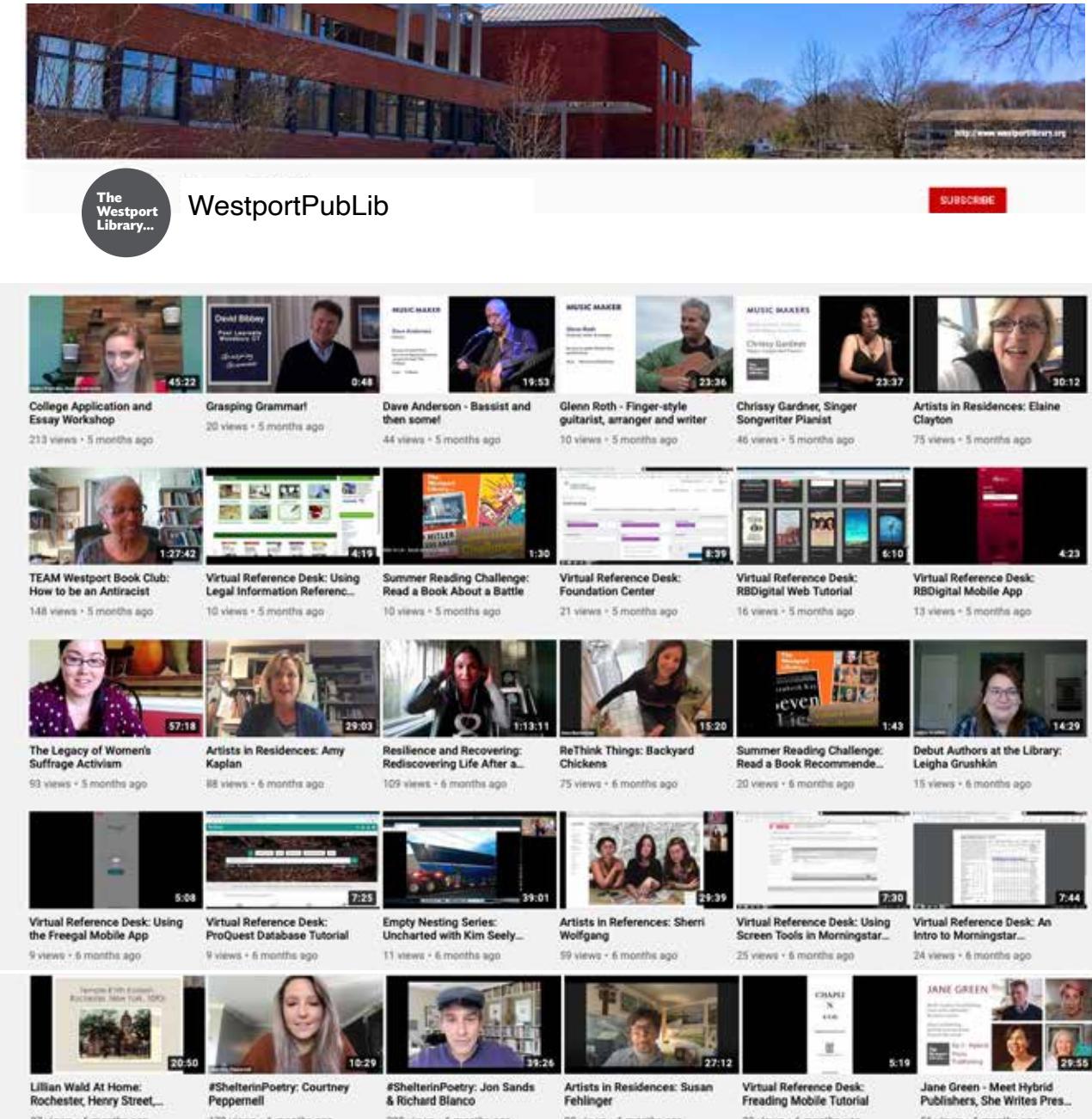
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APRIL 2020

One month into the pandemic, the Library was demonstrating the Transformation project's principles of flexibility, adaptability and accessibility. We began creating original content to be viewed by patrons at home; conversations with a wide array of best-selling authors, local artists, and persons of interest, and placed the videos on the Library's YouTube channel.

The MakerSpace kept busy using the 3D printers to make face shields for area hospitals.





MAY 2020

As the weather turned warmer and people were eager for outdoor entertainment, the Library and its partner, the Westport-Weston Chamber of Commerce, presented Supper & Soul concerts to sold-out audiences in the Imperial Parking lot. The Library maintained its commitment to providing cultural programs to the community despite the challenges posed by Covid-19.



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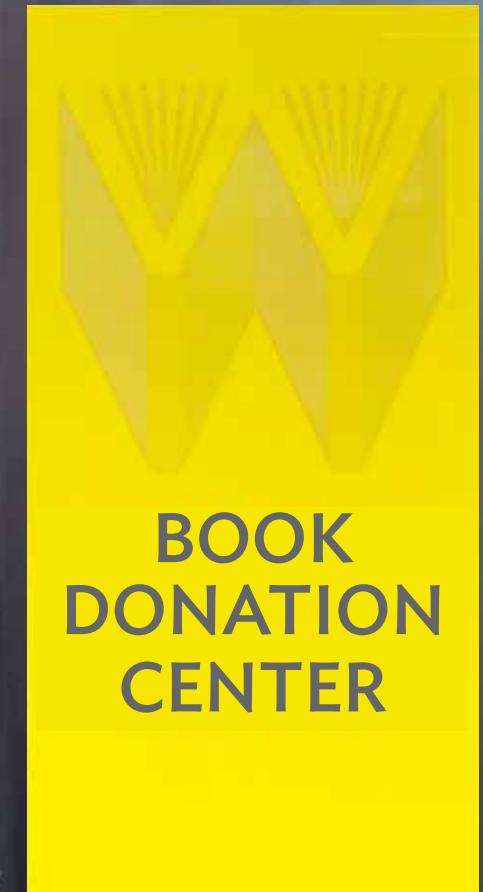
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JUNE 2020

As businesses in Connecticut began to reopen, Westport Book Sale Ventures developed a protocol for “contactless” book donations and announced that they would resume accepting book donations starting in July. Westport Book Sale Ventures, a nonprofit enterprise with the dual social mission of supporting the Westport Library while providing meaningful employment for adults with disabilities, was also busy preparing for a three-day book sale to be held Labor Day.



2019-2020

The year in review...

PROGRAMS

28,309 adults attended in-person and virtual programs

18,970 children and families attended 636 programs

2,350 attended StoryFest's 3 day celebration of reading, writing, ideas and community

11,380 videos viewed

SERVICES

332,329 Library visits yielding endless possibilities

19,980 Library card holders up from 16,093

467,953 website visits

129,039 reference questions answered

19,000 computer sessions

MATERIALS

292,836 items circulated up from 263,809

188,401 total items downloaded

The Westport Library...

Financial Report

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Revenue and Expenses for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

REVENUE

Town Appropriation	\$4,698,829
Contributions & Grants	810,080
Fines & Fees	61,594
Investment Income	201,190
Café & Retail Sales, net of expenses	33,615
Special Events, net of expenses	67,070
Miscellaneous Income	239,506

TOTAL REVENUES

\$6,111,884

EXPENSES

Compensation	\$ 4,157,123
Professional Fees	288,622
Office Expenses	52,265
Occupancy	291,211
Travel	12,010
Conference	11,765
Investment & Bank Fees	4,741
Depreciation	926,859
Materials/programs	965,036
Insurance	122,254
Information Technology	212,237
Miscellaneous	52,446

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 7,096,569

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$22,683,257
Temporarily Restricted	\$2,210,052

The Westport Library...

Annual Fund Donors

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Leaders Circle (\$10,000+)

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Dan Levinson
Terry & Lance Lundberg
Paula & Tom McInerney
Irma & Joe Schachter
The Betty R. & Ralph Sheffer Foundation
Roz & Bud Siegel
Estate of Jerry A. Tishman
Christian J. & Eva W. Trefz
The Winston Foundation, Inc.

The Great Hall Circle (\$5,000+)

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The Drew Friedman Community Arts Center
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Huisking Foundation
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Newman's Own Foundation, Inc.
Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation, Inc.

Jesup Circle (\$2500+)

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Pat & Jeff Wieser

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Meena & Mark Pellerin
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Susan & Timothy Steele
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Lauren Tarshis & David Dreyfuss
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Darcy Ayn Travlos
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Cindy & Alan Zuckerbrod

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Helen Martin Block
Prill & Mike Boyle
Andree Aelion Brooks

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Sharon & Sam Carpenter
Jessica Casper
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Karen & Michael Speller
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Mindy & Ed Tan
Alanna Thompson
Nancy F. Vener
Yvette & David Waldman
Rita & Steve Weisskoff
Westport Garden Club
Frances White & Harry Evans
Ilana Whitestone
Coke Anne & Jarvis Wilcox
Tomira Wilcox
Ruth Willick
Tammy & Richard Zelkowitz
Emily & Michael Ziegler

Minuteman Circle (\$250 +)

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Paula & Mark Argosh
Cathy Badeski
Jennifer Bagnato & Scott Hershkowitz
Barbara & Andrew Bangser
Jennifer & Dan Bangser
Janet R. Bangser
Linda Baumstein
Kathleen & Scott Bennewitz
Danielle Bolner
Joellen & Bill Bradford
Carol Burton
Elena & Marco Caggiano
Christy & Justin Charise
William G. Chase
Carolyn & Gary Cohen
Drs. Bobbi & Barry Coller
Stacie Curran
John C. Davidson
Carol & Joel Davis
Lillian & Lee Davis
S. Antoinette Morton Dimes
Simone Dubow
June Eichbaum & Ken Wirlfel
Melissa & Jonathan Ellis
Julie & Robert Fatherley
Janet Filling
Bettina & David Fiore
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Karen & Russell Ford
Kathie & Tim Fording
Michelle Fracasso & Jonathan Spitzer
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Lisa & Ed Friedland
Lauri & Michael Friedland

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Ellen Graff & Marty Fox
Kitty & Jim Graves
Joyce & Howard Greene
Teresa & Ryan Gregory
Roberta & Eric Grossberg
Rosemary & Steve Halstead
Jennifer Harper
Eileen Hart & Jay Ludy
Joann & Fritz Heimann
Valerie & Jerry Held
Anna & David Herling
Suzy & Geoff Hooper
Amy & Ed Hulina
Francoise & Rick Jaffe
Jennifer Johnson & Evan Barr
Alysa & Jim Kabakow
Wilma & Dan Kail
Nancy Kail
Lindsay & Seth Kerschner
Carolyn & Alan Landis
Anne & Bob Levine
Doris Levinson
Brenda & Paul Liistro
Teresa Lin
Linda & David Lipner
Priscilla A. Long
Rosalind & Jeffrey Looby
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Deanna M. Maneker
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Wendy McConaghay

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Susan & Tom McInerney
Miggs B Design
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Tracy & Marc Porosoff
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Gina Ryan
Sara & Arthur Sachs
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Thiemann-Wicker Family Foundation
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Sue Vislisel
Sheila Ward & James Berner
Mary Ann & Skip Weverbergh
LJ & Larry Wilks
Karen & Michael Wolfe
Elaine Wyden

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Linda & Jim Adelman
Pippa Bell Ader & David Ader
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Debra & William Alderson
Millette Alexander
Janet Aley
Suzanne & Josh Allen
Lisa & James Allison
Cary Alves
Lucy Ambrosino & John Marchak
Rita Appel & Jon Fraade
Herb Appleman
Holly & Joseph Arcadi
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Nadine Cherna
Sarin & Richard Cheung
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All the great librarians at the Westport Library
All the kids who are distance learning

To celebrate the birthday of

Martha Aasen
Lester Becker on his 90th birthday
Mary Becker on her 91st birthday
Charlotte Drolet
Peter Gold
Myra Hess
Larry Untermeyer, on his 91st birthday

To celebrate the anniversary of

Wilma & Dan Kail, on their 60th anniversary

In celebration of the holiday season

Meredith Poster

To celebrate her dedication to the Library and Westport community

Martha Aasen

In memory of

John Anastasia
Bill Bangser
Carol Bloch
Fran Burger
Burt Eden
Phyllis Groner
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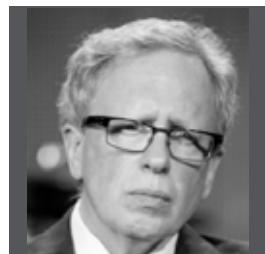
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