



# WRapper Newsletter

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## WMRLS Library Legislative Caucus Members

by John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, WMRLS

As of mid July, eight State legislators representing WMRLS communities had signed on to the Library Legislative Caucus. This caucus of Senators and Representatives throughout Massachusetts is chaired by Rep. Mark Falzone from the Ninth Essex District. The group has come together to focus legislative attention on library issues and support funding for library services at the state level. The WMRLS legislators who have joined the caucus thus far include:

- Sen. Stephen Brewer
- Sen. Gale Candaras
- Rep. Cheryl Coakley-Rivera
- Rep. Don Humason
- Rep. Michael Kane
- Rep. Angelo Puppolo
- Rep. John Scibak
- Rep. Ellen Story

This is a good start for legislators from our area, and we hope others can join as well so library services in Western Massachusetts can continue to meet the needs of our residents.

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## Wildly Creative Teens and Tweens in Granby

by Janice McArdle, Youth Service Librarian, Granby Public Library

Youth are using their creativity this summer at the Granby Library to help out others. "Jewelry needed. Help our fall season sparkle." said a little sign in a local Hospice Shop. Word of this need was a call to action for older youth who began dropping in the library two mornings a week to create earrings, bracelets and necklaces with donated glass, gemstone, wood beads and metal findings to donate to the Hospice Shop. The library is also asking for old necklaces that can be taken apart to make something new. Many teens were previously unaware of the wonderful services Hospice agencies offer. Currently preparation for a one-day August "Bead-a-thon" has begun. The excitement is building!

## Blandford Budget Crisis

by John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, WMRLS

Funding for the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford (Hampden County, population 1,267) is in serious jeopardy. The Town needs to reduce the overall municipal budget by 28% in order to remain within the confines of Proposition 2 ½. An override election has been scheduled for August 25. If this measure fails, the library will likely be left with no Town funding except for utilities and heat. For the summer, the library's hours have been reduced. The fate of the rest of the year hinges on the outcome of the override vote.

## **LSTA Grants Awarded to WMRLS Libraries**

*by John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, WMRLS*

We are pleased to report the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded grants to many libraries at their July 10 meeting. Among them were several WMRLS member libraries, including:

- ❖ **The Jones Library (Amherst)**, \$12,500 for a 2 year Conversation Circle Mini-Grant project. This grant provides services and promotes awareness of immigrant populations and cultures, including English Learner programs.
- ❖ **The Forbes Library (Northampton)** received a \$5,000 award and the Pelham Public Library and the Meekins Public Library (Williamsburg) received \$3,000 grants from the EqualAccess mini-grant category. These awards enable the libraries to implement projects in the areas of either youth, lifelong involvement or health and wellness.
- ❖ **The Pelham Public Library**, in addition, received a grant for \$7,500 for an “On the Same Page” community reading campaign.
- ❖ **The Meekins Public Library (Williamsburg)** and the **Palmer Public Library** received \$20,000 grants for 2 year “Serving ‘Tweens and Teens” projects to enhance their services to adolescents.
- ❖ **The Westfield Athenaeum** was awarded \$2,500 to conduct a preservation survey of its collections and building.

We are very proud of our member libraries for their foresight and initiative to apply for and be awarded grants that will improve their services in so many important areas.

## **MBLC Recognized for Leadership in Preservation Efforts**

*by John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, WMRLS*

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) was presented with the 2008 Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections at the July 10 meeting of the Library Commissioners. Paul Messier, Board Director of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, and Lawrence Reger, President of the Heritage Preservation, gave presentations recognizing the sterling work done in Massachusetts since 1988.

In actuality, this award is recognition of the work of the MBLC’s Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, who has spearheaded many initiatives that have served as models for federal projects that have influenced many other states.

Some of the areas that were identified included a comprehensive survey of preservation issues in Massachusetts repositories, initiation of grant funding for preservation efforts, training programs on repair of library materials, disaster preparedness, and other preservation topics. Gregor’s work with the Northeast Document Conservation Center resulted in the electronic disaster planning tool that is now known nationally as dPlan, the Online Disaster Planning Tool.

Our congratulations are sincerely extended to Gregor and the MBLC for their continued efforts to educate and influence preservation efforts of materials and content across the Commonwealth.

## **Why Cookbooks Matter: A Fall Event at the UMass Amherst Libraries**

*by Leslie Schaler, Communication Assistant, UMass Amherst Libraries*

The UMass Amherst Libraries will host their Tenth Annual Fall Reception on Sunday, October 5 from 2 pm to 4 pm in Memorial Hall at UMass Amherst. The theme of the event is “Why Cookbooks Matter,” and will feature the world-renowned Schlesinger Library Culinary Collection at Harvard and the Beatrice A McIntosh Cookery Collection at UMass Amherst. The event is free and open to the public; refreshments will be served.

## **Clapp Memorial Library Awaiting Ceiling Repair**

*by Owen Maloney, Director, Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown*

The Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown is awaiting a determination of the cause of the June 20 ceiling failure and notification by its insurer of the extent of coverage for the repairs and any additional remediation work needed to prevent future failures. The main floor will remain closed until repairs are completed. It is likely to be several more weeks before the library resumes full services. The Children's Activity Room on the lower level is open during regular summer hours for patron services, including the Adult/YA Summer Reading Challenge and the Children's Summer Reading Program. Other scheduled Children's programs are being held at alternate locations. Residents are reminded that they can use neighboring libraries and on-line services from home with their Clapp Memorial Library card.

"We are very sorry for the lengthy delay in getting our library back to regular business," states Board of Trustees President, Stephen Lanphear, "but everyone is proceeding cautiously as the cause of the failure was not obvious. We are working diligently with our insurance company and have consulted with structural engineers to bring this matter to a close and get on with the repair work. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation. Our staff is doing a great job fielding questions and helping provide the greatest amount of service it can under the circumstances."

The failure involved a 16 x 20 foot section of the ceiling near the south side of the building. Besides the ceiling itself, the large stained glass window received some minor damage. The library has been cleaned of debris and the air quality will be tested after completion of the repairs. The library was closed at the time and no one was injured.

Patrons are advised to get the most up-to-date information by viewing the library's website, <http://www.clapplibrary.org> for updates on programs and services. Books will continue to be collected in the outside Drop Box and recirculated through the lower level.

## **Granby Public Library Unveils New Pavilion**

*by Jennifer Crosby, Director, Granby Free Public Library*

The Granby Public Library celebrated the unveiling of its library pavilion on Wednesday, July 16. The pavilion will host an array of programs to bring the community closer together. It was made possible by the generous donations of local businesses, patrons, and by the efforts of the Friends of the Granby Library. The library's Board of Trustees will name the pavilion the "Friends of the Granby Public Library Pavilion" in honor of all they have done for the library. In attendance was Senator Gail Candaras who helped cut the ribbon along with Trustee Chair Virginia Snopek, Library Director Jennifer Crosby, Friends President Martin Jewett and head builder Frank Boron.



## **3-Day Novel Writing Contest at the Forbes Library**

*By Lisa Downing, Assistant Director, Forbes Library, Northampton*

We are challenging patrons to produce an entire novel in a mere 72 hours. Northampton has a large writing community and we thought this would be a really fun and unique program. We are providing information about the 31st Annual International 3-Day Novel Contest, <http://www.3daynovel.com>, sponsored by a group of Canadian publishers, which will take place over Labor Day weekend. The grand prize is publication and the second prize is \$500 cash. The library offered an information session with two local authors that provided information such as developing an outline and how to manage your time. The handouts included a bibliography which we have made available in the front lobby along with a book display and registration information. Everyone local who participates will get a special T-shirt and support from Forbes Library. The T-shirts will say "Shh...I'm writing a novel and it has to be done by Monday." If four or more people successfully participate, we will invite them to read from their work at a special program at the library in the fall.

## **Call For Members Of the NNE SACO Funnel**

*by Penny Baker, Collections Management Librarian, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown*

Just 24 months after its inception, the Northern New England (NNE) Subject Authority Cooperative (SACO) Funnel Project is looking for new members. This is a wonderful opportunity for libraries to become involved (or more involved) with the Program for Cooperative Cataloging.

The NNE SACO Funnel Project currently consists of catalogers from three libraries (Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Rakow Research Library of the Corning Museum of Glass, and the Social Law Library (Boston) who regularly contribute authority headings to the LC Authority File. This diverse group of libraries has been contributing authority headings since July 2006 when the project began.

A funnel project is a group of libraries that have joined together to contribute authority records to the national authority file. Often these libraries are working in the same subject area, such as the Arabic Funnel Project, but they may also be regionally based, such as the Northern New England SACO Funnel Project. In a funnel project, one institution serves as coordinator (in this case, it's the Clark). One thing to keep in mind is that SACO funnels are designed for and are of particular interest to libraries with only one or a few catalogers who can't make many SACO proposals each year.

If you would like more information on becoming a NNE SACO participant, contact: Penny Baker, phone: 413/ 458-0531, or e-mail [pbaker@clarkart.edu](mailto:pbaker@clarkart.edu)

## **Summer Reading A WILD Success at the Greenfield Public Library**

*by Kay Lyons, Children's Librarian, Greenfield Public Library*

Thanks to WMRLS and ReadsInMa for inspiring us in Greenfield to create the most successful summer reading program in our history. Sign-ups have hit 400 for the first time ever! The "Wild Reads" theme inspired me to write the promotional skit "The Pirate Poet". With a scarlet macaw puppet and a different colleague with me to play the librarian at each school, I dressed as a pirate and spoke in rhyme, imploring the librarian to share the "shelves of treasure" available with a library card. Naturally, the pirate would have seen most of the exotic creatures in our books on voyages, and that gave us, if you will, a hook for the program. We have a treasure chest of prizes on the kids' desk, and kids get to pick something from the chest for one visit per week to borrow books or attend a program. We have done a blend of online and paper reading logs, and I have to say most families are more comfortable with the paper log. We check off a level for each prize, with the weeks of the program numbered one to seven as the levels given in ReadsInMa. Crafts with the talented Beverly Whitbeck are bringing in 20 to 40 kids per session, and our story hour groups have similar numbers. Guests with wild animal themed programs (the most successful - Wingmasters Birds of Prey) and our spokespirate herself, the Pirate Poet, have done Monday evening family events with great success as well. Having a weekly evening program helps to include working parents and kids who are in day camps. Coming up we have two events just for ages 10 and up, a henna body art program and a tie dye workshop, both on Saturday mornings. Timing is the biggest challenge next to budget for programs, and we seem to have hit on a good balance this summer. It has helped to capitalize on the pirate craze. We hope kids are as excited about astronauts next year. Hey! How about Space Pirates? Hmmm.

Hooray for Wild Reads!

### **Read More About It!**

- \* **Wild Reads at your library** is sponsored by the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems (MRLS) and the MBLC. For complete information about this program, visit the MRLS 2008 Statewide Summer Reading Program Wiki—  
<http://masummerreading.pbwiki.com/>
- \* **ReadsinMA** is supported by the MRLS and the MBLC with funding from the Institute of Museums and Library Services, an independent federal agency that grows and sustains a Nation of Learners because lifelong learning is critical to success. For complete information about this program, visit the ReadsInMA Library Information website —  
<http://www.readsinma.org/info/>



## WMRLS Delivery Reminder

by Mary King, Regional Librarian, WMRLS

Materials that travel through the WMRLS delivery system must have a routing slip. Using an "in transit" slip isn't enough; please use regulation size delivery routing slips that are at least 3" X 8". Smaller slips, while they may save paper, can too easily fall out of books and audiovisual materials and cause sorting delays. Thank you!

## Recent Renovations Lead to Dramatic Improvements at the Westfield Athenaeum

by Chris Lindquist, Director, Westfield Athenaeum

Two recent renovation projects at the Westfield Athenaeum have led to some dramatic improvements in meeting room accessibility and in the preservation of our archival materials. The Lang auditorium, our largest meeting room space, has undergone a complete renovation, including the addition of an automated chairlift which will allow those with physical impairments to attend programs and utilize the space for the first time since it opened in 1927. Other improvements to the auditorium, named after benefactor Florence Rand Lang, include two new air-conditioning units, new paint, new carpeting on the floor and stage, new period-appropriate lighting fixtures, a restored acoustical ceiling accentuated with new LED lights and new portable, tiered risers that will add a theater-style affect to the seating. Forish Construction Co., of Westfield, is overseeing the renovation projects.

The Athenaeum also plans to add a surround-sound system and projection unit that will allow community groups, as well as the Athenaeum, to show films and do audiovisual presentations. We are planning to develop an ongoing film series and to show films based on some of the books that are being read in our book discussion groups. The Lang auditorium will continue to be available for use by non-profit community groups without charge. The room can accommodate up to 100 people comfortably and is conveniently located near the public restrooms on the lower level. The Friends of the Athenaeum generously donated \$3,000 towards the new period-style lighting fixtures that will brighten the space and help make it more usable. King Brothers Decorating Center of Southwick also donated a portion of the cost of the new carpeting. The Athenaeum received a major boost recently when Westfield Bank announced a \$50,000 donation from its Future Fund, allowing us to provide a dramatically enhanced community meeting space that will be accessible to all, now and in the future.

A second space, located on the third floor, overlooking the Athenaeum's Great Hall, has also undergone renovations over the past few months. The third floor space, which was formerly used for storage, has been completely renovated into a climate-controlled archival space that will hold materials in the Athenaeum's valuable special collections. These collections include rare, one-of-a-kind handwritten documents dating back to the 1700s, which pertain to the history of the greater Westfield area. These documents are currently stored in two attics in less than ideal conditions, due to the fluctuations of temperature and humidity.

The renovated space is now fully enclosed behind insulated, tempered glass, and is now air-conditioned in order to maintain optimum conditions that will help preserve these vital documents and photographs. New lighting has been installed and a research area with a computer workstation is being added in order to allow for greater access to and easier examination of these important archival documents. The Athenaeum is also planning to scan and digitize some of these documents and photographs in order to make them available to researchers via the web.

A fundraising committee is in the process of raising the necessary funds for both of these projects. The committee has set a goal of raising \$140,000, coinciding with the 140th anniversary of the Athenaeum (1868 ~ 2008).



## Happy 5th Birthday to the Leverett Library

by Linda Wentworth, Director, Leverett Library

The Leverett Library celebrated its fifth year in its new building with a birthday party on the patio. Over 100 people enjoyed a birthday cake, signed a giant card, and watched children play pin the bookmark on the book. Members of the building committee were recognized and together blew out the candles on the cake.

## **WRapper: the newsletter of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library**

### **Is it a Match: Copy Cataloging and the MARC Record**

*Wednesday, October 1, 2008 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM*

In this workshop we will take an in depth look at the MARC record to enhance the ability to evaluate records for copy cataloging. Location: West Stockbridge Public Library

### **Retailing Methods and Techniques in Libraries**

*1 1/2 Hour Self-Paced Online Continuing Education Workshop Beginning Wednesday, October 1*

This course focuses on: Identifying and describing the similarities between running a library and a retail operation; Defining a product and, more specifically, a library product; Understanding the basics of resource allocation related to library products by utilizing the PAR (Plan, Act and Review) method; Using sales techniques to enhance library service and customer satisfaction; and Utilizing methods to measure output and productivity to set predictors of future behavior and accountability in order to control revenue, spending and essential processes. Location: Online Continuing Education

### **Coffee Bars, Computer Blogs, & Cybrarians. It's Not your Grandmother's Public Library**

*Thursday, October 9, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

Information technology has revolutionized professional research, the news media, and the book publishing industry. The old function of public libraries as collectors and keepers of printed books and newspapers is a thing of the past. What will happen to public libraries in the new digital world. Location: Jones Library, Amherst

### **Serials Support Group**

*Wednesday, October 15, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

Serials control is challenging! It's been a year since this group has met. Roundtable discussion will be based on your topics. Location: WMRLS Conference Room

### **Math in the Library**

*Friday, October 17, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

Explore Mixing in Math, a set of ideas for library displays, stories, games, and activities that support quantitative literacy. Participants will leave with activities, icebreakers, quiet games, and book suggestions. Location: Springfield City Library

### **EXTRA! EXTRA! Learn All about It!**

*Thursday, October 23, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

Explore online newspapers - International and Domestic, current and historical. Learn about new resources as well as new search strategies for old favorites! Location: WMRLS Computer Lab

### **Basic Computer Skills All Library Staff Should Master: Focus on Patron Questions**

*Wednesday, October 29, 2008 ~ 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM*

This workshop will look at all aspects of computer technology with a focus on patron questions related to using software, browsing the Internet, using email and working with attachments. Location: West Stockbridge Public Library

### **Digital Barn Raising: Helping One Another Prepare for the Digital Future**

*Friday, October 31, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 12:30PM*

You are invited to bring 4-5 documents to our Digital Barn Raising. We will work in groups to prepare Dublin Core records for your items. Our barn raising goal is to have participants become more comfortable with the digital descriptive process, learn what you need to know about the materials, begin to set some digitizing project priorities, and get to know some of the support people in this area. Location: WMRLS Conference Room

## Continuing Education Calendar

# September & October 2008

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

### **Financial Management**

*1 1/2 Hour Self-Paced Online Continuing Education Workshop Beginning Monday, September 1*

This online course covers: requisitions and purchase orders, the approval and payment of bills, encumbrances, tracking systems, fund accounting, cash management, and financial management software. Location: Online Continuing Education

### **Wild About Reading: Summer 2008 WRap-Up**

*Friday, September 5, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

At this roundtable, you will: \* Bring samples of library publicity, displays, and programs to share and discuss \* Share successful summer reading program tips & techniques. Location: Berkshire Athenaeum

### **Creating Spreadsheets Using Microsoft Excel 2003**

*Thursday, September 11, 2008 ~ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

Explore all of the pull down menus, toolbars and features that will help you create worksheets and charts. Learn to create and edit a spreadsheet, use formulas, preview and print a worksheet, and create and edit charts. Location: WMRLS Computer Lab

### **More Than Basic Excel 2003: Macros, Templates And Linking Spreadsheets**

*Thursday, September 11, 2008 ~ 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM*

If you perform a task repeatedly in Microsoft Excel, you can automate the task with a macro. Another way to enhance your use of Excel is to create links between cells in the same worksheet or between cells in different workbooks. Location: WMRLS Computer Lab

### **Connecting Library Users to Electronic Content**

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

Paul Kissman, MBLC Library Information Systems Specialist, will present the initial recommendations of the Board's Authentication Task Force. Location: WMRLS Conference Room

### **Wild About Reading: Summer 2008 WRap-Up**

*Friday, September 19, 2008 ~ 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM*

Bring samples of library publicity, displays, and programs to share and discuss. Share successful summer reading program tips & techniques. *Join us for an "On-Your-Own Book Review" from noon to 1.* Location: Springfield City Library

### **Advocating Reading: Next Steps in Readers' Advising**

*Thursday, September 25, 2008 ~ 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM*

Topics include: training, promoting RA service, genre study, and an overview of additional popular genres. Location: WMRLS Conference Room

### **Basic Library Techniques in Cataloging**

*Wednesday, October 1, 2008 & Wednesday, October 29, 2008 ~ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

This series, consisting of workshops and online training, is an introduction to help library staff who have no formal education in cataloging. Topics covered include: Technical Services and Catalog Records, Subject Headings, Dewey Classification, and MARC Cataloging. Location: West Stockbridge Public Library

