



FRIENDS OF THE WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARIES
 530 Washington Street Wellesley, MA 02482 781-235-1610
www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org

SEPTEMBER 2009
 NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the President

Welcome back to all of you after the long summer hiatus. We've had a most productive summer in the sorting room. We think that people stayed home this year and cleaned house, because the number and quality of donations of materials to the Friends Book Sale has been enormously gratifying. The Sale as advertised throughout this newsletter should be bigger and better than ever.

We had our first board meeting for this year on September 9, and there was an issue discussed about which we'd like your feedback. The issue revolves around the plastic bags that the Friends have supplied at the circulation desk, to the patrons of the library. Almost everywhere one goes these days, plastic bags are out of style. The new norm is reusable fiber of some kind. We, the Board, are considering a switch to similar bags for our patrons. For most of this type bag there is a modest fee for purchase. If you have an opinion on this matter please let me hear from you at mewhalen@aol.com or drop by the sorting room next to the circulation desk and make your opinion known.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who helped make our spring sale a huge success. We look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Sale.

Mary E. Whalen, President
mewhalen@aol.com
 or drop me a note at the Library

Officers of the Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries

President	Mary E. Whalen
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Secretary	Ann Swanson

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INTERVIEW

An Interview with Michael Groh Facilities Supervisor

Six years after it opened, despite the bustle of thousands of users, the 'new' library still sparkles. We decided to interview Michael Groh, Facilities Supervisor, to discover how our beautiful libraries remain so in spite of their heavy use. Mike supervises one other full time and four part time custodial staff members. These six men tend to all three library buildings. Mike says they share a sense of pride and satisfaction in providing a safe and clean environment for library staff and patrons of all ages.

Mike describes their day as a cyclical routine of maintenance interspersed with special tasks as events require. When members of the crew arrive at work, they make sure that all the buildings are clean and neat, and that meeting rooms are set up appropriately. For three seasons of the year, they water the planters on the grounds; in winter, though the town plows the driveways and parking lots, Mike and his men shovel the snow on all the walkways and stairs. All the rugs are vacuumed each day and in the meeting rooms between events. There is a weekly inspection of the 'dozens' of different types of light fixtures. The bathrooms are cleaned several times a day.

As Facilities Supervisor, Mike's particular responsibilities are wide-ranging. He interfaces with the Administration about the schedule for meeting rooms and the requirements of the users. Mike has trained with the manufacturers of the state-of-the art HVAC system, which he controls from a console on his desk; the alarm system and the many security cameras in the building are controlled in the same way.

He is the 'go-to' person if a review of the recorded data is needed.

During our interview, Mike mentioned his great respect for the Director of the Library, Janice Coduri, for her foresight and knowledge about the need for vigilance in order to maintain such beautiful facilities. There is an ongoing plan for facility maintenance which includes working with painting, plumbing and electrical contractors. The building exteriors, especially the slate roof at the main branch, must be regularly inspected and repaired; the landscaping around the main building is done by a contractor whom Mike oversees.

Besides his administrative duties, several times a day Mike or one of his staff goes to the branches to pick up books that have been returned and bring them to the main branch to be sorted and distributed, some to Wellesley libraries and some to Minute-man affiliates. Another little known service provided by the library is delivery of books to shut-ins. If patrons cannot get to the library, they can call or e-mail their request for materials, and once every three weeks, Mike delivers those materials to their homes.

Mike and his staff do a wonderful job maintaining our facilities, and those of us who spend a lot of time in the library appreciate their hard work and willingness to help in any way they can.



Become a Friend of the Wellesley Free Libraries

M E M B E R S H I P

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Please call on me to volunteer
- Please email my newsletter

Annual Membership Contribution

- \$10 Student/Senior Citizen
- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$50 Supporting
- \$100 Patron
- \$ ____ Additional Gift
- My company's matching gift is enclosed

Make your tax-deductible checks payable to:
Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries

Please send form and payment to:
Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries
530 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02482
attention: membership

• The next edition of this newsletter will be distributed electronically to those who have given us their email address. If you still wish to receive a paper copy you will need to reply to a supplied email address to order one. Receiving your newsletter via email will save money, money which can be put towards the library.

• The on-going lobby book sale is very busy, we are constantly stocking it with new books. Last year the sale was realizing more than \$1,200 per month providing much of the money used for Friend sponsored programs at the library.

• After every sale, many books are left over. We have invited organizations such as schools, childcare organizations, VA hospitals, nursing homes, etc. to come and take any books they would like. There are two problems with this. First we need to clear the room by noon on Monday, and secondly, many of these organizations do not have the transport available. The VA hospital in West Roxbury would take up to 500 books, but we have to deliver them. We are looking for the names of nonprofit organizations that can use the books, as well as volunteers to deliver the books. Email to mewhalen@aol.com.

• The profit making business called Got-Books is still using their misleading advertising campaign, leading off with large 'DONATE BOOKS'. If you are giving books to them you are donating directly to their bottom line. When you give your books to the Friends you are helping your own library, all of the money goes directly to the library.

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530 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482

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FRIENDS OF THE WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARIES

530 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482

Fall Book Sale

Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library

Members' Preview

Thursday, September 24, 5-9 pm

Public Sale

Friday, September 25, 9am-6pm

Saturday, September 26, 9am-5pm

Bag Sale

Sunday, September 27, 1-5pm