

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

Visit us on the web at
<http://friends.wmrls.org>

Friends of Western Massachusetts Regional Library System

Bushnell-Sage Public Library Hosts Annual Meeting

Please join us Friday, October 9th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. for the Friends of WMRLS Annual Meeting. This year we will meet at Bushnell-Sage Library which is nestled in the picturesque town of Sheffield. Give yourself a gift of driving through charming Berkshire County and filling your senses with gorgeous fall landscapes. Our meeting will begin with refreshments and welcoming remarks by Nancy Hahn, Bushnell-Sage Library Di-

rector. A short business meeting will follow with brief committee reports, approval of the Friend's yearly plan, a vote to change the Friends' membership year, and the election of officers.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Linda Wentworth, Director of Leverett Library and chair of the 1st Annual "Book It to the Library Road Race" will speak about this first-time-ever fundraising endeavor.

Bushnell-Sage Library is

located on the east side of Route 7 and south of the center of town at 48 Main Street. A sign located by the entrance to the driveway directs visitors to the back of the library and Pine Knoll Park. For more information please visit www.sheffieldma.gov: click on Bushnell-Sage Library.

To register for the meeting please go to the WMRLS website and click on Continuing Education. Memberships can

also be renewed online at
<http://friends.wmrls.org/>

Contact Toni Golinski-Foisy @ 413 736 4561

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Friends of WMRLS Annual Meeting
Friday, October 9
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Bushnell-Sage Library
48 Main Street,
Sheffield MA 01257
413-229-7004

Delivery Continues to be a "Growth Leader"

Delivery has continued to be a "growth leader" among our services. With some 2 million items delivered during the year, the age and inadequate capacity of some of our vehicles have become glaringly obvious. It was clear that our oldest truck, with over 700,000 miles on it, would not last forever. The Friends of WMRLS helped greatly by offering to devote some of their funds, including a \$5,000 grant from Big Y Supermarkets, toward the purchase and outfitting of a much newer and more capable pre-owned **truck**. The impact of this new arrival has been immediate, and it has made it much easier to truck materials across the 4 western counties in a larger vehicle. For much of FY09, the fate of the WMRLS **bookmobile** service, along with all State funding for the regions, was in serious jeopardy in the midst of the poor economy. It has been primarily through the fundraising and advocacy efforts of the Friends that we have been able to continue purchasing materials for this service that has meant so much to so many libraries

and users for many decades. Of special note this year has been the popular "Honor Someone Special" project undertaken by Louise Kanus that encouraged people to donate funds for new WMRLS materials. The bookmobile's future is still unclear, but we appreciate all the assistance the Friends have made to help us continue on the road. The other major project WMRLS has been involved in this year was a continuance of its efforts to bring better **internet access** to Western MA. Partnering with the Board of Library Commissioners, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), we have made sure that Western Massachusetts public libraries are at the forefront for planning and implementation of real Broadband Connectivity in the four western counties. The Gates Broadband Summit was a great success, with hundreds of people learning more about how important good access is, how it is lacking in many parts of our area, and helping to set some directions for MBI and Gates funds to improve the situation. In mid August, WMRLS worked with several other service organizations across Western

Mass. to submit a major proposal for Federal Stimulus funds under the Public Computing Centers category. We hope this effort is successful, since the WMRLS component called for \$475,200 to enable almost every public library in the Region to be equipped with netbook computers, enhanced wireless equipment and training so they can truly serve as computing centers covering all of Western Massachusetts. The WMRLS Executive Board, staff, and member libraries are very appreciative of the efforts and enthusiasm of our wonderful Friends who have helped promote WMRLS and its services to everyone. Their fundraising has made a great difference, as has their increasing our visibility. And their advocacy efforts coordinating and supporting the 6 Legislative Breakfasts and the Bus to Library Legislative Day at the State House have helped make our elected officials aware of the importance of Regional services to their constituents.

Thank you, Friends!
John Ramsay
Regional Administrator

Thank You To Our 2009 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!

The Friends of WMRLS needs your help!

We need your support through memberships to keep services and programs strong at WMRLS.

Recently the Friends mailed the annual appeal with a special extended membership year. Normally the membership year runs from January to December (2009). We would like to change that to reflect the Friend's fiscal year (October to September). Why? Prior to the mailing, we heard from many of you as to how the downturn in the economy was affecting your library budgets, impacting your Friends groups, and also touching your own personal lives. The cost of Friends membership, the Legislative Breakfasts, and the bus fee for Legislative Day all came up within a very short time of one another.

In an effort to ease the financial burden, the Friends Executive Board discussed extending the 2009 membership to September 2010. This way we could vote at the annual meeting for the change and also adjust to the new membership period. Did we confuse you? If so, we are sorry.

Inside your newsletter you will find a membership insert. Please consider renewing your membership now.

Without your support we cannot provide the much needed funding that helps WMRLS in so many ways.

For your convenience, you can also renew your membership at <http://friends.wmrls.org/join/index.html>

The 1st annual BOOK IT TO THE LIBRARY Road Race



Sponsor: Friends of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS)

Description: 5k Road Race and 2 Mile Fun Walk **Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2009 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Location: WMRLS, 4 Sandy Lane, Whately **Directions:** <http://www.wmrls.org/directions/wmrls.html>

Description: Show your support for libraries by taking part in the BOOK IT TO THE LIBRARY Road Race. Five days a week WMRLS delivery trucks travel the hills and valleys of Western Massachusetts delivering books and other library materials to patrons at their libraries. Now you can deliver for WMRLS by entering the race and bringing in sponsors. The race will begin and end at WMRLS in Whately. Runners and walkers will travel down gently sloping paved roads that pass through picturesque farm lands and residential neighborhoods.

Renew yourself by running and showing your support for WMRLS and libraries!

Friends of WMRLS 1st Annual BOOK IT TO THE LIBRARY Road Race

Registration Form

<http://friends.wmrls.org/road-race.pdf>

Preregistration fee and completed form due on 9/25/09

The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS), a State-supported collaborative, provides leadership and services to foster cooperation, communication, and sharing among member libraries of all types. WMRLS assists member libraries in promoting equitable access to excellent services that contribute to a literate, enriched, and productive community.

WMRLS Friends Legislative Committee Activities

The Friends continue their advocacy efforts. We have a few years of experience with sponsoring a **bus trip** to the State House in Boston for **Library Legislative Day**. On April 2, 2009, we made it possible for 50 people to travel there trouble-free. The bus made its first stop at WMRLS Headquarters in Whately, then at the Table and Vine parking lot in West Springfield, 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 February, the Friends sponsored 5 **library legislative breakfasts** in the Pioneer Valley. The libraries that hosted these breakfasts were: Wilbraham Public Library, Monson Free Library, Grace Memorial Hall Library-Montgomery, Leverett Library, Agawam Public Library. We thank all of the volunteers at each site for their help and enthusiasm. The Friends

were pleased to contribute toward the Berkshire Legislative Breakfast, which took place at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield. A total of 276 people, library staff, legislators, library patrons, friends and trustees attended the 6 breakfasts throughout the WMRLS service area. Thanks to one and all for helping out with another successful legislative season. **Pioneer Valley Breakfasts:** Friends of the Jones Library-Amherst- Cooperating Libraries of Gt. Spfld.- Friends of W. Spfld. Library - Friends of- Chicopee Public Library-Clapp Memorial Library-Belchertown Porter Memorial Library-Blandford-Tamson M. Ely-STCC -Forbes Library Board of Trustees-Northampton -Friends of the Goodwin Library-Hadley -Gaylord Memorial Library-S. Hadley -Pat Bombardier-Elms College -Friends of the E. Longmeadow Public Library - Southwick Public Library-Friends of Dickinson Memorial Library-Northfield -C/W MARS, Inc. Friends of S. Hadley Library -Friends of Arms Library - Shelburne Falls-Friends of Palmer Public Library -Worthington Library -

Friends of Greenfield Public Library – Barbara Wurtzel -STCC– W. Mass. Health Information Consortium
Berkshire County Breakfast: Trustees of the Adams Free Library - Lee Library Association -Trustees of the Williamstown Public Library -New Marlborough Town Library -Trustees of North Adams Public Library – Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum – Friends of the Gt. Barrington Libraries – Egremont Free Library -- Friends of N. Adams Public Library -- C/WMARS-- Deborah Bruneau - Adams- Meredith Cochran-Taconic HS- A.T. Flaherty-Herberg Middle School, Pittsfield -- Linda Kaufman-MCLA- Jan Resnick-WMRLS– Friends of the Dalton Free Library – Friends of the Richmond Library – Friends of the Williamston Public Library – James Loughman-Adams– Lenox Library Association – Leslie & Joe Morris-E. Otis- Maureen Horak-MCLA-Otis Library & Museum, Inc. – Steve Green-MCLA– Juliette Wilk-Chaffee (Adams)
 Submitted by Lynn Coakley, Friends of WMRLS Legislative Committee

Meet Friends of WMRLS Member: Pat McLeod

Library:

Milne Library, Williamstown

Position:

Library Director

Home town library

Bennington Free Library, Vermont

Favorite books:

The classics... Farewell to Arms, Great Gatsby, Dr. Zhivago, To Kill a Mockingbird and Catcher in the Rye.

Favorite library moment:

This is my most memorable - perhaps not favorite...I worked for ten years in

a large county headquarters library in New Jersey. It was across the road from a county mental health center. A man had been living in his car in the parking lot and every day came into the library looking a little rougher. I was the Media Director and he came up and said I looked like Jodie Foster, I said "no I don't think so" he then told me Jodie Foster had a lion attack in a Disney film and that he wanted to draw those teeth marks on my stomach, I said "no I don't think so". He became more disturbed by the day and I had to call the Police on him. It turned out he had a loaded gun in his car and many stolen books from area libraries. The police held and released him and the next day the Secret

Service came into my office and interviewed me for hours, because this man had made threats against Ronald Reagan and the Governor of New Jersey.

Favorite quote:

Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So. get on your way - Dr. Seuss

Why did I join the WMRLS Friends?

Without WMRLS we would be stuck out in the Berkshires without any access to the library resources in our great Commonwealth.

**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 9, 2009. 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Bushnell-Sage Library
48 Main St. Sheffield, MA 01257 413 229 7004

Agenda for Friends of WMRLS Annual Meeting

Friday, October 9, 2009 10:00 am-12 pm Bushnell-Sage Library
48 Main Street, Sheffield 01257

Welcoming Remarks from Nancy Hahn, Bushnell-Sage Librarian

Introductions

Approval of October 3, 2008 Minutes (*Action*)

News from WMRLS

Friends of WMRLS Business

Report from Friends of WMRLS, President

Antonia Golinski-Foisy

Report from Treasurer Dick Floyd

Report on Membership

Election of Officers

Plans for FY10

a. Membership Committee

b. Advocacy Committee

c. Fundraising Committee

d. Adoption of Friends Calendar of Activities

Other Business and Announcements

Future Meeting Dates

Adjournment

After the meeting, Leverett Library Director, Linda Wentworth will discuss the fundraiser

1st Annual BOOK IT TO THE LIBRARY Road Race

***Hope to see
you on
October 9th!***