



MFOL NEWS

MASSACHUSETTS FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Spring 2016 Volume 26, No. 1

Friends Sharing with Friends *back by popular demand*

What - you are asking - is Friends Sharing with Friends?

One of the things that we have discovered when we talk to members of Friends groups is that we have lots in common. Whether you are in a big city library with branch libraries or a small rural library, we share concerns. How do we recruit new members? How can we make sure communities are aware of the many services we offer? What can we do to raise enough money to continue to offer those services?

These questions - and many others - lead the discussions we have at the Friends Sharing with Friends workshops. Held in libraries around the state, they are an opportunity to meet members of other friends groups and hear what has been successful for them—and what has not. It's a chance to ask other groups about how they have resolved problems you may have. The workshops are free - but you do need to register - and in addition to presentations on some of these subjects they offer an opportunity for everyone who comes to brag about their successes and discuss their issues. It's also reassuring that you aren't the only ones out there who never seem to have quite enough help.

See the flyer with details of our next Friends Sharing with Friends workshop on page 2 and plan to join us.

Legislative Initiatives & Updates

Every year the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners works with library organizations and librarians across the state to develop a legislative agenda for the year. That agenda is used to inform state legislators about funding priorities that impact library services for all residents.

You can see the 2017 Legislative Agenda at <http://mblclegislativeagenda.com> and once you have seen it you can talk to your legislators and encourage other members of your friends groups to contact them to help make that agenda a reality.

One of the priorities in 2017 is the State Aid to Public Libraries Program. This is a program that impacts every library patron in the state. Take a few minutes to look at what is recommended and then pick up your phone. You can find contact information for your legislators at

<https://malegislature.gov/People/Search>

Friends Sharing With Friends

Saturday, May 21st
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Bellingham
Public Library**

100 Blackstone St,
Bellingham MA 02019

Friends, trustees and library staff are all invited to attend. Admission is free but **registration is required** by Friday, May 20th.

The Massachusetts Friends of Libraries and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners invite you to a ***Friends Sharing With Friends*** event in Bellingham!

On the agenda:

Panel discussion on “Successful Friends Groups” featuring:

- John Tavares, Friends of the Acushnet Public Library
- Ron Ziemba, Friends of the Newburyport Public Library
- Diane Dopp, Friends of the Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy
- Erin Williams Hart, Trustee/Friends Information Specialist, MBLC

Open sharing session for you to share your Friends groups’ successes!



Massachusetts
Libraries

BOARD OF LIBRARY
COMMISSIONERS

TO REGISTER, please contact Sharon Zitser (MBLC) at 1-800-952-7403 x252 or sharon.zitser@state.ma.us, and provide following the information:

- Name of Friends group or Library
- # attending
- Name(s) & title(s) (e.g. Friend, Trustee, etc.) of attendee(s)
- Contact phone #
- Contact email

For more info, please visit: <http://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/fswf>

2016 Donna Forand Fantastic Friends Award

Is your Friends of the Library group a current MFOL member?

Did they do something new and fantastically creative in the last 12 months?

Massachusetts Friends of Libraries (MFOL) is accepting nominations for the 2016 Donna Forand Fantastic Friends Award. The winning group received \$300, a commemorative plaque, and \$200 for their library. The recipients will be honored at MFOL Friends Sharing with Friends on October 22, 2016.

We can only award to current MFOL members. If you are unsure of membership status, please e-mail Keith Schwegel, MFOL Treasurer, kgmichael@comcast.net and he will confirm your status.

Nominations are accepted from the Friends, Library Director, or Board of Trustees.

This award is for a new creative activity - not a traditional friends activity (e.g. annual book sale). The activity should have taken place between June 2015 and May 2016. **The nomination period opens on June 1, 2016 and completed nominations are due by August 22, 2016.** They must include the following under **Background Information** and **Factors for Award**.

A. Background information:

- Sponsoring group
- Contact Person
- Address, phone and e-mail

B. Factors for Award:

- Impact of the Friends activity on the Library's ability to better serve the community
- Degrees of Creativity involved in the activity.
- Cost effectiveness of the activity.
- Extent the community was involved in the activity

Completed Nominations must reach MFOL by August 22, 2016. They can be mailed or e-mailed to:

Alice Welch, President MFOL
700 Brooks Pond Rd, Apt 303
Leominster, MA 01453
E-mail: alicewelch@verizon.net

Friends of the Goodnow Library in Sudbury had donated a drive by book drop to allow their patrons to return books from the comfort of their vehicles.



The Friends of the Framingham Library - and all the library patrons are celebrating the opening of the Christa McAuliffe Branch Library.

The Friends of the Bedford Free Public Library sponsored their 6th annual Peeps[®] Mania Diorama Contest this spring. Wouldn't you love to see the winners?

Friends of the Thayer Public Library in Braintree sponsor a concert series on Sunday afternoons. Spring offerings included Pianist/Composer Deborah Wyndham and the Mark Greel Band.

We hope that you'll be able to join us at the Friends Sharing with Friends meeting on May 21 but if you can't make it and would like to share your ideas with the Library Friends community, please send them to dotmac@verizon.net and we'll include them on our Facebook page and/or in our next newsletter.

New Christa McAuliffe Branch Library



What does your Friends group do? Almost all Friends groups fund raise for their library, often supporting museum passes, materials that could not otherwise be afforded or programs that are outside the library budget. Children's programs are especially popular items. Some Friends groups actually get involved in creating and conducting programs, ranging from author visits or musical programs to educational lectures or classes. Some Friends groups represent the library at community functions like Town fairs. **Does your Friends group offer an especially unusual service to benefit your library?**

Friends of the Maynard Public Library held their 5th annual book festival in early April. It featured children's author Sara Pennypacker and a trio of horror and fantasy authors, Christopher Golden, James A. Moore and Craig Shaw Gardner. It also included Doug Most and Joe McKendry with their books on the Boston subway and a presentation by Anita Diamant talking about her most recent book, *The Boston Girl*. Festival workshops were a bookmaking opportunity with local artist Gail Irwin and a creative writing class led by Lynette Benton.



Standing room only crowd for Anita Diamant in Maynard

Why not join the board of the Massachusetts Friends of Libraries? You've already proven your belief in the importance of libraries by being active in your local Friends group. The board of MFOL needs new members.

It's not a big time commitment – the board meets only five times a year, usually on Saturday mornings and usually at the Westborough Public Library. Meetings last about two hours. The major responsibilities of board members are to plan the Friends Sharing with Friends events each spring and fall, to act as judges for the Donna Forand Fantastic Friends of the Year award and to provide support to local Friends groups..

Serving on the board is a way to meet others who share your love of libraries and your desire to keep libraries in the Commonwealth strong and able to continue serving their communities.

Call or email **Alice Welch** at 978-534-2934 or alicewelch@verizon.net if you're interested or for further information.

How do you publicize Friends events?

One of the most frustrating things you hear after you have worked hard on an event is someone who says -“ I had no idea - I would have loved to come.”

So what do you do?

Do you use fliers and articles in the local papers and on your cable stations? Do you have special areas in the library where you post event information?

Do you use social media? Which ones? Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram - others?

If you use social media, how frequently do you post?

Do you have a newsletter? Is it sent via regular mail or e-mail? Do you have a calendar of events?

Do you use paid ads? in your newspapers? on-line?

Do you have a website? Does it include current event information?

Have you found a solution to this problem that you'd like to share with us?

The Friends of the Leominster Library sponsor a Boundaries Support Group for any women who feel the need to strengthen or build strong boundaries. Aimed at people who struggle to say no to things they should/want to, but don't due to feeling guilty or afraid or having experienced some kind of abuse during their life.

The Friends of the Nevins Memorial Library are holding a Sunday indoor miniature golf tournament this spring - 18 holes located on their main and lower floor of the library with the proceeds to benefit Phase II of their Garden Project.



And continuing in the game mode, the **Friends of the Eldridge Library in Chatham** are holding an Adult Jeopardy, Library Style. Teams need to pay an entry fee and there are prizes and the thrill of victory to the Champion Team.

The Friends of the Needham Library brought owls to the library with naturalist Marcia Wilson and photographer Mark Wilson to introduce their patrons to the owls of New England and beyond.

The **Friends of the Free Library of Northampton Township** support Technology Tuesdays when patrons can come to the library to have their gadget questions answered by a librarian. Each week they focus on a different gadget or program.

The **Friends of the Lawrence Library** in Pepperell are celebrating 50 Years of Friendship with celebrations ranging from a December tree lighting to an April Wine Tasting, a literary Feast in the Art Gallery and a cupcake festival.

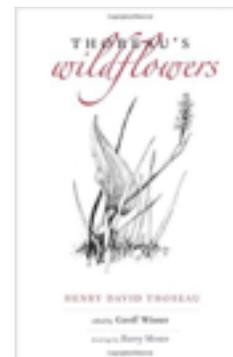
The Friends of the Marlborough Public Library are an active group that supports a variety of programs to benefit their community including an annual juried art exhibition, The Yacyshyn concert series, the McConnell Author/Celebrity series, the Friends annual photography Show in conjunction with the Assabet Valley Camera Club and the Paternoster Annual Concert.

The Friends of the Shrewsbury Library offer a variety of Library gifts that can be purchased at the library front desk including Book bags, brass tree ornaments, leather bookmarks and library note cards.

The Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library post a thank you to their corporate sponsors on their webpage.

The webpage for the **Friends of the Walpole Public Library** contains an up-to-date list of events ranging from folk music concerts to a presentation on Following the Wild Bees and Fashion at Downton Abbey with a link for details.

Friends of the Concord Library offer the Friends Author Series that debuted in March this year with a presentation by Geoff Wisner on his book Thoreau's Wildflowers.



ACTIVITIES GAINING IN POPULARITY

The **Beacon Free Library in Natick** is one of several libraries offering two popular events. The first is adult coloring evenings or afternoons where the library provides the coloring sheets and colored pencils (and maybe cookies) and they have been drawing great crowds.

Another event that is gaining in popularity is the Cookbook Club. The way these usually work is that a cookbook is selected and available through the library. Patrons register to attend and select a recipe from the book that they will prepare for a pot luck lunch or supper. Non-profit organizations are permitted to serve food that is not prepared in an approved kitchen but you must post a notice indicating that is the case. In addition to the Beacon Library, the **Wayland Library** and the **Concord Library** offer these clubs and the **Maynard Library Friends** are planning summer sessions in conjunction with their farmers' market.

What is your most important resource?

Comments at Friends Sharing with Friends tell us that it is your volunteers. So how do you recruit volunteers ...and once you have them...how do you keep them involved and committed to the group? Here are some ideas that have been shared in the past

Recruiting

Have Friends recruiting materials at all your events.

Participate in town events with a booth or table.

Have "Ask me about the Friends" buttons for your volunteers to wear.

Do joint events with other organizations in town and make sure you get contact info for their members.

Put articles in the local paper celebrating things your Friends members have done.

Have a button on your webpage (you do have one don't you?) that allows people to click to volunteer.

Retaining Members

Give them meaningful tasks and make sure their contributions are acknowledged.

Make sure that any new (possible) members are made to feel welcome - maybe have a membership chair who is responsible for this.

Have a member appreciation event every year.

Offer special benefits for members - preview night at book sales, events for Friends only, special seating at an event, discount at a fund raiser.

Do you have other things that have worked for you that you could share?

Remember to like us on Facebook and check receive notifications if you want to be sure you don't miss any of the postings. You can also post your activities on our page. Look for us as **Massachusetts Friends of Libraries**

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FIRST CLASS

← Your expiration date

Address Correction Requested

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