

# HARMONY LIBRARY

195 Putnam Pike  
Harmony, RI 02829

**CONTACT: Joan Hackett or Patti Folsom**

**401-949-2850**

January 9, 2010

**RELEASE DATE:** IMMEDIATELY

**By Dick Martin**

**Glocester** - Looking for a New Year's Resolution that will help not only you, but your neighbors, friends and other members of your community? How about resolving to share your talents with the patrons of the Harmony Library? That is one solution librarian Joan Hackett has come up with to not only help balance both local and state budget cuts but to further reinforce the library's increasingly important role as an integral part of the community.

"The idea started with getting the budget pulled together for the upcoming year," she explains. "Our budget was cut last year, and it looks as though we may not have funds for special programs and workshops again this year, so we had to do something." That "something" is simply reaching out to the community to invite people to share their knowledge, expertise, and talents via a library workshop. If you knit, play the guitar, golf, repair small machines, have a special recipe or cooking talent, garden, decorate....whatever, says Ms. Hackett, how about sharing it with others and helping out the library by doing so?

"It's really a grass roots approach," adds Ms. Hackett. "Something we have done over the years to a degree, but maybe we need to do more this year."

Friends of the Library, a support group, also organizes annual events such as used book sales and plant sales, but with budget cuts looming and funds drying up, more is needed, especially as the library sees its use growing more and more in the past few years.

"The library is one of those hidden resources you either treasure or don't seem to know about because you haven't used it," Ms. Hackett explains. These days, she adds, people are "discovering" the library more and more and depending on it more and more. Patrons out of work use the computers, as well as other media resources, to search and apply for jobs. Borrowing instead of buying has become the thing to do in order to save money. Why rent a DVD or buy a book when you can borrow them for free? There are also new programs such as the genealogy program which allows patrons to check out the roots of their family tree. Additionally, the library has become THE place for young and old alike to make new friends or just socialize. Programs aimed at all ages from toddlers to senior citizens invite people in.

"We have something for everyone," adds Ms. Hackett. "There are book discussion groups, computer instruction, resume writing, story times, teen specials too... cookie decorating workshops...you name it."

Last spring, several patron "moms" of a preschool playgroup that met weekly at the library organized a yard sale to purchase shrubs and benches for the newly installed "tot lot" located behind the library. The "tot lot" is used after story time by children and their parents for outdoor play and socialization. "We created a chalk zoo on the back outside wall behind the library, which was part of the summer reading program 'be creative at the library.' The kids loved it! For young people it is a source for finding new friends also. Once people find out what the library can do for them, it's just a natural consequence for them to claim the library as 'my library.'"

This year, she is hoping that community members really take that idea to heart in helping out, and make a resolution they keep all year long to help out "their library": "Help the Harmony Library make 2010 the year of sharing with your community."

People interested in helping out please contact Harmony Library by calling 949-2850 or by going to their website at [www.harmonylibrary.org](http://www.harmonylibrary.org).