I am nominating Donna Shine of the Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society for the Excellence in Library Service Award.

In 1997, Donna, along with her husband Jim and Kevin O'Brien founded the Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society (BIGS).

The Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society was formed to assist members with researching their Irish roots. The Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society was one of the organizations headquartered in the Buffalo Irish Center which is under the auspices of the Gaelic American Athletic Association (GAAA).

At that time, Donna was the payroll clerk for the Town of Orchard Park, New York, a position she held until her fairly recent retirement.

The Buffalo Irish Center received a donation of a substantial collection of books from Roy Phelps of Niagara Falls. At that time, the Irish Center did not have an organized Library and Donna volunteered to assist in organizing the Library. Donna, with no formal library training, organized, catalogued and shelved those books. Throughout the years, the Library at the Buffalo Irish Center accepted donations of books on Irish history or that have a story set in Ireland. Donna incorporated them into the Library. These books are available to members of the Gaelic American Athletic Association and the other organizations of the Irish Center to take out and read at home. The Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society also housed their collection of books at the Irish Center in the Library. Between the books owed by the Gaelic American Athletic Association and the Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society, all available shelving was full.

In 2012, the Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society had the opportunity to receive a donation of literally a house full of books from the estate of Stanley David Soules. Mr. Soules was a meteorologist who had worked with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Mr. Soules had a vast variety of interests including genealogy, with his ancestors coming to the United States on the Mayflower. He also authored a number of genealogical books himself. This collection of books, microfilm and microfiche never would have fit in the Library at the Buffalo Irish Center, so the Buffalo Genealogical Society had to look for another repository to house their expanded collection.

The Heritage DiscoveRY Center on Lee Street in Buffalo, owned by the Western New York Railway Historical Society, graciously agreed to house the expanded collection of the Buffalo Genealogical Society. Donna, and a limited number of other volunteers, spent the next few years organizing, cataloguing and shelving these books. In addition, Donna assisted with the layout of the Library shelving.

The Research Library at the Heritage DiscoveRY Center also houses the collection of the Western New York Railway Historical Society and the Steel Plant Museum. Donna has agreed to be the Librarian of the whole Library, a volunteer position. Not only has Donna organized the collection of the Buffalo Genealogical Society, but she is organizing, cataloguing and shelving the Western New York Railway Historical Society's collection of books, overseeing a limited number of volunteer assistants.

As volunteer Treasurer for the Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society, Donna also purchases books, microfilms and other resources for the BIGS Library to help not only Irish researchers, but all genealogical researchers. Donna, who has over thirty five years of doing genealogical research, is also up to date on Internet databases that fellow researchers can benefit from. Using her vast knowledge of resources, she has done genealogical research for an innumerable number of people, tracing many families to their ancestral homes in Ireland. She is always willing to assist anyone whether doing genealogical research or research on local railroads. Donna is always willing to share her knowledge and new resources she finds.

A recipient of the GAAA 2004 Irish Person of the Year, Donna is a self-published author and poet. She is also a volunteer on the staff of the *Buffalo Irish Times.*

Donna, with no formal library science training and without payment, established two Libraries using the Dewey Decimal System. At times, Donna has even used her own funds to purchase supplies for the Libraries she has maintained. She has spent thousands of hours, as a volunteer, to assist others. After the Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society's Library collection left the Buffalo Irish Center, someone else had overseen the Library at the Buffalo Irish Center. This person has since left that position and Donna has again agreed to be in charge of that Library.

I believe Donna Shine, without a formal library science degree, is more than qualified to be a recipient of the Excellence in Library Service Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Blaser

Vice President

Buffalo Irish Genealogical Society