



# News from the Friends

of the Greenfield Public Library

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## Letter from the President

*Joseph Ruggeri*

I was approached recently by a fellow community member who asked: “How do I become a Friend of the Greenfield Public Library?” I replied that it’s easy—simply go to the Library, give a donation in the amount of your choice, give your name and address, and you’ve become a Friend. To continue being a Friend, make a gift every year. I was touched that she

thought it was important to become a Friend. I thought of all of our current Friends who continue to allocate what they can year after year so we can continue to support the library. We are so appreciative of our many Friends. Thank you all very, very much.

June 2009 marks the end of our fiscal year and numbers show a successful year of fundraising in a volatile economy. The events we have planned in the next few months are exciting – such as our Fall Event on November 7th, titled “A Perfect Recipe: Friends and Food”. We decided to focus on the one thing we all have in common – FOOD! We are working with area restaurants and food suppliers to provide some great products for sale. There will be a silent auction with lots of fun gift baskets centered on our theme. I invite all who want to come to the event to pre-pay for entry because, you know, tickets may sell out!

I would like to thank Ryan & Casey Liquors for donating the proceeds of their September Beer and Wine Festival to the Friends. This helps spread awareness of the Friends throughout our community.

On October 24th, we will be hosting a meet and greet the Author Archer Mayor in honor of his upcoming new book. The event is free of charge and, from previous encounters with Archer Mayor, I can confidently say that it will be a night to enjoy.

Our schedules for the next three months are booked solid with efforts to help the library however and whenever possible. We thank you for giving to our cause, for helping make our events successful, and, most importantly, for using the services of the Greenfield Public Library. Let’s all enjoy our public library to its fullest whenever we can! ■

## ARCHER MAYOR

**October 24, 2009  
 Saturday at 6pm**

Archer Mayor  
 has accepted our  
 invitation to give an  
 “Author Talk” to  
 benefit the Library.  
***Location to be  
 announced soon.***



## Interview with Karen Larabee, Friends Board Member

By Jenny Hall, Friends Board



Karen Larabee

### What people may not know about her:

"In a room full of people I don't know, I'm really shy. When I tell people that they don't believe me, but it's true."

### What she's famous for:

Being an avid Red Sox fan.

### An ideal day:

Spending time with my nieces and nephews.

### On her bedside table:

*Twilight*, the first book in a series for teens by Stephenie Myer. "I wanted to see what my nieces and nephews were talking about. I prefer something like Jan Caron. Sue Grafton is entertaining. I just finished *Sea Glass* by Anita Shreve."

Karen Larabee fell in love with the Library as a child when she spent her summer vacations there, reading and doing activities and crafts. "When school was over, we headed to the Library," she says. "There was always something fun going on." Library attendance took a back seat to cheerleading at Greenfield High School during her teen years but as a young adult, when husband Mike asked her to find a picture of a scarecrow for a costume he was making for his nieces for Halloween, she knew just where to look. "I remembered the scarecrow from the Wizard of Oz," she says. "And I went to the library. As soon as I walked in, the smell, the books, everything was familiar and comfortable. It all came back to me."

She began volunteering a few years later, when then-Board Member, Martha Greene, started the home-bound delivery program. Karen joined the Friends' Board in 1999. Since then, her enthusiasm, fundraising, organizational skills, and familiarity with the community, have made her an invaluable member of the group. "If you could pick just one person who was the heart and soul of the Friends, I think it would have to be Karen," says friend and former co-president of the Friends Connie Towler. "She just gives it her all."

Larabee was born and raised in Greenfield. She has three brothers: Mike, Jay and Bill. Her parents, Henry & Irene Kostanski, are the founders of Kostanski Funeral Home in Greenfield and Turners Falls. Karen, Mike & Bill have been the owners since their parents' retirement in 1989. She has been married to husband Mike, a meat cutter at Stop & Shop in Hadley, for thirty-three years and, except for a brief stint in Boston, has lived in town all her life. She likes the slow pace and familiarity of small town life.

Larabee sees expansion as the library's next biggest challenge. The economic downturn has increased the number of people borrowing books, using computers, and taking part in the many free activities there—the building is bursting at the seams. While the current building has charm and history, Larabee says it's clear the space is too small. The Library is in the process of developing a long-range plan to help meet the needs of the community over the next five years. Residents are invited to share their views in an online survey (available at [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=GgeVCwrWBf4AgsLiFEBhqA\\_3d\\_3dI](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=GgeVCwrWBf4AgsLiFEBhqA_3d_3dI)).

Whatever the future brings, you can be sure Larabee will be spearheading the effort, bringing her creativity, enthusiasm and skill to the task at hand. "It's fun and worthwhile," she says simply. "If it wasn't, I wouldn't be doing it." ■

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## MA Library License Plate

Celebrate libraries by proudly displaying the new MA library license plate and encouraging friends to join us! Proceeds will benefit public, academic, special and school libraries in Massachusetts that belong to the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS). You can pre-order your tax-deductible specialty license plate: provide your name and email address to CMRLS at [libraryplates@cmrls.org](mailto:libraryplates@cmrls.org) and CMRLS will contact you when they have reached their quota and need your check.

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## LIBRARY RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT

By Jessica Pollock, Head of Information Services

The Greenfield Public Library (GPL) has won a "Serving People with Disabilities" grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). After conducting a survey of the community's needs and hosting a focus group, GPL determined that the grant funds should be used to improve access to technology resources, acquire more accessible materials, and provide training for staff and patrons. The grant monies will be paid over two years and will enable the library to meet many of the goals established through the planning process. During the first

year GPL will purchase accessible computer software, adaptive and assistive equipment, and circulating materials including audio books, descriptive videos, and large-print books. The second year of the grant will focus on training staff in how to provide high quality service to people with disabilities, teaching patrons how to use the new technology tools, and promoting the resources purchased with the grant funds. Greenfield Public Library would like to thank the members of the planning committee: Stavros Center for Independent Living, the Friends of GPL, the Homebound Volunteers, the Lions' Club, and everyone in the Greenfield community who offered their input and support for this project.

### STORY TIME WISH LIST

by Sally Ahearn

"Dear Friends: Thanks so much for supporting my Tuesday Story Time. It brings me great joy to see all those happy faces. I look forward to starting again in September. Would it be possible to put a Story Time Wish List in your Newsletter?"

Yes, Sally. Here it is:

**Carpet squares to sit on**  
**Wallpaper books for crafts**  
**Silk and plastic flowers**  
**for our special hats**  
**Buttons**

If you can help, please leave materials at the Children's Room desk for Sally to pick up. Many thanks.

*(Sally Ahearn does such a great job with Story Time that when she said she needed help, we were happy to add this item to our Newsletter. I'm already looking for my button stash! Ed.)*

### Arm Chair Adventures

By Jessica Pollock, Head of Information Services

Starting this fall, the Greenfield Public Library Armchair Adventures book discussion group will be Picturing America: exploring U.S. literature, history and art. Each month we will look at an example of American art, architecture, or photography to explore how it relates to the book we read. Discussions will occur on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8pm in the library meeting room. Copies of the book are available at the library before the discussion. For more information, please call 772-1544.

**September 2, 2009**  
*Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
 Follows a migrant family during the Depression

**October 7, 2009**  
*Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan  
 Chronicles the architect's romantic relationships

**December 2, 2009**  
*Washington's Crossing*  
 by David Hackett Fischer  
 Details a critical event in American history

**January 6, 2010**  
*Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather  
 A priest brings Catholicism to a desert frontier

**February 3, 2010**  
*Up from Slavery*  
 by Booker T. Washington  
 Autobiography of a black educator & leader

**March 3, 2010**  
*Under a Wild Sky*  
 by William Souder  
 Biography of the artist & naturalist J.J. Audubon

**April 7, 2010**  
*Suspension* by Richard E. Crabbe  
 A conspiracy to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge

**May 5, 2010**  
*Norman Rockwell's Greatest Painting* by Hollis Hodges  
 A 20 year reunion of the artist's models



## Profile: Jane Buchanan, Head of Borrower Services and Circulation

by Jenny Hall, Friends Board

When most people think of the library, they think of books, activities or even computers. But where would we be without the skilled and friendly library staff. Jane Buchanan, Head of Borrower Services and Circulation at the GPL, is the perfect example. Working with the public is her favorite part of the job, she says, and when someone comes in requesting a special book, she's got a ready answer. "I love connecting people with books I think they'll like."

To do this, she reads extensively. She sets aside her own personal preferences, which run to the dark side—*No Country for Old Men* or *The Road*, by Cormick McCarthy, being two favorites—and keeps extensive lists of titles to recommend. "I find myself drawn to books that take place in a bleak, uncertain setting, what's called the 'Dystopian future'," she says. "But I realize they're not for everyone."

On her bedside table: *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin, *A Fraction of the Whole* by Steve Toltz, *The Feast of Love* by Charles Baxter, *Call Me By Your Name* by Andre Aciman.

Buchanan grew up in Greenfield, the youngest of three children. As a child, she developed a love of literature, a fact she ascribes to her parents, Nancy & Bill. She has a website, [www.janebuchanan.com](http://www.janebuchanan.com), where she writes "I hear my father's voice still in the *Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Prydain Chronicles*, and *The Little Prince*. And my mother's voice is inextricably linked to *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Wind in the Willows*, and *Charlotte's Web*. So, though I was not a great reader, I was surrounded by story."

She attended Greenfield Community College and graduated from Simmons College in 1978 with a double major in communications and sociology and a concentration in photography. Her goal was to become a photojournalist. Her first job was reporting for the Fitchburg-Leominster Sentinel and Enterprise. After stints as a journalist and librarian in various states while raising her

children, Michael, now 28, and Laura, 25, she returned to Greenfield in 2004 and began working at the library in 2007.

Buchanan is also a writer. She has published eight books for young adults, among them *Gratefully Yours* and its sequel, *Hank's Story*. Her first book for children, titled: *The Day Mother Lost her Temper and Nathan Found It*, was written when son Michael was 4. In 2005 she completed an MFA in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts (now Vermont College). She currently has two books pending, and is at work on a third, a dystopian time travel historical novel for older teens.

This past spring, she conducted a lively memoir-writing workshop at the library and has plans for another workshop, possibly on writing children's fiction, this fall or winter. She welcomes the opportunity to share her books with others.

Her advice to would be writers: "Read, read, read. Read things that you don't think you'll like and things you do."

### SUMMER 'FUN'DRAISER By Karen Larabee

The winner of the Red Sox raffle was Marc Platt. The FGPL held the drawing on July 14th at the Celebrity Bartender's event hosted by Taylor's Tavern. All the tips from that evening benefited the Friends and a raffle for a variety of summer fun/sport theme items was also conducted. Additionally, Taylor's Tavern generously donated \$500.00. With this event and the Red Sox raffle this summer, the Friends raised over \$3500.00. From the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank the following businesses for their support—especially Jon Trenholm for the donation of the Red Sox tickets—also, Taylor's Tavern, Country Club of Greenfield, Berkshire East, Dillon Chevrolet, Foster's Supermarket, French King Entertainment Center, Greenfield Business Association, Greenfield Garden Cinema, Meadows Golf Course, UMass Athletic Dept, and all the volunteers who donated their time and energy to this endeavor. **GO SOX!**





## From the Director's Office

By Sharon Sharry

One of the many advantages of living in the digital age is that your Library is no longer contained solely within the old Victorian structure on Main Street, and the hours are not limited to those posted on the door.

Now, with your Library card and access to the Internet, you can use the Library's services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

So, what do we have to offer when our physical doors are closed?

You can login to your account on our website at [www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org) to:

- Renew your library materials
- Pay your fines with your credit or debit card
- Track your reading history

- Request materials from GPL or other libraries
- Reserve passes to attractions and museums
- Download e-books, audio books and video
- Conduct research using our free databases
- Have your reference questions answered 24/7 by an online Librarian.

Not looking to conduct Library business, but want to access our WiFi? Along with your laptop and your latte, sit outside on the GPL's bench or park your car close to the Library and you will be able access our free wireless Internet network.

And finally, if you're not looking to conduct computer business would simply like to return your Library materials the old fashioned way, the GPL has two outdoor book returns, one at each front entrance. Or if it would be more convenient for you, your GPL materials can be returned at any Massachusetts public library. ■

## Community Languages: New Resources at Greenfield Public Library Grand Opening - September 15th 2009

by Tiffany Hilton, Grant Administrator



The Greenfield Public Library (GPL) has won a \$20,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services through the

Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners.

This grant will allow GPL to create new collections for the many immigrants and English Language Learners in our community. These new

resources will be available in many languages for all levels of ESL and English Language Learners from the earliest readers to adults.

Please feel free to browse these new collections soon.

The Library thanks the Center for New Americans staff for their support and enthusiasm for this project, as well as our friends at Community Action. For further information contact the Library at 413-772-1544 or visit [www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org).

**Lucile I. Bolton,  
Northfield, Mass.  
August 23, 1920 -  
July 19, 2009  
Greenfield Public Library  
Director, 1962-1981.**

Lucile I. Bolton, 88, died Sunday (7-19-09) at the Holton Home in Brattleboro, Vt. She was born on August 23, 1920, the daughter of Fred and Doris (Doolittle) Bolton. She was a graduate of Boston University, with graduate work in Library Sciences at Simmons College. A dedicated Librarian, Miss Bolton served as the Greenfield Public Library Director from 1962-1981. She was instrumental in starting the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library, and shepherding the library into participation in the Western Regional Public Library System. After retirement, she continued to work part-time as the evening Librarian at Greenfield Community College.

## Wine & Brew Harvest Festival Proceeds

We are pleased to announce that all of the proceeds of the Ryan & Casey "Wine & Brew Harvest Festival" (held on September 19th) were donated to the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library.

**A big Thank You to our friends at Ryan & Casey!!!**



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**Fall 2009**

## *A PERFECT RECIPE*

Friends of the Greenfield Public Library Fall Event  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009 • 5:00-7:00 P.M.**

Stoneleigh Burnham School



**Silent & Live Auction of Gift Baskets**

**Cookbooks compiled and published  
by FGPL board members**

**Drawing for winners of the raffle**

**Honoring our new Emeritus Member  
Celebrity Guest**

**Hors d'oeuvres and beer & wine**

**Tickets are \$15.00 available at the library or by mailing a  
check to: FGPL, 402 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301**

**For additional information [www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org)**

**In conjunction with  
this event  
the FGPL will be  
conducting**

### **A RAFFLE**

**1st prize:**

**Big Green Egg  
smoker/grill**

**2nd prize:**

**a clam bake for 8  
OR \$200.00 gift  
certificate to Foster's  
Supermarket**

**3rd prize:**

**a Cuisinart Electric  
Skillet**

**Tickets: \$5.00 each  
or 3 for \$10.00  
available at  
the library.**