



# WRapper Newsletter

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

## Election Results

by John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, WMRLS

The big news nationally, of course, was that Barack Obama and Joe Biden were elected President and Vice President.

In Massachusetts, Question 1 that called for the elimination of the State income tax was soundly defeated by a margin of 70% to 30%. Several library organizations, including the Massachusetts Library Association, the Board of Library Commissioners, and the WMRLS Executive Board, had taken positions opposed to this measure that would have proved disastrous for libraries across the Commonwealth.

On a local note, we are pleased to report that the Town of Belchertown passed a debt exclusion measure that will hopefully pave the way for the construction project of the Clapp Memorial Library. This project, if funded by the voters at the next Town Meeting, will greatly enhance the space and services of the town's library.

## Bookmobile: Keeping Up with the Times

by Mary King, Regional Librarian, WMRLS

The high gasoline prices of last summer were the deciding factor---something had to be done about the cost of sending the bookmobile into 75 small towns in the four counties of western Massachusetts. The Supplemental Collection program, which is the official name of the service that we call "Bookmobile", has been around since the 1940's, the Work Projects Administration and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Despite the hits that the regional budget has taken that have handicapped our purchase of new materials for bookmobile, this service has remained important to small public libraries.

We asked the Directors of the small public libraries that receive bookmobile service to consider whether they could give up the bookmobile's visits every 11 weeks and instead receive deposits of materials in their delivery bin or visit our headquarters to borrow directly from the collection. They all gave it considerable thought and as a result 16 libraries have stopped receiving the bookmobile and 6 libraries offered or agreed to meet the bookmobile at another library in their area, saving the bookmobile additional miles to travel and the fuel to power it. As of October 2008 the bookmobile travels to 59 libraries on 20 routes every 11 weeks, down from serving 75 libraries on 29 routes.

We are very grateful to the many Library Directors and trustees who gave consideration to our need to downsize the bookmobile's schedule. If you have given up bookmobile service, the easiest way to request a deposit from us is to go to the WMRLS Deposit Request Form webpage: <http://forms.wmrls.org/deposit.html> . Fill out and submit this form and our staff will select a deposit of materials and deliver it to you as soon as possible.

Budget shortfalls are still possible so we aren't out of the woods yet but we appreciate that we are able to keep this valuable old service going. The wonderful staff and trustees of our many small libraries make it possible, as do the members of the Friends of WMRLS who donate directly into the supplemental collection budget.

November | December 2008

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## **For WMRLS Public Libraries Serving Populations Of 2500 Or Less**



### **WMRLS Disc Repair Machine Now Available**

*by Becky Marconi, Thrive Project Coordinator, WMRLS*

Tired of throwing away or having to replace all of those scratched up DVDs and CDs? Save money and fix them instead!

Through the LSTA “Together We Thrive” grant, WMRLS has purchased an industrial disc repair machine. Now through September 2009 this machine is available exclusively—and at no charge—for WMRLS public libraries serving populations of 2500 or less.

The VMI 3500 Buffer can clean and repair DVDs, CDs, and 3 inch discs. The repair cycles take between 30-60 seconds. It is completely automated and easy to use.

In order to use the machine, your library staff or volunteers must come to WMRLS Headquarters with the discs to be repaired. A WMRLS staff member will be on hand to train the library representative, but due to current staff shortages, will not actually repair the discs for member libraries. You can set up an appointment no more than 1 week in advance by contacting Sheila Savoie at 665-9898 or by email, [ssavoie@wmrls.org](mailto:ssavoie@wmrls.org)

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### **“Leading Change: Working with Emotional Issues” at NELA**

*by Mary King, Regional Librarian, WMRLS*

Libraries are building new spaces, downsizing, promoting staff members to supervisory positions, expanding their job responsibilities, and finding that changes in their communities create the need to adjust how they provide services. Such environments of change and transition are stressful and can take the energy out of people and organizations.

“Leading Change: Working with Emotional Issues” was presented by Maureen McGuire, PhD., at the New England Library Association conference in Manchester, New Hampshire on Sunday October 19. She spoke of the three phases that any change or transition has: the ending of what was, which feels like loss; the very difficult neutral time when what is in the future for you isn’t clear yet; and the beginning of the future, when the purpose of the change and the part a person will play in it should clarify.

Key points that Maureen and participants made were:

- Mindless reassurance of a person who is sad at a loss, such as the restructuring of her position or the loss of a great boss or office, isn’t helpful--people need to stay with their sadness for a while
- The urge to point out the negatives concerning something that has been lost is disparaging and disrespectful for the person who misses that “perfect” situation
- Being part of a team can be a huge help to the person whose work life is in transition
- Absence of communication from those managing changes leaves a lot of space for gossip and anxiety among staff members

Sometimes we don’t have the bosses we need and nothing will change that; in such a circumstance try to “manage up”--- improve your situation by working more productively with your boss. If you are a supervisor of others, set up systems that let you be more knowledgeable of their situations. Help overcome hurdles as they arise and make appropriate adjustments---including acknowledging accomplishments, recognizing setbacks and setting new goals for the team as you look ahead to that larger goal.

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## Survey Says... Tips On Planning A Young Adult Survey At The Library

by Mia Cabana, Assistant Youth Services Librarian, West Springfield Public Library

At West Springfield Library we are facing the exciting but daunting prospect of expanding our young adult services, including the physical space allotted to that population in the future of our library. We hope to soon form a teen advisory board to help us and offer ongoing opinions, but even the formation of that group left us with some questions regarding how much interest there would be, and how to go about organizing it. We decided to take our questions directly to the source and created a survey, which has been running since the beginning of September. Ours is a low-tech paper version, but it's getting the job done nicely. Here are some tips and tricks that proved to be useful.

1. **Have fun!** I remember surveys from my own college days as a delightful way to procrastinate. Hoping to tap into this, as well as the social-internet trend of publicizing one's state of being in real time, I tried to write the survey in a way that would come across as fun, by embedding the questions about library usage among others such as "Right now I am feeling like \_\_\_\_\_" and "The song I have stuck in my head now is \_\_\_\_\_." Not only did these questions help the survey to feel personalized, they also offered us some valuable insights on collection development. We left the questions as open-ended as possible in most instances, for example "Describe your ideal library. You can use the back and include pictures." We did indeed get illustrations, and many suggestions that an ideal library be comprised mainly of manga.
2. **Keep the survey to one page.** This made it so easy to hand out, and kept it from seeming daunting. We also labeled the survey 20 Questions across the top, and included the single line of instructions "Take this fun survey and tell us what you're thinking, reading, listening to!" as well as a line at the bottom of the page asking that the completed survey be returned to the librarian so that participants could collect their thank-you gifts, which brings me to perhaps the most important point:
3. **Give something away.** It doesn't have to be anything fancy. We had a massive box of donated hemp necklaces sitting around the basement which have proven to be a big hit with our teens. Not only does this step ensure that the survey will be handed back to a librarian (usually promptly) it also proved to be a great incentive. One teen would see a friend picking out his/ her thank-you necklace and want to get one, too. Hand over the survey, and soon you have a cluster of teens filling out the survey in a matter of minutes. We even made it a key point on the publicity we hung up around the youth room: take a survey to get a prize!
4. **Distribution Matters!** Our signs (decorated with in-house manga character Level 6 Librarian) were posted in places around the young adult collection and stated that by filling out a survey (which could be obtained from the youth services librarians on duty) you could earn a prize, and the eternal gratitude of Level 6 Librarian. By having the teens come to us for the survey instead of leaving a stack out, we were able to monitor that only one was being filled out per person—in the past we have experienced some skewed results from many voting entries in suspiciously similar handwriting. I also found that accosting individuals waiting to use the computers or regulars who frequent the library, with a survey in hand, was a great way to get the desired snowball effect mentioned above. There is also something sweet and compelling about being handed a survey and asked personally to fill it out—it is a little gesture that really expresses "Your voice matters to us!"

How to use the results? Because of the open-ended nature of many questions it is harder to quantify statistics from this survey in terms of percentages. However, it is possible to surmise generalities. We are gaining an understanding of how important it is for our teen patrons to be in walking distance of the library, we have generally met with enthusiasm for the idea of forming a teen advisory board, and we have been able to examine the popularity among our users of MySpace vs. Facebook as preferred social networking site. In a few weeks we will end the survey and move on to hosting our first teen advisory board meeting. In the meantime, the survey itself has met with such good response that we have considered having it as an ongoing monthly event just for fun!



## Join the Friends of WMRLS Online

You can now join or renew your Friends of WMRLS membership online by going to <http://friends.wmrls.org>. The Friends website is equipped to process membership payments with your credit card or Pay Pal account. If you prefer you can still print out your membership and mail it in with a check. Besides membership options, you will also find minutes of past meetings and contact information for the board on the website. Your support of WMRLS is now only a click away.

## WMRLS MEMBER LIBRARY SHOWCASE

***Reading ... Writing and History?*** ~ The David & Joyce Milne Public Library in Williamstown will host a unique series of programs called "What is Written is Written...from Stone to Stage" that features one lecture and theatrical experience a month for six months. Beginning in September the series will explore the miracle, history and achievement of reading and writing. How did the human species learn to read and write? This imaginative sequence will include six illustrated lectures covering the historic inventions and mysteries of the written word, partnered with an appropriate theatrical presentation. The lectures will include ancient writing, preservation, the destruction and banning of written works, art inspired by books, and sacred texts. The multimedia theatrical events include The Epic of Gilgamesh, Silencing Galileo, The Fall of the Aztec Empire, and The Apocalypse read in a cemetery chapel. Robert Campanile will be the lecturer and performer for this exciting series. The creator of this lecture series is Robert Campanile, educator, historian and curator from the American Museum of Natural History, NYC. All of the dates, programs and locations are available on the library's website at [www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org). These programs are courtesy of the generous funding provided by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Fund for Williamstown. ~ Pat McLeod, Director, David & Joyce Milne Library, Williamstown

***Southwick Public Library Celebrates Family Literacy Month*** ~ November was Family Literacy Month, a time to focus on reading together as a family. In celebration of that occasion, the display shelf at the Circulation Desk highlighted materials from our special collections to encourage and enhance family reading time. Patrons could learn how to get their child to love reading and how to choose books for their kids with titles from our Parenting and Home Education collections. They were reminded that they could listen to one of our CD books on their way to dance, karate, soccer, or to rekindle or kick start their own joy of reading with a quick read from the Read with Confidence Collection. Southwick Public Library provides many ways to enjoy reading together and what a joy it is to see our children begin to read and eventually choose their own good quality literature. In addition to our display, Southwick Public Library's Diane Caruso visited the Southwick Head Start to present an interactive storytime to introduce students and parents to the library. She also showed items in different formats such as puppets, CD books, and board books. Parents were encouraged to get a Southwick Public Library card. [At the Southwick Public Library, children can get their own library card when they are five years old and accompanied by a parent who has a library card.] Family Literacy Month was a successful celebration in Southwick. ~ Margo Storozuk, Children's Librarian, Southwick Public Library

***Forbes Library's Spanish Language Website*** ~ Forbes Library has added a Spanish Language section to its website, <http://www.forbeslibrary.org/espanol/bienvenido.shtml>. The site is linked from the library's homepage and includes general information, Spanish book lists, suggested internet sites and information about getting a library card. Many of the translations were done as part of the library's customer service grant and the site was developed by staff member Faith Kaufmann. The library is working with staff and volunteers to add more content and a focus group is being planned for December to unveil the site to community members and to seek input about next steps. ~ Lisa Downing, Assistant Director, Forbes Library, Northampton

## WMRLS MEMBER LIBRARY SHOWCASE

***Milne Library's Environmental Education Program Series*** ~ The Milne Library is wrapping up a six-week series of environmental education classes for children eight to twelve years old. Two Williams College students created a curriculum that includes recycling games, short video clips from the Web, books, and chat sessions to help children make positive and empowered choices about their lives. Subjects included thoughtful consumption of resources, recycling electronics and potentially hazardous materials, energy conservation at home and at school and letter writing strategies. Each child received a copy of the children's version of "An Inconvenient Truth" by Al Gore (a gift from the Alice Shaver Foundation ---a grant that gives high quality books to children to build their own home libraries). The program was so successful it is now being used by the elementary school's sixth grade! ~ *Mindy Hackner, Children's Librarian, Milne Public Library, Williamstown*

***North Adam's Take Charge Energy Kits*** ~ The North Adams Public Library now has in circulation four Take Charge Energy Kits that can help people find ways to save money on energy bills. These kits were created in conjunction with Take Charge: The North Adams Campaign to save Energy, a partner of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. Each kit, which comes in a tidy canvas bag donated by State Representative Daniel Bosley, includes a Kill-A-Watt Meter, extension cord, tire pressure gauge, hot water gauge and instruction cards.

The canvas bags, which are the size of reusable grocery bags, have been imbued with iron-on transfers of the Take Charge logo on one side and pockets on the other side labeled for each item: Instruction Cards, Tire Pressure Gauge, and Hot Water Gauge. Into the bag goes the Kill-A-Watt Meter and the Extension Cord.

Here is some pertinent information if your library is inspired to create its own kits. Not counting the labor of doing the iron-on transfers, sewing the pockets, creating and laminating the instruction cards, or the bags themselves (which were donated) each kit cost about \$36.00 to put together: \$20 for the Kill-A-Watt meter, \$7 for the extension cord, \$5 for the tire pressure gauge and \$4 for the hot water gauge. You may be able to get some of these items donated through your local hardware stores. Our North Adams Aubuchon Hardware donated the extension cords and the tire pressure gauges. The other items were purchased with a grant given to the North Adams Campaign to Save Energy. This group also generated and laminated the instruction cards. The labeled pockets were designed to help prevent the loss of small items and make it extra clear to borrowers just what needed to be returned with each kit.

Since their introduction six weeks ago the four kits have circulated a total of 21 times. ~ *Marion Grillon, Children's Librarian, North Adams Public Library*

***Successful Programs at the Dickinson Memorial Library*** ~ We'd like to pass along information about two very successful summer reading program events. Michele Olanyk, of Mo's Fudge Factory in Shelburne Falls, gave a wonderful presentation on the history of chocolate followed by a palate-pleasing chocolate tasting. Ariana and Laura Shelton, of Hooping Harmony in Greenfield, shared the benefits of hula-hooping. After an inspiring demonstration, our patrons gave it a try. People were having so much fun, they were still hooping as it began to rain! ~ *Angela Rovatti-Leonard, Librarian Assistant, Programs, Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield*

***The East Longmeadow Public Library Receives Stavros Access Award for 2008*** ~ Every year the Stavros Center for Independent Living in Amherst sends their clients Access Award nomination forms. They in turn visit local organizations and businesses that they feel have improved access for people with disabilities. The East Longmeadow library received a Paul Winske Award, given to businesses, organizations or individuals who have taken new or innovative steps to improve access to members of the community. Among other things, the library, which was newly renovated in 2004, was recognized for having power-assisted entrance doors, elevator access to the second floor, and an extensive large print collection. The late Paul Winske was an advocate at Stavros who worked hard to make communities in the Pioneer Valley more accessible. He founded the first "handicapped parking" patrol in western Massachusetts and was the driving force in establishing annual awards for businesses that made themselves more accessible. ~ *Susan M. Peterson, Library Director, East Longmeadow Public Library*

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## **WMRLS MEMBER LIBRARY SHOWCASE**

***Owen Listens to Youth Read at the Richmond Free Public Library*** ~ A.J. Cole, the former director of the West Stockbridge Library, and Owen, her Newfoundland rescue dog, are starting their fourth year volunteering at the Richmond Library. Owen and A.J. are a Delta Society therapy team, and they faithfully visit the Richmond Library every second and fourth Tuesday night, September through May. Owen listens attentively to young readers and enables children to confidently read out loud. A.J. says, "The purpose of this reading program is to encourage children to love reading." ~ *Kristin Smith, Director, Richmond Public Library*

***Medspeak Project Update*** ~ James Craig was cited in the **News for the Friends of the UMass Amherst Libraries**, Issue 36, Fall/Winter 2008 for his work with the Medspeak project of the Medical Library Association. His work with Plainspeak was designed to help readers understand medical terminology near the 5th grade reading level. He completed four book reviews in E-STREAMS—<http://www.e-streams.com/> — published in the Sept. 2008 issue. ~ *James L. Craig, Biological Sciences Librarian, Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library, UMass Amherst Libraries*

***Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday! To the Griswold Memorial Library*** ~ The Griswold Memorial Library of Colrain celebrates 100 years with four months of events. At the Colrain Village Fair in September, visitors enjoyed birthday cake and the library was presented a plaque designed by Tony Schoedel and inscribed with the library's facade and words from Joseph Griswold's dedication speech. For October a community bonfire and music by Lui Collins warmed an autumn evening. November is history month with displays and articles from 1908. Plans are being made for an evening of period music, readings, and snacks for our final celebratory event on December 5. ~ *Betty Johnson, Director, Griswold Memorial Library, Colrain*

***Save the Date: UMass Amherst Libraries Dinner with Friends on April 4, 2009*** ~ The Friends of the UMass Amherst Library hosts the seventh annual Dinner with Friends on April 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Du Bois Library. The event features talks by three notable speakers — author and illustrator Tony DiTerlizzi, novelist and short story writer Valerie Martin MFA '74, and poet and NPR commentator Lloyd Schwartz, a champagne and hors d'oeuvre reception, and a gourmet dinner. Tickets are \$125 per person or \$225 for two (of which \$90 is tax-deductible, \$155 for two). The evening is a key fundraising event for the UMass Amherst Library, the largest public research library in the region. All proceeds will benefit the Library Facilities Fund for renovations in the Du Bois Library, which will include the expansion of the Learning Commons and the creation of a Teaching Commons. ~ *Leslie Schaler, Communication Assistant, UMass Amherst Libraries*

***Forbes Library Welcome Kiosk*** ~ Thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and The Friends of Forbes, we now have a welcome kiosk in the front lobby. It consists of an easy-to-read back lit map of the library's interior and collections, a table which holds brochures, maps, and fliers and a large monitor above the kiosk which runs a continuous display of various library programs, treasures, information, and services. The kiosk is a lovely piece of furniture and the video content is fascinating entertainment as well as surprisingly informative. ~ *Janet Moulding, Director, Forbes Library, Northampton*

***November Storytimes Celebrate Picturing America at Southwick Public Library*** ~ Southwick Public Library has been awarded a Picturing America Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Children ages 3-5 enjoyed Storytime at Southwick Public Library in November as they learned a little about American history with stories, songs, fingerplays and the fine art provided by the Picturing America grant. The artwork, which is now part of the library's permanent collection, is currently on display in the Community Room. Kids learned about voting, George Washington, Paul Revere's ride through Boston, as well as Native American stories. Additional programs centered on this wonderful artwork are planned for 2009, including a Teen program and another preschool Storytime in the spring. ~ *Margo Storozuk, Children's Librarian, Southwick Public Library*

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## WMRLS MEMBER LIBRARY SHOWCASE

***Palmer's Platinum Patron Recognition Program- Reading Rewards*** ~ In order to reward some of our biggest Palmer readers, we have identified 45 library users who have borrowed more than 1000 library items in recent years. Platinum qualifications include Palmer residents with low fines and no billed items, as well as a recent check-out at the Library. Each of our Platinum Patrons received a complimentary Palmer Public Library Tote Bag and a certificate. Their names were announced in July when they were also invited to fill the librarian's display shelves with their recommendations. Each displayed item highlighted the recommenders name. We are purchasing new books in their honor. Marked with a commemorative bookplate, the honoree gets the first opportunity to borrow that book. Additionally, we had three Preview Parties. Once a cartful of new materials was processed and ready to go to the shelves, the group received an exclusive invite to choose from these newest items. These favorite patrons were so surprised to be acknowledged for library use and are perpetually grateful. Many have hung or framed their certificates, saved the newspaper announcement, and filled our workplace with compliments and appreciation. One platinum patron came in immediately after the first preview party and asked "What can I do for this Library?". He has since given many hours of his time teaching a beginner piano program. We have a waiting list for the program and will offer it next time as a fundraiser. I can't say enough about the success of this program and the joy and goodwill that it has brought us! Totebag cost- \$5, Certificate- pennies, Preview Party - free, Acknowledging your biggest fans- PRICELESS! I loooooove to talk about our Platinum Patrons; feel free to contact me for more details. ~ *Helene O'Connor, Information Systems Librarian, Palmer Public Library [email: hoconnor@palmer.lib.ma.us]*

***Berkshire Athenaeum's Renovations to the Local History and Reference Departments*** ~ Early this year, two library departments moved into temporary quarters, Local History on the balcony level and Reference into the main reading room. After almost five months of upheaval and service disruptions, both departments returned to their renovated spaces. The results are quite remarkable. Over the years, particularly as new technological advances have been incorporated into library service, the areas designed for the Athenaeum in 1975 were no longer adequate for the demands in 2008. With that in mind, the project:

- Reallocated space in the Reference and Local History Departments;
- Installed compact, movable shelving in the Local History Department public service area, vault, and basement storage room, to take maximum advantage of limited space;
- Constructed work stations for the latest technologies;
- Installed new service desks in both departments;
- Installed electronic security measures (including video surveillance, book theft security gates at the Local History Department entrance, and door alarms) to protect special collections;
- Provided enhancements to the HVAC system to assure necessary climate control for special collections in the 380 square foot vault;
- Increased the number of public Internet workstations in the Reference Department;
- Purchased digital microformat readers with Internet access;
- Created a laptop computer lab in the Berkshire Authors Room.

All this, and look great, too! The renovations were made possible by a combination of financial support from a capital appropriation of the City of Pittsfield, a donation from the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum, funds made available by the Trustees of the Berkshire Athenaeum, as well as a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative arrangement between MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. ~ *Ronald B. Latham, Director, Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield*

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## WMRLS MEMBER LIBRARY SHOWCASE

***A New Outlook at the Wilbraham Public Library*** ~ The Wilbraham Public Library is showing signs of change. Thanks to town Capital Projects funding, contractors have been busy with renovations and improvements to the library building and grounds. These include fitting the building with several new energy efficient windows, installing an automatic door opener for handicap access, parking lot repairs, and landscaping the parking lot islands.

The Library Board of Trustees is also fundraising to make service improvements to the building. The Board formed LIFT, Inc. (Library Improvements for Tomorrow), a private non-profit organization last year to raise money for capital projects. Their first priority has been to raise funds to create a teen space on the mezzanine. LIFT money will be combined with federal and state grants and local money to make renovations possible.

The teen space will include new lighting, carpeting, furniture, computer equipment and acoustical treatments. The space will serve Wilbraham's 1,800 middle school and high school age teens. ~ *Christine Bergquist, Director, Wilbraham Public Library*

***Worthington Library receives ALA/Fetzer Institute Award*** ~ The Worthington Library is one of 50 libraries to be chosen for the ALA/Fetzer Institute "Let's Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness" grant. The grant awards the library \$2500 to cover project director training in Denver, honorarium for the local scholar who will run the book discussion series and any other expenses. Worthington chose the topic: "Love and Forgiveness in the Light of Death" which follows nicely our well-received series last year on spiritual practices in our community. We are partnered in the grant by The Worthington Health Center, the Council on Aging and the Congregational Church. Our local scholar is Walter Wright, Academic Dean of Clark University and a PhD in Philosophy. We are very happy to have received this grant. ~ *Leona Arthen, Director, Worthington Library*

***"With the Help of the GCC Library, I Got an A on My Paper!"*** ~ Staff of the Greenfield Community College Library recently produced a YouTube Video to show students and faculty the many services and programs that the library provides. Reporter Mary McClintock showcased this production in the September 24 issue of the **Greenfield Recorder**. Quotes McClintock, "Think libraries are dark rooms with stern librarians guarding dusty books, where research is done by mad scientists, and Google's the place to find information? Check out the GCC Library's new video "commercial" on YouTube (available on the Library website at <http://www.gcc.mass.edu/library>). Starring a GCC student stressed by a class assignment and librarians "on a mission," the video will make you laugh out loud. Far from the stuffy stereotypes, GCC's librarians are friendly guides to the vast amount of information available through the GCC Library, including books available from libraries all over western Massachusetts, over 60 databases of newspaper, magazine and academic journal articles, and more." ~ *Hope Schneider, Library Assistant, Greenfield Community College Library*

***October Hero—Ed Popielarczyk*** ~ Every year, in celebration of National Magic Week, magician Ed Popielarczyk generously donates magic kits to western Massachusetts public librarians as a way of thanking libraries for "giving him his start". Ed credits the rich collection on magic and showmanship of his boyhood library, the Emily Wiliston Memorial Library in Easthampton, as the foundation for his learning about his craft. Western Massachusetts librarians, in turn, feature Ed's magic kits as a special raffle prize to award to a young, aspiring magician. Public libraries in the following communities are this year's recipients of Ed's kind gesture of "paying it forward" : Adams Free Library ; Bushnell-Sage Library, Sheffield; Cheshire Public Library; Chicopee Public Library; Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown ; Clarksburg Library; East Longmeadow Public Library; Forbes Library, Northampton; Gilbertville Public Library; Goodwin Memorial Library, Hadley; Granby Public Library; Granville Library; Lanesborough Public Library; Lenox Library Association; Lilly Library, Florence; MN Spear Memorial Library, Shutesbury; New Salem Public Library; Otis Public Library; Southwick Public Library; Storrs Library, Longmeadow; Sunderland Public Library; West Springfield Public Library; Westfield Athenaeum; and Worthington Library. ~ *Janet Eckert, WMRLS*

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

**WRapper** is published six times yearly. The deadline for the next issue of **WRapper** is January 9, 2009. 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/wrapperjanuary2009>

**WRapper Staff:** Wes Hamilton, Dan Jarvis, Shirley Keech, Mary King, Shirley MacLean, Becky Marconi, John Ramsay, Jan Resnick, Sheila Savoie, and Janet Eckert (Editor).

# WMRLS Continuing Education Calendar

## January 2009

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

### **Online Continuing Education: At Your Convenience**

*Register by Monday January 5, 2009*

One of the many benefits of WMRLS membership is free admission to WebJunction's online library continuing education workshops. The WebJunction course catalog — <http://www.webjunction.org/catalog> — covers a wide range of topics and is continually updated. Consult the WebJunction Online Course Catalog and complete our WMRLS Online CE Registration Form to receive a WMRLS coupon code that will enable you to take the course for free. You will have access to the course that you select for one full year.

### **Reaching Teenagers: Online Course**

*Register by Monday January 5, 2009*

This 2 hour online course instructs on the basics of understanding teenagers, their culture and attitudes as they affect interaction with the library e.g., understanding what's popular with teenagers and why? You will have access to this course for one full year.

### **Reference Roundtable**

*Wednesday January 14, 2009 ~ 10 to noon*

What are the essentials of a reference collection in tight budget times? Is print reference dead? Join us to discuss these and other questions of interest to Reference Librarians, and bring your own issues to add to the agenda. Location: Greenfield Community College Library

### **Enhancing Children's Programs with Crafts**

*Thursday January 15, 2009 ~ 10 to noon*

North Adams Public Library's Youth Services Librarian, Marion Grillon, will showcase a selection of her unique collection of theme related story program kits. Each kit includes a cover sheet listing the theme, recommended book titles, a sample craft with instructions, and relevant craft supplies. There will be ample time for group discussion. SNOW DATE IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 22. Location: North Adams Public Library

### **Pain in the Brain: Teen Library Behavior**

*Thursday January 29, 2009 ~ 10 to 1*

Distinguish between library behaviors that are merely disruptive/annoying vs. harmful/dangerous. Learn how to apply tips for nipping negative behavior in the bud. Teens love to challenge authority and are notoriously moody. Teen brain growth development rivals that of the toddler years -- maybe that explains the attitude and characteristics of this historically underserved age group. Discover the underlying biological and physical changes that may impact why teens act the way they do, and learn how librarians can address patron behavior issues in a way that will develop relationships with young adults. Beth Gallaway, Information Goddess Consulting, is the workshop leader. Location: WMRLS Conference Room

### **Technology Programming for Teens**

*Thursday January 29, 2009 ~ 1:30 to 4:30*

Discover model programs in technology for teens. Test new technologies and evaluate for usability. Plan a Teen Tech Week program. Play a video game designed by a team of teens during a library camp program. Chat with an author on AOL IM. Participate in a book review blog. Discuss the benefits and barriers to delivering tech programs for teens. Best of all, learn how to justify and then replicate these inexpensive and easy tech programs for teens in your library. Library trainer/consultant, Beth Gallaway, will lead this workshop. Location: WMRLS Conference Room