Library seeks to evaluate services and chart new directions with help from community focus groups

To help the Westfield Memorial Library evaluate the services that we provide and to plan for the future, the library will hold a series of focus groups over the next several months.

They will be led by a consultant from Library Development Solutions, who will help participants discuss what kind of services and programs they would like to see the library offer, what current services they like or dislike, and where the library fits into the community.

“We hope to learn how to reach the people that we’re not reaching. We’d like to critique the services that we have and learn how to improve upon them as well,” said Phil Israel, library Director.

Thus far the staff focus group has met, and groups for frequent and infrequent users, as well as older adults, have been formed.

The group for Parents of Young Children will meet Monday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m., and the Teen focus group (for all students in middle and high school) will meet Friday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m.

To register e-mail focus-groups@wmlnj.org and list the group you want to attend in the subject line, or call Kathy Muhm, Assistant Director, at 908.789.4090, option #3.

On Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m., we will hold a Community Conversation for anyone who would like to participate, but is not part of a focus group. There’s no need to sign up, just come to the meeting.

Some of the other groups that will meet are Elected Civic and Business Leaders, the Friends of the Library and the Board of Trustees. Each group will meet between 60 to 90 minutes.

Asher Sternberg smiles broadly and holds the pair of tickets that he won through the library to a summer concert of The Wiggles at the Izod Center. The performance was sponsored by Reach Out and Read, a national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading.
Kathy Muhm is our Coordinator of Youth Services. She studied languages and English Literature at the University of Colorado and completed her Master’s in Library Science (MLS) at the University of Denver. Originally she was a reference librarian at Westfield, and then she became a children’s librarian at the Springfield Library. What she finds compelling about good children’s books are the same qualities that she loves in books for adults. “The best children's books are every bit as well-written, meaningful and delightful as the best adult books. Picture books are their own art form, with all the texts as carefully worded as poetry, and with illustrations that perfectly complement the text, and vice-versa.”

Molly Adams was among the first class to graduate from the Rutgers University online MLS program 1½ years ago. She’s found the perfect spot for her “love of books, kids, their energy and enthusiasm, and her own love of learning new things.” In addition to helping select children’s fiction, Molly creates the sixth grade reading list every year and makes the beautiful slides for the message board at the Circulation Desk. At home, she raises puppies for the Seeing Eye Foundation, and she brings her own therapy dog, Shadow, to the library for “Paws to Read” sessions.

An employee of Westfield for 17 years, Adrienne Basso is currently a senior youth services librarian in charge of teen acquisitions and programs. What she has noticed over the years about teen literature is that, “Although it’s always been issue oriented, it’s now treating the important issues that teens face with more honesty and sensitivity.” Adrienne earned a Master’s of Science in Library and Information Services from Drexel University. She is a published author of historical romances and will be celebrating the release of her 17th book in January 2010.

A former math teacher and school librarian in East Orange and Bedminster, Carol Buchanan earned her MLS at Rutgers. She creates the displays on the windows at the Youth Services front desk and conducts Story Hours for pre-schoolers and toddlers. “It was a challenge to learn to work with this group and to keep their attention. You have to choose the right level picture book, and you have to love the book yourself.” Carol, who has a “weakness for special paper,” has also run Origami workshops for teens and pop-up cards workshops for elementary schoolers.

Library Associate Maureen Cooney answered an ad 24 years ago that said “must like children and books.” That’s a perfect description of this former nursery school French teacher who’s taken courses in Children’s Literature at Rutgers. She presents Storytimes, helps select Children’s fiction and picture books, runs Creative Crafts programs and mends the books. What she likes most about the patrons here is that, “They are very book oriented. The New York Times Book Review is their bible, and on Monday morning, they’re here, looking for those books.” Maureen confesses that her collection of cook books, first editions of children’s books, and Newbery and Caldecott award winners is taking over her home.

Renee Rauch, who joined our staff as a pt librarian almost a year ago, has both an MBA and MLS from Rutgers. She worked as a Trust Investment Officer for ten years and went back to library school after her children were born. She is most happy when she sees a child “making a connection to a book, or a character in a book.” When she runs Tots’ Storytime, she’ll read four to five books and involve the audience in songs, finger play and crafts. Renee helps select picture books, and she also spends time reading plenty of chapter books, since she’s also a librarian at Holy Trinity Elementary School.

While Patricia Sassoon was studying for her MLS at Pratt Institute, she interned at the New York Public Library. She described this as a “fabulous experience” and said that she “loved the diversity of the patrons and their different needs.” She has also worked at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where she needed to read simple Hebrew. Patricia thoroughly enjoys working with children and exposing them to great books, such as two of her favorites: Charlotte’s Web and The Phantom Tollbooth. Amazingly enough, one of her hobbies is reading.
Friends Museum Pass Program continues to draw patrons

With 17 museums now participating in the Museum Pass Program, library patrons continue to flock to the library to check out passes. At the end of July, 748 passes had been signed out, admitting over 2,500 patrons to some of New Jersey’s and New York’s best museums. And we’ve just added two new museums, the Morris Museum in Morristown and the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York. Westfield residents and members of the Friends are welcome to go to a museum—our treat!

Anne Hale Speakers Series to host author Arthur S. Lefkowitz

“New Jersey and the American Revolution” Thursday, October 8 7:00 pm

The second presentation of the Anne Hale Speakers Series will highlight the work of Arthur S. Lefkowitz, author and researcher. He will speak on “New Jersey and the American Revolution” and show a fifty-minute slide presentation based on his book The Long Retreat. This book focuses on the British invasion of New Jersey in late 1776, which ended with Washington’s famous Christmas night raid on Trenton. The speaker will demonstrate that the closest the British ever came to winning a military victory in the American Revolution was at New Brunswick, New Jersey, on December 1, 1775. Please sign up at the circulation desk if you would like to attend.

Friends announce new officers

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library elected the officers for 2009-2010 at our last meeting in June.

Co-presidents: Diane Weinberg and Linnea Rhodes
Vice President: Jody Lipson
Recording Secretary: Fran Lemberg
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Orlando
Treasurer: Camille Hayden
Assistant Treasurer: Jane Bischoff

The first board meeting for 2009/2010 will be held in September.
Welcome back! Time to learn some new computer skills on your own or with your kids. Please see what computer skills are required to attend each class.

BEGINNER

Just unpacked your new computer and unsure where to start? These classes are for you!

Introduction to the Internet
Thursday, September 10
10:00-11:30 am

Discover all the fun and interesting features of the Internet, including menus and toolbars, and learn how to navigate the Web.

Must have mouse and typing skills to attend this class

Introduction to Microsoft Word
Monday, October 19
7-8:30 pm

If you are still using your computer as a typewriter, this hands-on class will help you make the most of Word. Learn the basics of setting up a document, formatting text, and cutting and pasting.

Must have mouse and typing skills to attend this class

INTERMEDIATE

Fun and practical classes for those with some computer knowledge and skill.

Download @ Your Library
Thursday, September 17
7-8:30 pm

This class covers the terrific audio-visual databases the library has to offer, such as:
- ListenNJ — Download audio books!
- MyLibrary DV — Download movies!
- NetLibrary — Download books!
- And MusicDownloads!

Genealogical Resources on the Internet
Wednesday, October 7
10-11:30 am

If you have always wanted to research your family tree or find information on your ancestors, this is the class for you! This workshop will show you Heritage Quest Online and Ancestry.com, which are databases accessible at the library.

Must have mouse and typing skills to attend this class

Travel Resources on the Internet
Thursday, October 8
10-11:30 am

Right now can be the best time to fly and travel! This hands-on class teaches you to navigate the vast array of Internet resources for the best prices for travel. Learn also how to book tickets online and make hotel reservations.

 Must have mouse and typing skills to attend this class

Email Basics
Tuesday, September 22
10:00-11:30 am or
Wednesday, October 28
7-8:30 pm

A librarian will help you set up an email account and develop some basic email skills using Yahoo!

Must have mouse and typing skills to attend this class

See next page for more classes
FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

Homework 911
Tuesday, October 20
10-11:30 am or
Tuesday, November 10
7-8:30 pm
For parents of school-age children

Parents learn about useful online tools and database resources available through the Library that provide valuable information for supporting their children's homework.

Junior Research Paper Resources @ Westfield High School
Wednesday, October 21
7-8:30 pm
***To be held at the Westfield High School Library***

This introductory class will be taught by a Westfield Memorial librarian and a high school librarian. Parents and students learn about the databases that both the library and the high school have available to help students find materials for their junior papers. Parents and students also learn how to access the e-books that are held by both libraries.

ADVANCED CLASSES
Ready to bump up your skills to the next level?

Advanced Microsoft Word
Wednesday, November 4
10-11:30 am

Learn about Word’s advanced capabilities such as editing photographs, creating eye-catching banners, and importing Excel graphs.

Must have beginning Word skills to attend this class

Business and Investment Resources on the Internet
Wednesday, October 21
7-8:30 pm

Ever wonder how to find a current or historic stock price, company profile information, or the latest investment tips? Ever want to find businesses in certain geographical areas? This demonstration and hands-on class covers the basics of ReferenceUSA, Standard and Poor’s, NetAdvantage, Hoover’s and Yahoo! Finance, which are comprehensive sources of business and investment information here at the Westfield Memorial Library.

Must have mouse and typing skills to attend this class

Shopping Resources on the Internet
Thursday, November 12
10-11:30 am

If you love to shop, want to find unique items or are always looking for a bargain, this NEW class is for you! In this hands-on class, we’ll explore various online shopping resources, and discuss comparison shopping and security.

Must have mouse and typing skills to attend this class
Adult Programs for the Fall

Brain Wave Vibration
Saturday, September 12  2:00 pm
Brain wave vibration is a meditation method that quiets down the left brain, so that the brain stem can be activated.

- Learn the theory and benefits of the method
- Hear excerpts from the book
- Practice the exercises

Presented by Dahn Yoga Tai Chi of Westfield

Writing Resumes and Cover Letters-Part 1*
Monday, September 21  6:30 pm
Social networking sites are more important than ever in today’s competitive job market, but you still have to have a resume and cover letter that set you apart from the crowd. Learn from career counseling expert Joanne Mortimer how to highlight your accomplishments and what opens the door.

Job Hunting/ Interviewing Techniques-Part 2*
Monday, September 28  6:30 pm
What are the secrets to finding a job in today’s competitive market, and to selling yourself in the interview?

New York City Mystery Writer Chris Grabenstein
Wednesday, September 23  7:00 pm
Join Chris Grabenstein, author of a mystery series set in a fictional Long Beach Island community. Some of his fast-paced thrill reads for adults include Tilt-A-Whirl, Whack A Mole and Mind Scrambler. For young adult readers, he’s penned The Crossroads and Hanging Hill.

The James L. Dean Big Band
Wednesday, September 30  7:00 pm
Get out your dancing shoes! It’s almost impossible to sit still when the James L. Dean Big Band begins. They play swing, combined with elements of rock, rock-abilly, pop, ska and even punk music. Their brand new swing sound has people of all ages up on their feet.

* Workshops limited to 15 participants. Must be Westfield residents. Sign up online at www.wmlnj.org and click on online Calendar.
More Adult Programs for the Fall

Just About Time
Wednesday, October 7  7:00 pm

Bernardsville resident Peter Tol has collected clocks for the past 40 years. Tonight he discusses:
- the concept of time
- how we measure it
- why we need it
- how time was measured in the past

Mr. Tol demonstrates how a mechanical clock works, and he also shares photos of his collection of antique clocks.

Fun Filled Improv Workshop for Adults
Tuesday, October 13  7:00 pm

Have you ever watched “Whose Line Is It, Anyway?” and thought you’d like to get in on the action? Join Beth Painter, founder of the Contagious Drama Workshop, for a hands-on improvisation bonanza! Learn a few key elements to improvisation, and then get on your feet and act. No prep work or prior experience necessary. This class is designed to engage every person and is guaranteed to relieve stress!

Breast Health
Wednesday, October 14  7:00 pm

This lecture provides information on basic breast health and understanding how to keep breasts healthy, breast self-exams, risk factors for breast cancer, decreasing risks for breast cancer, mammography and abnormal mammography findings, and breast MRI. Sponsored by the Susan G. Komen For the Cure® (North Jersey affiliate), Overlook Hospital Community Health and the Overlook Hospital Breast Center.

The 1908 Olympic Marathon … and How It Created the Marathon Distance
Saturday, October 24  1:00 pm

Learn about the largely forgotten story of the 1908 Olympic marathon in London, and how it led to the creation of the official marathon distance of 26.2 miles. Westfield resident Wayne Baker will tell the tale, bringing some fascinating photos and artifacts, such as an Olympic gold medal from the early 1900’s (owned by the Shore Athletic Club). Free and open to the public.
More Adult Programs

Your Personal Financial Blood Test… Are you ill, and you don’t even know it?

Tuesday, October 27  7:00 pm

Samuel Bornstein, Professor at Kean University, the School of Business, wants you to be financially healthy. He has identified 16 factors to analyze financial health, and he will present some sound new ideas to diagnose and prescribe a cure. You can either ignore the warning signs, or you can attend this program!

Salsa is Nuyorican

Wednesday, November 4  7:00 pm

Jose Obando, one of the incorporators of the Salsa Museum in Spanish Harlem, presents the artistic, social and economic contributions that the Puerto Ricans and Nuyoricans (that’s a combination of New York and Puerto Rican) have made to the American musical genre known as salsa. Hear musical selections from Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and try playing authentic maracas, the clave and the guiro. We’ll end the night learning the steps to the salsa and the merengue. This music and dance program will be one of the library’s liveliest events ever!

Fee-lancing, or Creative Alternatives to Earning Extra Money

Thursday, November 5  7:00 pm

This workshop is great if you’ve just been laid off, are a stay-at-home Mom wishing to re-enter the work force, or just interested in earning more money. Learn how the Fee-lance approach can turn the skills you already have into a part-time job or a full-time career. Start working immediately with no limits to your income producing options. Fee-lance creator Sandra Frank has used her method successfully for over 20 years.

Sign up for library programs by going to our website www.wmlnj.org and clicking online Calendar.
Even More Adult Programs

“And the cheese stands alone ...”
Cheese Tasting and Cheese Talk
Thursday, November 12  7:00 pm

Let’s talk about cheese with Maria Tisdall from Shop Rite! Learn how to experience cheese like an expert and become an educated buyer. Of course, there will be samples!

Food for Life
Helping Animals and Helping You
Become Healthier with Plant-Based Vegetarian Eating

Saturday, November 21  2:00 pm

According to the Food for Life community outreach group, the new four food groups include:

- Whole grains
- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Legumes

Food for Life is a program of the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance. Learn about the health, humane, environmental and economic benefits of eating a plant-based vegetarian diet.

Recipes and a cooking demonstration will be provided. Come and try it out.

Monday Afternoon at the Opera
Mondays at 1:00 pm  October 19—November 16

Hosted by the Westfield Adult School and held at the Westfield Memorial Library. Please contact the Westfield Adult School to register. Westfield Adult School, P.O. Box 606, Westfield, NJ 07091  908.232.4050  adultschool@westfieldnj.com

Our Foreign Film Festival resumes in the Fall. Watch for film titles and dates to be announced.
TGIF! Fridays: An Exciting Series of Programs for Adults
Movies, Music and More—All Free
Light refreshments served. All programs begin at 1:30 p.m.
A fun way to socialize and make new friends.

No registration necessary. For further information about TGIF programs,
please call the Reference Department at 908.789.4090, X 4130.

NO TGIF
September 4

CRUISE WESTERN CARIBBEAN
September 11
Visit such Caribbean Islands as Aruba, Belize, Cancun, Grand Cayman and many more.

PATSY CLINE
September 18
Examine the life and career of this versatile country music star.

CLASSIC MOVIE WEEK:
“MY FAVORITE WIFE” September 25
Starring Cary Grant, Irene Dunn, and Randolph Scott

GREAT ARTISTS: VERMEER, TURNER, VAN GOGH
October 2
Explore the lives and works of Johannes Vermeer, J.M.W. Turner, and Vincent Van Gogh.

LIVE PERFORMER — HEATHER MULVEY
October 9
Join this New Jersey based musician as she performs familiar American traditional songs.

CONÉY ISLAND
October 16
Discover the unique history and significance of Coney Island, NY.

JOE DI MAGGIO
October 23
Celebrate the 2009 World Series with a look back at one of baseball’s greats.

CLASSIC MOVIE WEEK:
“THE THIN MAN” October 30
Starring William Powell and Myrna Loy

RICHARD RODGERS
November 6
Enjoy the music and learn about the life of this composer who is one of two people to have won an Oscar, a Grammy, an Emmy, a Tony, and a Pulitzer Prize.

DORIS DAY
November 13
Review the life of this popular singer and Hollywood actress.

CLASSIC MOVIE WEEK:
“CALAMITY JANE” November 20
Starring Doris Day

NO TGIF — NOVEMBER 27
Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Please note: All programs are videos or lectures unless otherwise noted.
What’s New in the Reference Department

Have you discovered our Reference Department? We have so much to offer! Not only do we have close to 20 computers for your use (all of which include Internet, MS Office programs and Library Catalog capabilities), but the Reference Department also provides a multitude of databases, an electronic book collection and professional research help. Let’s take a look at our newest databases:

### Mango Languages

Looking to learn a new language, or gain more competence in a language you are trying to master? Mango Languages currently offers 12 language courses — Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Greek, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, ESL for Polish speakers, ESL for Spanish speakers, and ESL for Brazilian Portuguese speakers — with many more on the way. Mango’s online language learning system focuses on teaching actual conversation skills for a wide variety of languages. Each lesson combines real-life situations and audio from native speakers with an easy-to-follow interface and simple, clear instructions. It’s so effective and easy to use, you’ll be speaking a new language after just one lesson!

### Jazz Music Library

This database, complimenting our current list of wonderful music databases, will be sure to satisfy jazz lovers! For online listening to thousands of jazz artists, ensembles, albums, and genres, Jazz Music Library is essential for any jazz history, performance, theory, or music appreciation course. Labels include Verve, GRP Records, Fantasy, Concord Jazz, Impulse, Jazzology and many others. The list of artists is enormous, ranging from past greats to musicians performing and recording today. Also included are Marian McPartland’s Peabody Award-winning Piano Jazz Radio Broadcasts and never-before-released performances from the Monterey Jazz Festival and great jazz venues. Listen to Chicago jazz, New Orleans Jazz, 1920s jazz, big bands, acid jazz, Latin jazz and more.

### American Song

American Song is an eclectic collection of music from Americans of diverse origins and all walks of life, from America’s past and present. The songs are by and about American Indians, miners, immigrants, slaves, children, pioneers and cowboys. They touch topics as varied as Civil Rights, political campaigns, Prohibition, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, anti-war protests and more. And the range of genres includes country, folk, bluegrass, Western, old time, American Indian, blues, gospel, shape note singing, doo-wop, Motown, R&B, soul, funk and others.

### Contemporary

A fantastic database covering every music genre from every corner of the globe! Reggae, Balkanic jazz, African film, Bollywood, Arab swing, flamenco, klezmer, gagaku, and others can be searched and heard among the database’s 50,000 tracks. A perfect complement to the library’s 'Smithsonian Global Sound for Libraries' database. Visit the Reference Desk and ask the Reference Staff for help with our other databases, or pick up a flyer covering other database topics.

### BUT WAIT, THERE’S MORE!

Coming in October, Email Reference

Are you so busy at work or at home that you can’t even call us with your questions, or get to the library? Then email us! Our professional Reference Staff will respond within 24 hours to your queries. They will ask any follow-up questions necessary and provide answers as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Please note that this email feature is specifically for Reference questions! The staff cannot respond to email requests for holds, book renewals, or putting books aside.

11
Programs for Children and Teens

All programs are free to Westfield full-service library card holders.

Whose Library Is It, Anyway? Join an improv actor from Youth Stages to learn the tricks of creating believable characters, and expressing yourself without a script. It’s really fun! Grades 6, 7 and 8. Bring your full-service Westfield Library card to participate. Dates: Fridays, **9/25** and **10/23**, 6-8 p.m.

Make Your Own Book! Join artist Shari Seltzer as she offers ideas and instruction for making your own book, from scratch. Whether you use it as your journal or a record of something important to you, it will be one of a kind, and all yours. Bring any kind of small personal memento such as ticket stubs, or photocopies of photos that you will use to decorate your book. Please be prompt. Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only. Date: Saturday, October 3. Grades 6, 7 and 8 2:00-3:15 p.m. Grades 4 and 5 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Scavenger Hunt @ the Library! Find clues and information for prizes. Open to children in grades 2, 3 and 4. A brief orientation will precede the hunt, so please be prompt! Date: Wednesday, **11/4**, 7-8 p.m. Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only.

Lego Club. Use your imagination to create wonderful Lego structures. Open to children in grades 1 through 5. Check the online Calendar for dates and times, or call the Youth Services Desk. Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only.

Book Buddies. If you’re in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade, pair with a teen volunteer to read together, one-on-one. Must register in advance at the Youth Services Desk. Sessions will be Sundays, **Sept. 27**, **Oct. 18**, **Nov. 22** and **Dec. 13**, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. OR from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Parent or caregiver must stay in the library during the session. For more information, call us at 908.789.4090, ext. 3. Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only.

Big Kids’ Storytime. Listen to some of our librarians’ faves. Must be in elementary school. Dates: **Fridays, 9/25** through 11/13, 3:45-4:30 p.m. Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only.

Preschool Storytime. Listen to stories and do an activity. For children aged 3½ to 5, but not yet in kindergarten. Dates: **Wednesdays, 9/23** through 11/13, 3:45-4:30 p.m. Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only.

Tots’ Storytime. Listen to stories and do an activity. For children aged 2½ to 3½. Parent or caregiver attends with child. Dates: **Fridays, 9/25** through 11/13. Time: 10-10:30 a.m. Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only.

Toddler Time. Enjoy stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities. Age: Babies and toddlers up to age 3. Parent or caregiver attends with child. Dates: **Mondays, 9/21** through 11/16 Time: 10-10:20 a.m. (except 10/12, when the Library is closed for Columbus Day). Open to full-service Westfield Library card holders only.