

To: WNY Library Resources Council Excellence in Library Service Award Committee
From: Nancy Everard
Re: Donna Shine
Date: June 12, 2017

It is my opinion that Donna Shine is deserving of the library service award.

Donna is a well-respected and widely known local genealogist. As one of the three co-founders of the 20-year-old Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society, Donna has spent countless volunteer hours helping people research their ancestral roots. She regularly guides researchers on a one-on-one basis in the use of a vast variety of both electronic and print resources. She has done numerous group presentations throughout WNY. She also promotes turnkey opportunities by orchestrating events that are open to the public where researchers she has helped can then help others, as well as display examples of their own work to motivate event attendees. In addition Donna is a regular contributor to the Buffalo Irish Times newspaper.

I think that Donna's biggest impact on the community, however, is that she has with no formal library training been the driving force for organizing two genealogy research libraries. The first was created some years ago at the Buffalo Irish Center and the second most recently at the Heritage Discovery Center. She has done this work with no monetary compensation, but instead seems to be rewarded by the joy she witnesses when patrons make new breakthroughs in their family research.

My husband and I have benefited greatly from Donna's labors of love. She has been an inspiration to many genealogy researchers in WNY, and I would strongly recommend that she be given this award. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Everard (retired teacher, West Seneca Central Schools)
ncebje@roadrunner.com