

# Friends of W.M.R.L.S.

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<http://friends.wmrls.org>

## Friends of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System

### Take a Drive (Together) to the Country in October

Have you been wishing you could take the time to visit beautiful Wendell Free Library? Well, here's your excuse! Wendell Free Library, a Together We Thrive and totally cool small library, will be the host of this year's Friends of WMRLS, Inc. annual meeting on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 with food and remarks by Rosie Heidkamp, Wendell Free Library Director, about the green design aspects of

one of the newest libraries in Western Massachusetts. A brief business meeting which will include the election of officers, approval of the Friends' yearly plan, budget and committee reports will follow.

Afterward, Becky Marconi, Together We Thrive grant coordinator, will give a presentation and update on the progress of the grant.

The Wendell Free Library is located on the Wendell Common in Wendell. To register and for driving directions visit the

WMRLS registration page at <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=WMRLS> or go to the WMRLS website and click on Continuing Education.

Memberships can also be renewed online at <http://friends.wmrls.org> or in person prior to the business portion of the meeting.

Contact Sara Woodbury at Tilton Library/Deerfield at (413) 665-4683 or [swoodbur@cwmls.org](mailto:swoodbur@cwmls.org) for more information.

See back page for agenda and more details.

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Friends of WMRLS will hold its **Annual Meeting** on Friday, October 3 at 10 -12 at the Wendell Free Library

Wendell Common  
(978) 544-3559

### Fuel costs put library network in bind

WHATELY - Mounting fuel costs are straining the western Massachusetts library system's popular Bookmobile service.

Already, officials with the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System dread the 2009 fiscal year that began July 1 - in anticipation they will come up \$43,000 short on running delivery services.

The Bookmobile program covers the state's four western counties. The service provides smaller libraries with a

supplemental collection of popular, general titles. The service caters to about 80 libraries in western Massachusetts. In addition to the Bookmobile, the Whately-based library system offers a delivery service through which individuals can request a title not available at a local library. That book is delivered to a patron's nearest library.

The five trucks the library system uses make over 200 stops a week at the scattered libraries and deliver over 2 million books throughout the region. A few of the trucks already

have over 500,000 miles on them. (excerpt from GazetteNET)

Since this article John Ramsay, Regional Administrator for WMRLS shared new information that there was a small increase in the State budget for FY2009 only enough to offset higher gasoline prices and other inflationary factors but not enough to provide more funding for library materials for the bookmobile. WMRLS relies on the Friends of WMRLS to help raise funds.

## Thank You To Our 2008 Friends of WMRLS!

Your Membership in the Friends of WMRLS has played an essential role in providing new bookmobile materials for the smallest libraries in Western Massachusetts. We appreciate your support!

Trustees of the Adams Free Library—Donna Augustus—Jane Babcock—Connie Baron —Michael S. Baron—Nancy Bauer—Pat Bean—Mr. & Mrs. James J. Belhumeur—Berkshire Athenaeum—Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum—Steve Berlin-Chavez—Gail & Paul Berube—Patricia Bombardier—Alberta A. Booth—David C. Bosse—Boyden Library—Joy L. Brenneman—Elizabeth R. Brown—Stephanie W. Brown—Bonnie Burnham—George & Sally Caldwell —Dr. & Mrs. M.L. Cancilla—Dorothy O. Carmody—Chicopee Public Library & Friends—Eve Cholmar—Clapp Memorial Library—Sherry and Jeremy Clark—Mary L. Clark—Serena E. Clary—Judith Clini—Lynn Coakley—Marie Claire Cournand—Eleanor Cress—Pat Crist—Susan Crowther—Margo Culley—Friends of the Dalton Free Public Library, Inc.—Delores A. Daly—Janice B. De Toma—Richard DeMarco—Anna Jean & Daniel Dindal—Janice Dore—Lisa B. Downing—Ruth B. Drury—Diane Dukette—Friends of the East Longmeadow Public Library, Inc.—Harris Elder—Marvin & Edythe Cherkas Ellin—Alumnae Library of Elms College—Tamson M. Ely—Enoch Family—Alison A. Ernst—Jane Fanning—John A. Fatherley—Martha and Barry Field—Richard Floyd—Kate Flynn—Gloria Freyenhagen—Gaylord Memorial Library—Gaylord Memorial Library Adult Book Group—Carol A. Geryk—Donna Guerin—Mindy Hackner—Hampshire College Library & Trustees—Mary Harding—Rick Hart—Frances S. Hatch—Claire K. Height—Gardner and Judith Hobart—Susan Hugus—Rep. Don Humason Jr.—Bonnie J. Isman—Gary Burnham—Dorothy Johnson —Alice and Martin Jonas—Lorraine Kalisz—Linda Kaufmann—Lyn Keating— Shirley A. Keech and Mary K. King—Christine Keenan—Connie Kindahl—Diana Lynn Kleindienst—Mary N. Kronholm—Rep. Stephen Kulik—Cynthia W. Kuusisto—Eli Kwartler and Barbara Jenkins—Steven & Linda Lang-Gunn—Guy & Kathy Lanza—Elizabeth Lehman—Helen Lennon—Friends of the Leverett Librar & Leverett Library—Lewis Mainzer—Mark and Mary Makuc—Roger S. Manahan—Joanne McGee—Patricia McLeod—Michael McMahon—Floyd S. Merritt—Milne Public Library—Monterey Library Trustees—Joanne Morrison—Janet Moulding—Marilyn J. Munn—Anne M. Murray—Keirnan & Carol Murphy—Kieron Naiman—Friends of the North Adams Public Library—Michael and Penny Novack, Step By Step Farm—Anna M. Nussbaum—Barbara A. Obremski—Georgiana C. O'Connell—Laura Palmer—Palmer Public Library Association—Friends of the Palmer Public Library—Joanne Pasquini—Stanford Perry—Jane Peth—Cynthia G. Phelps—David and Marsha Pilachowski—Harriet Marple Plehn—Anne P. Plunkett—Joan Powers—John Ramsay—Lilian Randall—Judith Ricker—Lorna Riveres—Joyce Roberts—Town of Rowe Library—Elaine & Julian Sai—Susan A. SanSoucie—Gail & Michael Scanlon—Gerald L. Schafer—Pete Schermerhorn—Judith & Richard Seelig—Doris J. Shallcross—Cheryl Shanks—Jane & Henry Shaughnessy—Shelburne Free Public Library—Kathleen Smith—Friends of the South Hadley Public Library—Southwick Public Library—Maggie Spiegel—Richard & Judith Stein—Peter & Abbe Steinglass—Stockbridge Library Association—Kathleen Swaim—Mark & Susan Tansey—Frank Taplin—Susan L. Teale—Laura Timmerman—Robin Tost—Laura Tucker—Susan Turner—Elaine B. Ullman—Betty Valardi—Beth Wade—Signia Warner—Dr. and Mrs. Willard T. Weeks—Friends of Wendell Free Library—Linda Wentworth—Western MA Health Consortia c/o Berkshire Medical Center—Friends of the Westhampton Memorial Library—WGBY Education—Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries—Ellen Wittlinger—Sara Woodbury & Sid Siff—Barbara Wurtzel—Tom & Susan Young—and many donors who wish to remain anonymous!

**Did you know you can renew your membership online? Thanks to Wes Hamilton, the Friends now can accept credit cards & PayPal accounts at <http://friends.wmrls.org>!**



## Advocating for WMRLS: Legislative Breakfasts and More!

Beyond fundraising for the WMRLS bookmobile program, the Friends continued their advocacy efforts as well. With a few years of experience with sponsoring a bus trip to the State House in Boston for Library Legislative Day, we made it possible for 47 people to travel there trouble-free on April 2, 2008. The bus began at WMRLS Headquarters in Whately, made a stop at the Table and Vine parking lot in West Springfield, then went on to the Palmer Public Library, and lastly to CMRLS Headquarters in Shrewsbury. A minimal charge of \$20.00 for WMRLS and CMRLS Friends' members (\$25.00 for non members) gave people the opportunity to get to this important day without having to drive in city traffic, pay for parking or high gas prices. In March, the Friends sponsored 5 library legislative breakfasts in the Pioneer Valley. The libraries who hosted these breakfasts were: Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Hampden Public, Jones/Amherst, Holyoke Public and Palmer Public. We thank all of the volunteers at each site for

their help and enthusiasm. In addition, the Friends were pleased to contribute toward the Berkshire Legislative Breakfast that was planned by the Berkshire Legislative Breakfast Committee. This event took place at the North Adams Public Library. A total of 298 people, library staff, legislators, library patrons, friends and trustees attended the 6 breakfasts throughout the WMRLS service area. Photos of a couple of the breakfasts and the bus trip can be found on the WMRLS blog: <http://wmrls.blogspot.com/search?q=bus>. A list of those people and organizations who made donations follow.

Thanks to one and all for helping out with another successful legislative season.

Pioneer Valley Breakfasts: Trustees of Forbes Library – Cooperating Libraries of Greater Springfield -- Friends of Springfield Library -- Friends of Chicopee Public Library -- Anonymous -- Friends of Tilton Library -- Friends of the Holyoke Public Library -- Gaylord Library (S. Hadley) -- Friends of West Springfield Public Library -- Chicopee Library --

Southwick Public Library -- Friends of Lilly Library -- C/W MARS, Inc. -- Friends of South Hadley Library -- Friends of Sunderland Public Library -- Palmer Public Library Association -- Friends of Palmer Public Library -- Friends of Clapp Memorial Library

Berkshire County Breakfast: Trustees of the Adams Free Library -- Trustees of Lee Library Association – Trustees of Milne Public Library (Williamstown) – Trustees of New Marlborough Public Library – Trustees of North Adams Public Library – Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum – Friends of Milne Public Library – Friends of Egremont Free Library -- Friends of North Adams Public Library -- C/WMARS, Inc. -- Deborah Bruneau (Adams) -- Meredith Cochran (Taonic HS) -- Mindy Hackner (Milne) -- Linda Kaufman (MCLA) -- Jan Resnick (WMRLS) -- Nancy Walker (BCC) -- Aladco, Adams -- Waters of Sand Springs, Williamstown.

-by Lynn Coakley, STCC

## Meet Friends of WMRLS Member: Stephanie Willen Brown

### Occupation:

Electronic Resource Librarian and liaison to the departments of communication and psychology at the University of Connecticut. And adjunct instructor at the Mount Holyoke College campus of Simmons' Graduate School of Library & Information Science.

### Home Library:

South Hadley Public Library

### Favorite Book (or one you're currently reading):

"These is my Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881-1901" by Nancy Turner. I picked it up as part of my new travel scheme: when I am away from home, I try to get a novel that reflects the area in which I am visiting. This delightful book is the fictionalized diary of the author's great-grandmother, who lived in Arizona

during the end of the 19th century. It would be of interest to those who liked the Little House books, although because it is an adult novel, it is more graphic and detailed than Laura Ingalls Wilder's classic.

### Favorite Library Moment:

Any time I pick up a book, CD, or DVD that I've requested from another WMRLS library, I say to myself (and sometimes out loud): "I love libraries!"

### Why Do You Support WMRLS?

Because of the local delivery policy. WMRLS has such a vast selection of resources -- for free! -- and they come to my library so quickly. I only wish more folks knew about this terrific option.

Stephanie Willen Brown

adjunct professor, Simmons GSLIS at Mount Holyoke Electronic Resource Librarian, the University of Connecticut 860.486.4855 (work)



**Friends of the Western Massachusetts  
Regional Library System**

c/o WMRLS  
P.O. Box 609  
South Deerfield, MA 01373-0609  
Phone: 413-665-9898  
<http://friends.wmrls.org>



## **Agenda for Friends of WMRLS Annual Meeting**

Friday, October 3, 2008. 10:00 a.m.—12:00 a.m. Wendell Free Library

Wendell Common 01379 (978) 544-3559

1. Welcoming Remarks
2. Introductions
3. Approval of October 19, 2007 minutes (Action)
4. News from WMRLS (Mary King)
5. Friends of WMRLS Business
  - Report from Friends of WMRLS president Sara Woodbury
  - Report from Treasurer Dick Floyd
  - Report on membership from Susan Crowther
  - Election of Officers (Action)
5. Plans for FY09! (October 1 2008—September 30 2009)
  - Membership Committee
  - Advocacy Committee
  - Fundraising Committee
  - Adoption of Friends calendar of activities
6. Other Business and Announcements
7. Future Meeting Dates
8. Adjournment

***Hope to see  
you on  
October 3rd !***

Afterward, Becky Marconi, Together We Thrive grant coordinator, will give a presentation and update on the progress of the grant.