

ATHENAEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 12

December, 2002

The Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm Street, Westfield, MA 01085

Website: www.westath.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

Facts on File World News and Issues and Controversies are now available online. They are both excellent reference sources for school projects on the high school or college level.

World News Digest is compiled from news articles from major newspapers and magazines and dates back to 1940. This resource may be searched in many ways by keyword, date range, key issues, and key people. There are also links to the web pages of newspapers all around the world. Today's news is also provided from Reuters with a two week archive.

Issues and Controversies is the perfect database for students researching such lively debates as the accounting crisis, gun control, or the death penalty. Both sides of the issues are discussed objectively and clearly. Pictures, graphs, and tables are available as well and can be exported for use in papers or presentations. Any article found in the library can be e-mailed to the student's home. Direct home use is also available. Just go to:

<http://www.2Facts.com/RemLib.asp??library=westfieldath>. When prompted, just enter your library card number. We invite you to try out this powerful new database.

Donald G. Buckley, Jr.
Acting Director

New Books on Tape

For those who want to be entertained while driving, cooking, or doing any odd job, try: Sandra Brown's The Crush, Zadie Smith's Autograph Man, Mark Bowden's Finders Keepers, Julie Garwood's Prince Charming, Stephen King's From a Buick 8, Robert Parker's Shrink Rap, John Feinstein's The Punch, Michael Crichton's Prey or Catherine Aird's Amendment of Life.

Historic Westfield

The Athenaeum still has copies of the books capturing Westfield of the nineteenth and twentieth century. Images of America Westfield (vol. 1 and 2), Westfield in Vintage Postcards, and The Westfield Historic Building Book render a photographic essay of our city's citizens, first businesses, clubs, and tragedies (fires and floods). If you want Westfield a bit more modern, Westfieldopoly lets you gain customers at Amelia Park, Puffer's Salon, or Noble Hospital or get arrested by the Westfield police. The proceeds from the books and game fund Library activities for our patrons.

New Fiction

Some of the new novels the Athenaeum has just acquired are: Rita Mae Brown's Hotspur, Andrea Camilleri's Terra-Cotta Dog, John Case's The Eighth Day,

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Deepak Chopra's Daughter of Joy: An Adventure of the Heart, Richard Evans' The Last Promise, Eva Hoffman's The Secret, Brenda Jackson's Ties That Bind, Bill Kent's Street Money, Richard Starks' Breakout, Margaret Truman's Murder at Ford's Theater and James Patterson's Four Blind Mice.

Holiday Music

When you find yourself humming Christmas carols, come into the Athenaeum and borrow some of our wide selection of holiday music. You can sing your favorite songs along with Anne Winter, Placido Domingo, Ann Murray, Elvis, Vince Gill, Roger Whitaker, or even Pavarotti (don't worry if you can't hit the high notes.) Happy Holidays to all.

Walking Tour of Historic Westfield

(Borrowed from Chamber of Commerce's pamphlet, newspaper articles, and various speeches.)

The Green. Our common meeting area, according to historian Bob Brown, was merely low land swamp when the first settlers began the town of Westfield. "From 1800-1839, buildings around the present green were erected and a new town center established; the center of town used to be a half mile farther east." Cattle grazed and hay was weighed here prior to a campaign waged to have the "green laid out, filled in, fenced and planted with trees between 1833 -1835."

Over the years, the green has been the site of many different public gatherings – religious, political, patriotic, and festive. In the early years, when the summer sun beat down too harshly, "settees were brought out and Sabbath exercises held under the shade of the elms." The northern section was a favorite place for music and campaign oratory – a carry-over custom from London's Hyde Park. During the Civil

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War, citizens were encouraged to join the service and men drilled.

In the centennial year, 1876, a fountain was erected in the center and during the winter, "a considerable stream was allowed to rise, and the descending spray, freezing as it fell, built many an ice castle within the curbing of the fountain, which would stand well into the spring, when, by degrees, it would melt away. The original flag pole, presented by the Grand Army of the Republic, was erected 1898; unfortunately, the top portion fell off in 1998 after being struck by lighting, so the flag pole was replaced in 2001. President Theodore Roosevelt spoke here on September 2, 1902. The parking area at the north end was originally the trolley turning area 1892-1927. Over the last hundred and seventy years, the green has hosted the General Knox reenactment (1969), Admiral Byrd's snow cruiser (1939), WWI tank (1919), anti-war rallies (1960s), high school football practices and, lately, pancake breakfasts, the clothesline project, take-back-the night vigils, and Christmas carolling. The Green has numerous markers of our past (8th Mass. Turnpike, Vietnam marker, pledge to the flag, Tri-Centennial Birthday cake, Westfield Insurance Agents to name some), yet still keeps us current on local events with the bulletin board. (If you have any pictures of the green that would be helpful in doing a retrospective, please see Kate Deviny. Thank you.) Bob Brown, Diane Faits and Susan Kingra helped with this article.



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DECEMBER PROGRAMS IN THE BOYS & GIRLS LIBRARY:

December Movies:

Saturday, December 14, 12-12:35 PM
In the Lang Auditorium – “Mickey’s Christmas Carol” for preschool and up.

Saturday, December 21, 12-2:10 PM
In the Lang Auditorium – “It’s A Wonderful Life” for all ages.

Please register now for these movies.

Advance registration is required for the following art classes:

Monday, December 9, 4-5 PM –
Parent/Child Holiday Art Class for Grades 2 & 3. Limited to 5 children and 5 parents.

Tuesday, December 10, 10-10:30 AM
Mother Goose Holiday Craft for ages 1 & 2 years.

Saturday, December 14, 10-11:00 AM
Parent/Child Saturday Art: Meet Van Gogh. Designed for the parent and child to do together. Class is limited to 5 children and 5 adults and is for children in grades 2 & 3.

Monday, December 16, 4-5 PM –
Parent/Child Holiday Art for Grades 4 & 5. Class is limited to 5 children and 5 adults.

Tuesday, December 17, 10-10:30 AM
Mother Goose Holiday Craft for ages 1 & 2. Class size is limited.

Christmas Teas – Please register in advance for one of these Teas for children ages 3, 4 & 5:

Thursday, December 12, 10-10:45 AM

Friday, December 13, 10-10:45 AM

Saturday, December 14, 2-2:45 PM

Thursday, December 19, 10-10:45 AM

Friday, December 20, 10-10:45 AM

For more details, please stop in at the library and pick up a program sheet, or visit us at our website.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

- Sign up day for all January programs is **January 7**
- Children’s Chorus starts in January. Call for details.

THE STAFF OF THE WESTFIELD ATHENAEUM WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!



LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-8:00 PM
Friday & Saturday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

LIBRARY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Adult Library 568-7833
Reference Dept. 562-0716
Boys & Girls Library 562-0658

CONTRIBUTING TO THIS

NEWSLETTER: Kate Deviny, Editor, Susan Kingra, Diane Faits and Mary Ann Tourjee.

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