



MFOL NEWS

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President's Message



Bonnie Burnham
President, MFOL

I just planted tomatoes and peppers in my garden so spring is in full swing and summer is upon us. Library activities abound with Book Sales, Parades, Poetry and Author Readings, Garden Talks and Tours. Soon libraries will start Summer Reading Programs for children and some for adults. My library, Lilly Library, will be in it's last stages of renovations, while others will be starting the process.

We on the MFOL board are busy with our own libraries and also trying to network with friends across the state. We want to encourage Friends Roundtables. These are informal get-togethers that allow area friends to share ideas with each other through newsletters, program flyers, and fundraising ideas and create an invaluable networking connection. If you are interested in hosting a Roundtable, or curious about them please contact Shirley Toomey or me. We will supply you with MFOL guidelines and information.

The Joint Conference Committee has finalized plans for our MFOL/MLTA Conference, which will be held this year on Saturday, Nov. 4th. We are excited about the workshop choices. Our next newsletter will have conference information, registration, and the MFOL membership form. And don't forget to enter our "Great Ideas" contest. Your friends group can win some money, get some great P.R., present to a captive audience, and best of all share your creative ideas with other Friends.

Have a great summer,
Bonnie Burnham



Meet the Board of the MFOL!

BOD Members for MFOL: Left front- Barbara Robbins, Secretary & Newsletter - Bonnie Burnham, President - Joseph Melisi, Treasurer - Back Row: Nancy Bland, Membership & Newsletter—Robin Glenn - Maureen Killoran, BLC - Brian Donoghue, BLC Friends Liason - Shirley Toomey, Roundtable Chair - & Dick Luxner, Newsletter Photographer
Photo Credit: Dick Luxner 06

Friends To Do List!

- *Fill out Membership Form
- *Sign up for Project Alert
- *Sponsor a Round Table
- *Participate in the Great Ideas Contest
- *Attend the MFOL/MLTA Joint Conference Nov. 4th
- *Enjoy helping Your Library!
- *Visit the masslib.org website
- *Contact us with News!

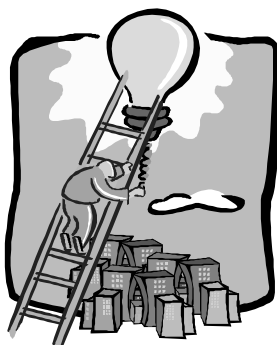
www.masslib.org/mfol

Submit your Great Ideas to MFOL

This year join many other award winning friends groups and enter the MFOL's GREAT IDEAS CONTEST (see form insert). Cash awards are given to 1st place winners. Certificates and press releases are given to all 1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mentions. Winning applicants are presented at the Massachusetts Friends of Libraries Annual Meeting. Selected entries are published in this newsletter and at MFOL sponsored events.

Past Winning Programs

- ◆ Luminarium Story Hour
- ◆ We Love Our Patrons Day
- ◆ Readings—A Hit Every Time
- ◆ Some En-Chocolate Evening



Judges are looking for originality of ideas, success of reaching targeted audiences,, success in meeting or exceeding goals, involvement of Friends group members, community outreach and quality and extent of publicity.

Save the Date! Mark your Calendar!

MLTA/MFOL JOINT CONFERENCE PLANS ARE FINALIZED

The Joint Conference Committee has developed the plans for our annual conference, to be held on Saturday, November 4th, 2006, at the Radisson in Marlborough.

Our conference theme is :

HOW WE DID IT...AND HOW YOU CAN DO IT, TOO

We're excited about the workshops we've lined up utilizing this theme. Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director of the Center for the Book, has agreed to be a speaker for one workshop. She'll discuss how the Center for the Book can help libraries and also about the new literary map.

Another workshop will be presented by Shelley Quezada, MBLC's program administrator for the One Town, One Book Program. She'll show us how the program works, how to set it up, and how to get maximum benefit from the cooperation of town and library for the community.

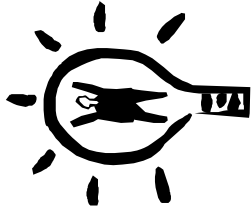
We're also going to be presenting workshops on Improving Customer Service at Your Library, Building a New/Renovated Library, and How your library will benefit from doing a community survey.

Our luncheon speaker will be Wendy Pape, director of the Princeton Public Library, illustrator of the newly published children's book, Tea and Cookie. So, save the date for a lot of good How-To information for Friends, Trustees and Directors alike.

LOOK FOR MORE INFO IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!



MFOL "GREAT IDEAS" CONTEST



**SUBMIT YOUR "GREAT IDEAS" TO
MASSACHUSETTS FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES FOR 2006
WIN A CASH AWARD FOR YOUR FRIENDS GROUP!**

PURPOSE: To recognize Friends of Library groups which are current members of MFOL for their successes in the following categories:

- 1. CULTURAL PROGRAM**
- 2. FUND RAISING**
- 3. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**
- 4. SERVICE TO LIBRARY**

Your "Great Idea" will also be made available to all other MFOL members!

PROCESS: You are invited to describe your "Great Idea" for other Friends of Libraries members by summarizing it on one or two pages and submitting it along with any other supporting information and a cover sheet to MFOL.

- Use the reverse side of this page, with the suggested format as the cover sheet.
- Explain clearly and concisely what your goals were and how you achieved or exceeded them. Tell why you think you were successful.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

- 1. Originality of Ideas
- 2. Success in reaching stated goals
- 3. Extent of community outreach
- 4. Amount of direct involvement by members
- 5. Quality, extent, effectiveness of publicity

JUDGES will be selected for qualified officers of library associated organizations, including library directors and MFOL board members.

AWARDS will be presented at the MFOL/MLTA ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE in Marlborough on Nov. 4, 2006.

Winners must be present at Conference. \$25 For 1st Place.

DISSEMINATION: All winning entries will be copied and sent to MFOL members to be added to your Great Ideas Booklet. Selected entries may be published in the MFOL newsletter and/or presented at MFOL sponsored events.

ALL ORIGINAL MATERIALS WILL BE RETURNED.

COVER SHEET: MFOL GREAT IDEAS CONTEST 2006
1.. Cultural 2. Fund Raising 3. Membership Drive 4. Service to Library

Name of Group _____

Town _____ No. of Members _____

Address _____

Submitted by _____ Office _____

Your Address _____

_____ Phone _____

YOUR "GREAT IDEA"

Title _____ Category 1, 2, 3, or 4 _____

Time period covered: (Single event, Year—long, other) _____

Purpose of the Activity: Summarize in a sentence or two: _____

(For 1: Describe type of Cultural Event, its particular purpose, the audience, any singular or outstanding facts about the event.)

(For 2: Describe how funds will be used.)

(For 3: Is this Membership activity ongoing? Special purpose? Experimental? Focused on renewals? New Members?)

(For 4: How is this Service of the Friends distinguished from regular volunteers' services to the Library? Is it a one time effort? What has it contributed to the libraries operation?)

Was there a quantifiable goal? (Money, % increase in members, improvements accomplished, etc?)

Financial: (Project expenses, Amount of Friends funding, Fees charged, Dues schedule, Receipts, Profits, Other)

Member/Volunteer Involvement: (Description of tasks/roles and number of participants)

How publicized: _____

SUMMARIZE your "Great Idea" on a page or two, typed double spaced and attach this cover sheet.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: On 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheets, mount news

releases, flyers, copies of radio/TV announcements, photos of event, etc. Document each item with date, name of the newspaper, station, recipient of mailing, etc. Caption the photos.

SUBMIT YOUR PACKET TO:

BONNIE BURNHAM

13 PARK STREET

FLORENCE, MA 01062

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 1, 2006

Your group may submit more than one "Great Idea" for one or more of the four categories, but each one must be submitted as separate and complete with cover sheet and supporting documents.



**Focus on Friends
Meet
Bonnie Burnham
MFOL President**

Having grown up 2 doors down from my town library, and having the children's librarian live across the street, always made me feel comfortable and at home in the library. As a college student I volunteered at my college library and as a business owner my first fundraising foray was for that town library's friends group.

When my third child was born 12 years ago, I sold my business and started working part-time. Having just moved into Florence (a part of Northampton), 10 doors down from the small Lilly Library, it was inevitable I would get involved and volunteer.

In 1996 I was a founding director of the Friends of the Lilly Library. I am presently vice-president. My library commitment grew and developed and in 2000 I was asked to serve on the MFOL Board of Directors. During these years Lilly Library was interested in expanding and I was asked to be on the Fundraising Committee and the Building Committee. I am happy and proud to report after 7 long years, our completion date is this September!

Last year I took on another challenge to further my knowledge about libraries. I joined 9 other candidates in an electoral race for Trustee of Forbes Library (Northampton's main library). Consequently I hold the unique positions of Friend's Director at Lilly and Trustee at Forbes. I must tell you, after a period of adjustment, I am really loving all my library work.

I must add on that spring also brings me to my other passion, which I have been involved in for 3 years, coaching 5th and 6th grade girls' lacrosse. There is nothing quite as challenging as teaching 6th grade girls how to run down the field with a stick and not injure anyone! We almost have a winning season this year!

I have returned to full time work as a baker at Sylvester's Restaurant, a breakfast and lunch place which you must visit if you are in Northampton.

I feel doubly blessed if, on any given day, I can fit in some gardening and some pilates amongst my family, job, and library commitments.

**NEEDED IN NICARAGUA!
FOLUSA LISTSERV ALERT!**

Hi Everyone – I received a special request from a Peace Corp volunteer in Nicaragua. Her name is Katelin Reagan. Working with community volunteers they were able to build a community library. As it happens, though, they do not have materials to go in it! FOLUSA has posted information about their needs in our "Friends in Need" portion of the website. They are looking for Spanish Language materials. If you are able to help, you can contact Katelin. Sending media materials overseas is \$1 per pound if you send them by USPS "mailbag." Your local post office will give you the bag and details. If you have Spanish language materials you can't sell and are not needed by your library, this would be a wonderful new library to "adopt."

Library Project in Central America Seeks Aid!

In 2005, the small community of Las Mangas, Nicaragua, population 1,300, built a library through local fundraising efforts and a donation from USAID. Local residents donated their time to complete the construction. This project is vitally important in a community with a 21% illiteracy rate. The library committee would like to begin a children's story hour, computer education classes, and adult literacy classes as well as offer students in the nearby high school and elementary school the resources they need to complete their homework. Although the library is completed, most of the money went into construction and so the project still lacks the tools to make the most basic dreams a reality.

We are looking for a large scope of resources from short chapter books for adolescents, a world atlas, a set of encyclopedias, educational software for children, software to teach English, a television to show educational films and a dvd player, all the way to simple posters about reading and literacy. All of these materials must be in **Spanish**, of course. Anything, no matter how small, would be much appreciated by the people of Las Mangas.

Contact: Katelin Reagan Apartado 290
Matagalpa, Nicaragua America Central
kregan@gmail.com

Sally G. Reed Executive Director Friends of Libraries U.S.A.
1420 Walnut, Suite 450 Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-790-1674 (voice) 215-545-3821 (fax)

Join FOLUSA Today! <http://www.folusa.org/html/membership.html>

FREE CONFERENCE!!!

2006 "Friends Sharing With Friends" Conference

Co-sponsored by the MA Board of Library Commissioners
and the MA Friends of Libraries

Date: September 16, 2006

Location: Springhill Marriott Hotel at Devens Common

Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm

Topics: "Running a Successful Book Sale"

"Creative Fundraising Ideas for Friends"

Cost: **Free!!** Friends, Library staff members, trustees, etc.
are invited to attend.

Detailed announcement, registration information, and directions will be mailed to all public libraries, all Friends groups, MFOL members, etc. in July

Questions?: Contact Maureen Killoran or Brian Donoghue,

MA Board of Library Commissioners

98 North Washington St., Suite 401

Boston, MA 02114-1933

Tel: 1-800-952-7403 ext: 240

Email: Maureen.Killoran@state.ma.us

Brian.Donoghue@state.ma.us

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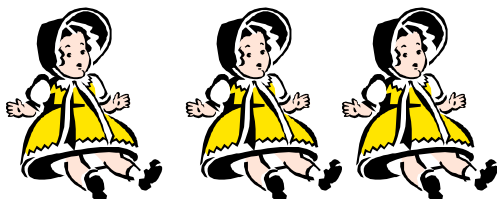
Project Alert

Project Alert is an email list used to distribute updates on state and occasionally federal legislative issues dealing with libraries. All library supporters are encouraged to sign up.

If you have any questions contact Sharon Morgan at sharon.morgan@comcast.net Send your email to Sharon and include the following: your Name, your email address, your library, your town, and zip code.

Hands Across the Water Book Collection
Charity to Promote Literacy and
Education for All...Pass it on...

literacyforall@yahoo.com



Dolls! Dolls! Dolls!

Recently the Friends of the Whitman library ran a Book, Bake and Yard sale. We have had an “indoor yard sale” component to our book sales for some time, and this part has always been a surprise to us because of the sizeable amounts of money it generates. The ladies who run the sale have kept their prices very low, thus the surprise, because dimes and quarters take a long time to add up. We rely on donations from our Friends for the merchandise we have to sell, and we never know what is going to come in.

A woman who was downsizing her home came in to the book and yard sale with 18 collectable dolls to donate to the Friends. She told the Friends that she had all their papers, and accessories and stands for the dolls, and while they were not antique dolls, she hoped that the Friends could sell them as collectables to earn some money for the library programs we sponsor. We gratefully accepted her donation –then we had to decide how to get the highest return for her donation.

Because none of us knew much about dolls, we found a local expert to look at our little collection and tell us what we could expect when we put them up for sale. All of us in the Friends group were delighted to hear that the dolls were “young”, but “collectable” and in good condition, ranging in original price from quite high to modest values. The Friends decided to hold the dolls out of the yard sale and set up a special sale sometime before Christmas. We plan to advertise their availability, complete with their identification papers, and hope that we can sell them to a specialized group-collectors, grandmothers looking for special gifts, and people who just like dolls! Our local doll person is going to fluff their hair, smooth their skirts and arrange them in an attractive display for the sale-at no charge, because she too wants to support the Friends in their efforts to raise money for the library. We have some time before our planned sale, so we’d be happy to hear any ideas you may have about getting the best prices for our doll collection. And we’ll be sure to let all our Friends know how we do.

By Joe Melisi, MFOL Board Member and Treasurer of the Friends of the Whitman Public Library

GOT A STORY? CONTACT US AT MFOLNEWS@yahoo.com



Who We Are

By Robin Glenn

Our libraries are still trying to recover from a 25% decrease in state funds and many are still waiting to start capital construction projects. Because resources are always limited, every Friends group continues to help bridge the gap between what their library is able to fund and the services their community needs. We all know what a big job this is and the MFOL works to ensure that we are stronger together than we could be on our own.

Since our founding in 1992, MFOL has created a large member network for Information sharing and works to provide technical assistance to local Friends groups. Together, we have increased rapport between trustees, directors and Friends groups. Also, MFOL has pledged to cooperate with national, state and regional organizations in pursuit of the best possible library/information services for all patrons.

The benefits of MFOL membership are many. In addition to the quarterly newsletter, each member library will receive our Annual Membership Directory. MFOL also works with the MA Library Association to hold Legislative Breakfasts across the state, allowing trustees, friends and library employees to meet with their government representatives and discuss their legislative concerns. Our annual “Great Ideas” contest is a creative resource, helping members increase their public profile and enhance their programs and events. MFOL co-sponsors (with MBLC) fundraising workshops and other events and hosts roundtables to share common problems and successful solutions. Finally, many of you join us for our annual joint fall conference with the MA Library Trustees Association.

As we look toward the future, we hope to reach out and welcome new groups. If you are a member of a library-supporting organization in Massachusetts, or even just an active user of your local library, please join us to work together to make our local libraries better and better.

Join today and tell other Friends about MFOL!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Friends Group: _____

Library: _____

Address: _____

President: _____

Does your employer make matching grants?

Do you know someone who should be a member of MFOL?
Please let us know! Thank you!

Annual Memberships

____ Individual \$15.00

____ Senior \$10.00

____ Library/Friends Group \$30.00

____ Corporate/Business Sponsor \$100.00

Please return this form, with a check, payable to

MFOL

c/o Joseph Melisi, MFOL Treasurer

528 Harvard Street

Whitman, MA 02382

This is a tax exempt contribution.



Membership Receipt

Thank you for becoming a member of the Massachusetts Friends of Libraries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization . Your membership helps Friends groups throughout Massachusetts support their local Libraries.

Please accept this letter as acknowledgement of your membership contribution, please fill out the following section and hold this letter for your tax purposes.

Membership Date

Membership Contribution Amount

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR TAX RECORDS!

Massachusetts Friends of Libraries
528 Harvard Street
Whitman, MA 02382



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MFOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS November 2006—November 2007

'07 after Director's name indicates year current term expires.

Our Board is available to help your Friends. Write or call any member if you need help or information.

<http://www.masslib.org/mfol>

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