



# News from the Friends

## of the Greenfield Public Library

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## Letter from the Friends



It is spring and the Board of the Friends is already deep into our Fall Event planning. As most of you know, the Fall Event is one of the Friends major fund-raising activities of the year. Our theme for 2011 is *Home for the Holidays*. We will be featuring gift baskets, birdhouses,

and services. Karen Larabee and Ann Dillon will be gathering certificates for services for the silent auction that will be held at the Event. They have already planned the summer and fall pre-event raffle. Raffle tickets will be available at the Library. The generous donations are:

**2 tons of Wood Pellets — Value \$500 — Donated by Sandri Co.**

**A Small Farm Share — Value \$375 — Donated by Atlas Farm**

**A basket filled with Maple Products — Value \$225 and donated by Williams Farm, Inc., Melanson Heath & Company, PC  
 K. Levitch Associates**

A committee is busy planning food and drink and it will be spectacular this year! So, mark your calendars now.

**The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library Fall Event will be held at 5 p.m., Saturday, November 5, at Stoneleigh-Burnham School.**

Be sure to join us for a feast of goods, services, friendly chatter and great food.

*Ellen Berson and Roma Hansis*

If you or your organization would like to donate a basket for our Fall Event Silent Auction, or an item for a basket, or a gift certificate, please contact Susan Platt at: [goldplatt@aol.com](mailto:goldplatt@aol.com) or 773-7710. Or, to donate a service, Karen Larabee at: [larabee@comcast.net](mailto:larabee@comcast.net) or 774-2901

A basket should have a theme, for example, gardening, knitting, sewing, cooking, tea time or something associated with your own passion. Join with some friends and make it a fun summer project!

A basket should contain items with a total value of at least \$50. The Friends would like to have your basket by mid-October in time to list its contents and wrap it for display. (Alternate arrangements can be made for perishables!)

If you have one or two items that would be suitable, donate them and we will complete a basket for you.

# MEET SEAN FLYNN

By Jenny Hall, Friends Board

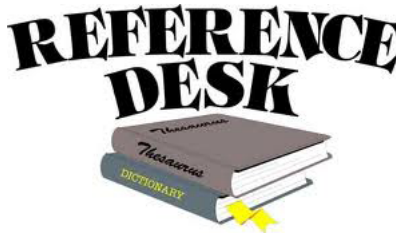
Want to know how to research your family's genealogy? Locate a Toyota repair manual in Romanian or Spanish? Get a complete listing of eco-friendly businesses in Franklin County?

Go to the Library, of course. And when you get there, head straight for the friendly looking person at the big desk near the computer terminals. He's Sean Flynn, whose official title is Head of Information Services, aka Reference Librarian, and he can help you find just about anything.

Not only can he help you get the information you're looking for, but he'll do it quickly and efficiently, and present it to you in a neat, understandable package. That's pretty amazing, when you think about it. Where else nowadays, amid budget cuts and slashed services, can you walk in off the street and find an actual person ready and willing to help you find random information about pretty much anything?

"The Library is an amazing resource. It's one-stop shopping," says Flynn simply. "If we don't have what you want, we can order it or find it for you. People who haven't been in should really check it out. There's something for everyone here."

The art of finding random information is a finely honed skill, it turns out. Flynn regularly peruses literary and technical journals to keep abreast of current trends in publishing and information. He knows the ins and outs of multiple search engines, databases and obscure on-line sources to get access to information laypeople can't. While typically people who are curious about something will try a Google search first, that may not always be as effective or exhaustive as one might think, Flynn says.



The Library subscribes to a plethora of on-line resources that range from academic databases to Ancestry.com and other genealogical databases, state and local newspapers, the Dictionary of Art, even the Novelist, which is a tool for identifying and choosing books. Often, people are not aware that these databases even exist because they won't come up in a Google search and aren't accessible without a subscription. An additional help that Flynn provides is the correct terminology to use, from medical jargon to the botanical names of plants.

"It's often a question of knowing which search words will bring up the information you're looking for," says Flynn. "It's my job to know a little bit about a lot of things."

What makes a good research librarian? Diligence, attention to detail and finely honed people skills, says Flynn. "You've got to be willing to go the extra mile," he says. "I genuinely enjoy helping people. My alternative career choice was to go into social work."

Flynn earned his undergraduate degree in Social Science from Hofstra, and his master's in Library Science from SUNY- Albany, where he graduated a year earlier than Library Director Sharon Sharry. He worked in libraries in New York, Florida and Massachusetts before arriving in Greenfield this past October. He is currently commuting from Belchertown while searching for a house in Greenfield where he, wife, Melissa, and daughter Evelyn, 2, can settle down.

"People are super friendly here," says Flynn. "We're looking forward to joining the community permanently."

# SPRING *Membership* DRIVE

Spring is the time when the Friends have their annual membership drive. You will be receiving your pledge card soon. Please give it careful thought. This is our major fundraiser for the year. Our Library depends on you.

## Electronic Newsletter?

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically?

If you would, send an email to:  
[ssharry@cwmar.org](mailto:ssharry@cwmar.org)

**Title your email "Newsletter" or use the word newsletter in the body of your email.** The Friends are attempting to save printing and postage costs.

# ONE WORLD, MANY STORIES

By Kay Lyons, *Children's Librarian*

"One World, Many Stories" is the summer reading program theme this year. Kay Lyons has written a fairy tale parody skit, "One Frog, Many Stories" to set the tone for the summer in the Greenfield schools. She will have help from Sean Flynn and teen volunteer Maeve Shaughnessy to take this show on the road during May and June.

From June 20 through August 13, kids ages 3 to 13 are invited on a journey through the world of story. Every summer libraries statewide promote summertime fun with reading in a program like this one. The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library make it possible for our community to benefit from family activities, prize incentives and parties year after year. For some families the weekly prize for a visit to the Library is the thing the kids remember. For others it's the time spent together making hand crafts or listening to stories in the LeVanway Meeting Room. Some kids take great pride in listing titles or time spent reading, either on the paper reading log or by entering their reading progress online. There is no real measurement of the value of summer reading, but studies have shown that students who read during summer vacation have an edge when they go back to school in the fall. All the pre-reading activities like story hours stimulate the youngest Library patrons to want to learn to read on their own.



To kick off the summer, the Piti Theatre Company will bring a workshop series to the Library for the week of June 20. First there will be a workshop for preschoolers called Story Theatre. Kids ages 7 to 11 can be in workshops called Creative Movement, Page to Stage, and Theatre Games. The grand finale of the week will take place Saturday, June 25 at 3 p.m. with a performance of the play *Time Flood*, where the young performers get to use all the skills they have worked on during the week.

The Youth Theatre Project will meet all summer on Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 in the LeVanway Meeting Room. With the help of teen volunteers, Kay Lyons and the group ages 7 to 11 will work on short plays, do theatre games, make puppets, and create characters for the Harry Potter Party on Saturday, July 30.

Yes, Harry will be back to celebrate his 17th birthday on Saturday, July 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. The GPL hosted 150 fans of the Wizarding World at a party last fall, and Professor McGonagall and company will be returning to our "Muggle" library for one more night of magic.

Whether you take your reading log and a pile of books on a trip, or come to the Library to hear stories every week, or do the theatre series this summer, you are a participant in *One World, Many Stories*. Come to the party on Saturday, August 13 where storyteller Tim Van Egmond will entertain everyone and the 99 Restaurant will provide ice cream and toppings for a real treat to wrap it all up.

## SNAPSHOT DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARIES

On Wednesday, April 13, 2011, the Greenfield Public Library was one of 227 libraries across the state of Massachusetts that participated in "Snapshot Day: One Day in the Life of Massachusetts Libraries."

According to the American Library Association, the purpose of "Snapshot Day" is to provide a way for libraries of all types to show what happens in a single day in their libraries. This initiative provides an easy means to collect statistics, photos and stories that will enable library advocates to prove the value of their libraries to decision-makers and increase public awareness.

### THE GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S "SNAPSHOT" STATISTICS LOOKED LIKE THIS:

Attendance in library:	503 patrons came through our doors	General reference:	44 questions
Circulation:	917 items checked out	Tax forms:	17 requests
Immigrant assistance:	3 questions	Program attendance:	14 patrons
Job search assistance:	1 question	Internet computer use:	64 sessions
Homework assistance:	10 questions	Library cards:	5 new cards issued
InterLibrary Loan:	8 items were requested from outside of the C/W MARS network		

In order to see the state's "Snapshot Day" photos, read the related stories, and compare Greenfield's "Snapshot" statistics with that of the entire state, go to: [www.masslibsystem.org/snapmass/](http://www.masslibsystem.org/snapmass/)



FRIENDS OF THE  
GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

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*Memo*  
*Put the Friends June*  
*Book Sale on the*  
*calendar!*  
*Stock up for Summer!!*

## **June Book Sale**

**Thursday, June 16, from 5 - 7 p.m.**

**Friday, June 17, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 18**

**9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

*Reminder:*  
*schedule the Kids ...*

## **3 WEEKLY STORY HOURS FOR CHILDREN**

**Summer Story Time Tuesdays**  
10 to 11 a.m., (ages 2 to 7) with stories  
and crafts

**Sunshine Story Time Wednesdays**  
10 to 11 a.m., (ages 5 and under)  
an interactive hour of read-aloud,  
sing-along fun

**Mother Goose on the Loose Fridays**  
11 a.m. A lap-sit story hour  
for children from birth to age 3