



Annual Report

**JULY 1, 2022-
JUNE 30, 2023**



**WESTERLY LIBRARY
& WILCOX PARK**

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Board of Trustees	2	Incorporators	15-16
Note from the President	3	Gifts & Aid	17
Note from the Executive Director	4	Annual Fund Donors	18-23
A Year in Review	5-12	Wilcox Society	24
Volunteers	13-14	We Remember	25

This is an interactive PDF. Click through the table of contents to take you directly to a page, or the half circles for page forward and backward. Click the bottom left dots or right corner year numbers to bring you back to the beginning.

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Note from the President

Dear friends of our Westerly Library and Wilcox Park,

I want to take a moment to thank all of you for being a part of our success. As I look back over the last two years, we have set attainable goals and met them head-on with the support of our tireless staff, led by our Executive Director, Park Superintendent, dedicated Board of Trustees, Incorporators, community members and supporters like you.

Our association's library and park is being guided by a new Strategic Plan taking us into 2027, with a strong financial report during uncertain times. Over the past year we have unveiled a website and logo that we introduced to the community on a billboard in town. We have started renovation work on the cottage. We continue to improve our park and create new and lasting partnerships within the community as we witnessed most recently with the Veterans and Chamber.

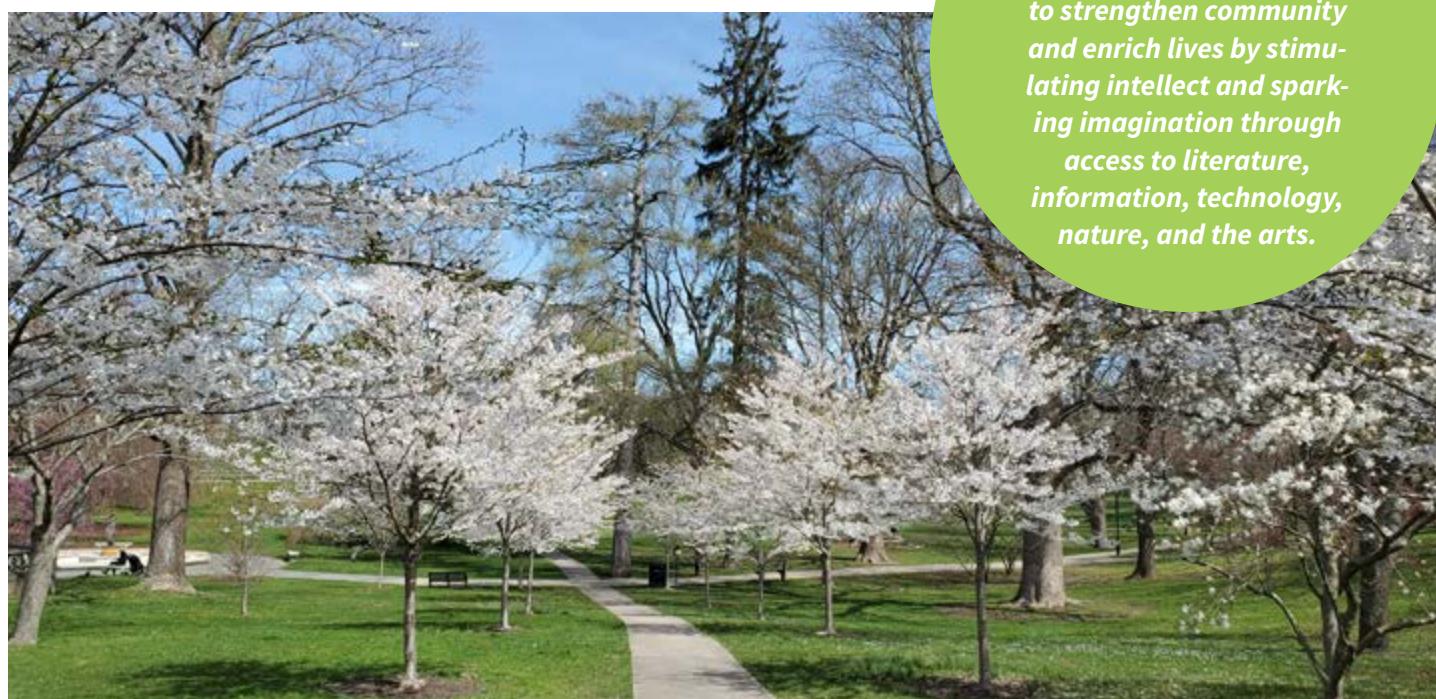
Our mission and vision have been clear from the start: to strengthen our community and enrich the lives of those who are here and remain an asset for the region. We continue to work with our leaders from Westerly and Stonington addressing the needs they bring forward, as well as celebrating their accomplishments. The Friends of the Library & Park marked their own milestone and continue to promote and further our goals. We could not do this without their support.

As I close out my term as President of the Board of Trustees, I look forward to the new ideas and partnerships that will evolve and grow and will make our library and park even better. Both hold a special place in my heart and I am so honored and grateful for the opportunity to have been a small part of it. I thank all of you for your continued support for these community treasures.

Sincerely,
Betty-Jo Cugini
Outgoing President, Westerly Library and Wilcox Park

MISSION

The mission of Westerly Library and Wilcox Park is to strengthen community and enrich lives by stimulating intellect and sparking imagination through access to literature, information, technology, nature, and the arts.



Note from the Executive Director

Ensuring Westerly Library and Wilcox Park provides resources, services, and programs to meet our community's needs means we must reflect those we serve and the world outside our community. Residents and visitors should be able to learn about other places, times, and people, both fictional and real, and find themselves. Providing materials and programs that are welcoming, educational, and entertaining is critical to our spaces and places being used, and cherished by all.

Libraries have never been just about books. They are about ideas and facts, the future and the past; about people and a democratic society where everyone has access to the information they need and desire. They let people learn about their own lives and the truths of others using authoritative information. We do not force information and ideas, but we do provide access to information and ideas and allow others to formulate factual narratives on their own. And to compliment the education and entertainment we offer, the Association provides a beautiful park that helps improve ones' physical and mental health.

Over this past fiscal year, we were presented with many exciting opportunities to not only educate and inform users and visitors but to also listen and learn from them. And while there were a few times in which we had to defend what we do and why we do it, we knew we had much greater support from this caring community. We appreciate their resilience, creativity, innovation, partnership, comradery, acceptance, empathy, and dedication to us and those we serve. Without them, and you, we could not be the library and park that people know and love. Our patrons are our most valuable resource. We exist for them and for this community. Without our community members, without our volunteers, and without our financial supporters we could not be here to fulfill our mission and vision and uphold the values that we all share.

As always, thank you for helping us provide an incredible library and park for our neighbors and community members, family and friends, and visitors. I look forward to another wonderful year of providing outstanding services, resources, and programs.

Sincerely,
Brigitte Hopkins, Executive Director



5 A YEAR in
Review



299 DAYS OPEN
2,953 HOURS ANNUALLY
214,948 ANNUAL VISITORS



38
STAFF
MEMBERS



Administration
Brigitte Hopkins
Bill Lancellotta
Sara Clark

Teen Room
Colleen King
Lynn Dougan

Adult Services
Caroline Badowski

Marketing
Kelli Butler
Amanda Wagner

Reference
Nina Wright

Development
Cassie Skobrak
Anais Cunningham
Elizabeth Rannenberg

Public Services
Debbie Northup

Collection Management
Nick Engert

Circulation
Colleen Walsh-Jervis

Facilities
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Park
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Stevie Prince

Youth Services
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Kids Room
Alan Peck

Nick Maynard

Rebecca Graebner

Sue Marelli

Keely Deniger

Mel Fricchione

Ben Green

Gina D'Ambrosio

Claire Morgan

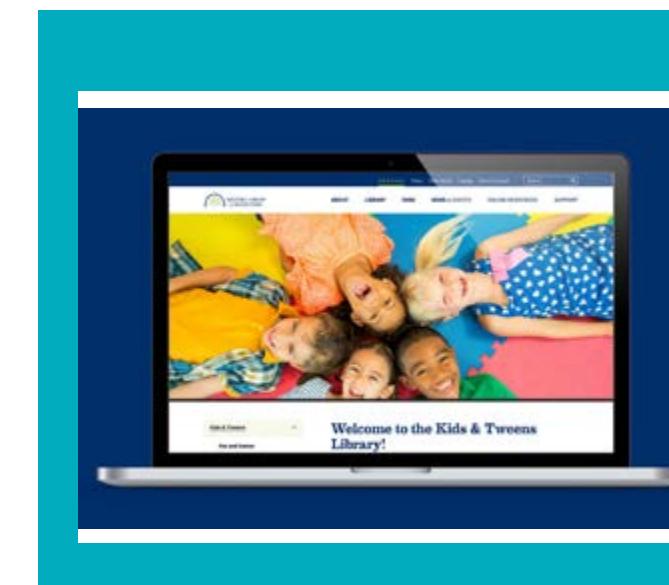
Casey Howley-Brigham



6 NEW Look

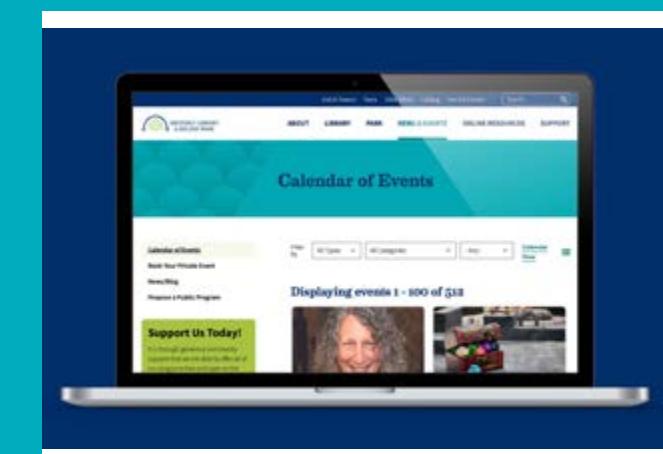


WESTERLY LIBRARY
& WILCOX PARK



WE'VE REBRANDED!

With a new logo and fresh color palette, we've also designed a new and accessible website.





13,607
ACTIVE
CARDHOLDERS



347,994 TOTAL COLLECTION
227,849 COLLECTION USE
168,693 TOTAL TRANSACTIONS



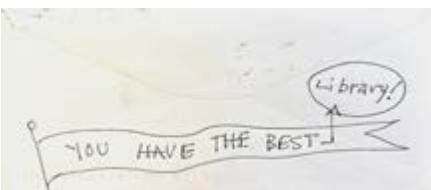
18,335 LIBRARY USER
QUESTIONS ANSWERED



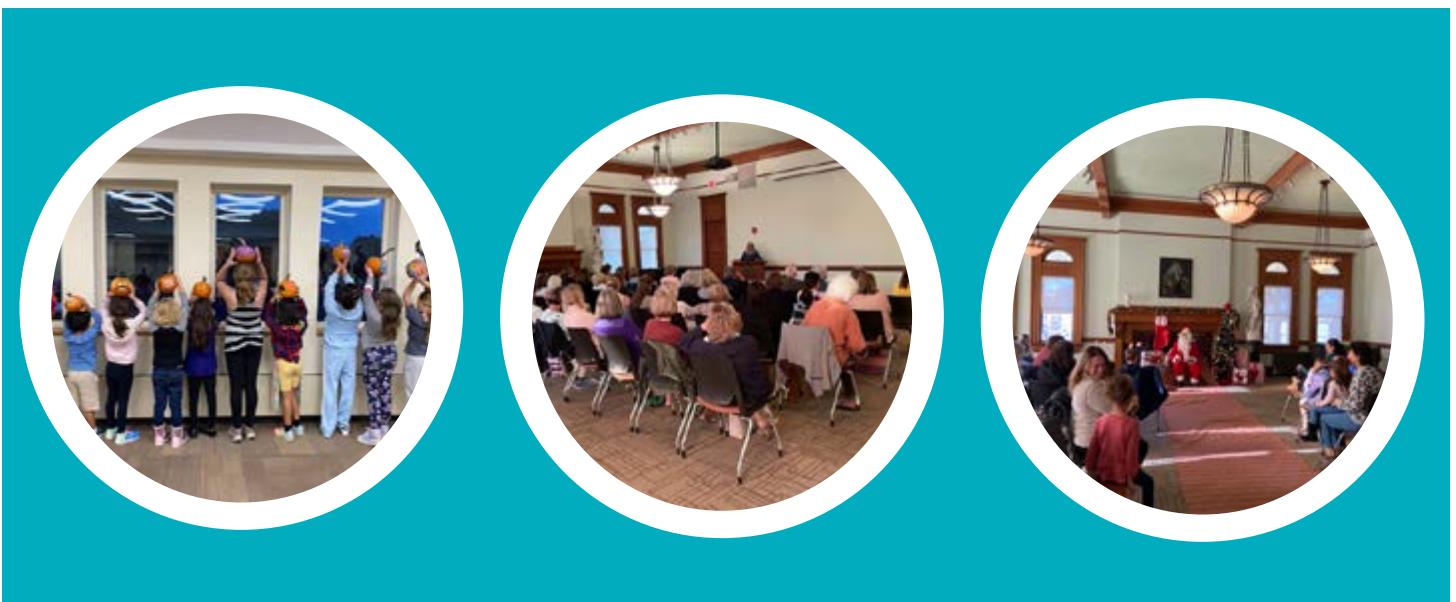
Pictured above is The Westerly Sun digitized from 1893-1950, made possible by grant funding, and searchable via our website.

ELECTRONIC CONTENT USE (INCLUDING DATABASES)

1,806,517



859
PROGRAMS
34,605 ATTENDEES



We strive to provide an array of programming for all ages, free and open to the public. Our website events calendar is updated regularly where you can find details of all we have to offer.





**1,044 STUDY ROOM USERS
24,791 HOLDS FILLED**



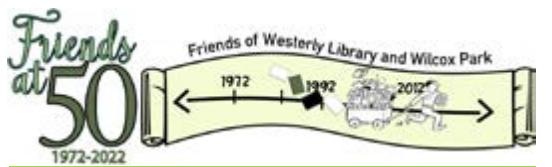
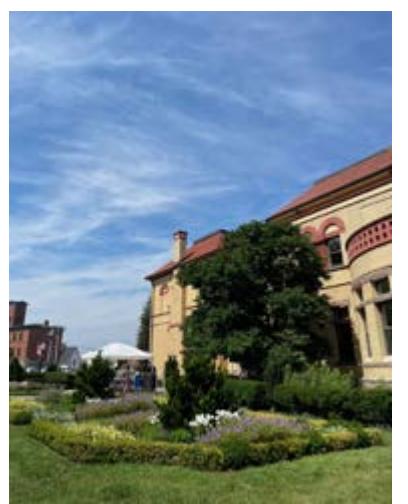
DEDICATIONS & Honors

- Town of Westerly & Veterans Honor Roll Committee Plaque Dedication
- In a Heartbeat Foundation installation & dedication of Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Gold Leaf Award Ceremony presented to the Friends of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park

COMMUNITY Partnerships



FRIENDS of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park



- Dedicated Friends members in the Friends Sorting Room



- One of four Little Free Libraries purchased and donated by the Friends



- The Friends helped fund several wish list items in FY23 including a gear wall for the Kids Room and new TV for the Teen Space



The Friends of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park celebrated their 50th year of incorporation with many events throughout FY23, concluding with a gala at the United Theatre.

FUNDRAISING Efforts

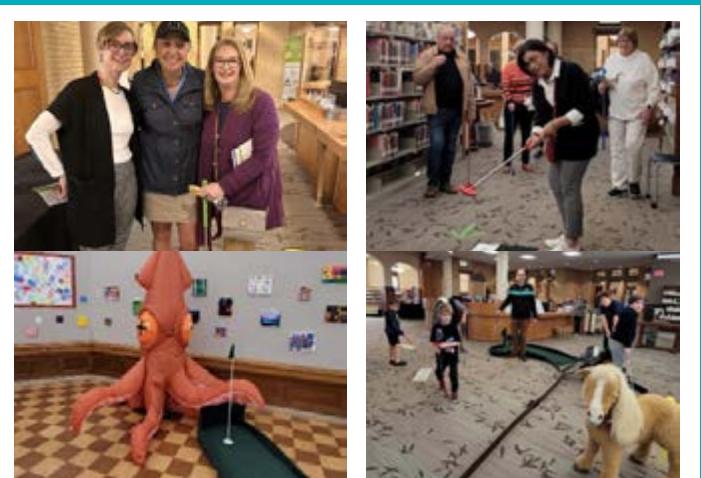


Caddy Stacks Mini Golf

The library was transformed into a literary themed mini golf course!

Sanderson Sisters Spellbinding Spooktacular

An evening of enchantment that included a scripted musical comedy performance!



Volunteers

We are forever grateful for our volunteers, who dedicate so much time and talent to make us who we are!

Yousef Al-Rawashdeh
 Donna Anderson
 Garrett Babij
 Beth Bachert
 David Bailey
 Margaret Barclay
 Sandra Barkley
 Jane Barstow
 Deborah Bell
 Robin Benoit
 Bob Benson
 Ida Benson
 Maria Bernier
 Suzanne Blum
 Thomas Boll
 Bob Bowes
 Laurie Boyett
 Ashlyn Buffum
 Erin Call
 Laurie Callaghan
 Robert "Buz" Callaghan
 Valerie Camfield
 Andrea Carey
 Sandi Carmichael
 Bonnie Castellani
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 Steven Coffey
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 Erin Collins
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 Paige Constantine
 Richard Constantine

Mary Cooper
 Margaret Corini
 Randi Crovets
 Kathleen Crowley
 Betty-Jo Cugini
 Paula Cymbala
 Claire Dalidowitz
 Richard Dalidowitz
 Lisa Dallas
 Kay Daniele
 Chantal Devine
 Eileen Diaz
 Mildred Dion
 Deborah Downie
 Denis Duclos
 Diane Duclos
 Richard Dudley
 Marjorie Duerr
 Ellen Dumouchel
 Susan Dumouchel
 Margaret Earle
 Julie Eberly
 Dana Emery
 Paul Esposito
 Wendy Faiss
 Barbara Fallon
 Susan Ferreira
 Brenda Foberg
 Leslie Fonsh
 Lisa Frankes
 Katelyn Freitas
 Mojie Friel
 The Friends of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park
 Christopher Fusaro
 Natale Gabriele
 Gregg Gavinelle
 Robert Gervasini
 Suzanne Giorno

Mary Jo Girard
 Mary Goodman
 Stephen Greene
 Theresa Gregal
 Linda Grimes
 Doryanne Hamel
 David Hannon
 Deborah Harold
 Scott Harold
 Sandy Hayes
 Susan Hayes
 Larry Hirsch
 Rob Holland
 Melissa Hughes
 Amanda Imbriglio
 Gail Kahover
 Beth Kalunian
 Arleen Kaur
 Bethany Kearsch
 Mary Carol Kendzia
 Kaylee Kleinkauf
 Denise Kowalewski
 Joshua Krupka
 Monique Krupka
 Uma Kuruganti
 Ann Lain
 Gara LaMarche
 Catherine Larsh
 Judith Larzelere
 Suzanne Lemp
 Mary Lennon
 Jane Lionelli
 The Lions Club of Westerly
 Marguerite Long
 Pamela Madigan
 Ellen Madison
 Jane Mara
 Michael Marelli
 Steve McAllister

Heather McGregor
 Jennifer Mellen
 Corliss Merkel
 William Meyer
 Bill Miller
 Emily Mitchell
 Sharon Morgan
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 Patricia Nardone
 Penelope Nicolas
 Tom Niemeyer
 Jennifer Obrey
 Susan Ogle
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 Daria Papalia
 Fred Paretta
 Annamaria Payoute
 Carol-Jean Plunkett
 Betsy Poe
 Brenda Pukas
 David Rathbun
 Dawn Rathbun
 Eileen Rawnsley
 Hannah Reams
 Shan Rice
 Peter Robinson
 Margaret Rocketto
 Susan Rosen
 Nina Rossomando
 Ella Ryan
 Maggie Ryan
 Lee Sadosky
 Lucy Saint
 Mary E. Scialabba
 Michael Serra
 Joan Sienkiewicz
 Endawnis Spears
 Annthea Spinoza
 Christian Sposato
 John Stahl
 Nicholas Stahl

Volunteers

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 Richard Steadman
 Colleen Sullivan
 Nancy Sutton
 Peter Thompson
 Louise Thorson
 Judy Toscano
 Lou Toscano
 Jay Townsend
 Nolan Tripp
 Janice Berchielli Tunney
 Ruth Tureckova
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 Mary Weiss
 Gayle Wentworth
 Cathy White
 Meg Wilhelms
 Gwendoline Woods
 Brenda Woodward
 Sharon Wright
 Donna Zuffelato
 Robert Zuffelato



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Incorporators serve as liaisons between Westerly Library and Wilcox Park and the communities of Westerly and Stonington. Incorporators also form the pool of candidates for the Board of Trustees. We thank you for your support!

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*Deceased



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Westerly Library & Wilcox Park is honored to have the support of so many generous corporations, local organizations, grantors and individuals for various events and projects throughout the year.

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Cherenzia & Associates, LTD.

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Dunns Corners Market

Evie's

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Thank you to all our Annual Fund Donors. Your gift is a spark of opportunity for a greater tomorrow. We are honored and grateful to be a non-profit you believe in.

Champion \$5,000+

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Wilcox Society

We Remember

We would like to take a moment to remember former Incorporators, Trustees, volunteers and Friends who have passed away this fiscal year.



Incorporators

Arthur Maxson Cottrell, III | March 2023

Art was active in his community as a volunteer, in his professional career as a bank trust officer, as a participant in the local music scene, and as an elected official. He was involved with many organizations such as the Westerly Chorus, Westerly Hospital, and Westerly Library & Wilcox Park among others. He served as an Incorporator and a member of the Friends of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park for many years.

Constance Geduldig | July 2022

Connie was a talented artist and creative businessperson, putting all her skills to work revitalizing Windswept Farm. After retiring, Connie spent several years as a volunteer in the library. She was an Incorporator and a member of the Friends of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.

Jacqueline Hutcheon | March 2023

Jackie was a lifelong educator. During her professional career, she and her husband traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, Europe and Africa. Upon retirement, she returned to her native Rhode Island and became an active volunteer in the community. She was involved with several local institutions, including the Chorus of Westerly, Westerly Hospital, and Westerly Library & Wilcox Park, where she served as a Trustee and as President of the Friends of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.

J. Christopher Philips | November 2022

Chris always recognized the critical value of a good education. He founded the Community 2000 Education Foundation, which provides scholarships for Chariho regional high school students. As an active member of the community, Chris served on a variety of Boards including the Ocean Community YMCA, the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation, and the Weekapaug Golf Club. He served as an Incorporator of Westerly Library & Wilcox Park, where he was known to strike up conversation with staff and fellow patrons in the Old Main Reading Room.

Volunteer

Catherine “Kay” Bresette | February 2023

Always insisting it was better to give than receive, she was a long-time volunteer of the Westerly Hospital and Westerly Library & Wilcox Park.

The individuals listed above passed away between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Every effort was made to ensure a complete list, but please notify us of any corrections or omissions.

We've got it all.



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