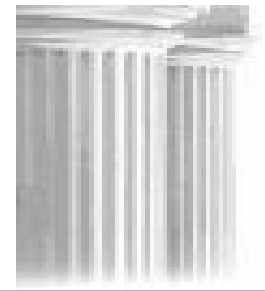


Ath·en·æ·um Col·umns



- Milton B. Whitney Library
- Edwin Smith Historical Museum
- Jasper Rand Art Museum



The New Website is
Launched!!

After months of hard work, the Westfield Athenaeum is pleased to announce its new web interface at www.westath.org. Our new site gives a fresh look to many aspects of the Athenaeum. On the home page, patrons can easily view their library account, see the status of their interlibrary loans, reserve a museum pass, see the upcoming speakers and the children's programming offered. Our home page also acts as a portal to local information, City Hall, and Westfield schools; now one click will lead you to the City of Westfield's home page to access phone numbers or contacts easily or to Westfield schools' home page where school lunches or school activities are easy to find. If you click on Westfield Info, you'll find links to Westfield organizations, churches, and a list of social services here at home.

Research Services Boys & Girls Teens Seniors Readers Events & Activities

This banner goes across all of our WebPages to give patrons easy access to other sections. Under **Research**, you will find access to databases that will answer research questions or help prepare you for the SATs. Ask Us! gives various ways to contact the Athenaeum's reference staff or, if the library is not open, access to MASS ANSWERS, an online chat reference service from reference staff at some of the best libraries across Massachusetts. The tab for **Homework Help** leads you to various online homework help.

The **Services** tab leads to information on our homebound book service, internet access, using our public meeting rooms, accessing the museum passes, interlibrary loans and how to get a library card. The **Boys & Girls** tab will take you to the Children's library page which is a fun-filled page of activities as well as book suggestions and the Children's catalog. **Teens** now have their own funky space with links to graphic novels, test prep, games, programs and the local middle and high school websites.

The **Seniors** tab leads to Westfield's services to seniors, our homebound library services and book discussion groups. The next tab, **Readers**, leads to a plethora of books suggestions. Offering a wide variety of choices, Book Letters categories are: New Fiction, Award Winners, Current Best Sellers, Audio Books, as well as Kids, Special Interest and Book Club Help. Here you will also find our new acquisitions, and you can suggest a purchase.

The last tab **Events & Happenings** keeps patrons aware of what is happening at the Westfield Athenaeum—our book sale, concerts, lectures, exhibits, and special events. Please check out our new website and let us know what you think. *This website was funded by a grant from Westfield Academy & designed by Extra Mile Design.*

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Book Club Discussions

Specimen Days by Michael Cunningham on March 23rd. A Prayer For Owen Meany by John Irving on April 27th. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. in the Whitney Study.

Forum Book Discussions

The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton on March 21st and The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen on April 18th. Meetings are held in the Reed Room at 7 p.m.

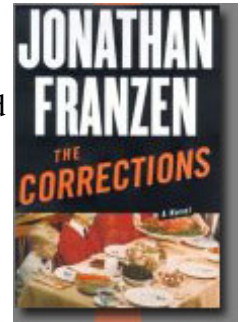
We now have 2 color copiers for your convenience. They print excellent copies for 20 ¢ and will even enlarge to poster size. Please ask for help at the Reference Desk if you have any special print demands (using your own paper for example.)

Westfield's One City, One Book Read

Join us for Westfield's One City, One Book Read of *The Corrections*, by Jonathan Franzen! Mr. Franzen won the National Book Award for fiction in 2001. His funny and sprawling family saga examines the foibles, fears, hopes and neuroses of 21st century American life.

Mr. Franzen, will be visiting Westfield to give a public reading on **April 6, 2006**, during National Library Week. A book signing will follow his talk at the Westfield Woman's Club. A pre-reading reception will be held in the Reed Room at the Athenaeum at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person which includes the reception, a ticket to the reading, and a signed copy of the book. Please call 413-568-0638 for ticket reservations (Copies of *The Corrections* are available for borrowing or copies may be purchased at the main desk for \$10 each.)

This project is sponsored by the Westfield Athenaeum, Westfield State College, the Friends of the Westfield Athenaeum, and Westfield on Weekends.



Try something different!

If you are tired of the same old movies, try our collection from Film Movement. These films don't play at the local multiplex, but receive outstanding reviews from film festivals all over the world. They are sometimes in a foreign language with English sub-titles. A recent one "Anytown USA" is a funny and eye-opening look into a hard-fought mayoral race between a legally blind, blunt-speaking, conservative Republican incumbent, a retired Democrat brought back into the fray, and a legally blind write-in candidate, in the small town of Bogota, New Jersey. This month's selection is "Hawaii, Oslo" from Norway. Five stories about love are interwoven in Oslo during the hottest day of the year. Frode and Milla have their first child. Two young boys search for their mother. Leon hopes to keep a 10-year-old date with his teenage sweetheart. Leon's brother, Trygve gets a weekend leave from prison to be with Leon on his birthday. Touching everyone is Vidar, who sees things no one else can see. Everyone is running from something, searching for something or dreaming of something else on this destined day.

Check these movies out to see the world from a different perspective.

Tenth Annual Book Sale April 6-8th

The major fund raising event of the Friends of the Athenaeum is the Annual Book Sale which will be held April 6th—8th in the Lang Auditorium. It begins on Thursday (5-8 p.m.) with a special viewing for a \$3 admission charge. Friday you are welcome to shop from 9-5 p.m. and Saturday 9-3 p.m. On Saturday, books will be reduced from their normal price of \$1 for hardcover and fifty cents for paperbacks. Please come and find books for your collection and support the Athenaeum.

Boys and Girls Library

April Poetry Contest

April is poetry month! To celebrate, the Boys and Girls Library will host its annual Poetry Contest. Submissions will be taken Monday, April 3, 2006 through Saturday, April 22, 2006. Submitted poems must adhere to contest guidelines. Guidelines will be available at the Boys and Girls Library starting March 13th. One winner will be chosen in each grade category; Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9-12.

April School Vacation Activities

Craft table all week—Make a special springtime craft! April 18-22.

Computer Gaming on the Big Screen— Thursday, April 20 from 2-4 p.m.; Grades 5-12. Register beginning Tuesday, April 4th.

Draw with Oil Pastels — Friday, April 21 10-11:30 a.m.; Grades 3 & 4. Register beginning Tuesday, April 4th.

Sand Art—Tuesday, April 18th 10-11:30 a.m.; Grades 1 & 2. Register beginning Tuesday, April 4th.



TEEN CORNER Teen Time in the Afternoon

For teens in grade 6 through 12. Drop in to enjoy music, games, crafts and a snack with other teens. Help plan activities for teens. Bring your ideas and a friend! Teen Time will be held on Saturdays, March 11, 25 & April 8 & 22 from 2-3 p.m.

Registration is not required.

Runescape on the Big Screen

Thursday, April 20 from 2-4 p.m.; Grades 5-12. Register beginning Tuesday, April 4th.

SPRING SERIES PROGRAMS

Little Ones' Library Time
Thursdays, April 6, 13, 27 & May 4 at 9:30 or 10:30

The program is open to babies and toddlers up to 35 months of age and is filled with songs, movement and fun! Registration is required and begins Tuesday, March 21.

Register by coming into the library or by calling 562-6158.

Two's, Too
Fridays, April 7, 14, 28 & May 5 at 9:30 or 11:00

Two year olds with their grown-up are invited to join us for a four week theme related program. Enjoy songs, activities, a story and craft. Each session is limited to 8 child/adult pairs.

Each child must be age appropriate, accompanied by an adult and registered. Sorry, no siblings. Registration is required and begins Tuesday, March 21.

Register by coming into the library or by calling 562-6158.

Preschool Storytime
Mondays ~ March 6, 13, 20 & April 3, 10, 24 & May 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Preschoolers age 3-5 years old are invited to come to the library for a half hour program of stories, songs, fingerplays and more.

No registration is required.

• Milton B. Whitney Library • Edwin Smith Historical Museum • Jasper Rand Art Museum

6 Elm Street Westfield, MA 01085
Phone: 413-568-7833 Boys & Girls: 413-562-6158
Email: waref@cwmars.org

On the web @
www.westath.org

Carol Otis Hurst

“Writer’s Roots”

Local author Carol Otis Hurst will visit the Athenaeum on Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. Carol Otis Hurst is a nationally-known storyteller, lecturer, author and language arts consultant and a former school librarian at Juniper Park Elementary School in Westfield. Come listen to Ms. Hurst tell about her experiences as a writer, storyteller and librarian in Western Massachusetts. A book signing will follow her talk. Families are encouraged to attend this free event held in the Jasper Rand Art Museum.

Jasper Rand Art Exhibits

March will host Keith Browning’s tribute to his father, Carlyle Curtis Browning, showing his father’s pastel & pastel and ink landscapes, cityscapes and figures which have a feel of Impressionism.



April will host the Westfield Public and Parochial Schools students’ work, an annual event that shows off the various talents of our local community.

March & April 2006

- March 15th** Speaker Jim Snack, CSP will speak on *The Magic of Humor: Jest for the Health of It!* (Wed.) 7 p.m. in the Rand Art Gallery
- March 26th** Jill Ker Conway, historian and author, will speak on *Why Women’s History Matters* (Sun.) at the Woman’s Club— a small fee raises money for the Franklin County Land Trust
- March 22nd** Suzanne Alleyn will read from her novel *Game of Patience* and sign copies (Wed.) 7 p.m. in the Rand Art Gallery
- April 6-8th** The Tenth Annual Book Sale; Come get some bargains and support the Athenaeum (Thur. –Sat.) in the Lang Auditorium (see inside for times).
- April 6th** Jonathan Franzen will be reading from his novel, *The Corrections*, and answering (Thurs.) questions. 7 p.m. at the Westfield Woman’s Club. \$ 7.50 admission
- April 19th** Pruning as an Art Form by horticulturist Pernell Gerver who will illustrate various (Wed.) artistic pruning methods and answer questions. 7 p.m. Rand Art Gallery

“ A good book is the best of friends, the same to-day and for ever.” Martin Farquhar Tupper

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