

# ATHENAEUM NEWSLETTER

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

Website: [www.westath.org](http://www.westath.org)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

**Tax Time** is once again approaching, but fear not, the Westfield Athenaeum has many resources to help you get through this stressful period. First, we have many of the most common forms, both state and federal, which can be picked up next to the circulation desk. If you do not find the form you are looking for there, it may be available to be photocopied from the forms at the reference desk. If you still can't find the forms you need, the reference librarians will be glad to search the IRS website.

The Athenaeum can also help those looking for tax guides. We currently receive many government publications that contain much helpful tax information as well. Additionally, we also carry non-government tax guides such as Lasser's, which are very popular with our patrons. If there are no copies on the shelf we can reserve you a copy and call you when it is returned.

Donald G. Buckley, Jr., Acting Director

## FEBRUARY EXHIBIT IN THE JASPER RAND ART MUSEUM:

This month we will feature photography by Allison Gerlip, a 23 year old Westfield native. She has photographed the sites and people in Sicily, as well as the island of Martha's Vineyard. The

exhibit is open to the public during regular library hours.

**MARCH BOOK DISCUSSION:** The public is invited to join us on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at 1:00 PM in the Elizabeth Reed Room to discuss the book, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown. This is a documented account of the systematic destruction of the American Indian during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This book will touch your heart and mind. It is a reminder that compassion and tolerance are essential to humanity. Please reserve your copy of the book at the circulation desk – stop in or call 568-7833.

**Brr...Baby it's cold outside!!!** Trying to stay warm? How about a visit to the library. Take up a new hobby and get ready for adventure. One that you can indulge in and stay warm ...Birdwatching. According to [fineliving.com](http://fineliving.com) – Bird Watching 101 – this is a hobby that will take you out into nature or bring nature to your own backyard. To get involved requires:

- Supplies - a curious mind, a pair of binoculars and a good illustrated field guide
- Early start – many birds are at their most active at dawn (you may have to get used to waking up early)
- Journal – record the birds you see – details or sketches may be a nice

way of reliving your winged guests' visits

- Resources – the library has many books on birds and birdwatching as well as information on websites and support groups

Suggested readings: The Secret Life of Birds by Roger Peterson; A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America by Roger Peterson, and The Secret Lives of Birds by Pierre Gingras.

Suggested websites:

[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org); [www.birder.com](http://www.birder.com); [www.guidebirding.com](http://www.guidebirding.com).

**A Walk Up Court Street in 1904:** This is an excerpt from Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert Little's paper on her life in Westfield in the early part of the twentieth century.

"We will start our walk at the library, go to the cemetery, cross over and down the other side of the street to Broad Street and I will tell you what I remember of the houses and those who lived in them when I lived on the street. The library was the small children's part of the present impressive building and I remember the front covered with violets and lily of the valley. This was the home of James Fowler. The original home of the Athenaeum was on Main Street just east of the Second Church, and in 1867 rules were established so that any person paying two dollars a year could have full use of the library for one year and the right to draw out two books at one time, and keep them for two weeks. How well I remember that one of my most prized Christmas presents was a two dollar bill so that I might go to the Athenaeum and have those privileges.

Miss Lucy Gillett's house is the same in architecture, but the lovely personality is gone and there is such a lonesome feeling in me that I hurry past to the place that was formerly Mr. Samuel Fowler's, Mr. Fowler being Miss Gillett's uncle. I understand that in this house there was a very noted girl's school, to which pupils came from many distant towns and cities. In 1900 Mr. And Mrs. Herbert Eaton moved here with their sons Richard and Arthur. Arthur is in Eaton's clothing on Elm Street in which his father at eighty-seven still has an active part.

The colonial home further up the street is probably the best known among Westfield historians. I remember it as the Judge Stevens house where Miss Stevens and Miss Kingsley lived, but years before it stood on the corner of Elm and Court Streets and was a tavern, and it was then called "The Ezra Clapp Tavern". In 1952 it will be 200 years old."

Mrs. Little continues her walk. If you want to read more, come to the Reference Department and ask to see her story.

**PRESIDENTS DAY IS MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 17**



**New and forthcoming fiction books:**

Silent Partner by Stephen Frey

Ice Age by Brian Freemantle

Conquerors of the Sky by

Thomas Fleming

The Bone Vault By Linda Fairstein

Let's All Kill Constance by Ray Bradbury

A Whistling Woman by A.S. Byatt

**Tuesday, February 4 is Sign Up Day for BUBBLEMANIA** which will be held on **Friday, February 21** from 2-2:45 PM. Advance registration is required.

**Open Story Time for all ages: Tuesday, February 4 and February 11, 10:00 to 10:30 AM.** Advance registration is recommended. Thirty tickets are available and must be picked up at least 10 minutes before the start of the program.

**Baby Time for ages 6-18 months: 11 AM, Tuesday, February 4.** Advance registration is required, and all attending must have a ticket. Sixteen tickets are available and must be picked up at least 10 minutes before the start of the program.

**2's Too for 24-35 months: Thursday, February 6 and Thursday, February 13.** Two programs both days at 10 AM and 11 AM. An adult must accompany each child. Sixteen tickets are available for each program and must be picked up at least 10 minutes before the start of the program.

**Story Time Plus for ages 3-5 years: Friday, February 7 and Friday, February 14.** Two programs both days beginning at 10 AM and 11 AM. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Sixteen tickets are available for each program and must be picked up at least 10 minutes before the start of the program.

**Saturday, February 8 – Valentine's Day Card Holder Craft Table.** Drop by the library to make a Valentine's Day Card Holder.

**Friday, February 21, 2:00-2:45 PM – BUBBLEMANIA for ages 5 and up.** Casey Carle will amaze us with his bubbles. Advance registration begins February 4. There are 90 tickets for this program. All children must be accompanied by an adult and must remain seated with the adult at all times. Tickets for the program must be picked up no later than 10 minutes before the starting time. After that time, any tickets not picked up will be made available to the public on a first come, first serve basis.

**Tuesday, February 25 – Sign Up for March Children's Programs!**



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

**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	562-6158

**CONTRIBUTING TO THIS**

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