

Western Massachusetts Regional Library System

WRapper Newsletter

Helping Libraries Do More For You Since 1961

WMRLS Services are provided through state funds administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

ONLINE NEWSPAPERS NOW COVER THE BERKSHIRES, BOSTON, AND THE PIONEER VALLEY!

by John Ramsay, Administrator, WMRLS

WMRLS is delighted to announce expanded coverage of Western Massachusetts through online newspapers available to member libraries and their users. The titles are available as part of WMRLS' participation in a statewide newspaper contract with the other Regional Library Systems.

Thanks to the Springfield City Library for covering the cost of the **Springfield Republican**, access through June of 2006 includes: **The Berkshire Eagle** (for WMRLS libraries only), **The Boston Globe** (statewide), and **The Springfield Republican** (now available statewide).

In order to provide greater coverage of Western Massachusetts, ongoing Regional budget constraints have made it necessary for WMRLS to eliminate access to the **Boston Herald** and **Worcester Telegram**, which were not being used enough by member libraries to justify their continuance.

We hope member libraries will promote use of these electronic databases to their users, both in the library and remotely from home and office. These important local information resources are brought to your patrons as part of your membership in WMRLS.

INFOTRAC IS NOW POWERSEARCH™

by Marlene Sue Heroux, Reference Information Systems Specialist, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Not certain which database file has what you are looking for? Do you need to be in two places at the same time? Now you can be, with Thomson Gale's PowerSearch™! The PowerSearch™ interface makes it possible for users to conduct searches across multiple statewide licensed databases from Thomson Gale in one single query. In addition to the cross database searching functionality, PowerSearch™ has many enhancements including easily browsable indexes, a citation exporter, built in dictionary, context sensitive help, and breadcrumb navigation, which makes it easy to return to a previous screen.

Stacey Knibloe, Thomson Gale's regional trainer, will conduct lecture style overviews of PowerSearch across the state during the week of October 24. Dates and times for the trainings in this region are as follows:

- **Monday, October 24 – Palmer Public Library, 10 - noon**
- **Friday, October 28 - WMRLS, Whately 2 - 4**

To register, email rachel.devin@state.ma.us. Include name, library, contact phone number, plus date and title of workshop (in Subject Line of email write: Thomson/GalePowerSearch InfoTrac Workshop).

September | October 2005

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Plus October WMRLS Continuing Education & Friends of WMRLS Annual Meeting

MBLC AWARDS GRANTS TO WMRLS MEMBER LIBRARIES

WMRLS extends sincere congratulations to the following member libraries that were recently awarded grants by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC):

STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION: Wendell (\$926,566) and Wilbraham (\$2,587,500)

WMRLS libraries placed on a **WAITING LIST** for funds that have not yet been authorized by the State: Belchertown (\$2,910,926), Buckland (\$460,520), Dalton (\$2,690,945), Heath (\$1,184,568), Holyoke (\$3,797,908), and Westhampton (\$926,151)

FY2006 LIBRARY SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY ACT AWARDS (*listed below by category*)

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Agawam Public Library (\$9,000), Holyoke Public Library (\$10,000)

MANUSCRIPT ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION: Jones Library, Amherst (\$10,660)

ON THE SAME PAGE: Buckland Public Libraries (\$7,300), New Salem Public Library (\$6,333), Wilbraham Public Library (\$4,500), Meekins Public Library, Williamsburg (\$5,500)

OPEN PROJECT: Family Literacy-Library Partnership ~ Wheeler Memorial Library, Orange (\$19,550)

OPEN PROJECT: Revitalizing Reader's Advisory ~ WMRLS (\$50,000)

OPEN PROJECT: Small Public Libraries-Roles, Needs, Futures ~ WMRLS (\$20,250)

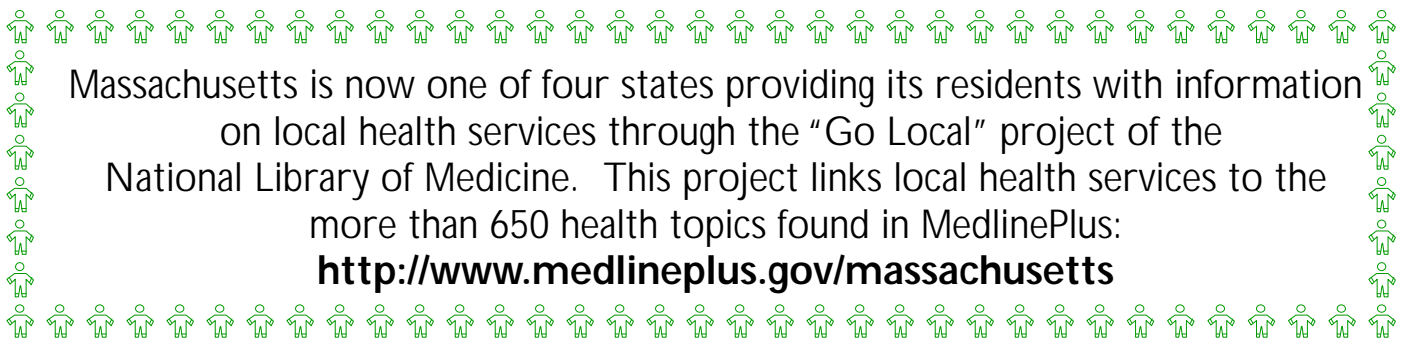
PRESERVATION SURVEY: Young Men's Library Association, Ware (\$2,500)

READER'S ADVISORY: Jones Library, Amherst (\$10,000), Tilton Library, Deerfield (\$10,000), Springfield City Library (\$10,000),

SCHOOL LIBRARY INCENTIVE: Leverett Elementary School Library (\$5,000)

STATEWIDE DATABASE PROMOTION AND TRAINING: North Adams Public Library (\$8,495)

For a complete listing of all library grant awardees and abstracts, visit the MBLC website - <http://mbc.state.ma.us/mbc/news/2005/nr050708.php>



Massachusetts is now one of four states providing its residents with information on local health services through the "Go Local" project of the National Library of Medicine. This project links local health services to the more than 650 health topics found in MedlinePlus:
<http://www.medlineplus.gov/massachusetts>

SANDISFIELD FRIENDS DONATE TO BOOKMOBILE

by John Ramsay, Administrator, WMRLS

On September 13, the Friends of the Sandisfield Library presented WMRLS Administrator John Ramsay with a check for \$1,321.65 for new materials for the bookmobile service. This donation, according to the Friends, "is symbolic of our whole community's recognition and gratitude for two major services you provide us: the Bookmobile, which assures the availability of an ever-revolving collection of books in small libraries, and the delivery service of books from the Interlibrary Loan System. Thank you for those and other continuing services to our library."

This donation was the result of a community-wide effort: a book sale that took place at an Historical Society Fair, with promotional assistance from the Sandisfield Arts Center, articles in the Sandisfield Newsletter, flyers printed and distributed throughout the town, financial contributions totaling almost \$500, and countless hours of volunteer help collecting, sorting and selling the hundreds of books that were donated for this event.

Ramsay expressed the sincere appreciation of the Region and its member libraries for this donation, coming at a time when funds for new materials are scarce. "It is a wonderful gesture to contribute funds to WMRLS when the library can always use more money itself. For such a small town to have raised such a large sum is a monumental feat."

For its part, the Friends felt this check was "a very big thank you, both to the Sandisfield Library and to the Regional Library that stands behind it." This money, along with funds raised by the Friends of WMRLS, grants and donations from other libraries and groups, will help greatly in providing new materials that are so important to libraries and residents of the smallest towns in the State.

AMHERST READS: JON SCIEZKA

by Janice McArdle, Amherst Reads Committee and Youth Service Librarian, Granby Public Library

Amherst Reads is a month-long community wide literacy initiative to promote literacy and the joy of reading based on the One Town/One Book concept. This year, the community has the benefit of reading books of their choice by the same author, the fantastic Jon Scieszka! Month-long activities will culminate with the second annual Amherst Reads Literary Festival on October 29 at the Jones Library. Come to *Amherst Reads: Jon Scieszka* this year for a memorable experience! For complete information on this event, visit the Jones Library website - <http://www.joneslibrary.org/amherstreads>

FAREWELL BARBARA!

by Mary King, Regional Librarian, WMRLS

Barbara Eriksson has been a WMRLS Bookmobile/Delivery Specialist since December 1993. During that time Barb has safely driven the delivery vans on average three days per week and the bookmobile once a week; she has helped train seven other drivers including her replacement Mike Azarowski; she has diagnosed countless mechanical problems in our vehicles even as they were developing (Barbara has an ear for that, which has saved us lots of money in towing fees) and she has very likely been stranded on the road with a vehicle breakdown at least 10 times!

Barb is a quick study who likes to stay busy, and over the 12 years she has been with us, she has helped in most regional departments on her non-driving days. When Barbara began with us in 1993 we had seven delivery routes a week, and each route was comprised of deliveries of small gray bins. Today's 19 routes requiring the delivery of multiple large green bins to our members has changed the job considerably, but Barb, with her exercise and swimming regimes at the Greenfield Y, her long-distance running and biking, and her new interest in scuba diving, has kept in shape during her free time and found the energy to do it all!

Barbara enters the nursing program at Greenfield Community College in September. We hate to lose her, but all of us at WMRLS know that she will be just as great a nurse as she has been a Bookmobile/Delivery Specialist. Barb, we will miss you!

LIBRARY EXHIBITS, DISPLAYS, AND PROGRAMS

In early August, I sent a message to our WMRLS email discussion list asking members to share a brief description of favorite summer library displays and programs to showcase in this issue of **WRapper**. So many libraries responded that we will be publishing submissions in two parts. This issue features exhibits, displays and programs. The November/December edition of **WRapper** will focus on how WMRLS member libraries celebrated our Massachusetts Regional Library Systems **GOING PLACES @ YOUR LIBRARY** statewide summer reading program. Thank you to all who responded. ~ Janet Eckert, Editor, **WRapper**

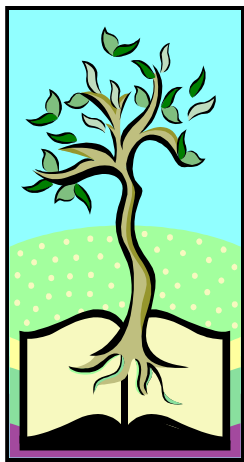
WMRLS MEMBER LIBRARIES SUMMER SHOWCASE:

For an early July display I created a table full of material on fitness, titled **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET FIT FOR SUMMER**. I used some of our more colorful titles on fitness, jogging, yoga, weight training (men and women), and fitness after pregnancy. To showcase this display, I created a pastel lavender background and added a pair of purple hand weights and a bottle of Aquafina water as props. The materials went out! ~ Sue Bosman, Adult Services Librarian, Storrs Library, Longmeadow

From July 5 through August 19, the Du Bois Library at UMass Amherst exhibited a five-leafed illuminated manuscript by Monson artist, Jude Kallok. **THE EMPEROR WANTED TO BE A JESUS COWBOY** visually depicts a philosophical debate between Jesus of Nazareth and "The Emperor," a man who turns out to be George Walker Bush. **The Daily Hampshire Gazette** published an article about the exhibit on July 28. ~ Leslie Schaler, Communication Assistant, UMass Amherst Library

From July through September, the Southwick Public Library showcased the vintage hatpins and hatpin holders owned by local collector Karen Brzezinski, a member of the International Club for Collectors of **HATPINS AND HATPIN HOLDERS**. Brzezinski has collected the vintage pins and holders for years obtaining them at flea markets, auctions and antique shops. Due to the many reproductions made, collecting has become increasingly difficult, and she cautions would be collectors to educate themselves about the items they wish to collect. The period pins and holders are from 1850 to 1930 with most made in the early 1900s — with 1912 being the peak year when hatpins could be purchased in most stores since they were worn by women and girls regardless of their economic status. ~ Anne Murray, Director, Southwick Public Library

This June, the American Library Association's Public Programs Office selected Western New England College's D'Amour Library as one of the 40 sites nationwide to host the four-year traveling exhibition **ALEXANDER HAMILTON: THE MAN WHO MADE MODERN AMERICA**. The exhibition will be on display at the library for six weeks starting February 26, 2009. ~ *Western New England College News*



POA TREE
ALSO KNOWN AS
POETRY

Just before school ended our 10th grade English teacher asked to use the library for a unit on poetry. We gathered and displayed our most interesting poetry books. I also selected, copied, and pasted poems to background paper and, using fishing line and paperclips, hung poems from one of our indoor trees. I put the tree in a spot where students would have to walk by it. One of our science teachers was so taken with the tree, she made a sign and labeled it **POA TREE**. ~ Brenda Durrin Maloney, Librarian, Lenox Memorial Middle & High School Library

Our library's senior sing-along was a fun filled program and featured David Polansky. I found his name on the **MASSACHUSETTS PERFORMERS AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORY** - <http://www.semls.org/performer/index.asp> What a great service that directory is! ~ Melissa Rickson, Adult Library Programs Coordinator, Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow

NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

by Diana Federman, Trustee, Edwards Public Library, Southampton

Two WMRLS member librarians benefited from the bi-annual New England Library Leadership Symposium held in Exeter, R.I., in late July. Sara Woodbury, director of Edwards Public Library in Southampton, and Lisa Downing, assistant director at Forbes Library in Northampton, both said they were honored to be among the 26 professionals and volunteers who took part in the four-day course, sponsored by the New England Library Association, and the six New England state associations. Designed to foster the development of library leaders at the community, regional and state level, the symposium covered such topics as leadership style, communication skills, mentoring, conflict resolution and risk-taking.

Woodbury and Downing said they entered the week with many questions and found the experience and the dialogue with other emerging leaders transformative. Woodbury, in her third year at Edwards, said she was grateful for the opportunity to discuss her continued concerns, such as strengthening the library's contribution to the community. The group was diverse, "but we left our individual hats at the door and worked, ate, and relaxed together the entire week," she said. "I think the results of this intensive program will be seen in libraries throughout New England in the months and years to come."

Downing praised facilitator Maureen Sullivan for creating a "community that was values-focused" and presenting "the idea that leadership is about relationships. When we focus on the relationships we form, regardless of where in the organizational structure we fall, we begin to see how we need to work collaboratively to have the greatest impact toward reaching our goals," Downing said.

LIBRARY LEADERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN

by Jan Resnick, Assistant Regional Administrator and John Ramsay, Administrator, WMRLS

Enthusiastic library staff can become leaders through training and encouragement. For three and a half days in June, 48 Massachusetts librarians and paraprofessionals from across the state gathered at Endicott College in Beverly for an intensive bout of leadership training. Trainers Becky Schreiber and John Shannon of Schreiber Shannon Associates used a variety of techniques including presentations and experiential activities to help participants to reflect on their roles as leaders and learn ways of listening and interacting with community members, staff and policy makers. All kinds of libraries were represented, and the group included many staff that had been in the field for less than five years. Formal sessions began at 8:30 a.m. and concluded at 9:00 p.m., although the informal sessions began at breakfast, continued through walks to Tupper Hall and to meals, and into the late hours of the evening. People bonded through dorm life and were energized by the potential of the group. They left both exhausted and exhilarated.

A sense of the energy level and enthusiasm of the group can be experienced by reading the library leadership mission statement they developed together: Leaping forward with turbo-charged customer service, Massachusetts libraries are everyone's portal to a commonwealth of information, creative programs, leading-edge technology, and materials to satisfy every curiosity, and ignite community spirit.

A number of follow-up activities are being planned, both statewide and within Regions. The MBLC has set aside LSTA funds to assist in these efforts. Watch for notices of programs and discussions. Contact the following WMRLS library participants for more information and injections of enthusiasm: Emily Alling, (formerly of Babson Library, Springfield College and now at UMass); Eileen Chapman, West Springfield Public Library; Hillary Garrett, Forbes Library, Northampton; Doris Madsen, Springfield City Library; Owen Maloney, Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown. Tamson Ely, Springfield Technical Community College and Jan Resnick, WMRLS served as mentors for the program. The day following the Institute was devoted to planning by Regional Systems, networks, and the MBLC to integrate the accomplishments of the Institute into state and regional programs. The institute was primarily funded by LSTA funds administered by the MBLC. Staff of the Regional Library Systems planned the Institute.

KOSOVA LIBRARIANS VISIT WMRLS

by Mary King, Regional Librarian and John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, WMRLS

On August 30, nine librarians from Kosova (also known as Kosovo) accompanied by Julie Hooks Davis of the Institute for Training and Development (ITD) in Amherst visited WMRLS. The librarians are participating in a 17-week academic program sponsored by the ITD and Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science on the campus of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley.

The Kosova librarians were given information and then asked questions about library cooperation and resource sharing in our state. Kosova has a few infobuses similar to our bookmobiles that travel into sections of larger cities to bring reading materials to the public, but generally library services are for fee rather than free. The librarians from Kosova also said that the schools in their country have been rebuilt since the years of war, but that there are still no books.

Connectivity to the many rural areas of Kosova is non-existent, but the country is working on installing fiber optic to remedy that situation. Since there was basically no technology for many years, anything they do have is brand new, state of the art. Funds will be needed for them to equip remote public libraries (there are 7 main libraries and 120 branches). Training of people in those facilities will be a major issue.

Librarians from across Massachusetts sent mugs, pens, t-shirts and other library memorabilia to welcome our Kosova librarians. When they received these beautifully presented gifts at the end of their WMRLS visit, our guests were surprised, extremely touched and quite deeply appreciative.

NEW DELIVERY STAFF

by Mary King, Regional Librarian, WMRLS

Welcome to two new drivers who have joined the WMRLS Delivery Department this summer as permanent staff. Michael Azarowski has been hired to fill the fulltime opening created by Barbara Eriksson's departure (see page 3) and Steve Lorenz will be driving three days a week for us, replacing Jeff Chang who resigned at the end of June. Mike lives in Ware with his wife and daughter, and Steve commutes from Easthampton and also has a young family. We are very happy to have both Steve and Mike working with us at WMRLS.

FINDING A GOOD BOOK GETS EASIER

by Jan Resnick, Assistant Regional Administrator, WMRLS

Five WMRLS member libraries (Buckland, Hinsdale, Northfield, Pelham and Southampton) will be honing their Reader's Advisory skills for the next two years through training provided by an LSTA grant awarded to WMRLS. The \$50,000 grant will provide training for all members, \$20,000 in materials for the bookmobile and professional collections at WMRLS, access to the NoveList database for all WMRLS public libraries, and registration costs for special training sessions offered at Massachusetts Library Association and Public Library Association conferences for the five libraries. The five libraries will also receive additional training provided through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) as part of their support for the Reader's Advisory minigrant projects. This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of LSTA as administered by the MBLC. Over the next few years we will gain skills and materials to help us connect readers and books.

LIBRARY RECEIVES GRANTS TOTALLING MORE THAN \$7,600!

by Anne Murray, Director, Southwick Public Library

The Southwick Public Library has received \$7,643 in grants with \$5,308 coming from our Friends Association which kicked in the record amount towards the Town-wide Read program, an outdoor information sign, and to sponsor library programs. These funds come from the group's tireless fundraising efforts which have included auctions, book sales and bass tournaments. The library also received \$1,725 from the Shurtleff Children's Services for a large shelving unit and materials devoted to Home Education. Additionally, the library received \$610 from the Sarah Gillett Services for the Elderly for the purchase of CD books.

MASSCAT: MORE FLAVORS THAN BASKIN-ROBBINS

by Carolyn Noah, Regional Administrator, Central Massachusetts Regional Library System

Only one network in the Commonwealth scoops up collections as diverse as the American Textile History Museum, the Longy School of Music, the Youngdahl Library of the Caritas Norwood Hospital, and the National Fire Protection Association - MassCat!

MassCat is a catalog of holdings of libraries that are not affiliated with one of the major automated networks. MassCat supports the sharing of library resources between libraries in MassCat and libraries state-wide. The database includes information from school, public, law, medical and special libraries.

In the database are materials that will pique a reference or ILL librarian's interest. Some examples include: primary documents on the Massachusetts textile industry before the 20th century, sheet music for compositions of obscure composers, and building code requirements for all kinds of structures.

While some of the most intriguing materials cannot be borrowed, MassCat members are committed to resource sharing. Customers are encouraged to visit individual libraries to view special collections not in circulation, or they can be assisted offsite by fax. The unique aspect of these collections makes it well worth the extra steps needed to reap the benefits.

Visit MassCat today at <http://www.masscat.org>.

Editor's Note: MassCat Manager Nora Blake will conduct an introduction to MassCat on Thursday, October 13 at WMRLS. Information and registration information are available on the WMRLS website at <http://www.wmrls.org/ce/index.html>

DOROTHY CARMODY HONORED BY ALA

The American Library Association and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates has selected Dorothy Carmody, President of the Western Massachusetts Library Club and member of the Massachusetts Friends of Libraries Board of Directors, to be a recipient of the 2005 National Advocacy Honor Roll. The purpose of the National Advocacy Honor Roll is to celebrate those individuals and groups who have actively supported and strengthened library services at the local, state or national levels. Congratulations Dottie!



**The Great Bay State Library Fundraiser
A Statewide Book Fair
to Support
Massachusetts Libraries
Friday and Saturday
December 2 & 3, 2005**

Barnes & Noble is donating a percentage of all sales on Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3, to support Massachusetts libraries. All shoppers who present a Massachusetts Library Book Fair Voucher at any Barnes & Noble in our commonwealth during these special two days will be helping to support Massachusetts libraries.

In early October through December 1, WMRLS will distribute Massachusetts Library Book Fair Vouchers to all member libraries. Our November/December edition of WRapper will feature all of the details about this event.

**Western Massachusetts Regional
Library System**
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1961*



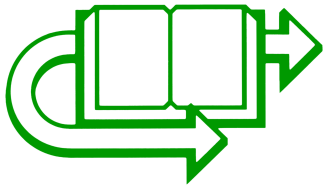
**what's buzzin' at your library?
2006 Massachusetts Regional Library Systems
Statewide Summer Reading Program**

September 30 is the deadline to order 2006 Summer Reading Program Materials.
Visit the WMRLS Summer Reading Program Web Portal for complete information
<http://www.wmrls.org/sum/>

WRapper is distributed to our entire mailing list which includes library directors, trustees, and legislators.
Please route this newsletter to your library staff. WRapper is also published on the WMRLS website—
<http://www.wmrls.org/wrapper/>

WRapper: the newsletter of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System is published six times yearly. The deadline for the next issue of WRapper is October 10, 2005. Please note that submissions may need to be edited for space reasons. Articles may not fit in the issue for which they were submitted. WRapper Editorial Staff will notify you if publication of your article must be delayed. Please send submissions online at <http://surveys.wmrls.org/wrappernovember2005>

WRapper Staff: Dan Jarvis, Shirley Keech, Mary King, John Ramsay, Jan Resnick, Anne Thibault, and Janet Eckert (Editor).



WMRLS Continuing Education Calendar

OCTOBER 2005

For complete program information and registration instructions,
visit the WMRLS Continuing Education Website
<http://www.wmrls.org/ce/index.html>

WMRLS Online CE ~ Copyright Basics For Librarians ~ October 1 through November 30 – 2 hours to complete

Summer Reading Programs for Adults Roundtable ~ 9:30 - 11:30, Monday, October 3
~ Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow

How to Locate Library Funding Sources Using FCSearch ~ 10 – 1, Wednesday, October 5, ~ WMRLS

Caring for the Mind: Providing Reference Services for Mental Health Information ~ 10 - 1, Thursday, October 6 ~ WMRLS

Summer Reading Program Evaluation and Planning Roundtable ~ 10 – 1, Friday, October 7 ~ East Longmeadow Public Library

MassCat: Unique Resources At Your Fingertips ~ 10 – noon, Thursday, October 13 ~ WMRLS

Basic Library Training in Reference ~ 10 - 1, Wednesdays, October 19, 26 and November 2 ~ WMRLS

Basic Library Training in Reference ~ 10 - 1, Thursdays, October 20, 27 and November 3 ~ Lee Library Association

Summer Reading Program Evaluation and Planning Roundtable ~ 10 – 1, Monday, October 24 ~ Lenox Library Association

Save the Date! The Friends of WMRLS Annual Meet is Friday, morning, October 14 at the newly renovated Palmer Public Library. Refreshments 9:30; meeting will begin at 10. Please join us to learn more about the Friends of WMRLS and our plans for next year. RSVP appreciated to re.frank@gmail.com.
Thank you for your support!