

Westport Meeting members, attenders, and friends,  
Please join me in a cheer of gratitude and teamwork! The 59th Annual Book Fair was an epic success, financially and joyfully. So many people, old and young, contributed to it. Thank you, dear Friends, for responding to calls for help throughout the year, and especially the 2 weeks around the sale. The number of people who helped was really extraordinary! From sorting and pricing throughout the year to putting up signs, carrying tables, covering books, making cookies, cashiering, and many other jobs - Friends showed up and got the jobs done with cheerfulness and enthusiasm. A special thanks to Greg Marsello who continued to guide us through every step of this sale.

The primary goal of the book sale is raising the money we need for our budget. But this year really clarified for me 3 other important openings that the sale provides.

- It gives us a fun and challenging task to do together that requires many different skills, letting different people's gifts be seen and well used. Our community is reconnected and energized by the effort together.
- We give the community a loved annual event. They consider the sale one of the highlights of their summer. There were sincere tears and messages of appreciation expressed again and again for "bringing the sale back" after 2 years of the pandemic.
- The level of success of the fair in recent years allows us to give financial support back to the community. Embracing this do-able goal feels like a meaningful and real opportunity for our meeting. The community brings us books to sell, generating money for us, which we can then share back with the community.

I look forward to more conversations about this. There are also many people to thank and many wonderful interactions and stories to share. I'm hoping we can gather together in late August or early September. Stay tuned for a date!

In the meantime, if you have specific reflections, suggestions or notes for next year, please don't hesitate to share them with me at [hellogretchen@gmail.com](mailto:hellogretchen@gmail.com).

Thank you, Friends, again and again.  
Gretchen