

West Hartford Public Library Board Agenda

Monday, May 20, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

Noah Webster Library Board Room

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Consent Agenda (Items 4, 7ai, & 7aii)
4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2024 Meeting
5. Chair's Report
6. Business Items
 - a. Staff Spotlight – Kathryn Kottas
 - b. FY25 Budget – Laura Irmscher
 - c. Strategic Plan Implementation – Laura Irmscher
7. Director's Reports – Laura Irmscher
 - a. March and April documents submitted:
 - i. Library Administrative reports
 - ii. Budget report
8. Adjournment
 - a. Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2024.

Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.

Public Comment Instructions: Individuals who wish to comment on an agenda item, may do so by sending an email with the subject "public comment" to Board@westhartfordlibrary.org on or before May 17, 2024.

WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES
Monday, March 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gail Crockett called the Library Board to order at 6:36p.m. Present were Board members Kim Cohen, Eileen Daly, Gail Crockett, Natalia Menjivar, EJ Greenspan was present by Zoom, Library Director Laura Irmscher, and Heidi Reagan, recorder.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

3. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (Items 4 & 7a i, 7a ii)

MOTION: On a motion made by Kim Cohen and seconded by Natalia Menjivar, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

4. THE MEETING MINUTES of March 5 Special Meeting were approved as part of the consent agenda.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT - none

6. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a. Strategic Plan Update – Laura Irmscher
 - i. Shared with the Town Council at the budget hearing.
 - ii. Public Launch last week
 - 1. Printed pamphlets in seven languages at all locations
 - 2. Special email newsletter
 - 3. Library website
- b. New Community Center and Library – Gail Crockett and Laura Irmscher
 - i. Town announced selection of GWWO Architects
 - ii. One year for design process
 - iii. We need to designate someone from the Library Board to attend the Advisory Committee meetings.
 - 1. Eileen Daly will be the Board's primary representative.
 - 2. EJ Greenspan will be available if Eileen is unable to attend.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Laura Irmscher

- a. February documents submitted:
 - i. Library Administrative Report
 - ii. Budget Report
- b. Current Month Briefing.
 - i. Staff Day was a successful day of team building.
 - 1. Gail Hurley from CT State Library spoke.
 - 2. Presentation of 1st Amendment audits and book bans
 - 3. Department meetings
 - 4. Strategic Plan sessions
- c. Faxon Building Issues
 - i. Flooding in basement continues.

- ii. Roofer has been contacted to mitigate the problem.
 - iii. Short term fixes are being considered.
- d. Ebook Legislation Update
 - i. Planning and Development Committee Senate Bill 148 was passed with bipartisan support and awaits action on the senate floor.
 - ii. Government Administration and Elections Committee House Bill 5312 was debated and passed.
 - iii. There is still time for anyone to contact their representatives regarding these bills.
- e. 3rd Annual Gertrude Blanks Storytelling Event
 - i. Tuesday, June 11 at First Congregational Church
- f. National Library Week is coming up.
- g. Seed Library Kickoff
 - i. Eighty people came to get free seeds, consult with Master Gardeners, and enter the raffle for gardening supplies.
 - ii. There are still plenty of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herb packets available.
 - iii. WH Garden Club is to thank and will be sponsoring the program, "Saving Our Planet One Food Scrap at a Time".
- h. Upcoming Programs
 - i. Author Talk – Elizabeth Slade about Montessori Schools
 - ii. Get Ready for College: A Series of Prep Classes
 - iii. Tween Chess at Faxon
 - iv. Brazilian Drumming – A Community Big Bang

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: The Library Board Meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:18pm. The next scheduled Board Meeting is April 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Cohen
Board Secretary

Library Financials - April 2024
General Fund

Rollup Code Description	Period Actuals	YTD Actuals	Original Budget	Available Budget
GF-Library-Personal	214,565.22	2,217,090.26	2,752,294.00	535,203.74
GF-Library-NonPers	44,581.86	520,046.31	652,637.00	132,590.69
GF-Library-Sundry	15,058.79	152,303.46	206,828.00	54,524.54
Library Fund-Capital	405.41	13,518.32	0.00	64,368.98

March 2024 Administrative Report

Strategic Plan

Our new Strategic Plan has been released to the public! Laura shared the plan with Town Council at the library's budget hearing. The plan is available in seven languages on the library's [website](#) and printed brochures are in all library locations. The website also has a comment form for the public to continue to engage with us as we look ahead. Staff held two meetings to brainstorm ideas and prioritize action items and staff committees will be forming to continue the work.

[Future of West Hartford Libraries Outlined in New Document](#) (Patch)

Winter Reading Challenge

At the end of February we wrapped up another very successful Winter Reading Challenge! Over 3 months, 88 patrons participated in the challenge. They completed 249 bingos and 121 activities, and 8 patrons completed full-board bingos. All 4 grand prize winners picked up their prizes (pictured on right) within hours of finding out they won! In addition to patrons, 12 staff members participated, completing 55 bingos and 15 activities. 3 staff members completed full-board bingos.



Thank you to River Bend Bookshop for helping with the prizes for this year's winners!

Recent Media

Follow the links below for recent media coverage about the library's programs and services.

[WeHa Book Club for Immigrants Starts Tuesday, March 5 \(Patch\)](#)

[Film Defining Civil Rights Moment To Be Showed At WeHa Library \(Patch\)](#)

[Paul Newman's Daughter Wows Crowd At WeHa Library](#) (Patch)

West Hartford Library To Prep Students/Families For College (Patch)

Staff Updates

Recruitment

We're excited to welcome these new staff to our team:

Beth Cunningham – FT Library Assistant, Circulation

Departures

We said goodbye to these staff members and wish them all the best:

Peter Le – PT Office Assistant, IT

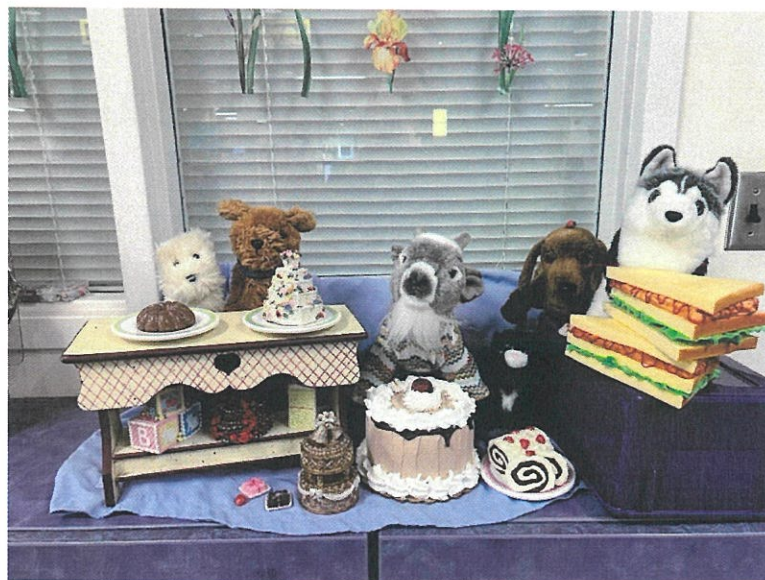
April GOAT – Kirsten Kilbourn

I will miss having the GOAT in my office but he has gotten into a lot of mischief there while he celebrated St. Patrick's Day, Pi Day and Easter in great style! It is time that he moves on and will find a great home with our very own graphic artist and social media poster and Museum Pass Program Administrator and so many other titles – Kirsten Kilbourn of the Programs and Publicity team!



Kirsten's work is extraordinarily creative. The Children's summer reading logs, program flyers and posters are imaginative and striking, the social media posts definitely inform the community about what is happening in the West Hartford Public Libraries, the library calendar and hall monitors are always updated and the Museum Pass Program is kept current and user friendly.

Kirsten is always positive, happy to do last minute edits and offers excellent advice when needed. She is full of energy and her sense of humor is much appreciated. I send the GOAT on to a great April home! Congratulations and all best wishes to my friend Kirsten. – Carol



Community Engagement & Outreach



Friday's **practice English sessions**

continued at Faxon. State Representative Kate Farrar visited the class on March 1, 2024. The students did a "Compare and Contrast" exercise on government and governance between the United States and their respective countries of origin.

Registration is not required for this program. There are, on average, ten people attending this program. Students meet every Friday at Faxon from 10 am to 12 noon.

Pramod has approached individuals to be a part of the ***Translation and Foreign Language Book Recommendations Committee***. There will be two individuals for each language. The languages we have identified are Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Nepalese. This group is planning to meet in April.

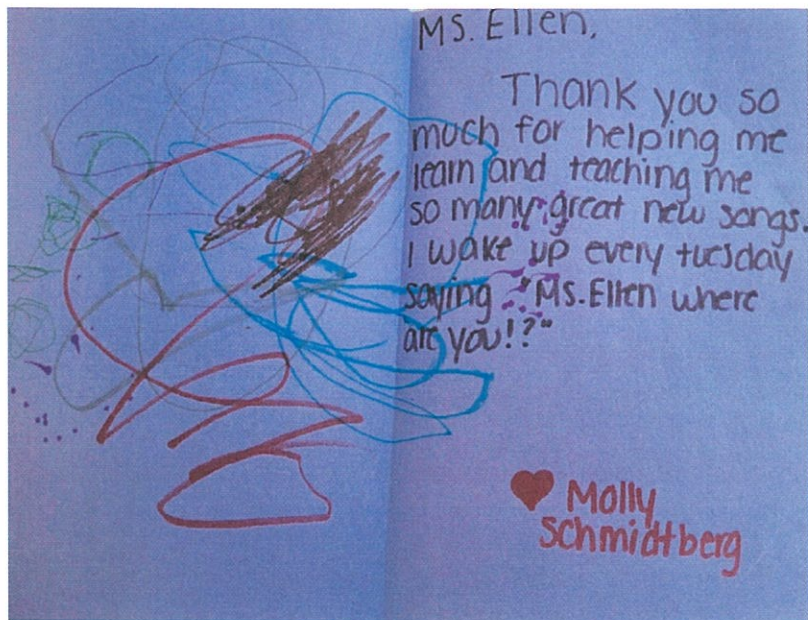
Pramod participated in a group discussion, ***Mapping Our Community's Future***, led by the UConn Asian and Asian American Studies Institute and the Governor's Hate Crimes Advisory Council, and the Asian Pacific American Coalition of Connecticut. Pramod will meet with some participants at Faxon to further their outreach work in West Hartford.

Leah Held first meeting with Adrienne Billings-Smith, Pramod, Maura, Carol, and Desiree to start planning this year's **Gertrude Blanks Storytelling Event**. It will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at First Congregational Church.

From Our Patrons

Here are some stories and interactions our staff recently had with patrons at the library:

Ellen received this adorable note from one of her storytime friends:



Adult Services & Programs

60 Songs That Explain the 90's (38 attended virtually)

Rob Harvilla, staff writer at The Ringer, gave an awesome talk about 90's music. Recording available [here](#).

DNA and Your Family Tree (29 attended in-person)

Jennifer Zinck, Certified Genealogist, gave a great program about family trees and DNA to support family lineage.

Saving Our Planet One Food Scrap at a Time (42 attended in-person)

An informative program co-sponsored by West Hartford Garden Club.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS (NWL, FAX, BC)	
STANDALONE Programs	17
Attendance	451
Avg. Attendance	27
RECURRING Programs	18
Attendance	281
Avg. Attendance	17
TOTAL Programs	35
Attendance	732
Avg. Attendance	21

Seed Library Kickoff (80 attended in-person)

Another successful kickoff event brought in 80 patrons to the library to get free seeds, consult with Master Gardeners, and enter a raffle drawing for gardening supplies. The Seed Library is accessible just outside of Studio 20 South and patrons have been in regularly to stock up. There are still packets available of flower, herb, fruit, and vegetable seeds (over 250 varieties of plants!).



Film and Discussion: *Selma* (18 attended in-person)

Presented in partnership with the Office of Equity Advancement, the film was followed by a panel discussion with Youth and adult representatives from the Connecticut Center for Nonviolence.

Melissa Newman (80 attended in-person)

Melissa is the daughter of Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman. She drove up from Westport, CT and gave a riveting program to a group of 80 attendees.

Studio 20 South Programs

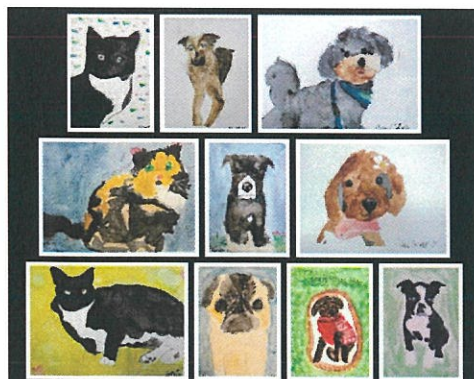
- A Beginner's Guide to Podcasting
- Jazz Guitar 101
- Screen Time: The Samuel L. Jackson Filmography
- Live Sketching: Costumes in Theater and Film
- Pin it and Stick it: Making Your Own Magnets and Buttons
- Shaping the World: Intro to 3D Printing
- Art Journaling: Building a Practice
- Stitchin' Stories: A Bookish Embroidery Circle

STUDIO 20 BY THE NUMBERS	
In-Depth Appointments	22
Short Interactions (Walk-ins)	32
Total Interactions	54

Children's Services & Programs

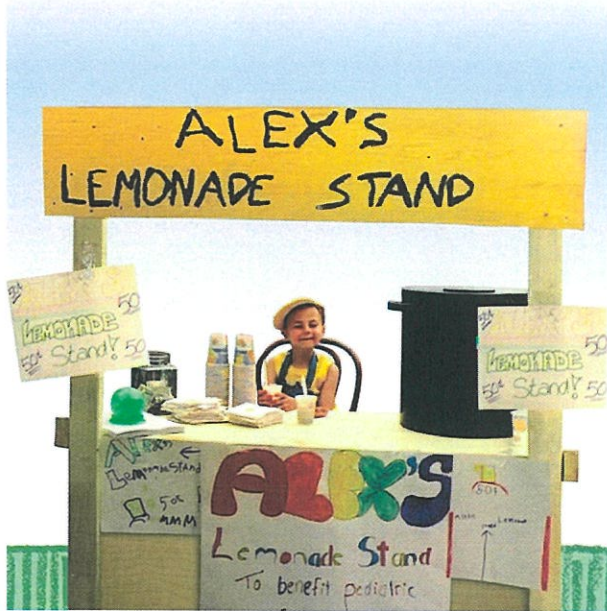
Programs

Students age 8-11 attended *Paint Your Pet* to create a watercolor painting of their own pet from a photo. Those who do not own a pet will have a choice of pet photos from which they can paint.



Updates

Carol chaired a meeting of the **Collaborative Summer Library Program Child and Well-Being Committee** on March 26. Katherine Wilson, manager of the Fern Street Universalist Church weekend backpack program held at the Faxon Branch Library, was a guest speaker. Committee members learned about the program to determine if it can be offered in their own communities.



Liz Scott, whose late daughter Alexandra was the founder of **Alex's Lemonade Stand**, called Carol to ask if a film crew who are creating a documentary about Alex could visit the Noah Webster Library (where she was a frequent patron) to film the spaces where Alexandra visited as a young child and to interview Carol. The library staff made special accommodations for Alex to visit when she was ill. The family moved from West Hartford to Philadelphia a few years after Alex's passing, but her mother has remained in touch with Carol.

When Alex, who was diagnosed with childhood cancer just before her first birthday, was 4 years old, she told her parents she wanted to set up a lemonade

stand in their front yard. Her plan was to give the money to doctors to help them find a cure. Her first "Alex's Lemonade Stand" (held with the help of her older brother, Patrick) raised an astonishing \$2,000 in one day. While bravely fighting her own cancer, Alex continued to set up lemonade stands every year. As news spread of the remarkable girl so dedicated to helping other sick children, people everywhere were inspired to start their own lemonade stands, donating the proceeds to her cause.

In 2004, when Alex passed away at the age of 8 — her stand and inspiration had raised more than \$1 million towards finding a cure for the disease that took her life. Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) was started by her parents in 2005 to continue the work that Alex began. Its mission was to change the lives of children with cancer through funding impactful research, raising awareness, supporting families and empowering everyone to help cure childhood cancer. Since Alex set up her first lemonade stand in 2000 (in West Hartford)— truly exemplifying the saying "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade - the organization has raised more than \$250 million.

Teen Services Programs

Kari Karp and 12 volunteers from WHiT, TAB & Mayor's Youth Council attended the Prevention Council's Teen Skate Night. The event promoted vaping awareness and healthy living.



Mar10 Day (Nintendo Switch Tournament) was a huge success, parents and teens wanted more tournaments! People became friends and exchanged phone numbers at the event.



Updates

- Members of WHiT hosted a successful Multicultural Night at Hall High School



- Teen Volunteers are signing up to help with the West Hartford Community of Concern's Teen Wellness Fair on March 23 and MYC will have a table featuring their PHACTT grant on teen suicide prevention.
- The Teen Summer Reading T-Shirt Logo Contest was announced:
https://www.instagram.com/p/C4vmJrIOJcN/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFiZA%3D%3D

April 2024 Administrative Report

National Library Week

To celebrate National Library Week (this year's theme is Ready, Set, Library!), we are running a promotion all month long to celebrate the ways the library gets patrons to the finish line. Service desks have a sign listing 5 of these, along with a poster featuring a race course and a runner. As we get closer to 300 new library cards over the month, the runner will move closer to the finish line!



Passport to CT Libraries

Over [150 Connecticut library locations](#) are proud to take part in this celebration, inviting you to visit and experience each library's unique architecture, vibe, and collection to explore and browse! The program is open to adults and children, and the hope is that it encourages residents to explore the amazing diversity of our public libraries, and to celebrate National Library Week.

Visitors picked up a passport (or stamp) at a service desk at any of our libraries. Each visitor received a swag item (a WHPL pen or sunglasses) to enjoy. Participants can return their passport to a participating library by May 10 to be entered into a state-wide drawing for a chance to win a \$200 Visa gift card.

Recent Media

Follow the links below for recent media coverage about the library's programs and services.

[Local Poets to be Celebrated at 'Poetry on Park'](#) (We-ha)

Staff Updates

Recruitment

We're excited to welcome these new staff to our team:

Eleanor Ivey – PT Page, Children's

Departures

We said goodbye to these staff members and wish them all the best:

Barbara Morse – PT Office Assistant, Circulation

May GOAT – Maura Beaudreault

After a month with Mrs. Waxman, GOAT had high expectations for its next adventure. Happily, the earth and the sun cooperated and on April 8, these celestial bodies created a solar eclipse! Although GOAT enjoyed the snacks while waiting for the event, once the moon did its thing, GOAT was concerned. Luckily, Amelia was there to provide a warm lap and a big hug. An immediate bond was formed and now GOAT insisted on playing hide-n-seek with Amelia's friends. After many closet doors were opened, beds were searched, and boxes were undone, GOAT was outed by stuffy Sushi! As the weather improved, GOAT needed some outdoor time, too, and discovered the blooming daffodils. But as goats do, GOAT insisted on snacking on them, too. Since snacking is so much fun, GOAT also partook of some chips and salsa when the Kilbourns recently had dinner at Ocho Café, making sure to wear the appropriate color, of course! It was a fun filled month of new tastes, friends, and experiences, topped off with a little driving and some serious speeding while playing Forza Horizon 5 with teen Aiden. There is, of course, no accounting for GOAT's driving skills - clearly a goat should not be behind the wheel of a 488 GTB Ferrari!





GOAT is now onto a new adventure because for May, GOAT will be spending time with Maura Beaudreault. As so many of you know, Maura is the programming heroine of the Noah Webster Library! As COVID laid waste to traditional programs at our libraries, Maura stepped up and, with quiet fortitude, she helped create a virtual world filled with exciting and informative programs that spanned such topics as a virtual tour of Jane Austen's House (that's right, the original one in England!) to Film and Discussion Series with screenings of a variety of documentaries and movies to cooking classes with Chef Chris from Metro Bis in Simsbury. She always makes sure that there are programs for all interests and walks of life. Want to learn about solar for your home? She's got you covered. Ready to hear about a classic movie star love story? Yup that, too, is in her

repertoire. Maura is flexible with her time, adaptable with her skills, and always open to new and exciting ideas. It is my pleasure to work with her in P&P and I look forward to many more discussions about what she's cooking this week, how her dogs Mary and Harpoon are the apple(s) of her eye, and any new travel destinations she plans to visit. – Kirsten

Community Engagement & Outreach

On April 3, Carol and Ellen attended a meeting at Town Hall with Shaena Gray, **Family and Community Engagement Coordinator** for the West Hartford Public Schools, to speak to a group of WHPS staff who represent various schools and grade levels in town about the support offered to students and families through the West Hartford Public Library in terms of our collection, projects and services.

Carol and Sara visited **Morley School** to attend a family evening literacy event.

The first meeting of the **Translation and Foreign Language Book Recommendations Committee** was held at Faxon on Wednesday, April 17. The committee currently includes representation for six languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Nepalese, and Arabic. Two members represent each language. The committee's main role is to review translations done for the Library and the Town of West Hartford, ensuring accuracy and cultural relevance in all provided materials. The committee will convene regularly to assess ongoing translation needs and to discuss strategies for enhancing language accessibility.

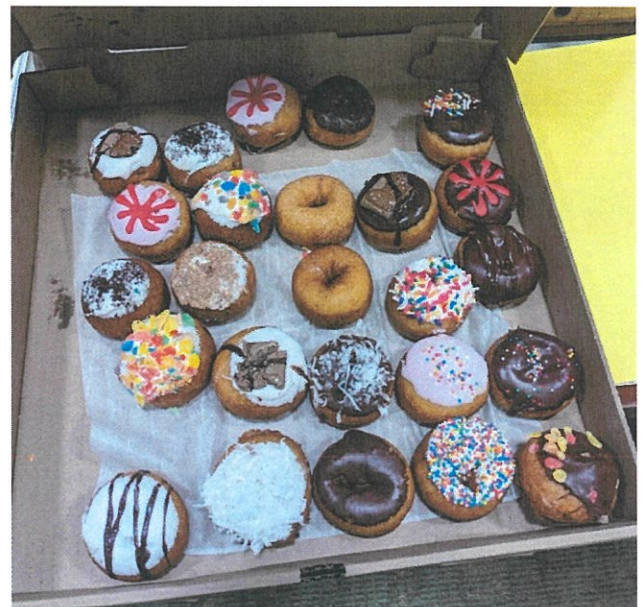
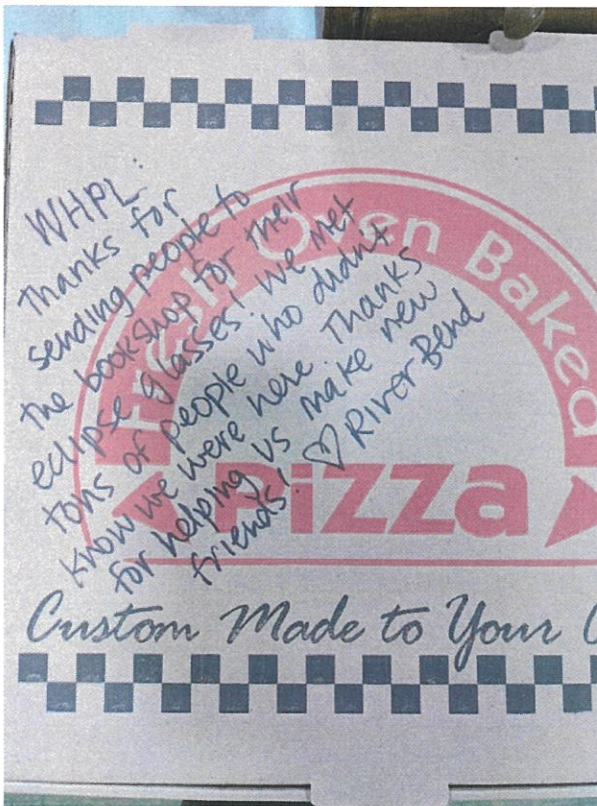
Ellen attended a quarterly meeting of the Town's **School Readiness Council** and also did two outreach visits to the neighborhood Methodist Nursery School on New Britain Ave.

Leah hosted a booth at the first ever **Poetry on Park** event with Hannah. Members of the public participated in poetry mad libs! We look forward to next year.

Ellen collaborated with **West Hartford Special Education PTO** (Septo) to host their annual book talk at the library. This year's book was *Growing Up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World* by Devorah Heitner, Ph.D. A discussion for parents was held on the topic of helping kids navigate growing up in a world where nearly every moment of their lives can be shared and compared.

From Our Patrons

In early April staff received nonstop questions about eclipse glasses and, with all of our glasses spoken for, we did our best to recommend nearby places that had glasses for sale. One of these places was River Bend Bookshop and on Saturday the owner, Meghan Hayden, dropped off a little thank you to staff for spreading the word – Tastease mini donuts! She shared that lots of people discovered the bookshop through our recommendations and they sold out of glasses. River Bend has been a great partner to work with on a number of programs including West Hartford Reads.



Adult Services & Programs

Author Talk: T'challa Williams (12 attended in-person)

Author and poet T'challa Williams gave a heart wrenching, but still lovely, program on her book "Passions Released". This program was originally supposed to happen in February, promoting our new Romance collection, however due to the snow, it was rescheduled to poetry month in April.

Easiest Houseplants Ever with Style (43 attended in-person)

Green thumb Tovah Martin gave a great talk about houseplants: what makes them thrive, how much to water them, etc.

It's Time to Talk Trash (78 attended in-person)

Rachael Virgin and Katherine Bruns from the Town gave a great program on the pilot program through the Morley School District.

The Magic and Perils of Bird Migration in Connecticut (65 attended in-person)

Meredith Barges, from Lights Out Connecticut, gave a great presentation describing the different migratory birds out there and what we can do as citizens to help them on their journey.

The Metabolic Approach (60 attended in-person)

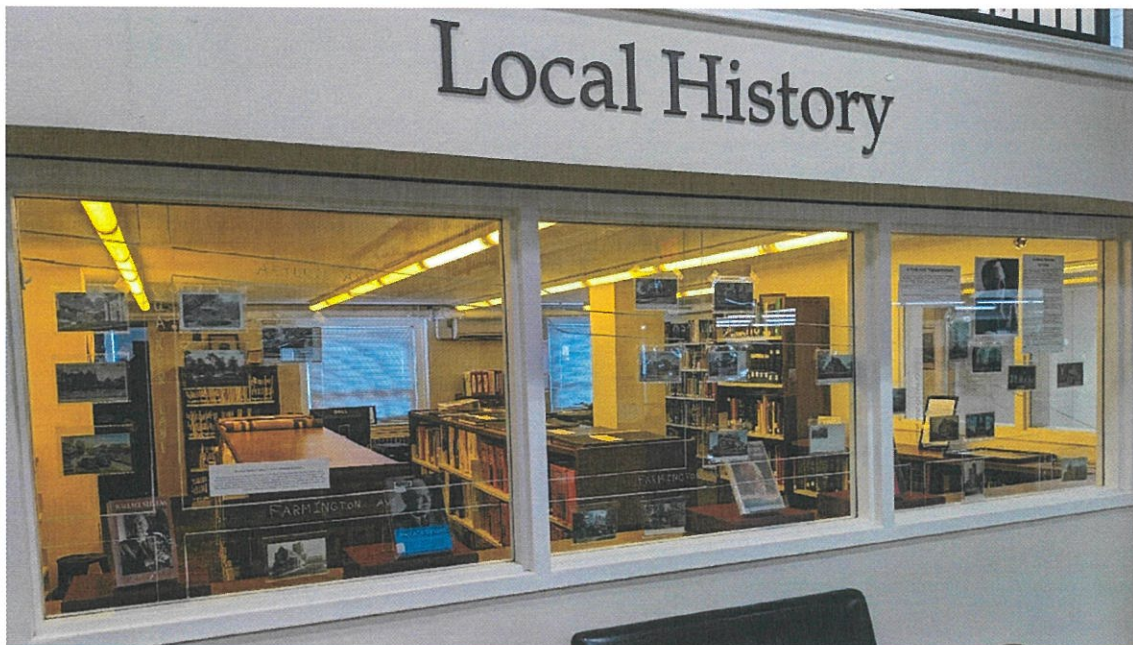
Dr. Christine Najjar showed how folks can lose weight and get rid of medications that they're on by following a regime that she created.

Poetry Contest: To celebrate National Poetry Month, Maura again held a poetry contest. It received over 100 submissions. Winners will be selected by the team of staff judges in May.

PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS (NWL, FAX, BC)	
STANDALONE Programs	14
Attendance	413
Avg. Attendance	30
RECURRING Programs	29
Attendance	281
Avg. Attendance	17
TOTAL Programs	43
Attendance	694
Avg. Attendance	16

Local History

This month on the windows of the Local History Room you'll find, "A Walk with Wallace Stevens," a display that highlights the life and work of the famous poet. During his lifetime, Wallace Stevens lived at 3 residences in the Hartford area and the display provides biographical information and brings his walks through the area to life using postcards from the Barbara Becker Girard Historic Postcard Collection (a West Hartford resident who graciously donated her collection to the Local History Room). This exhibit has garnered the most attention from patrons passing-by of the ones thus far created. It also gained attention from some Stevens scholars and may make an appearance in the next issue of the *Wallace Stevens Journal*!



Here are some other highlights from April:

- Rachael continues to rock it as the LHR intern. She has been able to rehouse, weed, and better describe the West Hartford History Collection and made some cool discoveries such as minutes that may be from the very first town meeting of West Hartford in 1854 as well as some photos of the Flood in 1936 that Brett has not seen in any publication before.
- Assisted a student from Hall with a History Day project centered on Coleco of West Hartford and their impact on home video game systems.
- Helped Chuck Corsey with images from our collection for his upcoming episode of Trout Brook Tales, the topic is Charter Oak Park and Luna Park with the guest being West Hartford resident and Trinity prof. Gene Leach
- Met with 99 year old Selma Harris Foster who has lived in West Hartford nearly her whole life, only moving to Florida for a few years in the 1940s. She is a great

candidate for an oral history interview and we will be sitting down in May and June to record her story of West Hartford.

- A fun on-going project is helping a woman in the UK with her families genealogy as her great grandfather was born in West Hartford, but his wife took their kids back to the UK for some reason in 1880. The mystery is great, but also shows the wide reach our local history has.
- Helped a patron find the date that he almost burned the family house down when he was a kid.
- Spent hours with a patron looking into the last farm to operate in West Hartford, which apparently was Sunset Farms and their land is the only area of town still zoned for agriculture

Studio 20 South

- Van Gogh Takes a Seat: Print and Collage Workshop
- A Beginner's Guide to Podcasting
- I Think It's a Sign: Life Drawing at the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History
- Screen Time Series: The Christopher Nolan Filmography
- Jazz Guitar 101
- Sundays in the Park with Sam at Elizabeth Park
- Screen Time Series: The David Fincher Filmography
- Paper People: Making Characters, Toys and More From Papercraft
- Mary Cassatt Tea Mother's Day Card
- Sculpting in the Digital Age: 3D Modeling in TinkerCAD

• STUDIO 20 BY THE NUMBERS	
• In-Depth Appointments	• 26
• Short Interactions (Walk-ins)	• 38
• Total Interactions	• 64

Branch Libraries

We had 203 deliveries to the lockers in April and now have 309 registered locker users. The total number of deliveries for the first four months of 2024 is 845 – a whopping 215 more than the first four months of 2023!

31 children and 24 parents got to “Meet the Ballerina” at Faxon, coordinated by Hartt Community Division, University of Hartford.

Practice English sessions continued on Friday at Faxon, with students meeting from 10 am to noon. Katherine Breer Bruns, the Recycling Coordinator from the Town of West Hartford, visited the class to deliver a presentation on the town's recycling initiatives. Her focus was on educating the attendees about various aspects of recycling within the community. The session was well-attended, with 18 students present. The sessions, held every Friday at Faxon, are designed to help participants improve their English language skills in a practical and interactive environment. The visit by Katherine not only provided valuable information

on recycling but also offered students a chance to engage in discussion and apply their language skills to real-world topics.

Children's Services & Programs Programs

The Swifties came! *We Love Taylor Swift* for children in grades 2-5 took place on the afternoon of April 2. Activities included Taylor Swift musical bingo, beaded bracelets, music and cupcake decorating.

"Awesome!" "So fun!" "Loved it!" – were just some of the words spoken by the 40 Swifties attending. Sara, Bailey and Hannah worked to create a Taylor Swift experience that was totally enjoyed by all.



Custom Taylor Swift Bingo Cards and Bookmarks for the winners created by Hannah.





Ballet Theatre Company presented an excerpt performance of the beloved fairytale Snow White, which will be presented later at the Bushnell's Belding Theatre, at the West Hartford Conference Center on the evening of April 10. Families always appreciate the opportunity to attend at no cost, since the program is funded by the Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Memorial Charitable Trust. The children came running in – dressed in Snow White dresses, party dresses with sparkly shoes and

button-down shirts and khakis – all excited to attend an in-person ballet!

Actors from Playhouse on Park theater visited on the morning of April 9 to share a preview of their upcoming production of the children's book *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* written by Judith Viorst.

Mary Cassatt Tea - Mother's Day Card - A Studio 20 Special Class with Kate Wilson

Teacups and tea pots have been the focus of many pieces of art. The impressionist Mary Cassatt used them in many of her most beautiful paintings. Tweens in Grades 4-7 gathered to create a Mother's Day card inspired by art for their mother or a special person using use book text and mixed media as well as rubber stamps and stencils and inserting a surprise tea bag.



Updates

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has confirmed that the West Hartford Public Library will receive the requested \$5,000 funding from the Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund for Faxon Fun 2024. The first session of the program for Grades 1-3 will take place July 8 – 18, with the second session for Grades 4-6 taking place from July 22 – August 1, all in the community room or shaded areas outdoors at the Faxon Library. Twenty-five students will attend each session. We will be interviewing older teens who will receive a stipend and younger teens who will be volunteers, all to interact with the children and to

assist program director Ellen Phillips. We will make every effort to give teens who live in the Faxon Branch neighborhood the first opportunity to apply.

Literacy will be the focus of the children's experience at Faxon Fun, along with STEM activities, arts and crafts, robotics, outdoor and indoor game play, board games and puzzles, music and more as well as an opportunity to socialize with each other and to interact with teen role models. All attending will be served nutritious snacks.

Surprise presenters and performers will bring their expertise to add to the fun. Teen Book Buddies will meet with children attending after each Faxon Fun day to read together. This activity also provides opportunities for additional teens to work as summer volunteers and to gain experience with children and learn job skills.

Registration for children to attend Faxon Fun 2024 will take place on May 8. Faxon Fun is open to West Hartford residents only.

Teen Services Programs

- Teen Cooking Canvas: From Heart to Plate - Thai Fried Rice
- Tuesday Tween D&D
- Youth Wellness Group (w/ Social Services)
- Tween D&D: Tomb of Annihilation
- D&D Dragonlance
- Tips for Success on the New Digital SAT: Reading & Writing Section
- Let's Talk College: Finding the Right College for You
- Artreach: Tissue Paper Flowers (w/ National Art Honor Society)
- Drug Take Back Day



MYC, TAB & PHACTT volunteers at Drug Take Back Day

Paint Matinee

- Dream It. Be It. Achieve It. Your Path to the Top 5% on the SAT
- Let's Talk College: Finding Scholarships



Updates & Meetings

- Mayor's Youth Council
 - Mayor Shari Cantor visited the group and heard about their 2024 impact projects
- TAB
 - Began voting on new TAB logo
 - Finalized Summer Reading program schedule
- West Hartford Prevention Partnership Coalition
 - MYC members Oliver and Joe spoke about the RiseUP for Arts mural and MYC Mental Health Subcommittee initiatives
- PHACTT Grant Leadership Workshop 1
 - Teens finalized 5 campaigns
 - Be Alive, Don't Drug Drive (cannabis, driving high)
 - Spot the Scam (phishing scams for seniors)
 - Stress Less, Live More (teen anxiety and mindfulness)
 - WeHa Blooms (sparking joy by beautifying public spaces)
 - You NarCAN Save Lives (opioid addiction)
 - Second PHACTT meeting will be Thursday, May 2 at The Underground in Bishops Corner (newly re-opened Teen Center)
 - PHACTT campaign materials will be shared at a booth at Celebrate West Hartford June 8 & 9
- Bike West Hartford Meeting
 - Working on Teen Summer Reading Bike Ride Sat. June 15 11-12:30
 - Pedestrian & Bike Commission will approve sponsorship of the ride at their May 13 meeting